

Gizem Kaya

PhD Candidate, Department of International Relations, Bilkent University
Pre-doctoral Fellow, COUNSTER Project (ERC)

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EDUCATION

Bilkent University

Ankara, Türkiye

PhD Candidate, International Relations

2021 – Present

- Dissertation: *Social Movements in Conflict-affected Societies*
- Advisor: Dr. Efe Tokdemir

Kadir Has University

Istanbul, Türkiye

MA in International Relations (GPA: 3.75/4.00)

2019 – 2021

- Thesis: *The Role of Natural Resources in the Colombian Peace Process*
- Advisor: Dr. Akın Ünver

Yıldız Technical University

Istanbul, Türkiye

BA in Political Science and International Relations (GPA: 3.45/4.00)

2013 – 2018

- Honored Student

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Madrid, Spain

Erasmus+ Exchange Student, International Relations

2016 – 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Project

09.2026 – Present

Pre-doctoral Fellow, COUNSTER Project

- COUNSTER: *Countering Insurgency and Terrorism: Severing the Ties between Armed Actors and Their Constituency*
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Efe Tokdemir

Bilkent University, Department of International Relations

09.2024 – 09.2026

Research Assistant

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)

02.2024 – 02.2025

Research Assistant, BİDEB 2247-D Project

- *Citizen-Centered Counterterrorism Strategies and Their Effectiveness*
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Efe Tokdemir

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - ODIHR

04.2023 – 05.2023

Short Term Election Observation Assistant

International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC)

03.2023 – 04.2023

Co-Moderator, Civil Resistance: Theory and Practice of Nonviolent Action

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)

11.2021 – 01.2024

Research Assistant, ARDEB 1001 Project

- *Digital Public Diplomacy of Armed Organizations: Syria and Iraq Examples*
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Akın Ünver

Bilkent University, Department of International Relations <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	09.2021 – 09.2024
Kadir Has University, Department of International Relations <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i>	11.2019 – 06.2021
Panorama - Council of International Relations (UİK) <i>Project Assistant</i>	03.2020 – 12.2020
Consulate General of Northern Cyprus in Istanbul <i>Intern</i>	07.2015 – 08.2015
Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Yıldız Technical University <i>Assistant Student</i>	01.2014 – 06.2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bilkent University - 2026 Summer Camp <i>Instructor, Conflict and Peace Processes</i>	July 2026
Kadir Has University - Department of International Relations <i>Guest Lecturer, IR 210: Introduction to International Relations Peace and Conflict in International Politics</i>	July 31, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Gizem Kaya and Mustafa Aydın (in press). “Kurumsallaşma Dönemi 1980–2000.” In *Türkiye’de Uluslararası İlişkiler: Bir Disiplinel Tarih Denemesi*, edited by Mustafa Aydın. Global Akademi Yayınları, Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık, İstanbul.

Gizem Kaya. 2026. “[Illegal Mining: Resource Exploitation and Governance Challenges](#).” In *Illicit Economies and Security Dynamics*, edited by Başar Baysal and Mathew H. Charles. NATO Science for Peace and Security Series E: Human and Societal Dynamics, Vol. 163.

[doi:10.3233/NHSDP260013](https://doi.org/10.3233/NHSDP260013)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Gizem Kaya and Efe Tokdemir. “Spatial Dynamics of Civilian Mobilization in Conflict-affected Countries: Conflict Motivations and Ethnicity.”

Gizem Kaya and Efe Tokdemir. “Peace Agreements and Government Responses to Civilian Protest in Post-conflict Societies.”

Gizem Kaya. “Tracing the Impact of Twitter Activism on the 2021 Colombian Protests: #SOS-Colombia.”

Gizem Kaya, Erman Ermihan, and Crystal Whetstone. “Rising from the South: A Comparative Analysis of the Speeches of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.”

Gizem Kaya. “Judiciary Practices and Democracy during Conflicts in Colombia and Turkey.”

Gizem Kaya. “The Role of Natural Resources in the Colombian Peace Process: An Examination on Twitter.”

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Gizem Kaya and Efe Tokdemir. “The Impact of Conflict Processes on Protest Occurrences.” 7th LAPSS Conference, January 29–30, 2026, Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia.

Gizem Kaya and Efe Tokdemir. “The Impact of Conflict Processes on Protest Occurrences.” 14th Annual Eurasian Peace Science Conference, January 24–25, 2026, IDIS, Athens, Greece.

Gizem Kaya, Efe Tokdemir, Onur Varol, and Akin Ünver. “Effectiveness of Digital Public Diplomacy Strategies of Rebel Groups in Iraq and Syria: A Social Network Analysis-Based Approach on Twitter.” International Studies Association (ISA) 66th Annual Convention, March 2–5, 2025, Chicago, USA.

Gizem Kaya and Erman Ermihan. “Rising from the South: A Comparative Analysis of the Speeches of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner.” International Studies Association (ISA) 66th Annual Convention, March 2–5, 2025, Chicago, USA.

Gizem Kaya. “Tracing the Impact of Twitter Activism on the 2021 Colombian Protests: #SOSColombia.” 7th Global International Studies Conference of the World International Studies Committee (WISC), July 24–26, 2024, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland.

Gizem Kaya. “The Role of Natural Resources in the Colombian Peace Process: An Examination on Twitter.” 3rd International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding, June 19–21, 2024, Leiden University, The Hague, Netherlands (Virtual).

Gizem Kaya. “Tracing the Impact of Twitter Activism on the 2021 Colombian Protests: #SOS-Colombia.” (in Turkish) International Relations Council of Turkey, 10th International Relations Studies and Education Congress, May 23–26, 2024, Ordu, Türkiye.

Gizem Kaya. “The Role of Natural Resources in the Colombian Peace Process: An Examination on Twitter.” International Studies Association (ISA) 65th Annual Convention, April 3–6, 2024, San Francisco, USA.

Gizem Kaya. “The Role of Natural Resources in the Colombian Peace Process: An Examination on Twitter.” Latin American Peace Science Society (LAPSS) 4th Annual Conference, January 18–20, 2023, EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia (Virtual).

Gizem Kaya. “Different Forms of Populism during the Pandemic: Argentina and Turkey.” 9th European Workshops in International Studies (EISA-EWIS), July 6–9, 2022, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.

Gizem Kaya. “Judiciary Practices and Democracy during Conflicts in Colombia and Turkey.” Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), *Justice during Armed Conflict: Accountability or Weapon of War?* Conference, June 16–17, 2022, PRIO, Oslo, Norway.

Gizem Kaya. “Different Geographies and Different Forms of Populism: Turkey and Argentina.” Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) 3rd Winter School 2022: *Variations in Populism*, January 3–13, 2022, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Doha, Qatar.

Gizem Kaya. “Exploring Peace and Conflict in Colombia through Twitter.” (in Spanish) *Imagining Peace Otherwise: Five Years of the Colombian Peace Accords Experienced from the Margins*, November 25–26, 2021, Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden (Virtual).

Gizem Kaya. “Environmental Challenges and Climate Change: Conflict Multipliers or Mediators for Peace?” IX. International Conference on Conflict, Terrorism, and Society: *Global Crises: Media, Politics, and Environment*, April 13–14, 2021, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Türkiye (Virtual).

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>2224-A Grant Program for Participation in Scientific Meetings Abroad</i> <i>(for the 66th ISA Convention)</i>	May 2025
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>Graduate Scholarships Performance Program - BİDEB 2247-D Project</i>	May 2025
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>BİDEB 2211-A National PhD Scholarship Program</i>	March 2025
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>BİDEB 2247-D Project Scholarship</i>	2024 – 2025

ISA Conference Travel Grant \$900	May 2024
WISC Conference Travel Grant €250	March 2024
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>Graduate Scholarships Performance Program - ARDEB 1001 Project</i>	March 2024
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>Graduate Scholarships Performance Program - ARDEB 1001 Project</i>	September 2023
EITM - ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods Scholarship \$2,600	April 2023
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>Graduate Scholarships Performance Program - ARDEB 1001 Project</i>	March 2023
EWIS Conference Travel Grant €300	July 2022
PRIO Conference Travel Grant \$500	June 2022
ACRPS Winter School Travel Grant \$640	January 2022
Bilkent University Graduate School Scholarship <i>Tuition waiver and stipend</i>	2021 – Present
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey <i>ARDEB 1001 Project Scholarship</i>	2021 – 2024
TOBB ETÜ, U.S. Embassy Ankara, TEPAV <i>Youth Stand P2P Project Grant (\$1,000)</i>	2020
Kadir Has University Graduate School Scholarship <i>Tuition waiver</i>	2019 – 2021
Erasmus+ Scholarship <i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid</i>	2016 – 2017

PROJECTS

TOBB ETÜ, U.S. Embassy Ankara, TEPAV <i>Youth Stand P2P — Enhancing Turkey's Counter-Terrorism Capacity</i> – Grant: \$1,000 Role: Project Member	01.2020 – 03.2020
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WORKSHOPS AND METHODS TRAINING

University of Michigan, ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods <i>Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics; Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics; Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics; Panel Data and Longitudinal Analysis; Data Science and Text Analysis; Introductory Matrix Algebra, Calculus, and Probability Review; Introduction to the L^AT_EX Text Processing System; Introduction to Computing for Data Analysis; Introduction to Python and R</i>	July 17 – August 4, 2023
International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) <i>Civil Resistance: Theory and Practice of Nonviolent Action</i>	October 17 – November 6, 2022

Koç University, Social ComQuant Project <i>Workshop 10: Automatic Data Collection (Python)</i>	March 2–4, 2022
Koç University, Social ComQuant Project <i>Workshop 9: Introduction to NLP for Emotion Detection (Python)</i>	February 17–19, 2022
Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) Third Annual International Winter School <i>Variations in Populism</i>	January 3–13, 2022
The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science (SICSS) <i>Automated Text Analysis; Data Collection via API and Screen Scraping; Data Wrangling; Data Visualization</i>	May 30 – June 25, 2021

COURSES

Datacamp - R Programming (Data Scientist with R Track) <i>Text Analysis; Sentiment Analysis; Topic Modeling; Network Analysis Web Scraping; Data Wrangling; Social Media Data Analysis</i>	12.2020 – 12.2022
Instituto Cervantes Istanbul <i>Spanish Course A2–B2 (360 hours)</i>	07.2018 – 07.2019
Language Center of UC3M <i>Spanish Course A1 (120 hours)</i>	02.2017 – 05.2017

EXAMS AND CERTIFICATES

DELE B2 - Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language	May 2019
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SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Software and Technical Skills:	R (advanced), Python (intermediate), QGIS, HTML, XPath, CSS, $\text{\LaTeX}$
Languages:	Turkish (native), English (fluent), Spanish (upper-intermediate)