

Açelya Altun

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Repression, violence, state terror, historical legacies, contentious politics, quantitative methods, machine learning, data visualization.

EDUCATION

University of Washington , Seattle, WA	2025 – Present
PhD in Political Science	
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Methodology	
Sabancı University , Istanbul, Turkey	2023 – 2025
MA in Political Science	
Advisor: Assist. Prof. Serkant Adığuzel	
Bogazici University , Istanbul, Turkey	2017 – 2023
BA in Political Science and International Relations	
Certificate in Film Studies	

WORKING PAPERS

Tracing Autocrats: Rethinking Repertoire of Repression and Measurement
- lone E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant (2026-2027)

DATA PROJECTS

TRACE – Turkey Repression and Contentious Events Dataset (2013-2025)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant , University of Washington		
Pol S 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics - Prof. Asli Cansunar		Autumn 2025
Pol S 331: Middle East and North Africa - Prof. Asli Cansunar		Winter 2026
Teaching Assistant , Sabancı University		
SPS 102: Humanity and Society II		2023 – 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant , Sabancı University	Summer 2024
Conducted a literature review on late Ottoman and early Republican media as part of a research project carried out by Prof. Serkant Adığuzel.	
Research Assistant , Sabancı University	Summer 2024
Conducted data analysis using STATA to support Prof. Esra Durceylan Kaygusuz in studying generational attitudes toward women's workforce participation.	
Research Assistant , Bogazici University	Summer 2022
Carried out archival research from newspapers for Prof. Mert Arslanalp and Prof. Deniz Erkmen's research project on protests and mobile emergency bans in Turkey.	

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Ione E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant, University of Washington	2026-2027
Graduate School Fellowship, University of Washington	Spring 2026
Graduate School Fellowship, Sabancı University	2023 – 2025
Undergraduate Fellowship, Bogazici University Foundation	2017 – 2022

SKILLS

Languages: Turkish (native), English (advanced), Persian (beginner)

Software: R, L^AT_EX, Stata, Python (beginner)

REFERENCES

Assoc. Prof. Asli Cansunar

Department of Political Science
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Assist. Prof. Serkant Adıgüzel

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Prof. Mine Eder

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Assist. Prof. Mert Arslanlp

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