**Timur Kuran** is Professor of Economics and Political Science, and Gorter Family Professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University. His research focuses on (1) economic, political, and social change, with emphases on institutions and preferences, and (2) the economic and political history of the Middle East, with a focus on the role of Islam.

His current projects include a study of the role that the Middle East’s traditional institutions have played in its poor political performance. His publications include *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification* and *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East*.

He was educated at Princeton University (AB 1977) and Stanford University (PhD 1982). He directs the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS); co-edits a book series for Cambridge University Press, “Economics, Choice and Society”; and (as of January 2017) co-edits the *Journal of Comparative Economics*. 