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Education

New York University, New York, NY

2021-Present: Ph.D., Political Science (ABD Status),

- Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods.

- Cumulative GPA: 3.89/4.00.

- Dissertation Committee: Prof. Cyrus Samii (Chair), Prof. Gwyneth McClendon, Prof. Michael Gilligan

Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis, MO

2019-2021: M.A., Political Science,

- Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods, Formal Theory.

- Cumulative GPA: 3.96/4.00.

Koc University, Istanbul, TURKEY

2017 - 2019: M.A., Political Science and International Relations,

- Magna Cum Laude: Top 5% of the Graduate School,

- Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00.

Koc University, Istanbul, TURKEY

2013 - 2017: B.A., Economics,

2011 - 2017: B.A., Political Science,

- Magna Cum Laude: Top 1% of Economics & Political Science,

- Minor in History

- Cumulative GPA: 3.96/4.00.

Bocconi University, Milan, ITALY

2014 - 2015: Erasmus Study Abroad Program in Economics.

Mumtaz Turhan Social Sciences High School, Istanbul, TURKEY

2006 - 2011: High School

- Ranked at the top 5 percent in the 2006 academic cohort

Master's Dissertation

Title: *"Politics of Social Assistance Provision: Contentious Politics and Child Support Grant Provision in South Africa"*

Thesis Defense Date: May 29, 2019

Thesis No: 570863

Thesis Co-Advisors: Prof. Belgin San Akca, Prof. Erdem Yoruk

Thesis Committee Members: Prof. Ziya Onis, Prof. Burak Gürel,
Prof. Murat Koyuncu

Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Yörük, E. & Gençer, A.Ş. (2022, September). “The dynamics of welfare state regime development in the global south: Structures, institutions, and political agency.” *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*. doi: [10.1080/13876988.2021.2004541](https://doi.org/10.1080/13876988.2021.2004541).

Yörük, E. & Gençer, A.Ş. (2020, August). “The politics of social assistance in South Africa: How protests and electoral politics shape the Child Support Grant.” *Governance*. doi: [10.1111/gove.12464](https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12464).

Öniş, Z. & Gençer, A.Ş. (2018, February). “Democratic BRICS as role models in a shifting global order: Inherent dilemmas and the challenges ahead.” *Third World Quarterly*, 39(3). doi: [10.1080/01436597.2018.1438185](https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2018.1438185).

Published Reports

Gençer, A.Ş. et al. (2018, October). “From information to perception: The journey of the Syrian “ghost” children in Istanbul.” *IstanPol*. Access: [Link](#).

Gençer, A.Ş. et al. (2017, July). “From information A study on the perception of asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees in Turkey.” *PS Europe*. Access: [Link](#).

Published Dataset

Yörük E. et al. (2019). “Global Welfare Dataset, Version 2019.” *EMW Project*. Access: [Link](#)

Work in Progress

Gençer, A.Ş. “Rethinking ‘Them’: Challenging Out-Group Stereotypes in Backsliding Democracies” (Dissertation Chapter 1)

Gençer, A.Ş. “Unbundling Autocratic Capture” (Dissertation Chapter 2)

Gençer, A.Ş., Civitarese C. “Monitoring, Cognitive Load, and Strategic Omission in Political Communication”

Gençer, A.Ş., Samii, C. “Optimal Allocation of Compliance Incentives” (Dissertation Chapter 3)

Gençer, A.Ş., Tafoya, G.R., Yoruk, E., & Yoltar, C. “Carrots and Sticks: Social assistance as a containment strategy in Brazil”

Gençer, A.Ş. “Strategic Voting and Crisis Preparation”

Conference Presentations

2026: Behavioral Models of Politics

“Unbundling Autocratic Capture”

2026: NYU Rebecca Morton Experimental Conference

“Optimal Allocation of Compliance Incentives”

2025: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

“Rethinking ‘Them’: Challenging Out-Group Stereotypes in Backsliding Democracies”

2025: NYU Data Science Frontiers: Society and Politics

“Optimal Allocation of Compliance Incentives”

2024: Rethinking ‘Them’

“Challenging Out-Group Stereotypes in Backsliding Democracies”

Honors and Scholarships

2021 - Present: New York University, Henry M. MacCracken Program Fellowship, New York, NY

- 100%, merit-based scholarship for graduate school tuition and living expenses awarded upon acceptance

2025 - 2026: APSA Dissertation Improvement Grant, Washington, DC

- American Political Science Association; \$13,343 for “Unbundling Autocratic Capture”

2025 - 2026: Identities & Ideologies Project (NYU) Research Grant, New York, NY

- \$3,000 for “Measuring Stereotype-Prone Beliefs: Validation of a Representativeness-Based Algorithm”

2022, 2023, 2025: New York University George Downs Prize, New York, NY

- Competitive departmental award supporting dissertation research in political science
\$1,500 (2022), \$2,500 (2023), \$2,000 (2025)

2019 - 2021: Washington University in St. Louis, Graduate School Scholarship, Saint Louis, MO

- 100%, merit-based scholarship for graduate school tuition and living expenses awarded upon acceptance

2017 - 2019: Tübitak Graduate Scholarship, Ankara, TURKEY

- 2210A - National Scholarship Program for MSc Students by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
- Awarded upon the acceptance to the graduate studies with extraordinary undergraduate records

2017 - 2019: Koç University High Success Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Istanbul, TURKEY

- 100%, merit-based scholarship awarded upon acceptance to the university, for students with graduate studies applicants with extraordinary background
- Covering the graduate studies tuition fee, housing, and miscellaneous benefits for 2 years

2017: Koç University Magna Cum Laude: The Second Ranking Student Award, Istanbul, TURKEY

- Obtained 2nd highest academic record in the Department of Political Science and International Relations among the 2016 – 2017 graduates,

2014 - 2015: Erasmus Exchange Scholarship, Bocconi University, ITALY

- Merit-based scholarship awarded upon acceptance to the Erasmus Program, covering one semester stipend

2013 - 2016: Turkish Education Foundation (TEV) Outstanding Success Scholarship. Istanbul, TURKEY

- Granted by the TEV with the aim of supporting the leaders of the future, highly competitive scholarship awarded to 50 students a year nationwide

2011 - 2017: Koç University High Honor Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies, Istanbul, TURKEY

- 100%, merit-based scholarship awarded upon acceptance to the university, for students who ranked in the top 1000 places at the Nationwide University Entrance Examinations
- Covering the tuition fee, accommodation, stipend for living expenses, and miscellaneous benefits for 6 years.

Employment

September 2023 - Present: Recitation Leader: New York University
New York, NY

- International Relations (Undergraduate, Department of Politics)
- Comparative Politics (Undergraduate, Department of Politics)
- Led weekly discussion sections, graded assignments, and held office hours

September 2017 - August 2019: Koç University, Istanbul, TURKEY
Full-time Researcher and Team Member

- Worked in a European Research Council project, “Emerging Welfare,” under the supervision of Prof. Erdem Yörük
- Wrote an article with Prof. Erdem Yörük, analyzing the role of protests and electoral politics on the social assistance provision based on large-N quantitative analysis and field work
- Conducted interviews with South African state officials, academics and civil society members
- Responsible for collecting data on welfare, social policy, political and economic indicators
- Responsible for coordination among other data collectors
- Worked on a number of manuscripts investigating the political causes of the social assistance expansion

Research Experience

September 2023 - May 2025: New York University, New York, NY

Research Assistant

- Working in a research project, “xmachine,” under the supervision of Prof. Cyrus Samii and Prof. Michael Gechter
- Manage and analyze experimental and survey data across multiple countries
- Use R, Git, and advanced statistical methods for causal inference and visualization
- Maintain reproducible workflows and assist with manuscript preparation

September 2019 - August 2022: Koç University, Istanbul, TURKEY

Part-time Researcher

- Worked in a European Research Council project, “Emerging Welfare,” under the supervision of Prof. Erdem Yörük
- Worked on a number of manuscripts investigating the political causes of the social assistance expansion

February 2018 - January 2019: Institute of Istanbul Political Research (IstanPol), Istanbul, TURKEY

Volunteer Researcher

- Worked on a project on politics of precariat class and income inequality in Turkey
- Wrote a research paper on perceptions of the Syrian Child Refugees in Turkey

September 2017 - August 2019: Koç University, Istanbul, TURKEY

Full-time Researcher and Team Member

- Worked in a European Research Council project, “Emerging Welfare,” under the supervision of Prof. Erdem Yörük

September 2016 - December 2017: Koç University, Istanbul, TURKEY

Research Assistant (RA)

- Worked under the supervision of Prof. Ziya Öniş
- Published an article on the role model capabilities of the democratic BRICS for the global South

September 2016 - December 2017: Political and Social Research Institute of Europe (PS Europe), Istanbul, TURKEY

Volunteer Researcher

- Worked on a project on politics of precariat class and income inequality
- Wrote a research paper on perceptions of Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Refugees in Turkey
- Participated in “Armenia Turkey Dialogue Project,” which aimed at establishing a dialogue between Turkish and Armenian academics and civil society activists

September 2016 - June 2017: Koç University, Istanbul, TURKEY

Research Assistant (RA)

- Worked under the supervision of Prof. Ziya Öniş
- Making a literature review on political economy of development and democracy in the global South with a specific focus on the developing countries

Research Interests

Quantitative Methods, Causal Inference, Computational Social Science;
Experimental Methods, Survey and Field Experiments;
Formal Theory, Strategic Interaction;
Political Behavior, Behavioral Economics;
Democratic Backsliding, Political Accountability, Elite Manipulation;
Political Economy of Redistribution, Social Policy, Corruption;
Protest, Contentious Politics, Social Movements;
Fiction Writing, Social Theory, World Literature and Cinema, Board Games;

Languages and Skills

Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (Intermediate), Arabic (Intermediate)
☞ (advance), L^AT_EX (advance), ☞ (intermediate), Stata (intermediate), [Github](#)

Certificates

[Human Research CITI Certificate](#)
[Coursera: Natural Language Processing with Classification and Vector Spaces](#)

Methodology Courses

Course Name	Semester	Cred/Aud	Grade
Grad Experimental Economics	Fall 2023	Credit	A-
Grad Causal Inference	Spring 2022	Credit	A
Grad Game Theory	Spring 2022	Credit	A
Grad Quantitative Methods	Fall 2021	Credit	A
Grad Math for Political Science	Fall 2021	Credit	A
Grad Computational Social Sci.	Fall 2020	Credit	A
UGrad Political Data Science	Spring 2020	Credit	A
Grad Quan. Political Methods II	Fall 2020	Credit	A
Grad Computational Social Sci.	Fall 2020	Credit	A
UGrad Political Data Science	Spring 2020	Credit	A
Grad Advance Game Theory II	Spring 2020	Credit	A
Grad Quan. Political Methods I	Spring 2020	Credit	A
Grad Game Theory I	Fall 2019	Credit	A
UGrad Linear Algebra	Summer 2018	Audit	S
UGrad Econometrics: Panel Data	Spring 2018	Credit	A+
Grad Econometrics	Fall 2018	Audit	S
Grad Quan. Methods in Pol. Sci.	Fall 2017	Credit	A
UGrad Econometrics: Introd.	Spring 2017	Credit	A

References

Prof. Gwyneth McClendon
Dept. of Politics
New York University
gm1143@nyu.edu
- Dissertation Advisor -

Prof. Justin Fox
Dept. of Political Science
Washington University in St. Louis
justin.fox@wustl.edu
- 2021 Application Cycle -

Prof. Erdem Yoruk
Dept. of Sociology
Koç University
eryoruk@ku.edu.tr
+90 (212) 338-1142
- 2019-21 Application Cycles -

Prof. Ziya Öniş
Dept. of International Relations
Koç University
zonis@ku.edu.tr
+90 (212) 338-1142
- 2017-2019 Application Cycles -

Prof. Cyrus Samii
Dept. of Politics
New York University
cyrus.samii@nyu.edu
- Dissertation Chair -

Prof. Guillermo Rosas
Dept. of Political Science
Washington University in St. Louis
grosas@wustl.edu
- 2021 Application Cycle -

Prof. Belgin Şan-Akça
Dept. of International Relations
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- 2019 Application Cycle -

Prof. İnsan Tunali
Dept. of Economics
Boğaziçi University
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- 2019 Application Cycle -