

## **Call For Papers**

### **Rethinking Islamism and Liberal Democracy in Turkey**

BRAIS Third Annual Conference, London

11-12 April 2016

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, alternative discourses of democracy have become integral part of not only debates in academic, political and civil society milieus but also practices among diverse non-state actors, such as Islamic movements and emerging non-Western states such as China and Russia. This panel aims to engage with the question of democracy in the political culture of Turkey in the Muslim context. The theme of this panel is inspired by the rise of AKP's conservative and 'competitive authoritarianism' under the Recep Tayyip Erdogan's leadership. On one hand, as Muslim country, Turkey's socio-historical engagement with democracy has significant implications for the future prospects of democracy in the Middle East. On the other hand, the conceptualizations of democracy based on nationalist and Islamic discourses have served the purpose of legitimizing 'illiberal' practices under the AKP rule. While the panel focuses particularly on the crises of liberal democracy with reference to the rise of Political Islam under the AKP rule it is generally interested in interdisciplinary and critical perspectives by inviting papers from the field of International Relations, political science, Turkish Studies, democracy studies, Islamic and Middle Eastern studies.

Please send your title and abstract of 200 words by 28 November 2015 (until 12 p.m) to Mr.Caglar Ezikoglu ([cae23@aber.ac.uk](mailto:cae23@aber.ac.uk)).