

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) has the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar with Ahmet Alis on:

Defining the Question: Different Aspects of the Kurdish Question in Turkey

Monday, 21 February 2011, 14.00-16.00

Danish Institute for International Studies

Main Auditorium

Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

Literature outside of Turkey has studied the Kurdish Question only with relevance to international conflict, whereas until recently Turkish academia has devoted itself to proving there were neither Kurds nor a lingering Kurdish Question in Turkey. Additionally, there are numerous studies which portray the Kurdish movements as a linear process, the aim of which has been to obtain independence from the Turkish Republic. These studies generally do not give any weight to the particular activities of different Kurdish groups or intra-group tensions in Turkey. Whether academic or not, they suppose that Kurds' awareness of their distinct identity and the Kurdish ambition to control their own destiny have been there since the advent of nationalism in the Ottoman Empire from whence that Kurdish Question in Turkey supposedly stems.

What is the Kurdish Question? Rather than giving an answer to this question, this seminar compares different discourses that have been put forward by various actors in Turkey and argues that there is no single answer since its evolution and transformation during the Young Turk Revolution in 1908. Using available primary sources in Kurdish, Turkish and English, this seminar presents how different actors in Turkey – such as various Kurdish groups, Islamist groups/actors, Turkish nationalists and the Turkish state, as well as Anglo-Saxon academia – have perceived and presented the Kurdish Question.

Speakers

[Ahmed Alis](#), Guest Researcher, DIIS

[Dietrich Jung](#), Professor, University of Southern Denmark (SDU)

[Lars Erslev Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#).

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Friday, 18 February 2011 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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