

Ulaş Erdoğan

PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Predoctoral Researcher, COUNSTER Project, Bilkent University
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: Political violence, state-building, civil war, insurgency, terrorism, contentious politics and social movements, security studies, political regimes
Methodological: Multi-method research design, conflict and protest event collection and analysis, conceptualization, operationalization, theory development, case selection, data reliability in violent and authoritarian contexts

EDUCATION

Northwestern University <i>PhD in Political Science</i> – Dissertation: <i>Rebel Social Origins and Civil Wars: How Rebel Social Origins Shape the Onset, Dynamics, and Consequences of Civil War</i> – Committee: Ana Arjona (Chair), James Mahoney, Wendy Pearlman, and Will Reno – Middle East and North African Studies Cluster Fellowship	Evanston, United States 2021 – Present
Northwestern University <i>MS in Applied Statistics</i>	Evanston, United States 2023 – Present
Boğaziçi University <i>MA in Political Science and International Relations</i>	Istanbul, Turkey 2018 – 2021
Boğaziçi University <i>BA in Political Science and International Relations</i>	Istanbul, Turkey 2013 – 2018
University of Gothenburg <i>Erasmus Exchange Student</i>	Gothenburg, Sweden 2017

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2026. “Do Protest Bans Make Police Repression More Acceptable? Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Legal Repression from Authoritarian Turkey.” *Journal of Peace Research*. With Mert Arslanalp and Deniz Erkmen.
2025. “Leadership Decapitation in Civil War: Leadership Arrest and the Negotiations between the State and the Insurgents.” *Review of International Studies*, 1–21.
– Shortlisted for the 2026 Cedric Smith Prize, Conflict Research Society
2024. “Democratization, Foreign Military Intervention, and Rebel Fragmentation in Civil War: Evidence from the PKK Insurgency in Turkey.” *Journal of Global Security Studies*.
– 2024 Best Article Award in Kurdish Studies, Kurdish Political Studies Program, University of Central Florida
2021. “How COVID Drove the Evolution of Fact-Checking.” *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*. With Samikshya Siwakoti, Kamya Yadav, Nicola Bariletto, Luca Zanotti, and Jacob N. Shapiro.

UNDER REVIEW

- Nearly Realized Cases: A Novel Framework to Select Negative Cases for Comparative Theory Development
– Honorable Mention for the 2025 Kendra Koivu Paper Award, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section, APSA

EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2026. “Ayaklanma Literatüründen Notlar: Bir Devir Kapanırken PKK’ya Karşılaştırmalı Bir Bakış.” *Birikim*.
2024. *Review of Governing for Revolution: Social Transformation in Civil War*. *The Journal of Development Studies*.
2021. “Countries Have More Than 100 Laws on the Books to Combat Misinformation. How Well Do They Work?” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 77(3): 124–128. With Kamya Yadav, Samikshya Siwakoti, Jacob N. Shapiro, and Alicia Wanless.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WRITING

1. “Devlet Nedir? Bir Devlet Nasıl Güçlü Olur?” *Progresif*.
2. “Barış Süreçlerinde Riskler ve Fırsatlar: Çözüm Süreci Müzakereleri Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme.” *Birikim Dergisi*.
3. “Süreç başarılı olur mu? Olursa demokrasi de gelir mi? Ulaş Erdoğan ile söyleşi” Interview with Ruşen Çakır on the peace process between the government of Turkey and the PKK.
4. “Here’s How Russia’s RT Spread Propaganda in the Lead-Up to the Election.” With Benjamin Dubow, Evanna Hu, Jacob N. Shapiro, and Kanya Yadav.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bilkent University, Department of International Relations <i>Predoctoral Researcher, COUNSTER Project</i> – Principal Investigator: Efe Tokdemir	Ankara, Turkey 2026 – Present
Northwestern University, Department of Political Science <i>Teaching Assistant</i> – Globalization (Fall 2022) – Introduction to Comparative Politics (Winter 2023, Fall 2023) – Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2023) – Evaluating Evidence (Winter 2024) – Statistical Research Methods (Spring 2024)	Evanston, United States September 2022 – Present
Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Princeton University <i>Research Assistant, Tracking Disinformation and Conflict Project</i> – Principal Investigator: Jacob N. Shapiro	Princeton, United States August 2020 – May 2021
Protest Events and Bans in Turkey, Boğaziçi University <i>Lead Graduate Research Assistant</i> – Principal Investigators: Mert Arslanalp and Deniz Erkmen	Istanbul, Turkey August 2019 – September 2020

PRESENTATIONS

1. 3rd SOS4Democracy Conference, June 2026
2. European Political Science Society Annual Conference, June 2026
3. Eurasian Peace Science Society Annual Conference, January 2026
4. Madrid Empirical Social Sciences Conference, October 2025
5. Turkish Political Science Association Conference, September 2024
6. Emerging Methodologists Workshop at APSA (invitation only), September 2024
7. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2024
8. International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2024
9. Peace Science Society (International) Annual Meeting, November 2023
10. Advancing Research on Conflict Consortium, October 2023
11. Civil War Paths Annual Conference, October 2023
12. Northwestern University Comparative Politics Workshop, October 2023
13. Conflict Research Society Annual Conference, September 2023
14. 80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, March 2023
15. Boğaziçi University Political Science Colloquium, December 2022
16. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2022
17. Conflict Research Society Annual Conference, September 2022
18. Global Meeting on Law and Society, July 2022
19. Northwestern University Comparative Politics Workshop, February 2022
20. Boğaziçi University Political Science Colloquium, October 2019

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- The Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University (\$11,900; one quarter)
- Residency Funding, Institute for Humane Studies (\$3,000)
- Buffett Research Fellowship Program, Northwestern University (\$22,500; two quarters)
- Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, Northwestern University (\$7,000)
- MENA Studies Grant, Northwestern University (\$1,200)
- MENA Studies Grant, Northwestern University (\$700)
- MENA Studies Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$2,000; multiple times)
- Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, Northwestern University (\$2,000)
- Civil War Paths Fellowship, University of York
- MENA Studies Cluster Grant, Northwestern University (\$2,500)
- MENA Studies Summer Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$500)
- Summer Language Funding, Northwestern University (\$1,400)
- Political Science Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University (\$500; multiple times)
- Legal Studies Conference Travel Award, Northwestern University (\$450)
- Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey Graduate Scholarship (\$8,000)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), June 2024
- Advancing Research on Conflict Consortium Summer School, October 2023
- 2nd SocialComQuant Summer School on Computational Social Science: Text Mining and Natural Language Processing for Computational Social Sciences, July 2022

LANGUAGE AND SOFTWARE SKILLS

Software: R (experienced), GeoDa (experienced), NetLogo (familiar)

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (advanced)

REFERENCES

- Ana Arjona, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University
ana.arjona@northwestern.edu
- James Mahoney, Gordon Fulcher Professor of Decision-Making and Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Northwestern University
james-mahoney@northwestern.edu
- Wendy Pearlman, Jane Long Professor of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University
pearlman@northwestern.edu
- Will Reno, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
reno@northwestern.edu