

Andrew O'Donohue

aodonohue@g.harvard.edu

APPOINTMENTS

Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

Arleen Carlson and Edna Nelson Graduate Fellow

Cambridge, MA

2025 –

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Nonresident Scholar, Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program

Washington, DC

2025 –

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D., Department of Government, Carl J. Friedrich Fellow

Cambridge, MA

2020 – 2026 (Expected)

A.M., Department of Government

2020 – 2022

- *Committee*: Steven Levitsky (chair), Melani Cammett, Alisha Holland, and Daniel Ziblatt.
- My dissertation and book project, *Law versus Democracy*, studies why courts defend—or instead undermine—democracy by analyzing variation in judicial behavior and judicial power in Turkey, Israel, and beyond.
- *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow* – one of 8 political science Ph.D. students nationwide awarded \$138,000 grant for scholars who will “advance knowledge” and “benefit society.”

Boğaziçi University

Summer coursework in “Intensive Advanced Turkish.” American Research Institute in Turkey Fellow.

Istanbul, Turkey

2021

Harvard University

A.B. *summa cum laude* in Social Studies. Phi Beta Kappa Junior 24.

Cambridge, MA

2014 – 2018

RESEARCH

Book

Democracies Divided: The Global Challenge of Political Polarization (co-edited with Thomas Carothers). Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2019.

- Cited 500+ times on Google Scholar as well as in *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*.
- Reviewed in *CHOICE*, *The Journal of Democracy*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, and *Nations and Nationalism*.

Articles

1. “The Court of Public Opinion: The Limited Effects of Elite Rhetoric about Prosecuting Political Leaders” (with Daniel B. Markovits). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Nexus*. 2025.
2. “Is Israel Losing Its Last Democratic Safeguard?” (with Oded Haklai). *The Journal of Democracy*. 2024.

Working Papers

1. “Law versus Democracy: Judicial Selection Institutions, Court Capture, and Democratic Backsliding in Turkey.”
 - * Winner, Best Conference Paper Award, APSA Law & Courts Section, 2024
 - * Winner, Best Conference Paper Award, APSA European Politics & Society Section, 2023
2. “The Accountability Dilemma: Experimental Evidence from Brazil’s Democratic Reckoning” (with Fernando Bizzarro and Jean Vilbert). Under Review.
3. “How Incumbents Survive Economic Crises: Theory and Evidence from Turkey” (with Ahmet Akbıyık). Under Review.
4. “When Do Courts Constrain the Executive? Judicial Selection Institutions and Judicial Allies in Israel.”
5. “The Trump Effect on Global Autocratization: Theory and Evidence from Israel and Turkey” (with Evren Balta and Oded Haklai). Under Review.

Public Writing & Policy Research

1. “Trump’s Legal Strategy Has a Name.” *The Atlantic*. 2025.
2. “How to Prevent Trump from Defying the Courts.” *The Atlantic*. 2025.
3. “Public Opinion Won’t Protect the Courts.” *Lawfare*. 2025.
4. “The U.S. Judicial Crisis Is Uniquely Dangerous.” *Foreign Policy*. 2025.
5. “Why Türkiye Is at a Tipping Point Between Democracy and Authoritarianism.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2025.
6. “There’s a Better Way for Mexico to Elect Its Judges” (with María Ballesteros). *Foreign Policy*. 2024.

7. “Trump’s Classified Documents Case Moves Public Opinion. Now Voters Are Unlikely to Hear It.” *Lawfare*. 2024.
8. “Why Party Bans Often Don’t Work: How an Attempt to Ban Turkey’s AKP Backfired” (with Cem Tecimer). *Verfassungsblog*. 2024.
9. “If Turkey’s Strongman Wins, Don’t Give Up on Turkish Democracy” (with Cem Tecimer). *The Hill*. 2023.
10. “The Social Constitution: Embedding Social Rights Through Legal Mobilization.” *Democratization*. 2023.
11. “A Turkish Court Sentenced Erdogan’s Rival to Prison. That Could Backfire” (with Cem Tecimer). *The Washington Post*. 2022.
12. “The Five Challenges to Erdoğan’s Executive Presidential Rule after the Coronavirus” (with E. Fuat Keyman). The German Marshall Fund of the United States. 2020.
13. “Political Polarization in South and Southeast Asia: Old Divisions, New Dangers” (co-edited with Thomas Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2020.
14. “Turkey Issued New Rules for Social Media. That May Mean That Media Censorship Wasn’t Working” (with Max Hoffman and Alan Makovsky). *The Washington Post*. 2020.
15. “Turkey’s Changing Media Landscape” (with Max Hoffman and Alan Makovsky). Center for American Progress. 2020.
16. “Polarization and the Pandemic” (co-edited with Thomas Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2020.
17. “How to Understand the Global Spread of Political Polarization” (with Thomas Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2019.
18. “How Americans Were Driven to Extremes” (with Thomas Carothers). *Foreign Affairs*. 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

External

1. *U.S. National Science Foundation*, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2022–26 (\$138,000)
2. *University of Rochester*, Democracy Center, Visiting Scholar, Fall 2025
3. *Yale Law School*, *Harvard Law School*, *Stanford Law School* – admitted to J.D. programs; opted to pursue Ph.D.
4. *Institute for Humane Studies*, Research, Residency, and Conference Grants, 2023–25 (\$30,806)
5. *American Research Institute in Turkey*, Fellowship for Intensive Advanced Turkish, 2021 (\$4,240)
6. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, James C. Gaither Junior Fellow, 2018–19 (\$39,500)

Internal (Harvard University)

1. *Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*, Arleen Carlson & Edna Nelson Graduate Fellow, 2025–26 (\$42,050)
2. *Center for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, 2025–26 (\$42,050, declined)
3. *Harvard Horizons Scholar* – one of 8 Ph.D. candidates selected from across Harvard to present research in TED-talk style lecture at Sanders Theater, 2024–25 (\$1,000)
4. *Weatherhead Graduate Student Associate* (2022–23, 2024–25; declined for 2025–26)
5. *Institute for Quantitative Social Science*, Research Grant, 2025 (\$2,000)
6. *Business and Government Research Cluster Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2025 (\$2,000)
7. *Identity Politics Research Cluster Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2024 (\$3,000)
8. *Graduate Student Associate Research Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2024 (\$2,905)
9. *Harvard Law School*, Program on Negotiation Graduate Student Grant, 2024 (\$1,000)
10. *Center for American Political Studies*, Research Seed Grants, 2024 (\$1,000), 2025 (\$1,000)
11. *Institute for Quantitative Social Science*, Conference Presentation Grant, 2024 (\$650)
12. *Belonging and Inclusion in Government Graduate Student Fellow*, 2024–25 (\$6,600)
13. *Wellbeing Project Fund*, Harvard University Provost for Student Affairs, 2024 (\$1,692)
14. *Equity and Inclusion Express Grant*, Harvard Culture Lab, 2024 (\$500)
15. *Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship*, Center for European Studies, 2023–24 (\$2,583)
16. *Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship*, Harvard Committee on General Scholarships, 2023–24 (\$32,000, declined)
17. *Institute for Quantitative Social Science*, Conference Presentation Grant, 2023 (\$800)
18. *Graduate Student Associate Research Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2022 (\$2,510)
19. *Pre-Dissertation Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2022 (\$3,500)
20. *Pre-Dissertation Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2021 (\$3,000)
21. *Carl J. Friedrich Fellowship*, Harvard University, Department of Government, 2020
22. *Phi Beta Kappa Junior 24*, 2017 – selected as one of top 24 students from Harvard College class of 1,600.

23. *Patricia King Research Fellow*, 2017 – thesis research funded by Phi Beta Kappa for “academic excellence.”
24. *Krupp Foundation Fellow*, 2017 – awarded thesis research funding from Harvard’s Center for European Studies.

INVITED TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, & GUEST LECTURES

1. APSA Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Dissertation Workshop, virtual, October 2025, invited participant.
2. University of Rochester, Democracy Center, September 2025, invited speaker and guest lecturer.
3. APSA Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, September 2025, panelist.
4. Institute for Humane Studies, “The Future of Liberalism,” Arlington, VA, June 2025, invited participant.
5. Harvard University, Center for European Studies and Weatherhead Center, “Turkey, Israel, and the Trump Effect on Global Democracy,” April 2025, panelist and panel organizer.
6. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2025, panelist.
7. University of Texas at Austin, Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, Austin, TX, March 2025, invited presenter.
8. Harvard University, “Balancing Majority and Minority Rights: The Dilemma of Majority-Constraining Institutions in an Age of Democratic Backsliding,” Center for European Studies Conference, February 2025, invited panelist.
9. Middle East Studies Association, virtual, November 2024, panelist.
10. Boston University, Research in Comparative Politics Workshop, September 2024, invited presenter.
11. American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, September 2024, panelist.
12. Harvard University, Middle East Seminar, Cambridge, MA, September 2024, discussant for Prof. Evren Balta.
13. University College London, Workshop on Social Science Approaches to Law and Courts, London, July 2024, invited presenter.
14. Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Washington, DC, June 2024, invited participant.
15. Institute for Humane Studies Summer Graduate Conference, virtual, May 2024, panelist.
16. Harvard College, “Power and Identity in the Middle East,” Prof. Melani Cammett, March 2024, guest lecturer.
17. Harvard University, Center for European Studies, Cambridge, MA, January 2024, panelist and panel organizer.
18. Oxford University, St. Antony’s College, MENA Politics Seminar, Oxford, UK, November 2023, invited lecture.
19. Turkish Fulbright Commission, Ankara, Turkey, November 2023, panelist.
20. Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey, November 2023, invited speaker.
21. APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, September 2023, panelist.
22. London School of Economics, Workshop on the Political Economy of Turkey, London, June 2023, invited presenter.
23. Harvard University, Middle East Seminar, virtual, November 2021, discussant for Prof. Kristin Fabbe.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. *Teaching Fellow*, “Law and Inequality” (Gov 1114), Professor Alisha Holland, Harvard Department of Government, Spring 2023. *Evaluations*: 5.0/5.0.
2. *Advisor*, Honors Thesis in Government, 2022–23. Honors Thesis in Social Studies, 2023–24. Honors Thesis in Government, 2024–25.
 - * *Cheryl B. Welch Thesis Adviser Award Nominee*, 2023
3. *Mentor*, Honors Thesis in Social Studies, 2024–25. Honors Thesis in Government, 2025–26.

SERVICE

1. Graduate Student Fellow, Belonging and Inclusion in Government (BIG) Committee, Harvard University, 2024–25.
2. Wellness Chair, Graduate Student Association, Harvard University, 2022–26.
3. Graduate Student Mentor, PS Prep (program to mentor Ph.D. applicants), Harvard University, 2021–24.
4. Graduate Student Coordinator, Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Harvard University, 2021–22.
5. Graduate Student Coordinator, Comparative Politics Research Workshop, Harvard University, 2021–22.

MEDIA QUOTATIONS

1. *The New York Times*: Pranav Baskar, “3 Lessons From International Protests Amid Unrest in L.A.,” June 10, 2025.
2. *The New York Times*: Mattathias Schwartz, Abdi Latif Dahir, and Amanda Taub, “What to Know About the Deportees the U.S. Is Trying to Send to South Sudan,” May 26, 2025.
3. *The New York Times*: Amanda Taub, “How to Understand Trump’s Latest Deportation Tactics,” May 23, 2025.
4. *The New York Times*: Amanda Taub, “‘This Is Worse’: Trump’s Judicial Defiance Veers Beyond the Autocrat Playbook,” March 20, 2025.

5. *The New York Times*: Thomas B. Edsall, “We See the Left. We See the Right. Can Anyone See the ‘Exhausted Majority’?” March 24, 2021.

SKILLS

- *Languages*: English (native), Turkish (near-native), Spanish (advanced)
- *Programming*: LATEX, Qualtrics, R