

Andrew O'Donohue

aodonohue@g.harvard.edu

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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

Cambridge, MA

2020 – 2026 (Expected)

A.M., Department of Government

2020 – 2022

- My dissertation and book project, *Law versus Democracy*, studies why legal institutions defend or undermine democracy by collecting original data in Turkey, Israel, Brazil, and the United States.
- *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship* – one of 8 political science Ph.D. students nationwide awarded \$138,000 grant for scholars who will “advance knowledge” and “benefit society.”
- *Fields*: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods, Political Regimes.

BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY

Istanbul, Turkey

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

2021

Summer coursework in “Intensive Lower Intermediate Turkish.”

2017

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA

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

2014 – 2018

Secondary in Modern Middle Eastern Studies; Certificate in Latin American Studies.

RESEARCH

Book

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

- Cited 475+ 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*.

Working Papers

1. “Law versus Democracy: Minoritarian Courts, Audience Costs, and Democratic Backsliding in Turkey.”
 - * Winner, *Best Paper Award, APSA European Politics & Society Section, 2023*
 - * Winner, *Harvard University Department of Government Best Graduate Poster Award, 2024 (\$300)*
2. “The Court of Public Opinion: The Limited Effects of Elite Rhetoric about Trump’s Prosecution” (with Daniel B. Markovits). *Revise & Resubmit at Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Nexus*.
3. “How Populist Incumbents Survive Economic Crises: Theory and Evidence from Turkey” (with Ahmet Akbıyık). Under Review at *Comparative Political Studies*.
4. “Accountability by Law or by Elites? Experimental Evidence from Brazil’s Conviction of Jair Bolsonaro” (with Fernando Bizzarro and Jean Vilbert).

Selected Public Writing & Research

1. “The U.S. Judicial Crisis Is Uniquely Dangerous.” *Foreign Policy*. March 2025.
2. “Why Türkiye Is at a Tipping Point Between Democracy and Authoritarianism.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. March 2025.
3. “How to Prevent Trump from Defying the Courts.” *The Atlantic*. February 2025.
4. “Is Israel Losing Its Last Democratic Safeguard?” (with O. Haklai). *Journal of Democracy*. November 2024.
5. “There’s a Better Way for Mexico to Elect Its Judges” (with M. Ballesteros). *Foreign Policy*. September 2024.
6. “Trump’s Classified Documents Case Moves Public Opinion. Now Voters Are Unlikely to Hear It.” *Lawfare*. July 2024.
7. “Why Party Bans Often Don’t Work: How an Attempt to Ban Turkey’s AKP Backfired” (with C. Tecimer). *Verfassungsblog*. April 2024.
8. “If Turkey’s Strongman Wins, Don’t Give Up on Turkish Democracy” (with C. Tecimer). *The Hill*. May 2023.
9. “The Social Constitution: Embedding Social Rights Through Legal Mobilization.” *Democratization*. 2023.
10. “A Turkish Court Sentenced Erdogan’s Rival to Prison. That Could Backfire” (with C. Tecimer). *Washington Post*. December 2022.
11. “The Five Challenges to Erdoğan’s Executive Presidential Rule after the Coronavirus” (with E.F. Keyman). The German Marshall Fund of the United States. September 2020.

12. “Political Polarization in South and Southeast Asia: Old Divisions, New Dangers” (co-edited with T. Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2020.
13. “Turkey Issued New Rules for Social Media. That May Mean That Media Censorship Wasn’t Working” (with M. Hoffman and A. Makovsky). *Washington Post*. July 2020.
14. “Turkey’s Changing Media Landscape” (with M. Hoffman and A. Makovsky). Center for American Progress. 2020.
15. “Polarization and the Pandemic” (co-edited with T. Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 2020.
16. “How to Understand the Global Spread of Political Polarization” (with T. Carothers). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. October 2019.
17. “How Americans Were Driven to Extremes” (with T. Carothers). *Foreign Affairs*. September 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

External

1. *U.S. National Science Foundation*, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2022–25 (\$138,000)
2. *Institute for Humane Studies*, Conference Presentation Grant, 2025 (\$2,042)
3. *Institute for Humane Studies*, Publication Accelerator Grants, 2023–24 (\$15,000)
4. *Institute for Humane Studies*, University Residency Grant, 2024 (\$4,264)
5. *American Research Institute in Turkey*, Summer Fellowship for Intensive Advanced Turkish at Boğaziçi University, 2021 (\$4,240) – funding and tuition for 120 hours of intensive advanced Turkish courses.
6. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, James C. Gaither Junior Fellow, 2018-19 – awarded nationally competitive fellowship to conduct research with senior vice president for studies at Carnegie Endowment.

Internal (Harvard University)

1. *Center for European Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, \$42,050 (Declined, 2025–26)
2. *Harvard Horizons Scholar* – one of 8 Ph.D. candidates selected from across Harvard for inter-disciplinary Society of Horizons Scholars to present research at Sanders Theater, \$1,000 (2024–25)
3. *Weatherhead Graduate Student Associate* (2022–23, 2024–25)
4. *Business and Government Research Cluster Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$2,000 (2025)
5. *Identity Politics Research Cluster Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$3,000 (2024)
6. *Graduate Student Associate Research Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$2,905 (2024)
7. *Harvard Law School*, Program on Negotiation Graduate Student Grant, \$1,000 (2024)
8. *Center for American Political Studies*, Research Seed Grant, \$1,000 (2024)
9. *Institute for Quantitative Social Science*, Conference Presentation Grant, \$650 (2024)
10. *Wellbeing Project Fund*, Harvard University Provost for Student Affairs, \$1,692 (2024)
11. *Equity and Inclusion Express Grant*, Harvard Culture Lab, \$500 (2024)
12. *Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship*, Center for European Studies, \$2,583 (2023–24)
13. *Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship*, Harvard Committee on General Scholarships, \$32,000 (declined)
14. *Institute for Quantitative Social Science*, Conference Presentation Grant, \$800 (2023)
15. *Graduate Student Associate Research Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$2,510 (2022)
16. *Pre-Dissertation Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$3,500 (2022) – funding for summer fieldwork in Turkey to study when judiciaries constrain illiberal executives.
17. *Pre-Dissertation Grant*, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, \$3,000 (2021) – funding used to hire research assistant and conduct interviews on subnational resistance to authoritarianism in Turkey.
18. *Carl J. Friedrich Fellowship*, Harvard University, Department of Government (2020)
19. *Phi Beta Kappa Junior 24* (2017) – selected as one of top 24 students from Harvard College class of 1,600.
20. *Patricia King Research Fellow* (2017) – thesis research on civil-military relations and democratic breakdown in Turkey selected by Phi Beta Kappa for “potential to demonstrate academic excellence.”
21. *Krupp Foundation Fellow* (2017) – awarded thesis research funding from Harvard’s Center for European Studies.

INVITED TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, & GUEST LECTURES

1. Harvard University, Center for European Studies and Weatherhead Center, “Turkey, Israel, and the Trump Effect on Global Democracy,” April 2025, panelist and panel organizer.
2. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2025, panelist.
3. University of Texas at Austin, Emerging Scholars Conference in Public Law, Austin, TX, March 2025, invited presenter.

4. 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.
5. Middle East Studies Association, virtual, November 2024, panelist.
6. Boston University, Research in Comparative Politics Workshop, September 2024, invited presenter.
7. American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, September 2024, panelist.
8. Harvard University, Middle East Seminar, Cambridge, MA, September 2024, discussant for Prof. Evren Balta.
9. University College London, Workshop on Social Science Approaches to Law and Courts, London, July 2024, invited presenter.
10. Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Washington, DC, June 2024, invited participant.
11. Institute for Humane Studies Summer Graduate Conference, virtual, May 2024, panelist.
12. Harvard College, “Power and Identity in the Middle East,” Prof. Melani Cammett, March 2024, guest lecturer.
13. Harvard University, Center for European Studies, Cambridge, MA, January 2024, panelist and panel organizer.
14. Oxford University, St. Antony’s College, MENA Politics Seminar, Oxford, UK, November 2023, invited lecture.
15. Turkish Fulbright Commission, Ankara, Turkey, November 2023, panelist.
16. Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey, November 2023, invited speaker.
17. APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, September 2023, panelist.
18. London School of Economics, Workshop on the Political Economy of Turkey, London, June 2023, invited presenter.
19. 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. Cheryl B. Welch Thesis Adviser Award Nominee. Honors Thesis in Social Studies, 2023–24. Honors Thesis in Government, 2024–25.

SKILLS

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