

Media Release

January 26, 2015

**“Global Protests and Resistance in the 21st Century”
Public Lecture Wednesday, Jan. 28
Dr. Besim Can Zirh, of the Middle East Technical University**

A Turkish scholar visiting St. Thomas University will pose the questions “What is the nature of protest in the 21st century and who is the protester?” in a public lecture on global protests and resistance.

Dr. Besim Can Zirh, of the Middle East Technical University, will speak on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 PM in the Ted Daigle Auditorium, Edmund Casey Hall.

Zirh’s talk will examine the Gezi Park protests in Turkey as part of a global geography of resistance. He will consider the Gezi Park protests as a globalized face of the newly emerging geographies of resistance and examine the efforts to unite or divide such popular movements.

Following a police intervention in a peaceful occupy campaign, which was organized partly to protect a well-known park in the heart of Istanbul, a series of large-scale protests erupted in Turkey in May 2013 and lasted for months. This nation-wide outpouring of mass protest was unexpected and unprecedented and changed the direction of Turkish politics.

Zirh is visiting St. Thomas University for ten days and will be speaking in classes and meeting with professors on research projects. The lecture is hosted by the Global and International Studies Initiative, Department of Sociology, Institute for World History, and Research Services.

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