

Zeynep Somer-Topcu

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Professional Experience

Assistant Professor Department of Government, The University of Texas, Austin, 2015-present
Faculty Affiliate, Center for European Studies, 2015- present

Assistant Professor Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2009-2015

Visiting Researcher Department of Political Science, Temple University, 2012-2013
Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-2013
The Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), University
of Mannheim, Germany, February, 2013.

Education

Ph.D. Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis, June 2009.
Dissertation Title: “Responsible Agents? Public Opinion, Uncertainty and Party Policy
Change in Established Democracies.”

M.A. Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University, August 2005.

B.A. Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogazici University, Istanbul,
Turkey, June 2003 (with Honors).

Honors and Awards

- College Research Fellowship, UT-Austin, Fall 2016.
- Comparative Political Studies (CPS) Journal Extraordinary Reviewer Award (2016)
- 2013 Emerging Scholar Award given by the American Political Science Association (APSA) section on Political Organizations and Parties.

- 2013 Jack Walker Outstanding Article Award for “Government versus Opposition at the Polls: How Governing Status Changes the Impact of Policy Positions” (coauthored with Kathleen Bawn) given by the American Political Science Association (APSA) section on Political Organizations and Parties.
- 2012-2013 Max Weber Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (declined).
- 2012 American Journal of Political Science Best Article Award for “Is Anybody Listening? Evidence that Voters do not Respond to European Parties’ Policy Programmes” (coauthored with James Adams and Lawrence Ezrow), given by the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) to the best paper published in the *American Journal of Political Science* in the previous year.
- NSF travel fellowship to attend the annual summer methods meeting of the APSA Political Methods Section (PolMeth), July 2010.
- 2008 Leon Weaver Best Paper Award for “Moderate Now, Win Votes Later” (with James Adams), given by the Representation and Electoral Systems Section of the American Political Science Association to the best paper presented in the section at the 2007 Meeting.
- The UC Davis Office of Graduate Studies Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2008-2009.
- Rothchild Memorial Graduate Research Award, UC Davis, 2008.
- Institute of Governmental Affairs Dissertation Improvement Grant, UC-Davis, 2007.
- NSF Fellowship to attend EITM VI (Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models workshop), organized by the Department of Political Science at the University of California-Los Angeles, June 2007.
- Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, “Intervention and Victory in Intrastate Conflicts: Does Intervention Make Any Difference?” International Studies Association-West Conference, Las Vegas, NV, October 2004.

Grants

Somer-Topcu, Zeynep (Co-PI). “Where Is My Party?” German National Science Foundation. 2014-2017. Total Funding Awarded: Euros 319,240. Co-PIs: Marc Debus, University of Mannheim and Margit Tavits, Washington University, St. Louis

Somer-Topcu, Zeynep (Co-PI). “Where is My Party?” Discovery Research Grant, Vanderbilt University. 2014-2015. Total Funding Awarded: \$50,000. Co-PI: Margit Tavits, Washington University, St. Louis

Research:

- (1) “The Informational Role of Party Leader Changes on Voter Perceptions of Party Positions” (with Pablo Fernandez-Vasquez). Forthcoming at the *British Journal of Political Science*.
- (2) “Agree or Disagree: How do Party Leader Changes Affect the Distribution of Voters’ Perceptions.” *Party Politics* 23(1): 66-75 (2017) (peer-reviewed special issue).
- (3) “Everything to Everyone: The Electoral Consequences of the Broad-Appeal Strategy in Europe.” *American Journal of Political Science* 59(4): 841-854 (2015).
- (4) “Do Voters Respond to Party Manifestos or to a Wider Information Environment? An Analysis of Mass-elite Linkages on European Integration” (with James Adams and Lawrence Ezrow) *American Journal of Political Science* 58(4): 967-978 (2014).
- (5) “Opposition Party Policy Shifts in Response to No-Confidence Motions” (with Laron Williams) *European Journal of Political Research* 53(3): 600-616 (2014).
- (6) “European Parliamentary Elections and National Party Policy Change.” (with Michelle Zar) *Comparative Political Studies* 47: 878-902 (2014).
- (7) “Does Collective Responsibility for Performance Alter Party Strategies? Policy-Seeking Parties in Proportional Systems?” (with James Adams, Lawrence Ezrow, and Samuel Merrill III) *British Journal of Political Science* 43(1): 1-23 (2013).
- (8) “Government versus Opposition at the Polls: How Governing Status Affects the Impact of Policy Positions” (with Kathleen Bawn) *American Journal of Political Science* 56(2): 433-446 (2012).
 - Winner of the 2013 Jack Walker Outstanding Article Award
- (9) “Is Anybody Listening? Evidence that Voters do not Respond to European Parties’ Policy Programmes” (with James Adams and Lawrence Ezrow) *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 370-382 (2011).
 - Winner of the 2012 American Journal of Political Science Best Article Award
- (10) “Polarization and Political Stability in Multiparty Systems (1945-1998)” (with Zeev Maoz) *British Journal of Political Science* 40(4): 805-833 (2010).
- (11) “Do Parties Adjust Their Policies in Response to Rival Parties’ Policy Shifts? Spatial Theory and the Dynamics of Party Competition in Twenty-Five Postwar Democracies” (with James Adams) *British Journal of Political Science* 39: 825-846 (2009).
- (12) “Moderate Now, Win Votes Later: The Electoral Consequences of Parties’ Policy Shifts in Twenty-Five Postwar Democracies” (with James Adams) *Journal of Politics* 71(2): 678-692 (2009).
 - Winner of the 2008 Leon Weaver Best Paper Award

(13) “Timely Decisions: The Effects of Past National Elections on Party Policy” *Journal of Politics* 71(1): 238-248 (2009).

(14) “Survival of the Fittest? Cabinet Duration in Post-Communist Europe.” (with Laron Williams) *Comparative Politics* 40 (3): 313-329 (2008).

Other Publications

Somer-Topcu, Zeynep. Can a New Leader Change a Party’s Fortunes? How Leadership Changes Affect Voter Perceptions about Party Policy. London School of Economic EUROPP blog post. September 19, 2016.

Somer-Topcu, Zeynep & Laron Williams. Motions of No-Confidence Can Negatively Impact upon the Public’s View of the Government. London School of Economics Democratic Audit UK blog post. June 5, 2014.

Research in Progress:

“Election Campaigns and Voter Perceptions of Party Positions” (with Markus Baumann and Margit Tavits). Under Review.

Election Campaigns and Voter Perceptions (with Margit Tavits). Book Project.

“Does Message Distortion by Rivals Affect Party Policy Images?” (with Markus Baumann and Margit Tavits).

“Party System Polarization and Voter Perceptions” (with Margit Tavits)

“Strategic Timing of Leadership Changes and Its Electoral Consequences” (with Hande Mutlu-Eren and Daniel Weitzel)

“Reliable Campaigns: Do Parties Follow Their Programmatic Pledges during Campaigns?” (with Martin Gross and Margit Tavits)

“Explaining European Ideological Shifts: The Socio-Structural Factors” (with Kenneth Greene and Roman Hlatky)

Invited Talks and Conferences:

- Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, March 2017.
- Keynote Speech at *The Responsible Party Model in Times of Dealignment* conference, Leuven, Belgium, December 2016.

- University of Houston, October 2016.
- Center for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, McGill University, April 2016.
- Duke Frontiers of Political Science Workshop: Parties as Micro-Polities, May 2015.
- Cornell University, September 2014.
- Duke Frontiers of Political Science Workshop: Political Accountability, May 2014.
- Binghamton University, *Annual Dr. Han-Jyun Hou Conference*, May 2013.
- University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, April 2013.
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden, March 2013.
- Aarhus University, Denmark, February 2013.
- University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, February 2013.
- University of Mannheim, February 2013 and May 2010.
- Juan March Institute, Madrid, Spain. Conference on *Parties and Partisans: Explaining Continuity and Change in Party Systems*, February 2013.
- Temple University, Philadelphia, November 2012.
- Washington University, St. Louis, February 2012.
- University of California, Los Angeles, October 2011.
- Princeton University, December 2010.
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 2010.
- ETH Zurich, Switzerland, May 2010.
- University of Manchester, UK, October 2009.
- University of Essex, UK. Workshop on *Comparative Subconstituency Representation*, October 2009.
- Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 2007.
- Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 2007.
- Binghamton University. Conference on *Dynamics of Party Position Taking*, March 2007.

Conference Participation

- American Political Science Association (APSA), 2017, 2016, 2013, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP), 2012
- European Political Science Association (EPSA), 2013, 2011
- International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), 2011
- Southern California Comparative Political Institutions, 2011, 2010

Teaching Experience

UT-Austin

Undergraduate: Comparative Political Parties
European Union/ Regional Integration
Government & Politics of Western Europe
Graduate: Scope and Methods

Vanderbilt University:

Undergraduate: Comparative Political Parties
European Union
West European Politics
Graduate: Comparative Political Parties
Comparative Representation and Accountability
Statistical Political Research I

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member for:

Margarita Corral (Ph.D., 2013, Vanderbilt)
Brian Faughnan (Ph.D., 2013, Vanderbilt)
Mollie Cohen (Ph.D., 2016, Vanderbilt)

Service

University of Texas at Austin:

Member of the Public Policy Search Committee (Spring 2017)
Organizer, Voter Perceptions of Party Positions Workshop, April 2017.

Vanderbilt University:

Member of the Executive Committee, Max Kade Center for European and German Studies (2013-2015)
Organizer of the Comparative Politics Field Workshops (2013-2015)
Member of the Search Committee (Fall 2013)
Member of the Graduate Committee (Fall 2010, 2011-2012)
Member of the Future Hiring Strategies Committee (2010-2011)
Member of the Speakers Committee (2010-2011)

Profession:

Member of the Editorial Board, *Party Politics*.
Member of the Editorial Board, *British Journal of Political Science*.

Member of the Executive Committee of the APSA Political Organizations and Parties Section, 2014-2016.

Member of the Executive Council of the APSA Representation and Electoral Systems Section, 2013-2016.

Division Co-Chair of the Comparative Politics of Advanced Industrial Nations division at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference, 2017.

Member of the Kellogg/Notre Dame Award Committee for the best paper in comparative politics presented at the previous year's MPSA conference, 2017.

Member of the Best Article in *Political Behavior* Committee of the APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section, 2016.

Member of the GESIS Klingemann Prize for the Best CSES Scholarship committee, 2015.

Chair of the Best Paper Award Committee of the APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section, 2014.

Chair of the Lawrence Longley Award Committee of the APSA Representation and Electoral Systems Section, 2013.

Member of the Leon D. Epstein Outstanding Book Award Committee of the APSA Political Organizations and Parties Section, 2012.

Section Chair of the Comparative Political Institutions section at the Annual Midwest Political Science Conference, 2012.

Reviewer for the following journals:

American Political Science Review	Comparative Political Studies
American Journal of Political Science	European Journal of Political Research
British Journal of Political Science	Acta Politica
Journal of Politics	Political Studies
Journal of Public Policy	Party Politics
Political Behavior	Public Choice
Scandinavian Studies	West European Politics
Comparative Politics	Electoral Studies
Political Research Quarterly	Political Science Research and Methods

Reviewer for the National Science Foundation, the Israel Science Foundation, the Dutch Science Foundation, the Swiss Science Foundation, the European Research Council, the Cambridge University Press, and the Oxford University Press.

Membership

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

European Political Science Association

Languages:

Turkish (native speaker), English (fluent), German (intermediate).