



Mercredi 3 juillet 2019 - Première session (10h - 12h)

Atelier 10
Salle : 02

Gendered dynamics in Turkish Local Politics

Women have been underrepresented in Turkey's local politics since their access to political rights in 1930s to an extent that gave rise to the "Turkish paradox" (Alkan, 2009). According to this "paradox", women are proportionally less in municipalities than in the national Parliament. This panel aims to offer a nuanced look on the formal and informal challenges that women face in their political activism while addressing local governments in contemporary Turkey. By studying women's participation in and circulation between local governments, political parties as well as civil society organizations, this multidisciplinary panel aims to go beyond the "Turkish paradox".

Responsable : Lucie Drechselová (Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, CETOBAC)

Liste des intervenants : Hazal Atay, Prunelle Aymé, Lucie Drechselová

Hazal Atay (Sciences-Po Paris)

Untangling Women's Under-Representation in Turkish Politics

The Republic of Turkey was among the few pioneering countries that granted women's suffrage early on following its foundation: in 1930 for local elections and in 1934 for national elections. Nevertheless, despite this early breakthrough, Turkish women have been chronically under-represented in Turkish politics since then both at national and local levels. Untangling women's under-representation in Turkish politics, one is confronted with higher levels of representation at national level than local level. Dwelling on this question, my intervention will focus on women's representation at legislative level to sketch national trends and dynamics in political recruitment of women across political parties. Through a mixed method analysis, I will scrutinize women's cross-party representation from 1950 to 2018. I will demonstrate the effect of institutional design, ideology and the "new politics" on women's legislative representation. Furthermore, I will also examine the prominent role of transnational feminist activism and the interplay between national and international politics to elaborate how international processes provide opportunity windows and advocacy toolkits for women in national politics.

Lucie Drechselová (Czech Academy of Sciences, CETOBAC)

Turkey's Women Political Representation through the Lenses of Party Affiliation and Local Configuration

Women have been represented in Turkish local politics in strikingly low numbers (10.72% of female municipal councilors after 2014 election, 3% of women mayors). Their proportion is even lower than in the Parliament (17% after 2018 election). This contribution explores mechanisms that contribute to women's exclusion from municipal councils. It addresses two stages in female political pathways: the candidacy and the holding of an elected office. Seemingly situated at different moments of one's political career, the processes of candidate selection and the time in office are in reality closely interconnected as the modalities of women's entry into politics impact largely their political role. Throughout the analysis of women's careers, the contribution not only insists on instances of female exclusion, but also on the modalities of women's inclusion. It is the aim of this contribution to analyze similar identity characteristics in three cities in Turkey (Izmir, Trabzon Diyarbakır) in order evaluate their differential significance based on party affiliation and local configuration.

Prunelle Aymé (Sciences Po Paris, CERI)

“We build bridges”: women activists as intermediaries in AKP’s local government, based on a fieldwork in Gaziantep, Turkey

Although in the Justice and Development Party women are underrepresented both in national and local offices, their mass mobilization within the party organization is now well-known. Gathering 4 of the 8 million party members, the AKP’s women’s branch is crucial in times of electoral campaigns. However these women are not only activists in a party competing for elections, but also members of a ruling party. This observation should encourage us to bridge studies in political mobilization and public policy. Indeed, by using specifically “feminine” répertoires d’action elaborated in the militant sphere, they endorse various roles in public policy implementation and, more generally, in government. Drawing on first results of a fieldwork in Gaziantep, this contribution analyzes the diverse ways in which women as activists participate in local government formally and informally – through project management, bridging between citizens and public services or clientelist relations. Paying attention to their interactions with other actors of the “government arena”, we can consider women activists as new intermediaries of indirect government and as agents of politicization of the public action in Turkey.