



February 25, 2021

APSA Statement on Protests and Government Intervention at Boğaziçi University

Earlier this year, President Tayyip Erdoğan appointed Melih Bulu as a rector of Boğaziçi University, bypassing the university's tradition of internally electing rectors, and continuing the Turkish government's efforts to exert influence and pressure over the country's academic institutions. Students, faculty, and residents protesting the violation of academic freedom have also been targeted, some [detained](#) following police raids. The American Political Science Association joins with our colleagues in the Middle East Studies Association of North America in [expressing outrage](#) regarding the escalating violence against protestors and the inflammatory communications demonizing students and faculty. We urge the Turkish government to end the targeted harassment against students and faculty, particularly those within the [LGBTQ community](#), and to engage with the university to reestablish its tradition of self-governance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steven Rathgeb Smith'.

Steven Rathgeb Smith
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier'.

Janet Box-Steffensmeier
President

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Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 13,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.



John Ishiyama
President-Elect



Paula D. McClain
Past President

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