

PLEP TALK

as Part of the **SAR Speaker Series**

a Cooperation of Scholars at Risk and the Master's Program Political, Legal, and Economic Philosophy (PLEP)

Whither 'Islamic Democracy' Project? The Reign of Muslim Populism over Democracy

Prof. Dr. Halil Yenigun
(San Jose State University)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2021
START AT 06.15 PM
ON ZOOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY
MAY, 17TH
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

From the nineteenth century onwards, Contemporary Muslim political thought has had a checkered relationship with the emergent European ideas and institutions such as constitution, democracy, popular rule, and rights and liberties. After overcoming the mid-20th century rejection of "Western" ideas, many former Islamists or post-Islamists were able to shape the recent political thought around a project of "Islamic democracy." While the early developments of the Arab Spring seemed to be a vindication of this project, with its defeat by counter-revolutionary forces and Islamists' self-destructive policies, Islamic democracy theories also seem to be on the wane. Current manifestations of the recent Islamist politics featured even more dramatic democratic decline in the Arab Middle East with a few exceptions as well as the democratic breakdown in Turkey. Is this because of the theoretical shortcomings of Islamic democracy theories as they intrinsically fostered authoritarian regimes that seamlessly aligned with Muslim populist regimes under conservative or ex-Islamist politicians, even while they failed to build their own Islamic democratic states? The talk will discuss the theoretical affinity between the theoretical construct of Islamic popular governance by Islamist thinkers and the discourse and governance style of religious populism under Muslim strongmen alongside pragmatic interests and geostrategic alliances among religious actors and politicians.

Registration Link:

https://www.scholarsatrisk.unibe.ch/events/sar_speaker_series__registration/index_eng.html