



2018

ISLAM AND LIBERTY WEBINARS

Last Saturday of every month



istanbulnetwork.org

27th January



Mustafa Akyol

Mustafa Akyol is a Turkish journalist and author whom studied political science and history at the Boğaziçi University. For more than a decade, he has been writing regular opinion columns for Turkish publications like Hurriyet Daily News, and recently for the Middle-East focused Al-Monitor.com. Since fall 2013, he is also a regular contributing opinion writer for The International New York Times. Akyol's articles on Islamic issues, in which he mostly argues against Islamic extremism and terrorism from a Muslim point of view and defends the Islamic faith, have appeared in publications such as Foreign Affairs, The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Huffington Post and more. He has published six books in Turkish, including "Rethinking the Kurdish Question: What Went Wrong, What Next?" (2005). His 2011 book, "Islam Without Extremes: A Muslim Case for Liberty" an argument for Islamic liberalism, was published in the W.W. Norton. The book was long-listed for the Lionel Gerber Prize, a literary prize awarded by the University of Toronto for the best nonfiction book in English that seeks to deepen public debate on significant international issues, and praised by The Financial Times as "a fortnight and elegant Muslim defense of freedom." The book has also been published in Turkish, Malay and Indonesian. In February 2017, his book "The Islamic Jesus: How the King of Jews Became a Prophet of the Muslims" was published by St. Martins Press. The book has received praise from Publisher's Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, The National Catholic Reporter and more. Akyol is also a public speaker who has given hundreds of lectures and talks on numerous platforms, including TED, where he spoke on "Faith vs. Tradition in Islam." He has also been a commentator on public affairs programs such as the BBC's "Hardtalk" and CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS". Since January 2017, he is a senior visiting fellow at the Freedom Project at Wellesley College, New York where he is currently based.

24th February



Dr. Nader Hashemi

Nader Hashemi is currently an Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver as well as the Director at the Center for Middle East Studies at the same university. He receives his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, MA from the Normal Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University and his BA (Honors) from the University of Western Ontario. Hashemi's recent publications includes "Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East" (2017), "Charles Taylor's A Secular Age and the Secularization from Below in Iran" (2017), "The ISIS Crisis and the 'Broken Politics' of the Middle East: A Framework for Understanding Radical Islamism" (2017) and "Towards a Political Theory of Sectarianism in the Middle East: The Salience of Authoritarianism over Theology" (2016). His research and expertise includes Middle East and Islamic Affairs, religion and democracy, secularism, comparative politics and political theory, politics of the Middle East, democracy and human rights, Islam-West relations, religion and international affairs.

31st March



Zainah Anwar

Zainah Anwar is a founding member and former Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, a Malaysian NGO working on women's rights within the Islamic framework. She is currently the Director of Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. She also writes a monthly column on politics, religion and women's rights, called Sharing the Nation, in the Sunday Star, Malaysia. She is a former member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia. Her other work experiences include: Chief Programme Officer, Political Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London; Senior Analyst, the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur; and Political and Diplomatic writer for the New Straits Times. Her book, "Islamic Revivalism in Malaysia: Dakwah Among the Students", has become a standard reference for the study of Islam in Malaysia. Anwar has addressed prestigious overseas forums such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy annual lecture series in Singapore. She delivered the keynote address on Islam, Human Rights, and Activism at the prestigious Harvard University in April 2009. Anwar was educated at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston University and the MARA Institute of Technology, Shah Alam, Malaysia.

28th April



Dr. Mustafa Acar

Mustafa Acar is a lecturer at the Department of Economics, Necmetting Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey. Prior to this, he was a principal member at the Turkey Academy of Science (TUBA) where he served as the Rector of Aksaray University between 2011 and 2015. Other position of employment includes Associate Professor (2004), Professor (2009) and lecturer in Economics and International Economics at the Department of Economics, Kırıkkale University, Turkey. In addition, Acar has held administrative positions such as in the Department of Economics (2008-2010) and the Dean of Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (2010-2011). His area of academic interests includes regional economic integrations, European Union, agriculture, economic politics, general equilibrium analysis, globalization, economic freedoms and free market economy. Acar has more than 100 published articles in various national and international magazines, as well as conducted presentations at national and international congresses, conferences and symposiums. He had attended conferences in USA, Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, Greece, Albania, Finland, Demark, United Kingdom, Poland, Thailand, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Malaysia, Tanzania, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

26th May



Dr. Maszlee Malik

Maszlee Malik is an assistant professor in the Department of Politics and History, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He has completed his Ph.D. at the Durham Islamic Finance Programme, Durham University United Kingdom in 2011, specializing on constructing the philosophical underpinnings of Islamic governance through political economy perspectives. His specialization is mainly in Islamic Political Thoughts, Islamic Movements and Contemporary Islamic Issues in Politics and Governance. He possesses vast experience doing NGO charity works in Lebanon and Jordan since the year 2004, that gave him a myriad of experience in dealing with political literatures in Arabic language and the political situation in the Middle East. He is also involved in the rehabilitation programmes for IS-alleged detainees at the Sungai Buloh prison, Malaysia. Malik is also a senior fellow of IDEAS, advisor of Manchester City Fan Club Malaysia, and was a research fellow at ISEAS Yusuf Ishak Institute, Singapore. He authors the book "Foundation of Islamic Governance" published by Routledge and others.

30th June

**M. Adul Ahrar
Ramizpoor**

M. Abdul Ahrar Ramizpoor is a well-known Afghan libertarian, peace and human rights activist. He is currently the Human Rights Officer at the United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and a member of the Pugwash Council. He is a former lecturer at Sharia Faculty of Kabul University and the founder of the Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization (AELSO). Ramizpoor pursued his post-graduate studies on Good Governance and Sharia in Birmingham University, United Kingdom in 2005 and on International Human Rights Law at Nottingham University in 2010. He has engaged in teaching, research, and advocacy on promotion of free society values, market economy, human rights, peace, good governance, rule of law and solidarity in national, regional and global levels. His book on Human Rights (Selected Documents of International Human Rights Instruments) that was published by Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany in 2001 played a significant role for the enhancement of human rights studies in Afghanistan. He is one of the authors of the first Afghan Legal Glossary that was published by USAID in 2009 which has been used as a legal scientific resource for law enforcement and judiciary system in Afghanistan.

28th July

**Dr. Hicham
El Moussaoui**

Hicham El Moussaoui comes from Morocco, where he received his degree in economics at the University Cadi Ayyad of Marrakech. Then, he continued his studies in France where he earned his Ph.D. in Economics in 2008 at the University Paul Cézanne (Aix-Marseille III). He discovered liberal ideas while preparing for his Master thesis at the Center for Economic Analysis in Aix-en-Provence, a bastion of Austrian thought in France. Hicham joined Atlas Network in 2008 where in addition to being an analyst, he is the public relations manager of LibreAfrique.org, the French-speaking project of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation. He is also an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Sultan Moulay Slimane University (Morocco). His research fields incorporate: cooperation in social dilemmas, economic analysis of institutions and development, incentives, economic freedom and Islamic economics.

25th August



Ali Salman

Ali Salman is an economist by training and author of “Discord between Social Justice and Economic Freedom in Islam”. He is a founding member and Chief Executive Officer of Istanbul Network for Liberty as well as the Director of Research at the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS). He is also the founder of Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) – Pakistan’s leading free market think tank. Earlier, he has worked as a consultant and trainer for major international development organizations, public sector organizations and non-profit whereby he was involved in the government, academia and private sector. Ali has held a Fullbright scholarship, Royal Netherlands Fellowship and Charles Wallace Fellowship and has master degrees in Economics, Public Policy and Business Administration. He writes fortnightly for Express Tribune, a partner publication of International Herald Tribune/New York Times.

29th September



**Ozlem Caglar
Yilmaz**

Ozlem Caglar Yilmaz is a member of the Board and the Executive Director of the Association for Liberal Thinking (ALT). She has been with ALT ever since she was an undergraduate student in 1993. She has decided to work on investing in ideas after being involved in politics and some business at a younger age. She speaks on civil society, liberal democracy and on Turkey’s democratization and liberalization; on institutional development; delivers guidance on how to effectively disseminate ideas and to develop interest on ideas of liberty. She writes commentaries, translate and edits articles and books, develops and conducts collaborative projects, and organizes training seminars, conferences and workshops with opinion leaders and intellectual entrepreneurs. She is the editor of the online commentary in Turkish (www.hurfikirler.com). Yilmaz studied politics and public administration at Hacettepe University, Ankara.

27th October



**Dr. Nouh
Elharmouzi**

Nouh Elharmouzi is Editor of the Arabic- language news and analysis site MinbarAlHurriyya.org of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation / Cato Institute (USA) and university professor at Ibn Toufail University in Kenitra, Morocco. He is also Director of the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies in Morocco. He served as a university professor for five years at Paul Cézanne University in France, teaching Economic Development Theories and Economic Philosophy and Thought. His main research focus is on institutional dynamics, ideological beliefs, and their relationship with the process of development. He published many articles and research papers in various periodicals and wrote “Underdevelopment in the Arab-Muslim world: what is the role of non-formal institutions?”.

24th November



Iyad el-Baghdadi

Iyad el-Baghdadi is an internationally recognized Arab Spring activist, and an expert on the topic of Islam & liberty. He rose to prominence in the aftermath of the Arab revolutions of 2011, before being summarily arrested and forcibly exiled from his country in April 2014.

Today he is recognized among the most influential and prominent Arab voices online. He writes regularly for both Norwegian and international media, and his Twitter account received 162 million views in 2017. He is the founder and President of Kawaakibi Foundation, an organisation which promotes liberty and supports human rights activists in the Arab world.

Iyad is a fellow at Norwegian liberal think tank Civita and board member at Munathara, the Arab debate NGO. He lives in Oslo, Norway, where he has been granted political asylum.

29th December



Dr. Bican Sahin

Bican Sahin is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. He is also the President of Freedom Research Association, a liberal think tank based in Ankara. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, College Park in 2003. Among his research topics are classical liberal and libertarian philosophy, the relation between liberal democracy and Islam, and the relationships between state and civil society in Turkey. Currently, he is a visiting associate professor at the Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy, University of Wisconsin, Madison. He carries out a research on the relationship between liberalism and democracy. Some of his most recent publications are: "Toleration: The Liberal Virtue," Lanham, Maryland, Lexington Books, 2010; "Between Enlightened Exclusion and Conscientious Inclusion: Tolerating the Muslims in Germany," co-authored with Dr. Nezahat Altuntas, *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pages 27-41; and "Toleration, Political Liberalism, and Peaceful Coexistence in the Muslim World," *The American Journal of Islamic Social Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 1, Winter 2007, pages 1-24.