

Özgür Özkan

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Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center For Strategic Studies, 2025-2027
Visiting Scholar, Russia and Eurasia Center, 2023-2024, 2025-2026
Harvard University, J.F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Belfer Center, Middle East Initiative, 2022-2023
Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and Int. Affairs, Middle East Initiative, 2023-2024
Bates College, Department of Politics, Lewiston, ME
Visiting Assistant Professor, 2024-2025

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Ph.D., International Studies, August 2022, *Distinction*
Dissertation: "Representation and Merit in the Military: Explaining the Origins and Persistence of Recruitment and Promotion Patterns in the Turkish Officer Corps (1848-2015)"
Committee: Resat Kasaba (Chair), Elizabeth Kier, Nathalie Williams, Steven Pfaff
US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
M.A., Regional Security Studies, Europe-Eurasia, 2012
Turkish Military Academy, Ankara, Turkey
B.S., Systems and Electrical Engineering, 2004, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS & METHODS

Political Violence, Authoritarianism, Civil-Military Relations, International Security Cooperation,
Turkish and Middle Eastern Politics, Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

BOOK PROJECT

The Multiethnic Army: Origins and Resilience of Turkey's Officer Corps (1848-2015)

PUBLISHED WORK

"Minorities and Representation: Jewish Soldiers in the Late Ottoman Army." *Sephardic Trajectories*, Eds. Kerem Tınaz & Oscar A. Mandujano, Koç University Press, 2021
"Azınlıklar ve Temsiliyet: Son Dönem Osmanlı Ordusunda Sefarad Askerler." *Sefarad Güzergahlar*, Ed. Kerem Tınaz ve Oscar A. Mandujano, Koç Üniversitesi Yayınevi, 2021

UNDER REVIEW

When Coups d'etat Devour Their Own Children: Coups, Purges, and Military Effectiveness in Turkey (1960-2015)"
"Officers, Militias, and Militants : Explaining Persisting Underrepresentation of Kurds in the Turkish Officer Corps (1908-2015)"
"Determinants of Turkey's Attitude toward U.S. Foreign Military Training, 1950-2024"

WORKING PAPERS

"Fighting for and Against the State: The Implications of Kurdish Representation in Security Forces for Kurds' Violent Mobilization (1984-2015)"
"Paradox of Norm Diffusion via Foreign Military Training: The Impact of US Military Training on Turkey's Civil-Military Relations (1946-2015)"
"Officers and Modern Autocrats: The Army's Response to Regime Personalization and Autocratic Co-optation in Turkey and Russia"
"Soldiers in Rubbles: The Politics of the Military's Use in Disaster Response in Turkey"

PUBLIC-FACING RESEARCH	<p>"Erdogan Risks Overplaying His Hand" <i>Foreign Policy</i>, 2025</p> <p>"Turkey's Dangerous Peace Bid with the PKK, <i>Turkey Book Talk</i>, 2025</p> <p>"Erdogan's Stance on Israel Reflects Desire to Mix Politics with Realpolitik" <i>Conversation</i>, 2023</p> <p>"Turkey Faces Pressure to End its 'Middleman Strategy' in Ukraine" <i>Conversation</i>, 2023</p> <p>"Why Was Turkey's Military MIA After the Earthquake?" <i>Foreign Policy</i>, 2023</p> <p>"Don't Turn The Turkish Army into a Political Tool," <i>Foreign Policy</i>, 2018</p> <p>"How the City of Peace Remembers its Sephardic Veterans," <i>Stroum Center E-Journal</i>, 2018</p> <p>"Re-Imagining Sephardic Çanakkale and Its Ties to Seattle," <i>Stroum Center E-Journal</i>, 2017</p>
DATASETS	<p>"Middle Eastern Officers in US Military Training Dataset, (1950-2024), In Progress</p> <p>"Historical Officer Career Advancement (HCA) Dataset (1848-2015)," 2021</p> <p>"Military High School Alumni (MIHSA) Dataset (1900-2002)," 2020</p> <p>"Turkish Armed Forces Senior Officer Corps (TAFSOC) Dataset (1848-2015)," 2019</p>
GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS	<p>Bates College Faculty Development Research Grant, 2024, (\$1,000)</p> <p>Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowship, University of Washington, 2021-2022, (\$15,000)</p> <p>Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Research Grant, 2018-2019, (\$1,500)</p> <p>American Political Science Association, Small Research Grant, 2017, (\$2,000)</p> <p>Harvard & Koç Universities, Language School Scholarship, Summer 2016, (~\$10,000)</p> <p>UW Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Research Grant, 2017, 2018, (\$10,000)</p> <p>Maurice and L. Schwartz Endowment Fellowship, U. of Washington, 2020, 2018, 2016, (\$14,500)</p> <p>Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Scholarship, Certificate Program on European Security and Terrorism, (Richard English, Andreas Gofas, Stathis Kalyvas), Summer 2018, (~\$5,000)</p> <p>Samuel and Altea Stroum Graduate Fellowship, University of Washington, 2017-2018, (\$4,000) I.</p> <p>Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Fellowship, University of Washington, 2016-2017, (\$3,000) UW</p> <p>Jackson School of International Studies, Conference Travel Grants, 2015-2019, (\$2,400) UW</p> <p>Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation, Travel Grants, 2017, (\$1,000) Graduate</p> <p>School Fellowship, University of Washington, 2014-2015</p> <p>Graduate Fellowship for Master's Degree, Turkish Ministry of National Defense, 2011-2012</p> <p>Turkish Armed Forces Education and Instruction Award, 2006, 2008, 2010</p> <p>Graduation with Distinction, US Army Field Artillery School, 2008</p> <p>Graduation with Distinction, Turkish Army Basic Officer Leadership Course, 2005 Graduation with Distinction, Turkish Army Ranger School, 2004</p>
INVITED TALKS	<p>Defense Security Cooperation University, Washington DC, October 2024</p> <p>Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, March 2024</p> <p>Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, January 2024 (Moderator)</p> <p>Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, October 2023</p> <p>Middle East Institute (MEIS) Switzerland, June 2023 (Remote)</p> <p>Belfer Center (Middle East Initiative), Harvard Kennedy School, September 2023</p> <p>International Security Colloquium, University of Washington, Seattle, 2020</p> <p>Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, 2018, 2019</p> <p>Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, 2016</p>
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>APSA (American Political Science Association): 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024</p> <p>ISA (International Studies Association): 2017, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026</p> <p>MPSA (Mid-West Political Science Association): 2018, 2022</p> <p>MESA (Middle East Studies Association): 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023</p>

ASMEA (Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa): 2018
Inter-University Seminar of Armed Forces & Society: 2017
Simon Fraser University Graduate Student Conference, Vancouver, BC, 2017
Western Ottomanists' Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 2016

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Instructor of Record

Civil-Military Relations in the Middle East, Bates College, Fall 2024
Global Order and Its Discontents: Power, Ideology, Change since WW2, Bates College, 2025
NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security, Bates College, Short-Term 2025
US National Security Policies, Bates College, Winter 2025; U. of Washington, 2019, 2020
Politics of Modern Middle East, Bates College, Fall 2024
Comparative Politics of the Middle East, Arizona State University, Spring 2024 (Remote)
Making of the Twenty-First Century, University of Washington, Summer 2021 (Remote)

Teaching Assistant

Politics of International Law, University of Washington, Spring 2022
Making of the Twenty-First Century, University of Washington, Spring 2020
States & Capitalism: The Origins of the Modern Global System, U. of Washington, 2017
Comparative Law and Legal Cultures, University of Washington, Winter 2018
Cultural Interactions in an Interdependent World, U. of Washington, Spring 2016

SERVICE

Program Assistant, Jackson School Graduate Admissions Office, 2018
Graduate Student Representative, Jackson School of International Studies, 2019-2020
Panel Chair & Discussant, Inter-University Seminar of Armed Forces & Society, 2019
Panel Chair, Middle East Studies Association, 2022

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Liaison & Monitoring Team Leader, NATO K-FOR, Kosovo, 2010
Regional Analyst, Strategy & I.R. Department, Turkish Army Hq., Ankara, 2013
Operations & Training Officer (S-2 & S-3), Aegean Army, Izmir, Turkey, 2010-2011
Infantry Company Commander, Mountain & Ranger Brigade, Hakkari, Turkey, 2014
Artillery Battery Commander and Executive Officer, Aegean Army, Izmir, 2005-2009

**PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Middle East Studies Association

SKILLS

Languages: English (Fluent), Turkish (Native), Greek (Reading), Persian (Intermediate), Ottoman Turkish, 1850-1928 (Advanced proficiency), Karamanlidika (Advanced proficiency)
Programming Languages & Software: R, STATA, ArcGIS

REFERENCES

Resat Kasaba

Jackson School of Int. Studies
University of Washington
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Elizabeth Kier

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Science University of
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