



World Affairs Council  
of Western Michigan

## Great Decisions Global Discussions

**February 12: “Trouble Brewing: Can the U.S. and Turkey Cooperate?”**  
**Dr. Sinan Ciddi**, Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies, Georgetown University

The Turkish-American bilateral relationship has its roots embedded in the Cold War. After committing a sizable number of combat divisions to the Korean War in 1950, Turkey was formally admitted to NATO in 1952. Since this time, the U.S. and Turkey have collaborated in numerous regional and global security initiatives. By the late 2000s, the Obama administration labelled the relationship as a “model” partnership.

Since the onset of the Arab Uprisings and heightened instability in the near and Middle East, Turkey’s relationship with the U.S. has come under increased strain, owing largely to divergent policies that have eroded trust and undermined cooperation. So much so, that as of early 2017, the United States imposed an unprecedented measure of issuing a ban on the processing of non-immigrant visas in its U.S. missions in Turkey.

To what extent has the US-Turkish relationship suffered irreparable harm? Are there ways that the partnership can be rebuilt? In the wider context, how will the U.S. approach policy-making towards the region if Turkey is not a partner or ally?

Dr. Ciddi is an expert on Turkish domestic politics and foreign policy. He obtained his Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 2007 in the field of Political Science. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities at Georgetown, Ciddi also serves as the Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies.

His book titled *Kemalism in Turkish Politics: The Republican People’s Party: Secularism and Nationalism* (Routledge, January 2009) focuses on the electoral weakness of the Republican People’s Party.

Between 2008-2011, he established the Turkish Studies program at the University of Florida’s Center for European Studies.

Two options to attend:

**12-1 p.m.:** Recital Hall in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin College

**6-7:15 p.m.:** Aquinas College Performing Arts Center

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