**The Graduate Programs in**

**International Studies**

***Dissertation Defense***

***Prevention and Prosecution Challenges on the Internet in the Republic of Turkiye: Blocking and Child Pornography”***

Ersin Elibol

“Social, economic, and technological developments are widely accepted as powerful forces that affect the role, power, and functions of nation-states. The Internet is certainly one of the most influential technological developments in recent years. With the use of the Internet, the monopoly of information controlled by official ideologies, capitalist barons, or elites is seriously challenged. Consequently the power balance between individuals and authorities in the mass media and communication has been transformed with the use of Internet. Phenomena like cyber crime, cyber warfare, and cyber attacks have urged nation-states to increase their efforts to control the Internet, which begs the question the effectiveness of nation-states’ controlling measures. Focusing on one state, the Republic of Turkiye, this study analyzes two important dimensions of state control efforts, prevention and prosecution though examination of police records. On the prevention side, it explores the effectiveness of internet blocking. On the prosecution side, it analyzes the effectiveness of prosecution in internet child pornography. The result of testing to measure the effectiveness of Internet website blocking reveals that there are significant gaps, complications, and dilemmas in these policies. The analysis reveals that in most cases, suspects could not be identified, traced or brought before judicial authorities. State policing efforts are not absolute, and the Internet can be a vulnerable space in which any local actor or foreign agents like criminals, opposition groups, terrorists or foreign states can create problems for nation-states.”

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