

**DILAN OKCUOGLU**

Curriculum Vitae

<https://sites.google.com/view/dilan-okcuoglu>  
<https://www.american.edu/sis/faculty/okcuoglu.cfm>

Postdoctoral Fellow and Professorial Lecturer,  
American University, School of International Service,  
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Washington DC 20016

[okcuoglu@american.edu](mailto:okcuoglu@american.edu)

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**POSITIONS**

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**M. Barzani Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer**

- American University,  
School of International Service,  
Washington DC, 20016  
Jan 2020-present

**Visiting Fellow**

- Institute for European Studies  
Cornell University,  
M. Einaudi Centre for International Studies  
Ithaca, NY  
August 2019-Jan 2020

**Research Fellow**

- CSDD, Center for the Study of Democracy and Diversity (Director: Prof Margaret Moore)  
Queen's University, Political Studies  
Kingston ON Canada  
September 2018-present

**Researcher**

- CRIDAQ (Director: Prof Alain Gagnon)  
(Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Diversity and Democracy)  
Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal Canada  
September 2018-August 2019

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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*
- MA in Political Studies, 2008-2009
  - Thesis: *Democracy and Domination in Turkey: A Case Study of the Kurds*

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

- MA in Political Science,
  - Thesis: *Morality of Secession: A Normative Evaluation of the Kurdish Case in Turkey*

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

- BA in Economics
  - Undergraduate project: *Political Economy of Brazil: From Colonialism to the Present*

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## AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

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**Comparative Politics:** Ethnic Conflict, Political Violence and Peace; Violence, Conflict and Security In Uncertain Times; Introduction to Comparative Politics; (Comparative) Territorial Politics; Comparative MENA Politics; Comparative Development, Peace and Conflict; Border Studies; Conflict, Peace and Justice; Human Rights; (Comparative) Democratization; Theories of Nationalism and Ethnicity; State-Society Relations in MENA; Political Geography.

**International Relations:** World Politics; Globalization; International Security; International Regimes; Middle Eastern Politics; Women, Security and Politics; International Development; International Conflict Analysis; Political Violence and Civil Wars.

**Theory:** Environmental Justice; Theories of Global Justice; Nationalism and Political Theory; Minority Rights; Human Rights; Multiculturalism and its Discontents.

### **Courses Taught:**

- Ethnic Conflict, Political Violence and Peace (American University, School of International Service, 2021)
  - This course offers a global framework to understand and examine the drivers of ethnic conflict and political violence.

- International Conflict Analysis (Bogazici University, 2013)
  - The purpose of this course is to make empirical and normative assessments of state policies vis-à-vis minority groups in ethnically divided societies.
- International Regimes: States, Regimes and Democratization in the Middle East (Queen's University, Canada, 2016)
  - The purpose of this course is to develop conceptual and empirical understanding of interlocking relations on states, regimes and political change.
- **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)

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Book Chapters and Articles:**

“The Kurdish Movement in Turkey: Understanding Everyday Perceptions and Experiences” *Oxford Handbook of Turkish Politics* edited by Günes Murat Tezcür. London: Oxford University Press, 2021.

(<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190064891.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190064891>)

“Rethinking democracy and autonomy through the case of the Kurdish movement in Turkey” *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>.)

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

### **Interviews:**

Scholars in Context: Dilan Okcuoglu, *Jadaliyya*, December 2021:

(<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43617>)

### **Book Reviews:**

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

Ozar, Semsu, 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);

**Manuscripts on submission:**

“State-building and Borderlands: Ethnic Control of the Turkish State on an Everyday Level,” (Politics and Society);

“Territorial Work of the State in Turkey: Everyday Lives of Ethnic Control in Kurdistan” (Book Proposal to be submitted to Cambridge University Press)

**Works in Progress:**

“Why did the peace process fail in Turkey? The role of territorial control examined” (in progress). To be submitted to *Democratization* (Fall 2022)

“An insider/outsider in the field: Observations from a zero-level border town in Turkey’s Kurdistan” (in progress). To be submitted to *PS: Politics and Political Science* (Summer 2022)

“Comparative Study on Ambiguities and Contestations of State Spatiality in Turkey’s Borderlands” (in progress). To be submitted to *Security Dialogue* (Winter 2023).

**Op-Eds:**

“Informal Control of the Turkish State: Lived Experiences from Kurdish Borderlands” *Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*, Harvard University Kennedy School Student Publication, 2021: <https://jmepp.hkspublications.org/2021/04/13/informal-control-of-the-turkish-state-lived-experiences-from-kurdish-borderlands/>

“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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**SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS**

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**Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Global Academy Award, 2021-2022 (5000 US)**

**Association for the Study of Middle East and North Africa (ASMEA) Research Grant, 2021-2022 (2500 US)**

**American University, School of International Service, Kurdish Studies Research Award, 2021-2022 (8400 US)**

**Harvard University (shortlist), Middle East Initiative Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 2022-2023**

**American University, SIS, Barzani Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2020-21 (124 000 US per year)**

**Cornell University, Scholar Hardship Fund, 2019 (10 000 US)**

**Ban Righ Women Center, Personal Development Grant, 2016-2017 (1000 CAD)**

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

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

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

**Queen's Graduate Award, 2008-2013, (Approx. 20 000 CAD per year)**

**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 health emergency)

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## INVITED TALKS

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**Harvard University, Center for Middle East Studies**, "Panel Title: De-development and Political Violence: The Kurds in Iran and Turkey," (April 2022)

**Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies**, "Panel: Political Struggles of Kurds: Regional, National and Subnational Dynamics," (April 2022)

**Northwestern University, Buffett Institute of Global Affairs**, "Panel Title: Geopolitics, Actors and Encounters in Contested Borderlands," (Spring 2022)

**UCLA, Center for Near Eastern Studies**, "Panel Title: The Making and Unmaking of Borders and the State," (October 2021)

**Middle East and Islamic Studies Aotearoa (MEISA) Network** in New Zealand, "Roundtable: Graduate School, Publishing and Job Market Tips," (May 2021)

**R. Bosch Academy, Berlin**, "Roundtable: The Role of Europe in MENA's Conflict Zones," (March 2021)

**Center for Kurdish Progress, London**, "The Biden Administration and US-Kurdish Relations" (February 2021)

**American University, School of International Service**, "Violence, Control and Governance in Turkey's Kurdish Borderlands" in "War Crimes and Catastrophe Symposium," (November 2020)

**American University, School of International Service, Complex Governance Research Cluster**, “A Micro-Study of Territorial Control in Turkey: Rethinking the Kurdish Case at the Local Level,” (November 2020)

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

**Cornell University, Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, M. Einaudi Centre of International Studies**, “Ambiguous Geographies of Violence, Control and Peace in Turkey: Revisiting the Kurdish Case at the Local Level,” (October 2019)

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

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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**Founding member**, Kurdish Women’s Studies Network (KWSN), 2020-21

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

**Manuscript reviewer**, Nations and Nationalism (2022); Nationalism and Ethnic Politics (2019); Kurdish Studies (2019);

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

**Podcaster**, Founder of Kurdish Studies Series, New Books Network (2020-21)

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## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

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“Book Proposal Writing Workshop,” Instructor: *Laura Portwood-Stacer (Princeton University Press)*. January-February 2022.

“Informal Control and State-building: The case of Kurds in Turkey,” *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference*. September 2022.

“A Comparative Study of Violence: Local Mechanisms and Experiences in Kurdish Borderlands Between Turkey, Iraq and Iran,” *Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference*. Fall 2022.

“A Recent in Kurdish Studies,” Discussant MESA Annual Conference. Fall 2022.

“State-building and Borderlands: Geopolitics of Ethnic Control in Turkey,” *Political Science Association*, Turkish Politics, UK. April 2022.

“Workshop: Borderlands in Globalizing World: Violence and Governance in Territorial Conflicts.” Presenter and Organizer, *School of International Service*. American University. March 2022.

“Kurdish Mobilization in the Middle East.” Guest Speaker, *American University Model United Nations Conference*. January 2022.

“Kurdish-Iraqi Relations and the Role of Kurdistan in the Middle East, by KRG-US Representative Bayan Rahman.” Moderator, *American University Model United Nations Conference*. Fall 2021.

“Workshop: POMEPS Research Development Workshop.” Presenter, *Project on Middle East Political Science*. Fall 2021.

“Comparative Study of Kurdish Borderlands: Syria, Turkey and Iran.” Presenter, *Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*. Fall 2021.

“The Field of Kurdish Studies.” Discussant, *Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*. Fall 2021.

“Workshop: Emerging Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Scholars Workshop.” *Defence and Security Foresight Group*, Canada. May 2021.

“Panel: Diverse Legacies of Political Violence: Comparative Perspectives.” Presenter and Organizer, *School of International Service*. American University. March 2021.

“Academic Autonomy and Freedom in Turkey: The case of Bogazici University,” Moderator and Organizer, *Academics for Peace North America*. March 2021.

“A Micro-study of Territorial Control in Turkey,” Article Development Workshop, *Buffett Institute of Global Affairs*. Northwestern University: Chicago. January 2021.

“Violence, Control and Governance in Kurdish Borderlands,” Workshop, War Crimes and Catastrophes in Today’s Global Crises, *School of International Service*. American University. November 2020.

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

“Roundtable: Positionality and Reflexivity in Kurdish Studies,”. Organizer/Presenter at the *Kurdish Women’s Studies Network (KWSN)*. Fall 2020.

“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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## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent)  
Turkish (fluent)  
Kurdish (intermediate)  
French (beginner)

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Political Science Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
International Studies Association  
Canadian Political Science Association  
American Association of Geographers

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## REFERENCES

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**Asli Bali** ([bali@law.ucla.edu](mailto:bali@law.ucla.edu))

Professor  
Director, UCLA Law Promise Institute for Human Rights  
UCLA School of Law  
385 Charles E. Young Dr. East  
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Associate Professor  
American University, School of International Service  
Center for Israel Studies; Arab Studies;  
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**John McGarry** ([john.mcgarry@queensu.ca](mailto:john.mcgarry@queensu.ca))

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Canada Research Chair in Nationalism and Democracy,  
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**David Romano ([DRomano@MissouriState.edu](mailto:DRomano@MissouriState.edu))**

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**Gunes Murat Tezcur ([tezcur@ucf.edu](mailto:tezcur@ucf.edu))**

Professor, J. Talabani Chair of Kurdish Political Studies  
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**Hamit Bozarslan ([hamit.bozarslan@ehess.fr](mailto:hamit.bozarslan@ehess.fr))**

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**Margaret Moore (supervisor) ([margaret.moore@queensu.ca](mailto:margaret.moore@queensu.ca))**

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