

Özgür Özkan

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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 and Faculty Affiliate, Belfer Center, 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
Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
M.A., Regional Security Studies, Europe-Eurasia
Turkish Military Academy, Ankara, Turkey
B.S., Systems and Electrical Engineering, *Summa cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS & METHODS

Military Institutions, Authoritarian Politics, Ethnic Conflict, Regime Change, International Security Cooperation, Turkey, the Middle East, Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

BOOK PROJECT

The Multiethnic Army: Origins and Resilience of Turkey's Officer Corps (1848-2013)

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 Temsilîyet: Son Dönem Osmanlı Ordusunda Sefarad Askerler." *Sefarad Güzergahlar*, Ed. Kerem Tınaz ve Oscar A. Mandujano, Koç Üniversitesi Yayınevi, 2021

UNDER REVIEW

"How Multiethnic Armies Endure: Organizational Design and Kurdish Officers in Turkey"
"Determinants of Turkey's Attitude toward U.S. Military Training, 1950-2020"
"General Staff Officers and Coups: Organizational Sources of the Turkish Military's Political Autonomy and Interventionism" (R&R, Journal of the Middle East and Africa)

WORKING PAPERS

"The Military in Military Regimes: Performance-Sensitive Coup Proofing and Limits to Regime Personalization in Turkey (1960-1998)"
"Fighting for and Against the State: Kurdish Village Guards and Kurds' Violent Mobilization (1984-2015)"

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Paradox of Norm Diffusion via Foreign Military Training: The Impact of US Military Training on Turkey's Civil-Military Relations (1946-2015)"
"Political Timing and Distance: How Autocrats Balance Loyalty and Competence in the Military"
"Network of Merit and Trust: Making of the Turkish Revolution (1908-1923)"

PUBLIC-FACING WORK	"Erdogan Risks Overplaying His Hand" <i>Foreign Policy</i> , 2025
	"Turkey's Dangerous Peace Bid with the PKK, <i>Turkey Book Talk</i> , 2025
	"Erdogan's Stance on Israel: Desire to Mix Politics with Realpolitik" <i>The Conversation</i> , 2023
	"Turkey Faces Pressure to End its 'Middleman Strategy' in Ukraine" <i>The Conversation</i> , 2023
	"Why Was Turkey's Military MIA After the Earthquake?" <i>Foreign Policy</i> , 2023
	"Don't Turn The Turkish Army into a Political Tool," <i>Foreign Policy</i> , 2018
	"How the City of Peace Remembers its Sephardic Veterans," <i>Stroum Center E-Journal</i> , 2018
DATASETS	"Re-Imagining Sephardic Çanakkale and Its Ties to Seattle," <i>Stroum Center E-Journal</i> , 2017
	"Political Timing and Distance (Military Appointments) in Turkey (2000-2025)," In Progress
	"School and Battlefield Networks in Turkish Revolution (1908-1923)," In Progress
	"Local Networks and State Power in Turkey (2020-2025)," In Progress
	"US Military Training and Officer Promotions in Turkey (1950-2024)," 2026
	"Senior Officer Promotions in Turkey (1923-2015)," 2022
	"Military Preparatory School Admissions in Turkey (1900-2002)," 2020
GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS	"General Staff College Admissions in Turkey (1848-2015)," 2019
	Security Cooperation Research Grant, 2025
	Bates College Faculty Development Research Grant, 2024, (\$1,000)
	Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowship, University of Washington, 2021-2022, (\$15,000)
	Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Research Grant, 2018-2019, (\$1,500)
	American Political Science Association, Small Research Grant, 2017, (\$2,000)
	Harvard & Koç Universities, Language School Scholarship, Summer 2016, (~\$10,000)
INVITED TALKS	UW Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Research Grant, 2017, 2018, (\$10,000)
	Maurice and L. Schwartz Endowment Fellowship, U. of Washington, 2020, 2018, 2016, (\$14,500)
	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Scholarship, Certificate Program on European Security and Terrorism, (Richard English, Andreas Gofas, Stathis Kalyvas), Summer 2018, (~\$5,000)
	Samuel and Altea Stroum Graduate Fellowship, University of Washington, 2017-2018, (\$4,000)
	I. Mervin and Georgiana Gorasht Fellowship, University of Washington, 2016-2017, (\$3,000)
	UW Jackson School of International Studies, Conference Travel Grants, 2015-2019, (\$2,400)
	UW Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation, Travel Grants, 2017, (\$1,000)
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Graduate School Fellowship, University of Washington, 2014-2015
	Graduate Fellowship for Master's Degree, Turkish Ministry of National Defense, 2011-2012
	Turkish Armed Forces Education and Instruction Award, 2006, 2008, 2010
	Defense Security Cooperation University, Washington DC, October 2024
	Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, March 2024
	Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, January 2024 (Moderator)
	Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, October 2023
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Middle East Institute (MEIS) Switzerland, June 2023 (Remote)
	International Security Colloquium, University of Washington, Seattle, 2020
	Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, 2018, 2019
	Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, 2016
	APSA (American Political Science Association): 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024
	ISA (International Studies Association): 2017, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
	MPSA (Mid-West Political Science Association): 2018, 2022
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	MESA (Middle East Studies Association): 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023

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
Politics of Modern Middle East, Bates College, Fall 2024
Comparative Politics of the Middle East, Arizona State U., Spring 2024, Fall 2025 (Remote)
NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security, Bates College, Short-Term 2025
US National Security Policies, Bates College, Winter 2025; U. of Washington, 2019, 2020
Global Order and Its Discontents: Power, Ideology, and Change, Bates College, 2025
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

Referee, *International Studies Quarterly*
Program Assistant, Jackson School Graduate Admissions Office, UW, 2018
Graduate Student Representative, Jackson School, UW, 2019-2020

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Turkish Armed Forces (2004-2014)
Artillery Battery Cdr. and Executive Officer, Aegean Army, Izmir, Turkey, 2005-2009
Operations & Training Officer (S-2 & S-3), Aegean Army, Izmir, Turkey, 2010-2011
Liaison & Monitoring Team Leader, NATO K-FOR, Kosovo, 2010
Regional Analyst, Strategy & I.R. Department, Turkish Army Hq., Ankara, 2013
Battery & Company Cdr, Mountain & Ranger Brigade, Hakkari, Turkey, 2013-2014

**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

FIELDWORK

Turkey (2016-2018)