

## Secularity, Islam, and Democracy in Indonesia and Turkey

Initiative: Freigeist-Fellowships

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Indonesia and Turkey together make up almost one fifth of the world's Muslim population. Both countries were hailed as models for democratization until recent developments called that process into question. In Turkey, the Islamist-conservative President Erdogan has ignited the country's authoritarian transformation. In Indonesia, oligarchic networks and growing religious intolerance have hollowed out democracy. This research project seeks to explain the authoritarian turn in both countries from a comparative and transnational perspective. Blending the methods and findings of area studies, political science, anthropology, sociology, and political economy, the research group will analyse how the cooperation and competition among religious, economic, and political elites resulted in the regress of democracy. The analysis focuses on three sectors: urban development, health care, and education. Using interviews, ethnography, and media analysis, the project will make sense of the simultaneous trends of privatization and increased public spending and show how they factor in the democratic decline. The project bridges the gap between area studies and political science, and brings new perspectives to the still Western-centric literature on the much-discussed "crisis" of liberal democracy.

### Projektbeteiligte

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### Open Access-Publikationen

**Democratic Decline in Indonesia: The Role of Religious Authorities**

**Breeding Roses and Chasing Unicorns: Reflections from Europe on the Changing Field of Southeast Asian Area Studies**

**Islam Nusantara: The Conceptual Vocabulary of Indonesian Diversity**

**Contrasted Revolutions. Review of Republicanism, Communism, Islam, by John Sidel.**

