

Social Media in Turkey as a space for political battles - Erkan Saka

This study centers on AKTrolls, defined as pro-government political trolls in Turkey, while attempting to draw implications about political trolling in the country in general. It examines their methods and effects, and interrogates whether (and how) Turkish authorities have attempted to shape or counter politically motivated social media content production through trolling after the Gezi Park Protests that took place in 2013. It demonstrates that this kind of political trolling activity in Turkey is more decentralized and less institutionalized than generally thought, and are based more on ad hoc decisions by a larger public; however, it is argued here that AKPTrolls do have impact on reducing discourses critical of the government on social media.