

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
presents*

Understanding the Gezi Park Protests



During early Summer 2013, mass protests broke out in Istanbul's Taksim neighborhood in reaction to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's insistence on plans to (re)construct a former Ottoman barracks (as a shopping mall), within one of the city's only parks. As peaceful protests were met with violent police actions, they grew to unprecedented numbers, and they spread throughout the country. This talk will place the protests into a social-political context, and will address the government's continued clampdown on dissent.

Kumru Toktamis teaches social sciences and cultural studies at Pratt Institute and in the sociology department at Brooklyn College. She received her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research (2007), her dissertation was on "From Mobilization to Nationalism: Kurdish Movements and Turkish Nationhood." Her book chapter "Democratization and Tribes in Libya" is coming out in 2014. Her current project is entitled "Gezi and Clashing Authoritarianism: Laicists, Islamists and Kurds."

Louis Fishman specializes in questions dealing with Palestinian and Israeli history in the late Ottoman period, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and modern Turkey. He has written about the recent Gezi Park protests for *Today's Zaman*, a Turkish online daily, the *Haaretz*, and others. His blog, "Istanbul-New-York-Tel Aviv," named after the three cities where he lives throughout the year, focuses on Israeli, Palestinian, and Turkish politics and social issues.

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6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library**

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