IV. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSERVATISM

Call for Papers

The fourth Political Psychology Symposium will be held this year on 29-30 October 2026 in cooperation with Istanbul Medeniyet University, Istanbul Ticaret University, International Balkan University and Kazimierz Wielki University. The symposium's subtitle has been set as ***"The Psychology of Conservatism"***.

Conservatism possesses the character of a multilayered social phenomenon that exceeds the boundaries within which it might be described merely as a political ideology or tradition of thought; it has continued to exist in changing forms across different periods. In the face of processes of modernisation, political ruptures and cultural transformations, conservatism has preserved its influence in social and political life by being reshaped around concepts such as identity, memory, security, belonging, cultural continuity and psychological resilience. Particularly in recent years, global migration waves, international conflicts, economic crises, artificial intelligence and digitalisation processes, and the structural uncertainties brought about by the post-truth age have brought new forms of conservative thought to light. This continuity and transformation make it necessary to examine why the reciprocal relationships that individuals and societies establish with tradition, family, religion and the mechanism of the state are persistently reproduced.

In today's conjuncture, in which conflicts in the international system are deepening, new security balances are being constructed along the Middle East axis, identity politics in the Balkans shows signs of revival, debates on migration and populism have gained momentum in Europe with the rise of the far right, and culture wars in the United States have come to dominate the political sphere, it will be insufficient to examine conservatism solely with political institutions at the centre. The recurrent visibility of conservatism under different historical conditions requires this phenomenon to be addressed through a holistic approach that also considers psychological dispositions, collective memory, ontological security and the construction of social identity.

The significance of conservatism from the perspective of political psychology becomes evident in the relationship between individuals' political orientations and early-life experiences, attachment patterns, the need for security, anxiety levels, self-structuring and developmental ruptures within the life cycle. Psychological attitudes developed in the face of uncertainty, loss, threat, change and authority can directly shape the individual's contact with tradition, family, religion, the state and social order. In this respect, conservatism may be evaluated not merely as a temporal reaction to change, but as one of the psychological responses to the individual's search for security, continuity and meaning.

In this context, the IV. Political Psychology Symposium aims to analyse, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the psychological, political and cultural transformation processes that conservatism has undergone; to open the experiences of Western and Eastern civilisations to comparative discussion; and to discuss through which individual, social and political needs conservatism has been reproduced in different periods. The symposium seeks to move conservatism beyond being merely an object of ideological inquiry and to consider it together with individual development, psychological needs, forms of social belonging and patterns of political behaviour.

The symposium is open to the participation of academics, researchers and graduate students working not only in political science and psychology, but also in related disciplines such as sociology, history, philosophy, international relations, theology and cultural studies.

The symposium has an international character and its languages are Turkish and English. The submitted work must not have been previously published or presented elsewhere. Paper topics must be prepared with reference to the categories determined by the Organising Committee and must necessarily be related to the main theme of the symposium. Texts that do not meet these conditions will not be accepted for the symposium.

Submissions that pass the review process and are accepted will be grouped by the Organising Committee according to their main themes, and sessions will be arranged around these themes. Abstracts will be published in e-book format after undergoing a rigorous review process. Participants who do not wish to submit a full text will also be able to present at the symposium. Full texts submitted to the symposium will be considered for publication by the supporting journals following the peer-review process.

Date and Venue: 29–30 October 2026, Skopje – International Balkan University

Email Address: politik.psikoloji@medeniyet.edu.tr

Main Themes

Theme 1: Psychological Foundations of the Conservative Mindset
• The role of personality traits in the formation of conservative political orientations
• The search for order in the face of uncertainty and conservative attitudes
• The impact of risk perception and threat sensitivity on resistance to change
• The role of emotional dispositions in the formation of conservative political identity
Theme 2: Conservatism in the Context of Security, Anxiety, and Threat Perception
• The need for ontological security and the construction of conservative identity

• An anxiety- and fear-based search for authority in times of crisis
• The impact of global conflicts on national identity
• Conservative attitudes in response to global crises
Theme 3: Populism, the Far Right, and the Psychology of Voter Behavior
• The impact of populist discourse on the conservative emotional world
• The role of anger, resentment, and victimhood in far-right mobilization
• The impact of perceived cultural threat on anti-immigrant attitudes
• The transformation of conservative voter psychology in Europe, the United States, the Balkans, and Türkiye
Theme 4: The Psychology of Belonging, Identity, and Collective Memory
• The function of collective memory in the construction of conservative identity
• Nostalgia and the sense of loss in conservative political discourse
• Conservatism in the context of cultural identification and the search for continuity
• The us–them distinction as the basis of the conservative psychology of belonging
Theme 5: Psychological Attitudes toward Family, Religion, Tradition, and Authority
• The impact of the family institution on the transmission of conservative values and political socialization
• The ways in which religious belonging shapes conservative political attitudes and behavior
• The impact of identification with tradition on perceptions of social order and cultural continuity
• The place of perceptions of the state and authority in the conservative understanding of legitimacy
Theme 6: Intergenerational Conservatism
• The transformation of conservative identity and value orientations among younger generations
• Conservatism in the context of demographic change and intergenerational value conflict
• Conservative conceptions of the environment in the face of the ecological crisis
• The new psychological foundations of conservatism in the twenty-first century
Theme 7: Conservatism in the Post-Truth Era

• The impact of uncertainties produced by modernity and late modernity on the conservative mindset
• The transformation of conservative forms of identity and belonging in the digital public sphere
• The construction of conservative perceptions of truth
• Perception management and conservative political orientation in the post-truth era
Theme 8: Conservatism in the Face of Artificial Intelligence and Technological Transformation
• Loss of control and the search for security in the face of artificial intelligence
• Cultural transformation brought about by artificial intelligence and conservative resistance
• Algorithmic governance, digital surveillance, and the conservative understanding of freedom
• Conservative visions of the future
Theme 9: Conservatism and Migration
• Cultural continuity and identity anxiety in response to migration
• Perceptions of security, borders, and belonging in debates on refugees
• The place of anti-immigrant attitudes in the conservative emotional world
• Forms of conservative response to demographic change

Calendar & Programme

Deadline for Abstract Submission:	14 September 2026
Announcement of Accepted Papers:	21 September 2026
Announcement of the Programme:	28 September 2026
Symposium Date:	29-30 October 2026
Final Deadline for Full Text Submission:	16 November 2026

Abstract Submission

The application form required to participate in the IV. Political Psychology Symposium is available on the documents page of our website.

⇒ Abstracts, which must be no more than 250 words, should be added to the relevant section of the application form.
⇒ After the application form has been completed, the file should be renamed in the format "name-surname-application form".
⇒ Those who wish to participate in the symposium must send the application form to politik.psikoloji@medeniyet.edu.tr by 14 September 2026 at the latest.

Evaluation Criteria for Abstracts: The Organising Committee will evaluate all abstract submissions according to the criteria presented below:

⇒ **Methodology:** The theories, approaches and methods used in the study should be clearly stated in the abstract.
⇒ **Topic:** The study must be directly related to the subject of the symposium. When explaining the topic of the study in the abstract, a connection must be established with the main themes of the symposium.
⇒ **Argument:** The argument of the study must be clearly stated in the text.
⇒ **Findings:** The findings obtained as a result of the study must be summarized in general terms, and the contribution to the literature should be explained.

Writing Guidelines:

⇒ The paper text should be written in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with 2.5 cm margins on all sides, in a single column, with 1.5 line spacing, on A4 paper.
⇒ Paragraphs should begin with a 1.25 cm indent; when emphasis is needed in the text, bold emphasis should be used.
⇒ 6 pt of space should be left before and after paragraphs. In the "Layout" tab, under paragraph options, spacing before and after should be set to "6 pt".
⇒ The abstract should be prepared in both Turkish and English.
⇒ A sufficient and up-to-date bibliography should be used.
⇒ APA 7 style should be used for in-text references, citations and the bibliography.

E-mail Address: **politik.psikoloji@medeniyet.edu.tr**

Organising Institutions

Istanbul Medeniyet University	https://medeniyet.edu.tr
Istanbul Ticaret University	https://ticaret.edu.tr
International Balkan University	https://www.ibu.edu.mk
Kazimierz Wielki University	https://www.ukw.edu.pl
The Journal of Political Psychology	https://www.politikpsikolojidergisi.com
The Journal of Conservative Thought	https://www.muhafazakar.com/
World of Ideas and Politics	https://czasopisma.ukw.edu.pl/index.php/sip/about
Journal of Society and Identity	https://toplumkimlik.com

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