

Basak TARAKTAS

Curriculum Vitae

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EMPLOYMENT

Sep 2019–Present Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bogazici University
Sep 2018–Sep 2019 Senior Analyst at FutureMap <https://futuremap.io/team/>
Oct 2016–Aug 2018 Postdoctoral researcher, Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Studies
Sep 2015–Jan 2016 Varieties of Democracy Project, country expert (Ottoman Empire, Egypt) <https://www.v-dem.net/en/historical/country-experts/>

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Political Science
2009 M.A., Sabanci University, Political Science, Turkey
2006 M.A., College of Europe, European Political & Administrative Studies, Belgium
2005 B.A., Galatasaray University, Political Science & International Relations, Turkey

Methods training

2021 Machine Learning & Text analysis, ICPSR
2021 Bayesian Modelling for social sciences, ICPSR
2018 High Throughput Computing, Open Science Grid, Uni. of Wisconsin-Madison
2018 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Duke University
2017 Santa Fe Summer School on Complexity, Santa Fe Institute
2014 Programming in Java, Mergecon, Istanbul
2014 Introduction to Computer Programming (Java), University of Pennsylvania
2014 Advanced Network Analysis, ICPSR, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
2014 Complex Systems, ICPSR, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
2014 Theory of Networks, University of Pennsylvania
2013 Network Theory and Applications, University of Pennsylvania
2012 Social Network Analysis, Statistical Horizons
2012 Market & Social Systems on the Internet, University of Pennsylvania
2012 Game Theory, University of Pennsylvania
2009 Multilevel Analysis, ECPR Essex Summer School on Social Data Analysis

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Methodology: Computational social sciences (network analysis, agent-based modeling, machine learning, topic modeling), historical comparative analysis

Comparative politics: Opinion dynamics, collective action, regime change, and social movements

International relations: International political economy, financial and sovereign debt crises

Area specialization: European studies

PUBLICATIONS

Articles under review

"Protesting during the Covid: When the abstention cost overweighs infection risk" (R&R)

"A SIR-model for misinformation-spread," with Batuhan Tongarlak (Bogazici University) (R&R)

"Tweeting through a Public Health Crisis: Communication strategy of right-wing populist leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic," with Suzan Uskudarli (Bogazici University) & Berk Esen (Sabanci University) (R&R)

"Surviving the pandemic," with Sina Sajjadi, Mehrzad Shadmangohar, Pourya Toranj, Ulya Bayram, Mavi Peru

Refereed journal articles

"Tolerable levels of disagreement: Collective action capacity & shape of coalitions", (2021) *Social Networks*. 68. 15-30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2021.04.002>

Braun, B., Taraktas, B., Beckage, B. and Molofsky, J. (2020) "Phase transitions and social distancing control measures for small world network epidemics with presymptomatic, asymptomatic, and symptomatic stages", (2020), *PLOS ONE* 15(9): e0238412, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238412.

"Studying alliance formation using case studies and network analysis, (2019) " *SAGE Research Methods Cases*, [doi:10.4135/9781526486639](https://doi.org/10.4135/9781526486639).

"The Irish Bailout: When resolve breaks down," (2012) *Contemporary European Studies*, 2, pp. 83-113.

"A Comparative Approach to Euroscepticism," (2008) *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, Nov., 16: 2, pp. 249-266.

Book chapters

"Incorporating computational social science in political science," (2022) In *Advances in Human and Social Aspects of Technology*, ed. Enes Abanoz. IGI Global, 2344. <https://services.igi-global.com/resolvedoi/resolve.aspx?doi=10.4018/978-1-7998-8553-5.ch002>.

Over, Defne, and Basak Taraktas "When Does Repression Trigger Mass Protest? The 2013 Gezi Protests," (2016) in Julie M. Mazzei (ed.) *Non-State Violent Actors and Social Movement*

Organizations (Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change, Volume 41) Emerald Publishing Limited, pp.205 - 239. (awarded Sidney Tarrow Best Article Prize).

Book reviews

"Checking presidential power: executive decrees and the legislative process in new democracies," by Valeria Palanza, *Democratization*. Jul. 2020 DOI:10.1080/13510347.2020.1787990., <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2020.1787990>.

Selected work in progress

"Lost in translation? Mismatches between media coverage of the BLM and demands of activists", with Suzan Uskudarli (Bogazici University), Haluk Bingol (Bogazici University), Cihan Duran (Bogazici University)

"Some of us can't breathe: How Twitter responded to the murder of George Floyd," with Cihan Duran (Bogazici University) & Rabia Kutlu (Bogazici University)

"When opposition parties form coalitions? A study of Turkish opposition parties under the presidential regimes" with Nidanur Basturk (University of Mannheim), Egemen Buyukkaya (Bogazici University)

Projects in progress

Dia-Pol: Polarization or dialogue? A deep learning study of the Black lives matter and Me Too online social movements (Horizon 2020 Marie Curie Individual Fellowship (H2020-MSCA-IF-2020) #101028566)

Models Theories Research Programs (MTR), affiliated researcher, <https://mtrboun.wordpress.com/home-2/project/team/>

Working papers

"Christian Democracy in Professional Life: Farmers and Workers Associations"

"The Birth of Social Contract"

"Democratization & Civil War in Columbia""

"Religious tolerance in the Mongolian Empire"

"State Formation"

Media publications

"Erdogans riskanter Kurs: Bringt die Lira-Krise ihn zu Fall? (Erdogan's risky course: Will the lira crisis bring him down?)" , *Die Presse*, 01.12.2021, <https://www.diepresse.com/6068832/erdogans-riskanter-kurs-bringt-die-lira-krise-ihn-zu-fall> "Sage Methods Short Film on Methods: An Interview on Network Analysis", <http://methods.sagepub.com/video/srpmromo/VXbwhb/an-introduction-to-network-analysis>.

"Katılanların gözünden ABD Kadın Yürüyüşü (2017 Women's March from the perspective of protesters), *Medyascope.tv*, Jan. 23, 2017, <http://medyascope.tv/2017/01/23/ozel-yayin-katilanlari>

Media publications

"Erdogans riskanter Kurs: Bringt die Lira-Krise ihn zu Fall? (Erdogan's risky course: Will the lira crisis bring him down?)", *Die Presse*, 01.12.2021, <https://www.diepresse.com/6068832/erdogans-riskanter-kurs-bringt-die-lira-krise-ihn-zu-fall> "Sage Methods Short Film on Methods: An Interview on Network Analysis", <http://methods.sagepub.com/video/srmpromo/VXbwhb/an-introduction-to-network-analysis>.

"Katılanların gözünden ABD Kadın Yürüyüşü (2017 Women's March from the perspective of protesters)", *Medyascope.tv*, Jan. 23, 2017, <http://medyascope.tv/2017/01/23/ozel-yayin-katilanlari>
"Biz', 'onlar' ve toplumsal dayanma ("We", "Them" and social cooperation), *Radikal* 2, Feb. 2007.

"Milliyetçilik, siyasallaşma, militanlaşma," (Nationalism, politicization, militantism) *Radikal* 2, Feb. 2007.

"Mitinglerin Siyasi Arz Eksikliği," (Manifestations and the Shortage of Political Supply), *Yeni Safak*, May 2007.

"Turkish points of view on EU accession," *Faith in Europe Magazine*, May 2007.

"Rights, Identities and EU citizenship," *Faith in Europe Magazine*, May 2007.

"Opening of the negotiations with Turkey," *Yeni Aktuel*, Oct. 2005.

AWARDS & GRANTS

2021 Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (H2020-MSCA-IF) (145,000 Euros)

2020 Tubitak Esik Ustu Odulu

2020 2nd project award in the Exploring Network Epidemiology in the Time of Coronavirus, online workshops held by University of Maryland and Vermonts Complex Systems Center among 29 groups. Project title: Racial disparities in COVID-19 cases: Beyond inherent vulnerability. <https://sites.google.com/umd.edu/net-covid/home>

2015 The Cornell Institute for European Studies, Sidney Tarrow Best Article Prize

2014 Democracy, Constitution, and Citizenship Graduate Fellow

2014 Boies Fellow

2013 UPenn School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Teece Fellowship

2009 Ben Franklin Award

2005 European Commission Jean Monnet Fellowship

2005 Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (Tubitak) Fellowship

2003 National Agency of Turkey Fellowship (Ulusal Ajans)

PRESENTATIONS

"Surviving the Pandemic" Polnet, Jul. 6, 2021

"Surviving the Pandemic: The Effect of socioeconomic disparities on mortality rates by the COVID Manchester University Mitchell Centre Seminar, Nov. 4, 2020

"All President's Men, Annual European Consortium for Political Research Conference, Aug. 26, 2020

"All President's Men, Empirical Political Studies Association (ESPA), Adana, Jan. Jan.23-24, 2020

"Turkish political system as an oscillating complex system, Karmasik Sistemler ve Veri Bilimi Calistayi, Istanbul, May 4, 2019.

"Coups & Countercoups: Explaining Oscillation Between Regime Types," APSA 2018, Boston, Aug., 2018.

"Regime survival, counterinsurgency, and resource extraction," ASA 2018, Philadelphia,

Aug., 2018.

"Regime survival, counterinsurgency, and resource extraction," MPSA 2017, Chicago, Apr., 2018.

"Constitutional debates & Authoritarian backslides," Law and Politics in Turkey Conference, Northwestern University, Oct., 2017.

"Building bridges through protest," MPSA 2017, Chicago, Apr., 2017.

"Regime building in the face of diversity," APSA 2016, Philadelphia, Sep., 2016.

"Shall we cooperate? The challenge of strong commitments to cooperation for regime change," APSA, San Francisco, Sep. 5, 2015.

"Condemned to Authoritarianism? The challenge of preference diversity on regime change," MPSA, Chicago, Apr. 17, 2015.

"Building societal support in post-revolutionary regimes," Democracy Constitution and Citizenship Graduate Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Apr. 8, 2015.

"Condemned to Authoritarianism? The Challenge of Preference Diversity on Regime Change," MARC, Annenberg, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Mar. 23, 2015.

"Condemned to Authoritarianism? A Collective Action Perspective on the Ottoman Transition to Constitutional Regime," APSA, Washington, DC, Aug. 30, 2014.

"From small to mass-scale events: 2013 Gezi Protests," Sabanci University Jean Monnet Workshop for Young Researchers, SUCEES 2014, Istanbul, Mar. 13, 2014.

"Christian Democracy in Professional Life: Farmers and Workers Associations," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Workshop, Philadelphia, Mar. 2013.

"Ireland the Reluctant Borrower: When political measures fall short," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Workshop, Philadelphia, May 2012.

"Ireland the Reluctant Borrower: When political measures fall short," University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Apr. 2012.

"The 2008 Financial Crisis in the European Union," University of Pennsylvania Graduate Student Workshop, Philadelphia, May 2010.

"The EU's member states in the face of the Crisis: Solidarity vs. Self-Interest," Koc University Graduate Student Workshop, Istanbul, May 2009.

INVITED TALKS

"Computational methods in social science," Bogazici University Department of Computer Science, guest lecturer, April 24, 2019.

"Tolerable Disagreements: Dynamics of Coalition Formation," Sabanci University, Brown Bag Seminar, March 6, 2019.

"Workshop on Network Analysis," University of Illinois in Chicago, Chicago, Apr. 28, 2017.

"Perceptions of Ethnicity," the Penn Middle East Center, Philadelphia, Nov. 10, 2015.

"Turkey: Culture & Ethnic Diversity," Penn Middle East Center, Philadelphia, May 24, 2015.

"L'euroscépticisme en Turquie," Institut Français d'Etudes Anatoliennes, Istanbul, May 2007.

"European Citizenship," ARI Workshop on European Civilisation and Culture (EU Commission Action I project), Koc University, Istanbul, May 2005.

"Legal Violations in Cyprus History," Greco-Turkish Forum on Cyprus, Galatasaray University, Istanbul, Aug. 2002.

"Questioning the EU's 5th Enlargement," European Days 2002, Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Oct. 2002.

"Defining Terrorism," Campus Forum, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Apr. 2002.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Decision theory, Bogazici University, 2021

Comparative state and bureaucracies, Bogazici University, 2020, 2021

Social Statistics, Bogazici University, 2020, 2021

Research Methods, Bogazici University, 2020, 2021

Quantitative Research Methods, Bogazici University

Computational Social Science, APSA Short Course, Sep. 8, 2020

Short course on network analysis, Bilkent University, Dec. 27-28, 2019.

Computational Modeling in Political Science, APSA Short Course, Aug. 28, 2018

Democratic Transitions (Spring 2017 and 2018), Northwestern University

Short course on Complexity, 2017 APSA Short Course

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Turkish: Native

English: Reading (fluent), speaking (fluent), writing (fluent)

French: Reading (fluent), speaking (fluent), writing (fluent)

Italian: Reading (beginner), speaking (beginner), writing (beginner)

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Netlogo, Python, Java, L^AT_EX

DATA SETS

19th century Ottoman regime challengers

19th century French regime challengers

Survey data on 2013 Gezi protests

Twitter data on Black Lives Matter & Me Too Movements

Turkish political elites (with Berk Esen)