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The Influence of Durkheimian Sociology on Turkish Politics through Ziya Gökalp

Turkish modernisation in the early 20th century gave sociology a pragmatic and policy oriented role. Sociology would be a science that will facilitate the knowledge necessary for the modernisation process. Ziya Gökalp was one of the most influential sociologists and politicians of this period, who aimed to provide a solution to the Ottoman Empire's decline via his sociological studies. Gökalp contributed to Turkish politics by using Durkheimian sociology.

This research investigates the influence of Emile Durkheim's sociology on Turkish politics in the early 20th century by delineating the ways in which Durkheimian sociology shaped Gökalp's view of Turkish society. It endeavours to demonstrate how Durkheim's sociological view was translated into Turkish politics by Ziya Gökalp within the framework of the project '*Universality and the Acceptance Potential of Social Science Knowledge: On the Circulation of Knowledge between Europe and the Global South.*'

The study consists of two parts:

1. The first part analyses the aspects of Durkheimian sociology that Ziya Gökalp used to offer solutions to the political problems of his time. It attempts to show how Durkheimian sociology was customised for the needs of Turkish society by Ziya Gökalp.
2. The second part focuses on the influence of Ziya Gökalp on Turkish politics in the early 20th century. In that way, the study aims to underline the aspects of Durkheimian sociology, which had an influence on Turkish politics through Gökalp's works.

Short Biography:

Türkay Nefes completed his PhD at the Sociology Department at the University of Kent in March 2010. He has worked as a part-time lecturer at the University of Kent between 2006 and 2011. Currently, he is an international research fellow at the Sociology Institute of Freiburg University. He has been publishing in a variety of academic and non-academic sources, such as newspapers, journals and books since 2003. He has recently published 'Conspiracy Theories as Conduits of Fundamentalist Knowledge', in *Fundamentalism, Politics and History: The State Globalization and Political Ideologies* (Martensson et al., 2011). He also has another article 'The History of the Social Constructions about Dönmes' in press with *The Journal of Historical Sociology*.

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