

About Professor Timur Kuran



[Timur Kuran](#) is Professor of Economics and Political Science, and Gorter Family Professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University. His research focuses on social change, including the evolution of preferences and institutions, and on the economic history and thought of the Middle East. His current projects include a study of the role that the region's traditional institutions played in its poor performance in regards to democratization. Among his publications are: *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification* (Harvard University Press); *Islam and Mammon: The Economic Predicaments of Islamism* (Princeton University Press); *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East* (Princeton University Press); and a ten-volume tri-lingual edited work, *Mahkeme Kayıtları Işığında Onyedinci Yüzyıl İstanbul'unda Sosyo-Ekonomik Yaşam / Socio-Economic Life in Seventeenth-century Istanbul: Glimpses from Court Records* (İş Bank Publications).

After graduating from Robert Academy in Istanbul in 1973, Kuran went on to study economics at Princeton University (AB 1977) and Stanford University (PhD 1982). Between 1982 and 2007 he taught at the University of Southern California. He was also a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the John Olin Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, and a visiting professor of economics at Stanford University. He currently directs the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS), is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association, edits a book series for Cambridge University Press, serves on six editorial boards, and is a member of the World Economic Forum's Arab World Council.