

Yunus Ozturk, Ph.D.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES

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Updated: July 1, 2026

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Africa Foundation , Ankara (Türkiye) <i>Non-Resident Fellow</i> , Horn of Africa Working Group	May 2024–Present
Recep Tayyip Erdogan University , Rize (Türkiye) <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
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 (<i>Co-Chair/Advisor</i>), Dr. Benjamin Bagozzi (<i>Co-Chair/Advisor</i>), Dr. Matthew Weinert (<i>Committee Member</i>), Dr. Ore Koren (<i>External Member</i>)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- 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. (<https://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. (<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

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

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

Ozturk, Y. & Ozturk, E. (April 2026). “Less is More: Nuclear Proliferation & Strategic (In)Stability in the Middle East” in the 83rd 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 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?” in the 2nd International Humanitarian Aid Symposium; Ankara Yıldırım 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 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” 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; İnönü 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 80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference; Chicago, IL, USA.

INVITED TALKS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, ET CETERA

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan 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)
Introduction to Law (POSC/LEST 380, In-person, Grader)

Spring 2019
Fall 2018

Peer Mentor

Middle East Partnership Initiative Student Leaders Program

Summer 2022

RESEARCH, PROJECT & WORK EXPERIENCES

Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Rize (Türkiye)

May 2026–Present

Adviser

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)

September 2025–Present

Principal Investigator

Horn of Africa Working Group

Leaders’ Visits & Agreements Database (LEAD) Project

Website: <https://lead-database.netlify.app/>

University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA)

Summer 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

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)

April 2016 – June 2017

Graduate Research Assistant

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 & Caucasasia

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 th 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

HONORS & AWARDS

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

Editorial Board	
<i>Turkish Journal of International Development</i> (2025)	
Reviewer	
<i>The 3rd Gulf Studies Symposium; The International Symposium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Syria</i> (x2); <i>JANUS.NET, e-journal of International Relations; Turkish Journal of Security Studies; Lectio Socialis</i>	
Mentorship	
<i>The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Mentoring Program</i>	2024

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

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 (TUIIC) , Ankara (Türkiye)	
Representative of Ufuk University	2011–2013

Ufuk University, Ankara (Türkiye)
 Founding Member 2009–2013
 Political Platform Student Community

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Reşadiye Zihni Derin Middle School, Rize (Türkiye) October 2025
 Career Guidance Days, Psychological Counseling & Guidance Service

Young Guru Academy, Ankara (Türkiye) January–June 2011
 Volunteer Mentorship in the Read, Think and Share Project

Amnesty International, Ankara (Türkiye) September 2010–June 2011
 Volunteer Internship at the Ankara Office

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, CANVAS

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Africa Foundation, Ankara (Türkiye) January–February 2025
 Horn of Africa Studies

Syracuse University, Syracuse NY (USA) June 2022
 Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs
 The Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research (IQMR)

International Political Science Association (IPSA), Antalya (Türkiye) September 2021
 Certificate in Qualitative Content Analysis Program

University of Delaware, Newark DE (USA) September 2021
 Certificate of Participation in the Summer Institute on Teaching

University of Georgia, Athens GA (USA) October 2014 – April 2015
 Attendance to the Intensive English Language Program

Hacettepe University, Ankara (Türkiye) February–September 2014
 Attendance to the Intensive English Language Program

NATO Public Diplomacy & ClimSity, Istanbul (Türkiye) November 2021
 Certificate in Security Implications of Climate Change

US Institute of Peace, Washington DC (USA) June 2021

Certificate of Completion in Introduction to Peacebuilding

Mentor Collective, Boston MA (USA)
Trained Mentor Certificate

October 2021

Small & Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB), Kocaeli
(Türkiye)

November 2012

Certificate in Applied Entrepreneurship Education

Amnesty International, Ankara (Türkiye)

October 2011

Participation in the Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Training Program for Trainers

Young Guru Academy, Istanbul (Türkiye)

November 2010

Invited Participant of the Leadership Summit

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