

(UPDATED: JUNE 1, 2026)

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RTE University  
Zihni Derin Campus  
Fener District  
Merkez/Rize 53100

## CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

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**Africa Foundation**, Ankara (Türkiye)  
*Non-Resident Fellow*, Horn of Africa Working Group May 2024-Present

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan University**, Rize (Türkiye)  
*Lecturer Dr.*, Department of International Relations March 2024-Present

## EDUCATION

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

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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**Primary Field:** International Relations

**Second Field:** Comparative Politics

**Specialty 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

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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. (<https://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. (<https://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. (<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>)

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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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. (<https://doi.org/10.55888/9786259407661.ch05>)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Ozturk, Y. & Ozturk, E. (April 2026). “Less is More: Nuclear Proliferation & Strategic (In)Stability in the Middle East” in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference; Chicago, IL, USA.

Ozturk, Y. & Ozturk, E. (January 2026). “El- Sebab’ in Eleman Kazanmada Stratejik Söylem İnşası: Hedef Kitle, Platform ve Radikalleşme Aşamaları Ekseninde Bir İnceleme (Turkish)” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ankara Sosyal ve Beşerî Bilimler Kongresi; Ihsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye.

Ozturk, Y. & Ozturk, E. (December 2025). “Turkish Aid in War-torn States: A Violence Dampener or a Violence Intensifier?” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Humanitarian Aid Symposium; Ankara Yildirim Bayezit University, Ankara, Türkiye.

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,” in 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Türkiye.

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 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference; Chicago, IL, USA.

## INVITED TALKS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, *ET CETERA*.

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Participant. (May 2026). “Somali İletişim Stratejisi Çalıştayı (Turkish)” Invited Workshop, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications (DoC); 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 (MIA); Ankara, Türkiye.

Participant. (October 2025). “International Congress on Intelligence Studies” Invited Congress, National Intelligence Academy of

the Republic of Türkiye (MIA); İstanbul, Türkiye.

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, 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 (HIPS); 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 Denklemdede DEAS Afrika Çalıştayı (Turkish)” Invited Workshop, National Intelligence Academy of the Republic of Türkiye (MIA); Ankara, Türkiye.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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### Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize (Türkiye)

#### Lecturer Dr.

Area Studies – MENA (IR 402, In-person, English)	Spring 2026
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, 2026
Turkish Foreign Policy - II (IR 302, In-person, English)	Spring 2025, 2026
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
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, PROJECT & WORK EXPERIENCES

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- Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize (Türkiye)**  
**Adviser** May 2026-Present  
TÜBİTAK 2209-A Research Project Support Program for University Students (x3)
- Bozkurt, R. K. “Rize Ayder Yaylası’nda Ekoturizm Faaliyetleri – Birleşmiş Milletler VIII. ve XV. Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri ile Uyumu”. Project No.: 1919B012536625.  
Köse, F. G. “Gastronomi Sektöründe Kadın Girişimciliği ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Engelleri – Rize Örneği”. Project No.: 1919B012516292.  
Kutlu, Y. S. “Kıraathane Müşterileri Üzerinden Yaşlı Nüfusun Uluslararası Gelişmeleri Takip Eğilimi – Rize Örneği”. Project No.: 1919B012516927.
- Africa Foundation, Ankara (Türkiye)**  
**Principal Investigator** September 2025-Present  
*Horn of Africa Working Group*  
Leaders’ Visits & Agreements Database (LEAD) Project  
Website: <https://lead-database.netlify.app/>
- University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)**  
**Graduate Research Assistant** Summer 2021  
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  
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 (Türkiye)** June-July 2013  
**Research Intern**  
Salafi-Jihadist Movements in the Middle East & North Africa  
PI: Dr. Birol Akgun
- Turkish Cooperation & Coordination Agency (TIKA), Ankara (Türkiye)** August 2012  
**Trainee**  
Tajikistan Research Office  
Department of Central Asia & Caucasia
- Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Kocaeli (Türkiye)** August 2011  
**Trainee**  
Legal Council
- GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**
- The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago IL (USA)**  
Developing Nations Scholarship (2-year renewal) 2024, 2026

**University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)**

Graduate Student Travel Award: The ISA-Northeast 2023 Annual Conference	2023
Graduate Student Travel Award: The 80 <sup>th</sup> MPSA Annual Conference	2023
Participation Award: Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research (IQMR)	2022
Teaching Assistant Fellowship	2018-2023
Full Tuition Waiver	2018-2023

**Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education, Ankara (Türkiye)**

YLSY Scholarship for Ph.D. Studies Abroad	2018-2023
YLSY Scholarship for M.A. Studies Abroad	2016-2018

**OSYM Undergraduate Scholarship/Ufuk University, Ankara (Türkiye)**

Full Tuition Waiver	2008-2013
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**HONORS & AWARDS**

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**Ufuk University, Ankara (Türkiye)**

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**

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**Editorial Board**

*Turkish Journal of International Development (2025)*

**Reviewer**

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gulf Studies Symposium; The International Symposium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Syria (x2); JANUS.NET, e-journal of International Relations; Turkish Journal of Security Studies; Lectio Socialis*

**Mentorship**

*The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Mentoring Program* 2024

**UNIVERSITY SERVICES**

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**Recep Tayyip Erdogan 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

**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 (Türkiye)**

Representative of Ufuk University	2011-2013
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**Ufuk University, Ankara (Türkiye)**

Founding Member	2009-2013
Political Platform Student Community	

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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**Reşadiye Zihni Derin Middle School, Rize (Türkiye)**

Career Guidance Days, Psychological Counseling & Guidance Service	October 2025
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**Young Guru Academy**, Ankara (Türkiye)  
Volunteer Mentorship in the Read, Think and Share Project

January-June 2011

**Amnesty International**, Ankara (Türkiye)  
Volunteer Internship at the Ankara Office

September 2010-June 2011

## LANGUAGES

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**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

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**MS Office:** Word, Excel, PowerPoint

**Software:** STATA, R, MAXQDA, CANVAS

## ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

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**Africa Foundation**, Ankara (Türkiye)  
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 (Türkiye)  
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 (Türkiye)  
Attendance to the Intensive English Language Program February-September 2014

**NATO Public Diplomacy & ClimSity**, Istanbul (Türkiye)  
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 (Türkiye)  
Certificate in Applied Entrepreneurship Education November 2012

<b>Amnesty International</b> , Ankara (Türkiye) Participation in the Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Training Program for Trainers	October 2011
<b>Young Guru Academy</b> , Istanbul (Türkiye) Invited Participant of the Leadership Summit	November 2010

**MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

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