

**Timur Kuran** is Professor of Economics and Political Science, and Gorter Family Professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University. His research focuses on social change, including the evolution of preferences and institutions. He has just completed a book, *The Long Divergence* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2010), on the role that Islam played in the economic rise of the Middle East and, subsequently, in the institutional stagnation that accompanied the region's slip into a state of underdevelopment. Some of the archival work on which this book was based will be published, also in 2010, as a ten-volume bi-lingual set entitled *Kadı Sicilleri Işığında 17. Yüzyıl İstanbul'unda Ekonomik Yaşam / Economic Life in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul, as Reflected in Court Registers*. Among Kuran's earlier publications are *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification* (Harvard University Press, 1995) and *Islam and Mammon: The Economic Predicaments of Islamism* (Princeton University Press, 2004), each translated into several languages, including Turkish.