

Prof. Dr. MESUT ÖZCAN

He graduated from Political Sciences and International Relations at Marmara University. He finished his post-graduate program at the same university. During his PHD education, he was selected as a guest student in the department of Oriental Studies at St. Anthony's College in Oxford University upon granted the scholarship of Jean Monnet scholarship programme.

He received his PhD degree from Boğaziçi University in 2007. He worked as a research assistant at Beykent University and research academician and lecturer at İstanbul Commerce University. He carried out some administrative duties in Strategic Research Center and Academy of Diplomacy at the ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is still managing the directorate of Academy of Diplomacy tied up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. UFUK ULUTAŞ

Ufuk Ulutaş received his B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration from Bilkent University and his M.A. in Middle Eastern History from The Ohio State University. He completed his Ph.D. in International Relations at Ankara YBU. He studied Hebrew and Middle Eastern politics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He worked at the Ohio State University between 2002-2010 as a research/teaching assistant at the Department of History; as the Samuel M. Melton Fellow as well as George M. & Renée K. Levine Fellow at the Melton Center for Jewish Studies; and as a research assistant at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

He taught World History at The Ohio State University between 2006 and 2009. Dr. Ulutaş served as the Middle East Program Coordinator at SETA Foundation's Washington D.C. office, and as a founding board member at the Mogadishu-based Heritage Institute for Policy Studies. He worked at the SETA Foundation in Ankara as the Director of Foreign Policy Studies and lectured at the Social Sciences University of Ankara's Department of International Relations as an assistant professor. He is currently the Chairman of the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He authored many books, book chapters, articles and policy-oriented reports on Middle Eastern history and politics, Israel and Jewish history, Turkish foreign policy and US policy in the Middle East. He is the author, most recently, of "The State of Savagery: ISIS in Syria" and serving on the editorial board of the Perceptions journal. His academic interests include Syria, Palestine, Israel and violent non-state actors in the Middle East.