



**DILAN OKCUOGLU**

<https://cies.einaudi.cornell.edu/visiting-scholars>  
<https://www.american.edu/sis/faculty/okcuoglu.cfm>

Postdoctoral Fellow and Professorial Lecturer,  
Global Kurdish Studies, Islamic and Middle East Studies  
American University, School of International Service,  
Room 200 A, 4400 Massachusetts Ave,  
Washington DC 20016

[8do@queensu.ca](mailto:8do@queensu.ca)  
[okcuoglu@american.edu](mailto:okcuoglu@american.edu)

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**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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**American University, Washington DC, January 2020-December 2020**

- Postdoctoral Fellow in Global Kurdish Studies, School of International Service (SIS) (Mentor: Prof. Elizabeth Thompson)

**Cornell University, August 2019-January 2020**

- Visiting Scholar at the Cornell Institute for European Studies, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies (Mentors: Prof. Peter J. Katzenstein & Prof. Sabrina Karim).

**Queen's University, 2017-present**

- Emerging Scholar at the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Diversity, Queen's University.

**Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), 2018-2019**

- Visiting Researcher in Canada Research Chair in Quebec and Canadian Studies (CREQC), Université du Québec à Montréal (Mentor: Prof. Alain Gagnon).

**California State University, Summer 2018**

- Researcher in the project entitled “A Gendered Perspective on music entertainment nights (‘sira gecesi’ in Turkish) in Urfa.” Principle investigator: Prof. Ece Algan.

**Queen’s University, 2016-2017**

- Course Instructor, POLS 461: International Regimes: States, Regimes and Democratization in the Middle East.

**Bogazici University, Summer 2016**

- Course Instructor, POLS 330: Political Geography: Territorial Politics, declined due to the ongoing academic crackdown in Turkey.

**Bogazici University, Summer 2013**

- Course Instructor, POLS 449: International Conflict Analysis, Department of Political Science and International Relations.

**Queen’s University, 2008-2013; 2016-2018**

- **Teaching Assistant**, DEVS 240: Culture and Development (2018);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 241: Political Transformations (2018);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 242: Comparative Regimes (2016);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 242A: Comparative Politics (2012; 2010);
- **Guest Lecturer**, POLS 243: Democracy and Democratization (2012);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 243: Democracy and Democratization (2011)
- **Head Teaching Assistant**, POLS 243: State, Nation, and Democracy (2012);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 101: Introduction to Politics (2010);
- **Teaching Assistant**, POLS 250: Political Theory (2009).
- **Research Assistant**, Prof. John McGarry and Prof. Margaret Moore (2012-2010; 2008)

**Nationalities Papers, 2009**

- Book Review Editor Assistant.

**Turkish Daily News/Hurriyet Daily News, 2008**

- Journalist, Editor and Reporter.

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**EDUCATION**

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**Queen’s University**, Department of Political Studies, ON, Canada, September 2009-January 2019

- PhD in Political Studies,
  - Thesis: *Territorial Control and Minority Reforms: An Empirical Study of Kurdish Borderlands in Turkey*,  
Supervisors: Margaret Moore and Zsuzsa Csargo;  
Examiners: Marta Straznicky (Associate Dean and Chair); John McGarry (head), Catherine Conaghan, Marie-Joelle Zahar, Christian Leuprecht.

- MA in Political Studies, 2008-2009
  - Thesis: *Democracy and Domination in Turkey: A Case Study of the Kurds* Supervisors: Margaret Moore and Zsuzsa Csergo.

**Central European University**, Department of Political Science, Budapest, 2006-2007

- MA in Political Science,
  - Thesis: *A Morality of Secession: A Normative Evaluation of the Kurdish Case in Turkey*  
Supervisor: Zoltan Miklosi and Janos Kis.

**Bogazici University**, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, 1999-2004

- BA in Economics
  - Undergraduate project: *Political Economy of Brazil: From Colonialism to the Present*  
Supervisor: Behzad Yaghmaian (Ramapo College, New Jersey)

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## AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

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**Primary Field – Comparative Politics:** (Comparative) Territorial Politics; Border Studies; Politics of the Middle East and North Africa; Global Kurdish Studies; Democratization; Theories of Nationalism and Ethnicity; Conflict and Peace-Making; State-Society Relations; Political Geography.

**Secondary Field – Political Theory:** Global Justice; Theories of Secession and Self-Determination; Multiculturalism and its Critics.

**International Relations:** International Regimes; International Conflict Analysis.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### ***Book Chapters:***

“Rethinking democracy and autonomy through the case of the Kurdish movement in Turkey” invited to the following book: *Democratic Representation in Plurinational States: The case of Kurds in Turkey* edited by Ephraim Nimni and Elcin Aktoprak in the series on Comparative Territorial Politics (edited by Michael Keating). London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030011079> )

### ***Invited Book:***

“From Emotions to Action: The Kurdish Movement in Turkey” in the following book: *Oxford Handbook of Turkish Politics* edited by Günes Murat Tezcür. London: Oxford University Press, 2021 (forthcoming).

**Peer-reviewed Journal Article:**

“Representation of Kurdishness in the Turkish Academia: A Quest for the Ethical Principles of Spatial Justice,” *Birikim*, 321 (Ocak 2016): 108-115. (A peer-reviewed journal published in Turkish);

**Articles (in progress):**

“A Micro-Analysis of Territorial Control: Rethinking the Kurdish Case at the Local Level,” (in progress);

Review Article for *Ethnopolitics on Divided Nations and European Integration*, edited by Brendan O’Leary, John McGarry, Margaret Moore and Tristen James Mabry, UPENN Press (2013); *Power Sharing in Deeply Divided Places*, edited by Joanne McEvoy and Brendan O’Leary, UPENN Press (2013); *Asymmetric Autonomy and the Settlement of Ethnic Conflicts* edited by Marc Weller and Katherine Nobbs, UPENN Press (2010).

**Book Review:**

Hardi, Choman. *Gendered Experiences of Genocide* (London: Ashgate, 2011), *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol. 15 No. 1, (Jan. 2103);

Ozar, Semsâ, Handan Caglayan and Ayse Tepe. *Ne Degisti? Kurt Kadınlarının Zorunlu Göç Deneyimi (What Changed? Experiences of Kurdish Women on Forced Migration)* (Ankara: Ayizi Kitap, 2011), *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol. 15 No. 3, (Sept. 2013);

**Op-Ed:**

“The trials of betrayal,” *Jerusalem Post*, November 2019 (co-authored with Prof. Uriel Abulof): <https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/The-trials-of-betrayal-607559>

“The elusive quest for peace between the Turks and the Kurds,” *The Conversation Canada*, January 2019: <https://theconversation.com/the-elusive-quest-for-peace-between-the-turks-and-the-kurds-107646>

“La quête Kurde de l’autonomie territoriale,” *Le Devoir*, August 2015 (translated by Remi Carbonneau): <http://www.ledevoir.com/international/actualites-internationales/448343/la-quete-kurde-de-l- autonomie-territoriale>

“Local peace-building in Turkey’s Kurdish borderlands,” *Insight on Conflict*, May 2015: <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2015/06/local-peacebuilding-turkeys-kurdish-borderlands/>

**Newspaper Articles:**

“The plight of Kurdish children in Turkish prisons,” *Rudaw*, April 2012: <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/turkey/09072013>.

“Memories behind postum (Armenian drink) in cookbook,” *Turkish Daily News*, July 2008: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/memories-hidden-behind-postum-in-cookbook.aspx?pageID=438&n=memories-hidden-behind-postum-in-cookbook-2008-07-07>.

“Observational style used to present real stories-What a beautiful democracy!” *Turkish Daily News*, July 2008: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/observational-style-used-to-present-real-stories.aspx?pageID=438&n=observational-style-used-to-present-real-stories-2008-07-28>

“At the urban epicenter of Kurdish pain,” *Turkish Daily News*, August 2008: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/at-the-urban-epicenter-of-kurdish-pain.aspx?pageID=438&n=at-the-urban-epicenter-of-kurdish-pain-2008-08-02>

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## **PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

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“Why did the peace process fail in Turkey? The role of territorial control examined” (in progress);

“An insider/outsider in the field: Observations from a zero-level border town in Turkey’s Kurdistan” (in progress);

“Comparative Study on Ambiguities and Contestations of State Spatiality in Turkey’s Borderlands” (in progress);

“Memory, Violence and Democratization: Insights from Kurdish borderlands” (in progress).

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## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**Founding member**, Kurdish Women Scholars Network (KWSN), 2020-21

**Organizing panels**, American University, School of International Service, Islamic and Middle East Studies, 2020-21

**Member**, APSA; MESA; ISA; Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)

**Manuscript reviewer**, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics (2019)

**Manuscript reviewer**, Kurdish Studies (2019)

**Mentee**, APSA Diversity and Inclusion Program, Mentor: Prof. Evan Lieberman, MIT and Harvard (2019)

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## **CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS**

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“Borderland Dynamics: Ambiguities of Control and Conflict at the Edges of Turkey’s War,” Presenter at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Fall 2020.

“A Micro-Study of Territorial Control in Turkey: Rethinking the Kurdish Case at the Local Level,” Presenter at the Complex Governance Research Cluster, American University, Fall 2020.

“Territorial Encounters: Rights, Conflict and Compromises in Contested Borderlands” in the panel titled, “Comparative Borders and Borderlands in the MENA,” Social Science History Association (SSHA): Washington, DC. Fall 2020.

“Ambiguous Geographies of Violence, Control and Peace in Turkey: Revisiting the Kurdish Case at the Local Level,” *J. Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies*. Cornell University: Ithaca. Fall 2019.

“Women of Color in Political Science Workshop,” APSA, NSF, Menlo College and California Lutheran University: Washington, DC. August 2019.

“Even our dogs are in exile”: Control and Resistance in Turkey’s Kurdish borderlands,” *International Kurdish Conference*, OISE, University of Toronto: Toronto. October 2018.

“Mechanisms and Narratives of Territorial Control in Turkey’s Kurdish Borderlands,” *Interdisciplinary Conference on Kurdish Politics and Societies*, Yale University: New Heaven. April 2018.

“Democratization, Violence and Territorial Control: The Local Dynamics of Kurdish Conflict in Turkey,” Laboratory on Ethnic Conflict led by Prof. Oded Haklai, *Political Studies, Queen’s University*: Kingston. November 2016.

“From the Geopolitics of Violence to Actors at the Borders: Rethinking the Kurdish Conflict at the Local Level,” Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Comparative Politics, *Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University*: Chicago. November 2016.

“Minority Language and Territory in Turkey and Spain: State Language Policies in Comparative Perspective”, with Remi J. Carbonneau, *IPSA Annual Meeting*: Poland. July 2016.

“Rethinking the Kurdish Conflict at the Local Level” Presenter and Chair, *The Political Studies Graduate Student Association* presents the conference called “The politics of borders and belonging at home and abroad” Queen’s University: Kingston. May 2016.

Speaker at the conference on Kurds in Syria “Political Actors, Uncertainty and Self-Determination in Syria”, *CIDEP UQAM*: Montreal. March 2016.

Workshop entitled “New Modalities for Democratic Autonomy for Minorities that do not entail Dismembering States: the case of the Republic of Turkey”, co-organizers: *Queen’s University Belfast and Ankara University*, Ankara: Turkey, May 14-19, 2015.

(Organizer and Keynote Speaker) The Law of State, the Law of Men: Multiple Experiences of Kurdish Women, *Van Bar Association*, Van: Turkey. 2014.

Crisis, Depoliticization and Emerging Forms of (Re)-Politicization, *Political Science Association (PSA)*, Manchester: UK. 2014.

*Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Approach (IQMR) Summer Institute*, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University: NY. 2013

“State policies of territorial domination in Turkey’s borderlands,” The Annual Meeting of *American Association of Geography (AAG)*, Los Angeles: California. 2013.

“Strategies of Resistance in the Border City of Turkey: The case of Van,” *Association for the Study of Nationalities*, Columbia University: NY. 2013.

Annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Nationalities*, served as a discussant in the panel on Cyprus, Columbia University: NY. 2012.

*Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Project Workshop* on “Power-sharing: Empirical and Normative Critiques,” Co-organizers: John McGarry (Queen's University) and Richard Simeon (University of Toronto) Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, November 18 - 19, 2011.

*Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Project Summer Institute* on “Diversity & Democracy: Self-rule, shared-rule and secession,” Co-directors: Alain Gagnon (UQAM) and Jacques Bertrand (University of Toronto), Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. May 22 - June 11, 2011.

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## INVITED TALKS

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**Brown University, Watson Institute**, “Contested Borders and Sovereignty at the Margins of Turkey,” (February 2020)

**Cornell University**, “Non-state Actors and New Legacies in Global Politics: Turkey and Indonesia in Comparative Perspective,” Comparative Muslim Societies Initiatives, Mario Einaudi Centre for International Studies (Spring 2020)

**Cornell University**, “Limits of Europeanization: How Ethnic Politics Influenced the Relations between the State and Kurds under AKP’s Turkey (2002-2015)” (Fall 2019).

**Sussex University (UK)**, “Politics of Autonomy beyond the nation-state: History, Theory, Practice,” Sussex University (2019)—could not attend due to health problems;

**Queen’s University**, “Rethinking the Kurdish Conflict at the Local Level,” Ban Righ Women Center, *Queen’s University* (2017).

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## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS

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Ban Righ Women Center, Personal Development Grant, 2016 (1000 CAD)

Ban Righ Women Center, The Helen Richards Campbell Award, 2016 (2115 CAD)

**Mitacs Globalink Research Award, Canada**, 2015-16 (5 000 CAD)



Accommodation and Travel Grant by *British Council*, Turkey, 2015 (1 000 CAD)

**International Development and Research of Canada (IDRC)**, Doctoral Research Award, 2013 (17 000 CAD)

MESA Travel Grant, 2014 (Declined due to emergency situation)

Open Society Institute in Istanbul, Conference Travel Grant, Spring 2013 (Appr. 1000 Dollars)

Queen's University, Dean's Travel Grants, 2012-13 (3 000 CAD)

Queen's University, Departmental Grants for the Field Work, (2 500 CAD)

Queen's Graduate Award, 2008-2013, (100 000 CAD)

International Tuition Fee Award, 2008-2013 (25 000 CAD)

Queen's University, General Bursary, 2008-2011 (6 000 CAD)

Queen's University Ban Righ Women Centre, Short Term Grant, 2012 (750 CAD)

Queen's University, Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Project (EDG), Summer school scholarship on "Secession and Self-determination" in Guadalajara, Mexico, 2011 (approx. 3000 euro)

Full Scholarship, Central European University, 2006-2007 (18 000 EURO)

Kokkalis Foundation, **Harvard Kennedy School, Yale University** summer school on "War, Identity and Conflict", Athens-Greece, July 2007 (500 EURO—declined due to the emergency health situation)

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## LANGUAGES

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English (advanced)

French (beginner)

Kurdish (intermediate)

Turkish

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## REFERENCES

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Available upon request