

A KAPUSCINSKI DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

WITH **DARON ACEMOGLU**, CO-AUTHOR OF

**THE NARROW CORRIDOR**

STATES , SOCIETIES , AND THE FATE OF LIBERTY

FRIDAY, 20.12.2019 18:00

BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY - ALBERT LONG HALL

This project is a joint initiative of The European Commission,  
The United Nations Development Programme,  
Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, and Boğaziçi University.  
The project is funded by the European Commission.



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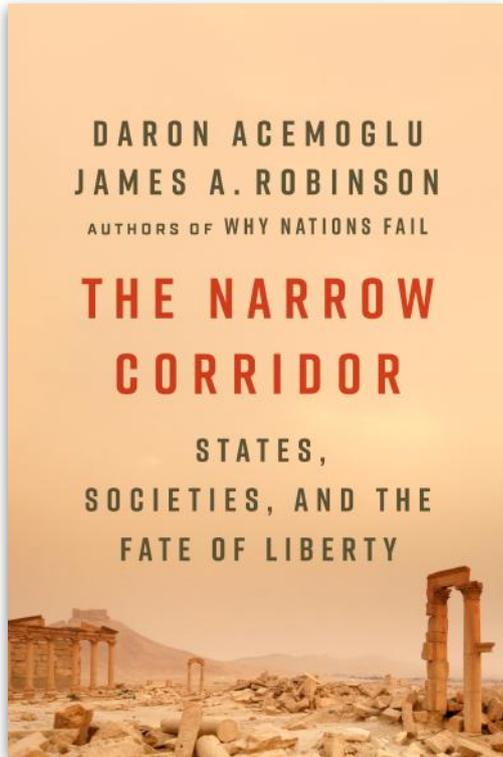


# THE NARROW CORRIDOR

## STATES, SOCIETIES AND THE FATE OF LIBERTY

### *About the Talk*

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Liberty is hardly the natural order of things. In most places and at most times, the strong have dominated the weak and human freedom has been quashed by force or by customs and norms. Either states have been too weak to protect individuals from these threats, or states have been too strong for people to protect themselves from despotism. Liberty emerges only when a delicate and precarious balance is struck between state and society, and when this happens, a narrow corridor is opened, where states are induced to provide the services society demands and people are organized to control and cut to size their politicians and leaders. There is a Western myth that political liberty is a

durable construct, arrived at by a process of enlightenment and protected by well-designed constitutions. This talk will explain why protecting liberty is much harder, how institutions bolstering liberty evolve, why society's involvement and rebellion is critical, how institutions can be molded to protect liberty, and why we are going through a period of danger for liberty.

**THE NARROW CORRIDOR**  
STATES, SOCIETIES AND THE FATE OF LIBERTY

*About the Speaker*

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*Daron Acemoglu* is an Institute Professor at MIT and an elected fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the Turkish Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Econometric Society, the European Economic Association, and the Society of Labor Economists. He is the author of five books, including *Why Nations Fail: Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (both with James A. Robinson). His academic work covers a wide range of areas, including political

economy, economic development, economic growth, inequality, labor economics and economics of networks.

Daron Acemoglu has received the inaugural T. W. Shultz Prize from the University of Chicago in 2004, and the inaugural Sherwin Rosen Award for outstanding contribution to labor economics in 2004, Distinguished Science Award from the Turkish Sciences Association in 2006, the John von Neumann Award, Rajk College, Budapest in 2007, the Carnegie Fellowship in 2017, the Jean-Jacques Laffont Prize in 2018, and the Global Economy Prize in 2019.

He was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal in 2005, the Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in 2012, and the 2016 BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award. He holds Honorary Doctorates from the University of Utrecht, the Bosphorus University, University of Athens, Bilkent University, the University of Bath, the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Saclay Paris, and the London Business School.

## The Partners

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### ***Kapuscinski Development Lectures***

Top global thinkers discuss development. The series 'Kapuscinski Development Lectures' named after Ryszard Kapuscinski, a Polish reporter and writer who covered developing countries, is organized jointly by the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and partner universities and development think-tanks. Since 2009, over 110 lectures gathered more than 30,000

participants. The lectures are livestreamed at [www.kapuscinskilectures.eu](http://www.kapuscinskilectures.eu) and their content is shared on this website.

### ***Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul*** serves

as a hub for Columbia University's programs and initiatives that relate to Turkey and the region. The Center has focused on several themes, such as gender equality, refugees, and art and architecture, in addition to exploring new areas of knowledge, such as geopolitics and energy. The Center also collaborates with the other Global Centers, Columbia campus counterparts, and the Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies. Istanbul, and the vast geographic, political, and historical context of Turkey provides additional spheres of exploration.



### ***Boğaziçi University*** was officially established on

12 September 1971, although its history dates back to 1863, with the founding of Robert College. One hundred sixty-six years filled with success, Boğaziçi University has nurtured the values, culture, and institutional image of knowledge creation and entrepreneurship. It promotes research relevant to real life, is committed to serving humanity in every field, from literature to art, from science to technology, for the benefit of society. The main tenets of Boğaziçi University's vision are increasing its competitiveness in academic research and being among

the best research universities in the world. In accordance with its strategic priority, Boğaziçi University pursues multi-disciplinary international collaborations in research and education.