The Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES) is pleased to invite you to:

A Reading of the Turkish Referendum: Causes and Implications

with

Merve Kavakci
Professorial Lecturer of International Affairs, GWU

Turks went to the polls last Sunday to vote on a referendum on constitutional changes covering a wide range of issues. This also coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the military coup of September 12, 1980. 58% of the population welcomed the changes while 42% voted against them. Dr. Kavakci will shed light on the underlying sources of this clear divide among Turks. She will discuss why this is viewed by many as a step toward democratization while others argue it is a major obstacle to Turkey’s development.

Dr. Kavakci is a Professorial Lecturer of International Affairs at The George Washington University. She was elected to the Turkish Parliament in 1999, but was prevented from serving her term by secularists because she wears a headscarf. Kavakci’s political party was closed down and her Turkish citizenship was revoked, banning her from politics for a period of five years. She took her case to the European Court of Human Rights and won in 2007. A widely recognized international public figure, Kavakci has addressed the British Parliament’s House of Lords, the UN Commission on Human Rights, the US Congress’ Helsinki Commission, the Interparliamentary Union and several universities in the US and abroad. Kavakci is a consultant for Congress on the Muslim world and a columnist for the Turkish daily Vakit newspaper. She serves on the Editorial Board of Mediterranean Quarterly and is author of the forthcoming Headscarf Politics in Turkey: A Postcolonial Reading. Kavakci holds a Ph.D. in political science from Howard University, an MPA from Harvard University and a BS in Software Engineering from University of Texas at Dallas.

Wednesday, September 15, 2010
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street, NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP to ieresgwu@gwu.edu.