Yunus Ozturk, Ph.D.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES

Department of International Relations · Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University
FEAS Building, 6th Floor, Office 645 · Zihni Derin Campus, Fener District
Merkez, Rize 53100 · Türkiye

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University — March 2024–Present
Lecturer Dr., Department of International Relations · Rize, Türkiye

Africa Foundation — May 2024–Present
Non-Resident Fellow, Horn of Africa Working Group · Ankara, Türkiye

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science & International Relations — University of Delaware — 2024
Newark, DE, USA

M.A. Political Science & International Relations — University of Delaware — 2020
Newark, DE, USA

M.A. International Studies — University of Denver — 2018
Josef Korbel School of International Studies · Denver, CO, USA

M.A. Politics & Social Sciences — Gazi University — 2018
Leave of absence · Ankara, Türkiye

B.A. Political Science & International Relations — Ufuk University — 2013
Double major in International Trade & Finance · Summa cum laude, GPA 3.95/4.00 · Ankara, Türkiye

RESEARCH PROFILE

PRIMARY FIELD	International Relations
SECOND FIELD	Comparative Politics
SPECIALTY	International Security · Peace & Conflict Studies
INTERESTS	Political violence, civil wars, human security, environmental security
REGIONS	Middle East & North Africa · Africa · Horn of Africa

> DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
>
> "*Droughts in the Midst of Conflicts: A Mixed-Method Analysis of Water Insecurity & Civil War Duration and Outcomes*"
>
> Committee: Dr. Stuart Kaufman (co-chair, advisor), Dr. Benjamin Bagozzi (co-chair, advisor), Dr. Matthew Weinert, Dr. Ore Koren (external)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Ozturk, Y. (2026). Maritime security in the Red Sea: Gulf states' strategic footholds and the making of a hybrid security region in the Horn. *Journal of Regional Security*, 21(2). (Forthcoming)

Ozturk, Y. (2026). Threat multiplier or peace builder: A systematic review of the environment–security nexus. SAVSAD *Journal of Defence and War Studies*, 36(1), 121–158. doi.org/10.54078/savsad.1768552

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (2025). Aid, security and diplomacy: A framework for evaluating Turkish foreign aid in war-torn countries. *Turkish Journal of International Development*, 1(2), 63–92. doi.org/10.55888/TUJID.2025.23

Ozturk, Y. (2025). Emerging powers' strategy for power projection: Nigeria's peacekeeping through regional & international organizations. JANUS.NET, *e-journal of International Relations*, 16(2, TD1), 205–229. doi.org/10.26619/1647-7251.DT0525.11

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. 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. doi.org/10.54627/gcd.1578510

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ozturk, Y. (2027). Famine as a weapon of war: The political production of disaster and its human rights implications in Sudan. In E. Easton-Calabria & L. E. R. Peters (Eds.), *Oxford Intersections: Disaster Dynamics — The Political Dynamics of Disaster and Human Rights Implications*. Oxford University Press. (Forthcoming)

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (2026). Mapping narratives to radicalization: The modus operandi of al-Shabaab's online recruitment strategy (Ch. 16). In E. Çıtak & M. E. Erendor (Eds.), *Searching for Digital Codes of Danger: Online Extremism, Radicalization and Terrorism*. CRC Press/Routledge. (Forthcoming)

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (2026). Dış Yardım, Güvenlik ve Diplomasi: Somali ve Afganistan Örnekleri [Turkish]. In Y. Çelik, C. M. Bulut, M. Köse, & M. Özcan (Eds.), *Türk Dış Yardımları: Politika, Güvenlik ve Uygulama Boyutları* (pp. 125–162). Afrika Vakfı Yayınları. doi.org/10.55888/9786259407661.ch05

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Atabas, H., & Ozturk, Y. (June 2026). "Diplomatic Visits as Epistemic Positioning: Horn of Africa Leaders and the Politics of Recognition, 1990–2025." *International Studies Association (ISA) 2026 Midyear Conference*, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (April 2026). "Less Is More: Nuclear Proliferation & Strategic (In)Stability in the Middle East." *83rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference*, Chicago, IL, USA.

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (January 2026). "El-Şebab'ın Eleman Kazanmada Stratejik Söylem İnşası: Hedef Kitle, Platform ve Radikalleşme Aşamaları Ekseninde Bir İnceleme [Turkish]." *3rd Ankara Sosyal ve Beşerî Bilimler Kongresi*, İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye.

Ozturk, Y., & Ozturk, E. (December 2025). "Turkish Aid in War-Torn States: A Violence Dampener or a Violence Intensifier?" *2nd International Humanitarian Aid Symposium*, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara, Türkiye.

Ozturk, Y. (November 2024). "When & Under What Conditions Do Persistent Droughts Lead to Prolonged Civil Wars? The Case of the Ethiopian Civil War under the DERG/Mengistu Regime." *ISA-Northeast 2024 Annual Conference*, 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." *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." *International Africa Symposium*, İnönü University, Malatya, Türkiye.

Ozturk, Y. (November 2023). "Droughts & Prolonged Civil Wars: The Case of Chad." *ISA-Northeast 2023 Annual Conference*, Providence, RI, USA.

Ozturk, Y. (April 2023). "Water Insecurity & Civil War Dynamics." *80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference*, Chicago, IL, USA.

INVITED TALKS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Participant (May 2026). "Somali İletişim Stratejisi Çalıştayı [Turkish]," invited workshop, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications; Ankara, Türkiye.

Participant (April 2026). "TBMM Milli Savunma Komisyonu Başkanı ve Önceki Milli Savunma Bakanı Sayın Hulusi Akar ile Söyleşi [Turkish]," invited talk, Africa Foundation; Ankara, Türkiye.

Presenter (February 2026). "Türkiye'den Etiyopya Gündemine Bir Bakış [Turkish]," invited talk, Africa Foundation; Ankara, Türkiye.

Participant (February 2026). "Türkiye–Africa Strategic Dialogue," invited forum, National Intelligence Academy of the Republic of Türkiye; Ankara, Türkiye.

Participant (October 2025). "International Congress on Intelligence Studies," invited congress, National Intelligence Academy of the Republic of Türkiye; İstanbul, Türkiye.

Participant (April 2025). "Antalya Diplomacy Forum 2025: Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World," invited forum, Center for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye; Antalya, Türkiye.

Presenter (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; Mogadishu, Somalia.

Panelist (December 2024). "2024 ABD Seçim Sonuçlarının Değerlendirilmesi [Turkish]," invited panel, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University; Rize, Türkiye.

Participant (June 2024). "Yerel, Bölgesel ve Küresel Denklemde DEAŞ Afrika Çalıştayı [Turkish]," invited workshop, National Intelligence Academy of the Republic of Türkiye; Ankara, Türkiye.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University · Rize, Türkiye
Lecturer Dr.

Area Studies — MENA (IR 402, English)	Spring 2026
Political Science (IR 105, English)	Fall 2025, 2026
Siyaset Bilimi (ULS 103, Turkish)	Fall 2025, 2026
Bölge Çalışmaları — Afrika (ULS 404, Turkish)	Spring 2025, 2026
Turkish Foreign Policy II (IR 302, English)	Spring 2025, 2026
Türkiye Dış Politikası II (ULS 302, Turkish)	Spring 2025
International Organizations (IR 205, English)	Fall 2024
Uluslararası Örgütler (ULS 205, Turkish)	Fall 2024
Turkish Foreign Policy I (IR 303, English)	Fall 2024, 2025, 2026
Türkiye Dış Politikası I (ULS 303, Turkish)	Fall 2024

University of Delaware · Newark, DE, USA
Instructor · Graduate Teaching Assistant · Peer Mentor

Model United Nations (POSC 475, instructor)	Fall 2023
State & Local Government (POSC 301, grader)	Spring 2023
Introduction to Comparative Politics (POSC 270, grader)	Fall 2022
Research Methods for Political Science (POSC 300, discussion leader)	Spring 2021, 2022; Fall 2021
Introduction to Public Policy (POSC 220, discussion leader)	Fall 2020
Introduction to American Politics (POSC 150, discussion leader)	Spring 2020
Introduction to Global Politics (POSC 240, discussion leader)	Fall 2019
Contemporary Political Ideologies (POSC 333, grader)	Spring 2019
Introduction to Law (POSC/LEST 380, grader)	Fall 2018
Middle East Partnership Initiative Student Leaders Program (peer mentor)	Summer 2022

RESEARCH, PROJECT & WORK EXPERIENCE

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University · Rize, Türkiye May 2026–Present
Advisor — TÜBİTAK 2209-A Research Project Support Program for University Students (×3)

- Bozkurt, R. K. "Rize Ayder Yaylası'nda Ekoturizm Faaliyetleri — Birleşmiş Milletler VIII. ve XV. Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri ile Uyumu." No. 1919B012536625.
- Köse, F. G. "Gastronomi Sektöründe Kadın Girişimciliği ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Engelleri — Rize Örneği." No. 1919B012516292.
- Kutlu, Y. S. "Kıraathane Müşterileri Üzerinden Yaşlı Nüfusun Uluslararası Gelişmeleri Takip Eğilimi — Rize Örneği." No. 1919B012516927.

Africa Foundation · Ankara, Türkiye September 2025–Present
Principal Investigator, Horn of Africa Working Group
Leaders' Visits & Agreements Database (LEAD) Project · lead-database.netlify.app

University of Delaware · Newark, DE, USA Summer 2021

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science & International Relations

PI: Dr. Stuart Kaufman. Resulting article: Kaufman, S. J. (2022). Is the U.S. heading for a civil war? Scenarios for 2024–25. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1–29. doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2022.2137892

University of Denver · Denver, CO, USA April 2016–June 2017

Graduate Research Assistant, Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures

Diplometrics Project — Country & Organization Leader Travel (COLT) database. PI: Dr. Jonathan Moyer, Josef Korbel School of International Studies. korbel.du.edu/pardee/content/country-organization-leader-travel

Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE) · Ankara, Türkiye June–July 2013

Research Intern — Salafi-Jihadist movements in the Middle East & North Africa. PI: Dr. Birol Akgün

Turkish Cooperation & Coordination Agency (TİKA) · Ankara, Türkiye August 2012

Trainee, Tajikistan Research Office — Department of Central Asia & Caucasia

Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality · Kocaeli, Türkiye August 2011

Trainee, Legal Counsel

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

Developing Nations Scholarship (two-year renewal) 2024, 2026

University of Delaware

Graduate Student Travel Award — ISA-Northeast Annual Conference 2023

Graduate Student Travel Award — 80th MPSA Annual Conference 2023

Participation Award — Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research 2022

Teaching Assistant Fellowship & full tuition waiver 2018–2023

Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of National Education

YLSY Scholarship for Ph.D. studies abroad 2018–2023

YLSY Scholarship for M.A. studies abroad 2016–2018

Ufuk University

High Honor Student — summa cum laude, GPA 3.95/4.00, Faculty of Economic & Administrative Sciences 2013

ÖSYM Undergraduate Scholarship — full tuition waiver 2008–2013

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

EDITORIAL BOARD	Turkish Journal of International Development (2025)
REVIEWER	3rd Gulf Studies Symposium · International Symposium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Syria (×2) · JANUS.NET, e-journal of International Relations (×2) · Turkish Journal of Security Studies · Lectio Socialis
MENTORSHIP	MPSA Mentoring Program (2024)

UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University · Rize, Türkiye

Student Organization Advisor — Turkic World Youth Association	2025–Present
Internship Committee & Coordinator	2025–Present
Foreign National Student Coordination Office	2025–Present
Student Admission & Equivalence Committee	2024–Present

Earlier service

University of Delaware — M.A. student mentorship; Grad LEAP Alumni Mentoring Program, Mentor Collective	Fall 2021, 2023
Türkiye International Relations Studies Platform (TUIC) — Representative of Ufuk University	2011–2013
Ufuk University — Founding member, Political Platform Student Community	2009–2013

Community

Reşadiye Zihni Derin Middle School, Rize — Career Guidance Days, Counseling & Guidance Service	October 2025
Young Guru Academy, Ankara — Volunteer mentor, Read, Think and Share Project	January–June 2011
Amnesty International, Ankara — Volunteer intern, Ankara Office	September 2010–June 2011

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

TURKISH	Native
ENGLISH	Professional working proficiency — IELTS Academic 7.5 overall (L 7.5 · R 7.5 · W 7.5 · S 6.5), January 2015
GERMAN	Limited working proficiency — Level A1, McGraw-Hill Education, January 2019
SOFTWARE	Stata · R · MAXQDA · Canvas · MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Africa Foundation, Ankara — Horn of Africa Studies	January–February 2025
Syracuse University, Maxwell School — Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research	June 2022
NATO Public Diplomacy & ClimSity, İstanbul — Security Implications of Climate Change	November 2021
International Political Science Association, Antalya — Qualitative Content Analysis	September 2021
University of Delaware — Summer Institute on Teaching	September 2021
Mentor Collective, Boston — Trained Mentor Certificate	October 2021
US Institute of Peace, Washington, DC — Introduction to Peacebuilding	June 2021
University of Georgia, Athens, GA — Intensive English Language Program	October 2014–April 2015
Hacettepe University, Ankara — Intensive English Language Program	February–September 2014
KOSGEB, Kocaeli — Applied Entrepreneurship Education	November 2012

Amnesty International, Ankara — Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Training for Trainers — October 2011

Young Guru Academy, İstanbul — Leadership Summit, invited participant — November 2010

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Peace Science Society (International) — June 2024–Present

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) — February 2023–Present

American Political Science Association (APSA) — September 2019–Present

Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures — Associate Alumni — June 2017–Present

International Studies Association (ISA) — April 2016–Present