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His current projects include a study of the role that the Middle East's traditional institutions played in its poor political performance, as measured by democratization and human liberties. Among his publications are *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification* (Harvard University Press), *Islam and Mammon: The Economic Predicaments of Islamism* (Princeton University Press), and *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East* (Princeton University Press), all translated into multiple languages. He is also the editor of the tri-lingual, ten-volume compilation, *Socio-Economic Life in Seventeenth-century Istanbul: Glimpses from Court Records* (İş Bank Publications).

After graduating from Robert Academy in Istanbul in 1973, Kuran went on to study economics at Princeton University (AB 1977) and Stanford University (PhD 1982). Between 1982 and 2007 he taught at the University of Southern California. He was also a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the John Olin Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, and a visiting professor of economics at Stanford University.

He currently directs the [Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies](#) (AALIMS); edits a book series for Cambridge University Press, [Economics, Choice and Society](#); (as of January 2017) co-edits the [Journal of Comparative Economics](#), and serves on numerous editorial boards.