



CENTER FOR FOREIGN POLICY AND PEACE RESEARCH

PEACETALK: YOUNG SCHOLAR SEMINAR SERIES

## Georgian Europeanization: An Institutional and Ideational Analysis

Dr. Yelda Karadağ

Center for Black Sea and Central Asia (KORA), METU

16 December 2019, Monday at 12.30

Bilkent University, Main Campus, G Building, Seminar Room: 160

*Center for Foreign Policy and Peace Research* welcomes researchers, graduate students as well as policy makers. Refreshments will be served.

\* Please **RSVP**: [fppr@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:fppr@bilkent.edu.tr) by December 15, 2019

Georgia entered into a new phase with its independence period, which comprised of both state and nation building processes and related hardships to achieve democratic, market-oriented modern state. After it solved its 'national question' that had been fought for centuries, a process of re-construction of its national identity as well as its foreign policy that defined the country's direction 'back to Europe' has begun. In other words, the independence of Georgia from the Soviet Union in 1991 restored the idea of 'return to Europe,' marked by the Georgian political elites, while addressing the de-Sovietization process in the Georgian political discourse. Drawing on social constructivism, this presentation discusses the 'multiple' aspects of the Georgian Europeanization, which goes beyond the institutional integration and domestic change in accordance with the EU *acquis* between Georgia and the EU. In order to analyze the Georgian Europeanization as a case study, this presentation unravels both normative/ideational and practical/institutional elements of the Europeanization path, while tackling various representations/articulations/references about how the 'idea' of Europe and Georgian Europeaness are re/constructed at different critical junctures in the Georgian post-Soviet independence process.

### **About Speaker**

Yelda Karadağ holds a Ph.D degree in Area Studies Programme at Middle East Technical University (METU) and specialized on Europeanization in Georgia. She obtained a M.Sc. degree in Eurasian Studies at METU in 2011. She received her B.A. degree in International Relations at Bilkent University in 2008. Dr. Karadağ has involved in several national and international projects and conducted various academic research activities on Europeanization, democratization, political parties and civil society in the post-Soviet region as well as critical geopolitics. She currently works as a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Black Sea and Central Asia (KORA) at METU. Her field of interest covers the post-Soviet transition and Europeanization in the South Caucasus, the Black Sea regionalization process and critical geopolitics.