



Speaker Biographies

Reha Başođul is Chief Digital Officer at *Sözcü newspaper in charge of digital operations*. Between 2015 and 2020, Başođul worked as Director of Operations and Strategic Planning within the Digital Operations departments at *Sözcü*. From 2011 to 2014, he taught Market Research and Social Media Research classes as part of the MBA program at the Yeditepe University. Graduate of the Yıldız Technical University Mathematical Engineering Department, Başođul was instrumental in the digital transformation of the *Hürriyet* newspaper in the capacity of the head of Strategic Planning Group as well as the Value Added Services and Business Intelligence Groups.

Minez Bayülgen is the founder and editor of Kapsül News. Bayülgen has previously worked as an editor on *Taraf* newspapers Culture and Arts page and conducted weekly interviews for the internet newspaper *Diken*. She has also prepared politics and news podcasts for *kısdalga.net*. She holds a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Faruk Bildirici started his career as a journalist in 1980s during the rule of the military junta in Turkey. He worked at *Cumhuriyet* for 12 years, covering education, judicial affairs, and politics, while also serving as news editor. Between 1992 and 2019, he worked at *Hürriyet* newspaper as news editor and pursued a career on the field as an investigative journalist. He wrote for the weekly news magazine *Tempo* and produced a media critique television program on TV8. He served as *Hürriyet*'s ombudsman for 9 years and conducted and published interviews in his weekly column, "Puzzle Portraits." Having been let go from *Hürriyet*, Bildirici has consistently written media critique on his website under the alias "Media Ombudsman." He is the author of 11 books, most of which are biographies.

Gülin Çavuş is the cofounder and Vision and Strategy Coordinator of the fact-checking organization, *Teyit.org*. Çavuş was selected the 2017 International Fact-Checking Fellow and studied disinformation targeting refugees in the world. She has taught journalists, university students, and civil society

organizations online research and fact-checking techniques. Çavuş holds a BA in Global Politics and International Relations from the Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) and Binghamton University. She completed her Master's degree in Urban Policy Planning and Local Government at ODTÜ.

Can Ertuna is an assistant professor at the Department of New Media at Bahçeşehir University. In addition to his academic career, Ertuna has worked for international media outlets and co-produces a news show, "Gündem: Medya" at Medyascope. Ertuna's areas of expertise include new media, digital news instruments, television and radio news broadcast, media and war. Having covered the conflict zones in the Middle East and North Africa since 2010, Ertuna published *Arap İsyanları Güncesi*, featuring his observations and experiences from the field. He holds BA and MA degrees from ODTÜ in Sociology and Urban Policy Planning and a PhD in media and communication from Galatasaray University.

Tirşe Erbaysal Filibeli is an associate professor at the Department of New Media at Bahçeşehir University. She received her M.A. degree and Ph.D. from Galatasaray University. In 2017 she co-edited "*Journalism a Peacekeeping Agent at the Time of Conflict*" and in 2020 She edited "*Information Nightmare: Fake News, Manipulation and Post-truth Politics in the Digital Age*". Since 2017 she is working as a researcher in the country team of Turkey for Media Pluralism Monitor Project of Centre for Media Pluralism and Freedom (CMPF). Her recent research interests focus on algorithmic manipulation and computational propaganda, big data and data privacy, information disorder and fact-checking, disinformation/misinformation about minorities and othering in the post-truth era, populism, and peace studies.

Julia Haas is an international law and human rights expert. In her work, she has focused on international relations, the intersection of technology and human rights, and the prevention of marginalization. Julia particularly focuses on policy research and development in the field of internet governance and digital participation, implementing the project on the impact of artificial intelligence on freedom of expression and working on digital safety of women journalists at the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Previously, she worked as legal officer and human rights adviser at the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. Julia is counselor at the Vienna Forum for Democracy and Human Rights. She holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Vienna (summa cum laude), a scholarship for its LLM program on Information and Media Law and is a PhD candidate on the impact of digital innovations on media freedom.

Gülsin Harman is a Istanbul-based freelance reporter who has worked frequently for *The New York Times* and more recently, with the BBC. Since the end of her Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in May 2020, she received a grant from the European Journalism Center to develop a newsletter and was selected to join the Product Immersion program (Europe/Middle East/Africa cohort) at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism.

Kaya Heyse is News Coordinator at Medyascope. Heyse started professional life as a journalist in 1997 as an intern in Star TV, Istanbul, Turkey and has won numerous awards with his reporting on the Afghanistan and Iraq wars in the early 2000's. After years of working in war zones, he became the Azerbaijan Country Manager of MOB Construction Inc., a Turkish construction company. In May 2014, Heyse helped found PIAR İletişim, a PR and media productions company. Before joining Medyascope in 2019, he worked as a freelance journalist. He holds a BA in International Relations from Boğaziçi University.

Emre Kızılkaya is a vice-chair of the International Press Institute (IPI), and the president of IPI's National Committee in Turkey. He served as an editor and executive in Turkish media for more than 15 years. He has a B.A. degree in International Relations from Istanbul University and an M.A. degree in Journalism from Marmara University. He completed the Knight Visiting Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in 2019.

Kizilkaya is conducting Ph.D. research on digital media at Galatasaray University. Having received several journalism awards, he is the current project editor of Journo.com.tr.

Mustafa Kuleli is Editor-in-Chief and cofounder of Journo.com.tr. After working for numerous print, visual and digital media organizations in Turkey, Kuleli was elected Secretary-General of the Turkish Journalists' Union shortly after the Gezi protests in 2013. At the age of 28, he was the youngest person elected as a union head in Turkey. He has developed the new image, language, and rhetoric of the Union. Kuleli also founded the TGS Academy, the union's training arm that teaches young journalists vital skills in new media. A graduate of the Faculty of Communication at Bilgi University, Kuleli was elected to the board of the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) in 2019.

Javier Luque is the Head of Digital Communications for the International Press Institute, where he coordinates advocacy and communication on IPI's digital platforms. He holds a master's degree in International Journalism from Cardiff University and bachelor's degrees in journalism and psychology. He has worked on online hate against journalists and media organisations since 2014. His research on this topic has been quoted by media worldwide such as The Guardian, The British Journalism Review, Al Jazeera and Bloomberg News among others. In 2018 he directed "A Dark Place", his third film documentary, which premiered at Vienna's This Human World film festival. He has also worked as a consultant for the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media for their project on Safety of Female Journalists Online.

Nevşin Mengü produces weekly programs for Deutsche Welle Türkçe and webcasts from her YouTube channel. She has worked at the nightly news department of Kanaltürk and as a reporter at Habertürk television. She covered the war in Gaza in 2008; interviewed the first woman to serve as a minister in Kuwait; and founded the Tehran bureau of TRT Turk. Having worked in Tehran for a year, Mengü returned to Turkey and worked as a reporter for *Hürriyet*. She returned to television with CNNTürk, where she was the evening news anchor between 2011-2017. She was forced to resign her post upon reporting that the Trump – Erdoğan meeting lasted shorter than planned. Mengü has a BA in Political Science from Bilkent University and an MA in Sociology from Galatasaray University.

Hazal Ocak is a reporter at *Cumhuriyet*, covering local news and environment. Between 2012 and 2015 Ocak held a variety of posts at the newspaper, ranging from night reporter to page editor. Among her many other responsibilities, Ocak is also in charge of preparing the weekly environment page at *Cumhuriyet*. She is the member of the Turkish Journalists' Union and Turkish Journalists Association. Holding a BA degree from the Journalism Department of Istanbul University, Ocak is the recipient of many prestigious journalism awards, including the European Union's "The Best Young Investigative Journalist" award. She is the author of *İhanet*, which documents the rent-driven crimes committed against Istanbul.

İpek Özbey conducts and publishes weekly interviews at *Cumhuriyet* called "360 Degrees"—a series that she launched while working at *Hürriyet*. Özbey has worked as a journalist and editor at many TV and print media outlets, ranging from CNNTürk and NTV to *Milliyet*, *Tempo*, *Akşam* and *Hürriyet*. Özbey published her interviews with the relatives of those who took to the streets on the night of July 15, 2016 in a book entitled "The Heroes of Democracy," which is also the first book written on the July 15 coup attempt. She is a member of PEN Turkey and has a degree in Business Administration at Istanbul University, where she is currently pursuing her studies in sociology.

Daniela Pinheiro is the first woman appointed editor-in-chief of a weekly magazine in Brazil. A former JSK Knight (JSK) Fellow in Journalism at Stanford University, she was the editor-in-chief of the weekly news and analysis magazine *Época* from February 2018 until September 2019. During Pinheiro's tenure, *Época* was awarded twice in the Best Media of the Year category by Aberje, and Prêmio Colunistas

awarded it Best Magazine in the Country. In September 2019, Pinheiro resigned – along with five editors and five columnists— after attacks from President Jair Bolsonaro and his family. She began her career at *Folha de São Paulo*, the country’s largest newspaper, followed by a long period as a reporter and editor at *Veja*, Brazil’s largest weekly magazine. Between 2006 and 2017, she was editor and then digital editor at *Piauí*, a prestigious long-form monthly magazine.

İsmail Saymaz hosts a television news program and authors a column at Halk TV. He has worked at *Radikal*, *Hürriyet*, and *Sözcü* newspapers and covered human rights and freedom of expression violations in Turkey. He has been tried nearly 20 times due to his coverage on these topics. In 2014, Reporters Without Borders – RSF added Saymaz to its list of “100 Press Heroes.” A Graduate of Marmara University’s Faculty of Communication, Saymaz is an author of numerous books on rights violations and corruption in Turkey.

Orhan Şener is the director TGS Academy. He teaches courses at the Academy on the digital transformation of journalism, online news formats, the new generation income modeling, and many more subjects. He also writes for *Journo.com.tr* on similar topics. Currently writing his PhD dissertation on “Access to Information and Filtering Practices” at Galatasaray University, Şener holds a Master’s degree in Information, Society, and Communication at the City University of London and teaches at a variety of training programs at Bahçeşehir University. He has authored academic articles and book chapters on technology and social interaction.

Burak Tatari is a news anchor at Halk TV. Between 2013 and 2016, Tatari reported for *Tempo* magazine before joining and anchoring the evening news, *Güne Bakış*, at Medyascope from 2016 to 2021. Holder of a BA degree in Political Science at Galatasaray University, Tatari has completed a variety of trainings in digital media and podcasting at prestigious institutions such as the London headquarters of the Guardian and SoundTelling Company in Stockholm. Tatari also is the producer of *2hafta 1gün* podcast.

Şafak Timur is an Istanbul-based reporter for *The New York Times*. Timur started her career in 2004 at Associated Press’ Istanbul bureau and pursued it further at *Hürriyet Daily News*, first as a reporter and then as an editor. She has also worked for Agence France-Presse in Istanbul and BBC Türkçe in London. She is a graduate of Bogaziçi University’s Political Science department and pursues stage acting in her spare time.

Selin Uğurtaş is a free-lance journalist since 2019. Uğurtaş started her career at *Hürriyet Daily News* and since then she has covered climate and ecology for numerous news organizations. Her articles have appeared in *The Guardian*, *Politico*, *Al-Monitor* and many other prestigious print and digital media outlets. Uğurtaş also produces and hosts the *Yeşil Havadis* program on Açık Radyo, Turkey’s first and only radio station dedicated to the climate crisis and environmental awareness. Uğurtaş graduated from Koç University’s International Relations Department and holds a Master’s Degree in International Relations from King’s College.

Burak Ütücü is a reporter for Independent Türkçe and has formerly worked as an editor at Kapsül News. He has worked at *Hürriyet’s* Web TV department, Al Jazeera, Inside Turkey, and Journo previously. Having completed his university education at İzmir University of Economics and Anadolu University in journalism, he interned at a London-based production company in 2017.

İpek Yezdani has worked as an international journalist and covered diplomacy and international affairs for various national and international media outlets including Daily Hürriyet, Hürriyet Daily News, Daily Milliyet, Associated Press, BBC, TRT Turk, Mc Clatchy News and Daily Cumhuriyet for 24 years. She has been working as a freelance journalist for various media organizations since 2020 and she is also the Vice

Chair of Turkey National Committee of the Vienna- based International Press Institute (IPI). In 2004, she won a Chevening Scholarship from the British Council to study her Masters in the UK. She studied her MA degree in “**International Journalism**” at the City University of London between 2004 and 2006. She worked as a producer for Associated Press Television News and BBC while she was in the UK. She worked for TRT (Turkish Radio Television Channel) Turk as the Middle East editor for one year between 2010 and 2011. She worked as a foreign news editor and senior diplomatic correspondent for the most major newspaper in Turkey, Daily Hürriyet and its English language newspaper - Hürriyet Daily News between 2011 and 2020. Yezdani conducted interviews with many foreign leaders and diplomats and is the recipient of the Turkish Journalists Association’s “Journalism Success Award.”

Uğur Yılmaz has been working as Turkey Desk Editor for Bloomberg News for the last five years. Yılmaz started his media career surpassing a decade at the financial newspaper *Dünya* as a finance reporter. He also worked at Bloomberg HT television as a program editor. Yılmaz has a BA in Business Administration from Marmara University and MA in International Economic Policy at Bilgi University.