

# AAU PROJECT CARD

**Project supported by Czech Science Foundation.**

**Project Name:**

“Democratic Recessions in the Post-Communist and Muslim World”

**Project Team:** Pelin Ayan Musil, PhD, Dalibor Roháč, PhD, Salim Çevik, PhD

**Implementation: 2019-2022**

**Abstract:** This research aims to explain why some democratically elected governments transgress their democratic limits and breach the separation of powers in favor of a powerful executive. Drawing on the institutional theories of democratization, it adopts a novel comparative design of Muslim and post-communist contexts. More specifically, it compares two cases of democratic recessions -- Hungary and Turkey -- with two cases of non-recessions -- the Czech Republic and Tunisia. Thus, it aims to provide a theoretical understanding of the process of ‘executive degradation’ by explaining why it is observed in the cases of Turkey and Hungary and why it is not observed in the cases of Tunisia and the Czech Republic. In order to do so, it will conduct 15 semi-structured elite interviews with opposition leaders in each of the 4 countries: These leaders are selected from 1/ the opposition factions within the government party, 2/ major opposition parties that compete in elections, 3/ leading non-governmental organizations.

**Selected outputs**

Anisin, A., & Ayan Musil, P. (2021): Resistance and Military Defection in Turkey. *Mediterranean Politics*. fist online: DOI: 10.1080/13629395.2021.1904746

Musil, P. A. (2021). Revisiting the Concept of Moderation in the Age of Populism: the AKP case of Turkey, *Middle East Law and Governance* (published online ahead of print 2021). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/18763375-13031260>

Roháč, D. (2021). Transitions, populism, and democratic decline: Evidence from Hungary and the Czech Republic. *European Politics and Society* (online first). DOI: 10.1080/23745118.2021.1973213

# AAU PROJECT CARD

**Project supported by Czech Science Foundation.**

**Project Name:**

“Transformation of the Islamist Parties: Findings from Turkey”

**Implementation: 2018-2020**

**Project Team:**

Pelin Ayan Musil, PhD

Martin Vimmr, PhD

Jacob Maze, PhD

**Abstract:**

Why do the radical Islamist parties adopt democratic positions and then switch back to authoritarianism? The theories that used to explain the democratic moderation of Islamist parties were to a large extent borrowed from the experience of the formerly communist parties in western and eastern Europe. However, the historical and cultural context where these communist parties functioned was highly different from the context where the Islamist parties operate, which could be a reason why these theories fail to predict the authoritarian shift of the Islamist parties today. Turkey's Islamist party, the JDP, is an example: It has re-adopted an authoritarian stance. This project aims to provide a theoretical understanding of the change in the Islamist parties by comparing Turkey's JDP with a control case from the same context: the ethnonationalist Kurdish party which adopted a democratic political stance in time in Turkey. Data will be derived from online surveys and 30 in-depth interviews with the selected ex-members of the parliament from the two parties between 2002-2015.

**Selected outputs**

Ayan Musil, P., & Hudík, M. (2018). Moderation and De-moderation of Islamist Parties: The case of the AKP in Turkey. MPSA Annual Conference, 5.- 8. 4. 2018, Chicago IL, USA.

Ayan Musil, P. & Demirkol, Ö. (2018). Democratic Breakdown in Turkey: Dominant Party Politics or a Three Party Cartel? MPSA Annual Conference, 5. - 8. 4. 2018, Chicago IL, USA.

Ayan Musil, P. (2018). What Keeps the Islamist Parties United? The JDP Case in Turkey. EPSA Annual Conference, 22. – 25. 9. 2018, Hamburg

Ayan Musil, P., & Vasenda, J. (2020). Party Regulation in Turkey: A Comparison with Modern Europe. Turkish Studies, 21(1), pp. 83-107. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683849.2018.1564623>

"Ayan Musil, P., & Maze, J. (2021). Pro-Rebel Party Behavior during Civil Wars: The Case of the Pro-Kurdish Parties in Turkey, Civil Wars, 23:1, 25-56, DOI: 10.1080/13698249.2021.1898159"