

# Melinda Negrón-Gonzales Publishes Article on Women's Rights in Turkey

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[Melinda Negrón-Gonzales](#), assistant professor and program coordinator of Politics & Society, was recently published in *Middle Eastern Studies*, a journal featuring the most up-to-date academic research on the history and politics in the Middle East.

Titled "[The feminist movement during the AKP era in Turkey: challenges and opportunities](#)," her article explores women's rights activism beginning when the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came into power in 2002, to present.

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## Abstract

This article explores women's rights activism in Turkey during the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) time in power (2002–present). A comparative analysis of three feminist campaigns for policy reform shows that in a context in which majority public opinion and the policy preferences of the ruling party militate against feminist policy proposals, a strong political ally (the European Union) was necessary to generate a policy change. The article also argues that the political opportunity structures within which feminists are embedded have been reconfigured over the course of the AKP's three terms in power, leaving the AKP in a stronger position to resist feminists' demands. This explains the paradox of an internally stronger and more dynamic social movement that, nevertheless, appears to have weakened *vis-à-vis* the state. Furthermore, because some recent legal reforms do not significantly reflect the AKP's or much of the public's preferences, the movement has been less able to generate implementation of recent policy changes.

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