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RTE University
Zihni Derin Campus
Fener District
Merkez/Rize 53100

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Africa Foundation , Ankara (Turkey) <i>Non-Resident Fellow</i> , Horn of Africa Working Group	May 2024-Present
Recep Tayyip Erdogan University , Rize (Turkey) <i>Lecturer Dr.</i> , Department of International Relations	March 2024-Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Delaware, <i>Political Science & International Relations</i> , Newark DE (USA)	2024
M.A.	University of Delaware, <i>Political Science & International Relations</i> , Newark DE (USA)	2020
M.A.	University of Denver, <i>International Studies</i> , Denver CO (USA) Josef Korbel School of International Studies	2018
M.A.	Gazi University, <i>Politics & Social Sciences</i> , Ankara (Turkey)	(LoA) 2018
B.A.	Ufuk University, <i>Political Science & International Relations</i> , Ankara (Turkey) Double Major in <i>International Trade & Finance</i> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> (GPA: 3.95/4)	2013

AREAS OF INTEREST

Primary Field: International Relations

Second Field: Comparative Politics

Speciality Field: International Security / Peace & Conflict Studies

Research Interests: Political Violence, Civil Wars, Human Security, Environmental Security

Regional Interests: Middle East & North Africa, Africa/Horn of Africa

Ph.D. Dissertation: “Droughts in the Midst of Conflicts: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Water Insecurity & Civil War Duration and Outcomes”

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Stuart Kaufman (*Co-Chair/Advisor*), Dr. Benjamin Bagozzi (*Co-Chair/Advisor*),
Dr. Matthew Weinert (*Committee Member*), Dr. Ore Koren (*External Member*)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Ozturk, Y. (2025). Revisiting the Debate on the Obsolescence & Changing Character of Wars: Schools, Arguments & Critiques. *The Journal of Security Sciences*, 14(1), 161-182. (<https://doi.org/10.28956/gbd.1516943>)

Ozturk, Y. (2024). What Makes Civil Wars Protracted? A Review of Systemic, Organizational & Individual-Level Factors. *Turkish Journal of Security Studies*, 26(2), 180-199. (<https://doi.org/10.54627/gcd.1578510>)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Ozturk, Y. (November 2024). “When & Under What Conditions Persistent Droughts Lead to Prolonged Civil Wars? The Case of the Ethiopian Civil War under the DERG/Mengistu Regime,” The ISA-Northeast Region 2024 Annual Conference; The Hilton Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Ozturk, Y. (June 2024). “Droughts in the Midst of Conflicts: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Water Insecurity & Civil War Duration and Outcomes” in the 3rd International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding; Leiden University, The Hague, Netherlands.

Ozturk, Y. (May 2024). “Weaponization of Water in Civil Wars: The Case of the Second Sudanese Civil War” in the International Africa Symposium; Inonu University, Malatya, Turkey.

Ozturk, Y. (November 2023). “Droughts & Prolonged Civil Wars: The Case of Chad” in the ISA-Northeast 2023 Annual Conference; Providence, RI, USA.

Ozturk, Y. (April 2023). “Water Insecurity & Civil War Dynamics” in the 80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference; Chicago, IL, USA.

INVITED TALKS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & PANELS

Participant. (April, 2025). “Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025 (ADF2025): Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World” Invited Forum, Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye (SAM); Antalya, Turkey.

Presenter/Kick-Off Remarks. (January, 2025). “Somalia-Türkiye Relations Workshop - Within the Framework of Defense and Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities” Invited Workshop, Africa Foundation & Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS); Mogadishu, Somalia.

Panelist. (December, 2024). “2024 ABD Seçim Sonuçlarının Değerlendirilmesi (Turkish)” Invited Panel, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University; Rize, Turkey.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University, Rize (Turkey)

Lecturer Dr.

Political Science (IR 105, In-person, English)	Fall 2025
Siyaset Bilimi (ULS 103, In-person, Turkish)	Fall 2025
Bölge Çalışmaları - Afrika (ULS 404, In-person, Turkish)	Spring 2025
Turkish Foreign Policy - II (IR 302, In-person, English)	Spring 2025
Türkiye Dış Politikası - II (ULS 302, In-person, Turkish)	Spring 2025
International Organizations (IR 205, In-person, English)	Fall 2024
Uluslararası Örgütler (ULS 205, In-person, Turkish)	Fall 2024
Turkish Foreign Policy - I (IR 303, In-person, English)	Fall 2024, 2025
Türkiye Dış Politikası - I (ULS 303, In-person, Turkish)	Fall 2024

University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)

Instructor

Model United Nations (POSC 475, In-person)	Fall 2023
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Graduate Teaching Assistant

State & Local Government (POSC 301, In-person, Grader)	Spring 2023
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Introduction to Comparative Politics (POSC 270, Online, Grader)	Fall 2022
Research Methods for Political Science (POSC 300, In-person, Discussion Leader)	Fall 2021; Spring 2021, 2022
Introduction to Public Policy (POSC 220, Online, Discussion Leader)	Fall 2020
Introduction to American Politics (POSC 150, Hybrid, Discussion Leader)	Spring 2020
Introduction to Global Politics (POSC 240, In-person, Discussion Leader)	Fall 2019
Contemporary Political Ideologies (POSC 333, In-person, Grader)	Spring 2019
Introduction to Law (POSC/LEST 380, In-person, Grader)	Fall 2018

Peer Mentor

Middle East Partnership Initiative Student Leaders Program	Summer 2022
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RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCES

University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)

Graduate Research Assistant	Summer 2021
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PI: Dr. Stuart Kaufman

Department of Political Science & International Relations

Article: Kaufman, S. J. (2022). Is the U.S. Heading for a Civil War? Scenarios for 2024-25. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1-29. (<https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2022.2137892>)

University of Denver, Denver CO (USA)

Graduate Research Assistant	April 2016 – June 2017
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Diplometrics Project – Country & Organization Leader Travel Database (COLT)

PI: Dr. Jonathan Moyer

Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures

Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Website: <https://korbel.du.edu/pardee/content/country-organization-leader-travel>

Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE), Ankara (Turkey)

June-July 2013

Research Intern

Salafi-Jihadist Movements in the Middle East & North Africa

PI: Dr. Birol Akgun

Turkish Cooperation & Coordination Agency (TIKA), Ankara (Turkey)

August 2012

Trainee

Tajikistan Research Office

Department of Central Asia & Caucasia

Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Kocaeli (Turkey)

August 2011

Trainee

Legal Council

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago IL (USA)

Developing Nations Scholarship (2-year renewal)	2024, 2025
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University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)

Graduate Student Travel Award: The ISA-Northeast 2023 Annual Conference	2023
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Graduate Student Travel Award: The 80 th MPSA Annual Conference	2023
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Participation Award: Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	2022
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Teaching Assistant Fellowship	2018-2023
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Full Tuition Waiver	2018-2023
Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education , Ankara (Turkey)	
YLSY Scholarship for Ph.D. Studies Abroad	2018-2023
YLSY Scholarship for M.A. Studies Abroad	2016-2018
OSYM Undergraduate Scholarship/Ufuk University , Ankara (Turkey)	
Full Tuition Waiver	2008-2013

HONORS & AWARDS

Ufuk University , Ankara (Turkey)	
High Honor Student (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , GPA: 3.95/4)	2013
Department of Political Science & International Relations	
Faculty of Economic & Administrative Sciences	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Editorial Board

Turkish Journal of International Development

Reviewer

JANUS.NET, e-journal of International Relations; Turkish Journal of Security Studies; Lectio Socialis

Mentorship

The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Mentoring Program 2024

- A master student from Brazil working on Turkish foreign policy

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

Recep Tayyip Erdogan University , Rize (Turkey)	
Internship Committee & Coordinator	2025-Present
Foreign National Student Coordination Office	2025-Present
Student Admission & Equivalence Committee	2024-Present
University of Delaware , Newark DE (USA)	
Mentorship for M.A. students	Fall 2023, Fall 2021
Grad LEAP: Alumni Mentoring Program for Graduate Students, Mentor Collective	
Turkey International Relations Studies Platform (TUIC) , Ankara (Turkey)	
Representative of Ufuk University	2011-2013
Ufuk University , Ankara (Turkey)	
Founding Member	2009-2013
Political Platform Student Community	

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Young Guru Academy , Ankara (Turkey) Volunteer Mentorship in the Read, Think and Share Project	January-June 2011
Amnesty International , Ankara (Turkey) Volunteer Internship at the Ankara Office	September 2010-June 2011

LANGUAGES

Turkish: Native Language	
English: Professional Working Proficiency IELTS Academic (January 2015): Overall: 7,5 L: 7,5 R: 7,5 W: 7,5 S: 6,5	
German: Limited Working Proficiency McGraw-Hill Education (January 2019): Certificate of Level Completion Level A1 in German	

COMPUTER SKILLS

MS Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint	
Software: STATA, R, MAXQDA	

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Africa Foundation , Ankara (Turkey) Horn of Africa Studies	January-February 2025
Syracuse University , Syracuse NY (USA) Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs The Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	June 2022
International Political Science Association (IPSA) , Antalya (Turkey) Certificate in Qualitative Content Analysis Program	September 2021
University of Delaware , Newark DE (USA) Certificate of Participation in the Summer Institute on Teaching	September 2021
University of Georgia , Athens GA (USA) Attendance to the Intensive English Language Program	October 2014 - April 2015
Hacettepe University , Ankara (Turkey) Attendance to the Intensive English Language Program	February-September 2014
NATO Public Diplomacy & ClimSity , Istanbul (Turkey) Certificate in Security Implications of Climate Change	November 2021
US Institute of Peace , Washington DC (USA) Certificate of Completion in Introduction to Peacebuilding	June 2021

Mentor Collective , Boston MA (USA) Trained Mentor Certificate	October 2021
Small & Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) , Kocaeli (Turkey) Certificate in Applied Entrepreneurship Education	November 2012
Amnesty International , Ankara (Turkey) Participation in the Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Training Program for Trainers	October 2011
Young Guru Academy , Istanbul (Turkey) Invited Participant of the Leadership Summit	November 2010

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS	
Peace Science Society (International) Membership	June 2024-Present
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Membership	February 2023-Present
American Political Science Association (APSA) Membership	September 2019-Present
Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures , Denver CO (USA) Associate Alumni	June 2017-Present
International Studies Associations (ISA) Membership	April 2016-Present