

## Russia and Türkiye in Global Perspective: The Limits of Convergence

November 1, 2024

Galata Auditorium, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

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Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Türkiye has assiduously refrained from taking sides, refusing to accept a quid-pro-quo break with Russia while simultaneously offering support to Ukraine. Nevertheless, Türkiye has been notably less confrontational abroad over the course of the past two years — the most significant is the thaw in tension with Greece. Although there are limits on Türkiye's ability to walk back some of the previous antagonisms, Ankara has made it clear that it would be willing to cooperate with the West vis-à-vis Russia where it perceived a direct benefit from doing so and that the ballooning of Russian-Turkish trade in 2023 (approx. 70 billion USD/annum) was strictly business with no political implications. The breadth and scope of regional conflicts, from the Donbas to Nagorno-Karabakh to Idlib, demonstrates why geopolitical tensions in Eurasia make Ankara's relations with Moscow much less bilateral and why we need to revisit the subject globally.

This past spring, the Global Academy, in cooperation with the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, hosted [three workshops](#) probing various interrelated dynamics that undergird Ankara-Moscow relations with local experts and guest speakers. Each of our three events produced [workshop reports](#), in addition to looking into various aspects of current Russian-Turkish relations. On November 1, 2024, we are delighted to be hosting the final public conference to be held at Kadir Has University. Given the intrinsic geopolitical and economic forces driving Russian-Turkish relations, we intend to bring together a diverse group of analysts, academics, and journalists who would probe a multitude of exogenous factors and actors in this complex relationship.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Venue: Galata Auditorium, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

**10.00-10.30**    **Registration and Tea/Coffee**

**10.30-10.45**    **Welcoming Remarks**

Mustafa Aydın (Global Academy)

Dawid Bartlet (HBS-Istanbul Office Director)

**10.45-12.15**    **Panel 1**

[Russia, Türkiye, and the West: Towards a New Regional Order?](#)

Moderator: Dr. Lerna Yanık, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

Speaker-1: Dr. Onur İşçi, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

Speaker-2: Dr. Seçkin Köstem, Bilkent University, Ankara

Speaker-3: Dr. Samuel J. Hirst, Bilkent University, Ankara

**12.15-13.30**    **Break**

**13.30-14.45**    **Panel 2**

[A Precarious Interdependence: Sanctions, Energy and Human Mobility](#)

Moderator: Dr. Sinem Akgül Açıkmeşe, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

Speaker-1: Dr. Mitat Çelikpala, Kadir Has University, İstanbul

Speaker-2: Dr. Ayşem Biriz Karaçay, İstanbul Commerce University

Speaker-3: Dr. Pınar İpek, TOBB University, Ankara

**14.45-15.00**    **Closing remarks**

Mustafa Aydın (Global Academy)

Dawid Bartlet (HBS-Istanbul Office Director)