

Call for Papers: EWIS 2026

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## CONSTITUTIONALISM IN HYBRID REGIMES

The concept of 'constitutionalism' has traditionally been associated with the development of liberal democracy, especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the spread of constitutional movements demanding the creation of representative parliaments. Today however, we are witnessing that constitutionalism is going through a different path with the increasing number of hybrid regimes around the world. In these hybrid regimes, constitutions play a different role from that of constitutions in liberal democracies, where the primary purpose is to place limitations on governmental power and to protect citizens' basic liberties; and they also differ from those in totalitarian regimes, where constitutions are largely sham documents. The political power holders in hybrid regimes might benefit from the existence of constitutional measures in a variety of ways that are distinct from the cases of politicians both in liberal democracies and in totalitarian regimes. This panel explores the role of constitutionalism in hybrid regimes and aims to develop theoretical and comparative insights while clarifying and specifying the ways in which constitutionalism functions in such regimes.

This workshop invites submissions that specifically explore the role of constitutionalism and the functions of constitutions in hybrid regimes theoretically and/or that examine constitutionalism across regions empirically. In specific, the workshop aims to address issues related to the following questions:

- Should scholars use the concept of constitutionalism when analyzing hybrid regimes, or should this concept be confined only to liberal democracies?
- How does the mechanism of constitutionalism work in hybrid regimes? What are the similarities and differences between the functions of constitutions in liberal democracies and hybrid regimes?
- What is the role of judiciary in hybrid regimes?
- What are the characteristics of the authoritarian strand of constitutionalism in different settings? Especially in Latin America, East-Central Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- What are the ways in which the nature of constitutional politics in Türkiye changed?
- What kinds of measures can liberal democracies take to prevent power holders from abusing constitutions? What are the ways in which liberal democracies can protect themselves? Would the instruments associated with 'militant democracy' for instance be useful in such contexts?