

Burak Ozturan

PhD Student in Network Science

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

✉ +1 617 309 0200

✉ azturran.b@northeastern.edu

✉ burakozturan.com

Education

- 2021 – 2026 **PhD in Network Science**, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
(Expected)
 - Advisor: Prof. David Lazer
 - Dissertation: Understanding Online Information Ecosystem: The Myths and Realities
- Summer 2025 **PhD Research Intern**, Microsoft Research NYC
 - Supervisor: Dr. David Rothschild
 - Conducted a large-scale behavioral analysis of political news exposure on mobile devices, revealing that most U.S. adults encounter political content indirectly through social media and messaging apps rather than through direct visits to news outlets.
- 2018 – 2021 **M.Sc. in Social and Economic Data Science**, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany
 - GPA: 4.0/4.0
 - Coursework: Machine Learning, Social Network Analysis, Statistical Inference
- 2013 – 2018 **B.A. in Economics**, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey
 - Dean's Honors List

Publications

- 2025 **Declining Information Quality Under New Platform Governance**
 - Özturan, B., Quintana-Mathé, A., Grinberg, N., Ognyanova, K., & Lazer, D. (2025). Declining information quality under new platform governance. Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review. <https://doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-176>
- Under Review **Searching for Elected Officials: Google’s Prioritization of Political Information**
 - Coauthored: 20 million Google Search result pages for all U.S. House members to examine information exposure during the 2020 election period. Found that search results were dominated by a few mainstream sources, prioritized official and reliable sites, and showed little variation by partisanship or location.

Ongoing Projects

- Summer 2025 **The Shifting Landscape of Political News Consumption in the Mobile Era- Microsoft Research Internship Project**
 - Conducted a large-scale behavioral analysis of political news exposure on mobile-phone, revealing that most U.S. adults now encounter political content indirectly through social media and messaging apps rather than traditional news outlets.
- Fall 2025 **Trusting the Machine: Political Priors and Perceived Credibility of AI Information Sources**
 - Investigates how individuals' political beliefs shape their trust in information generated by AI systems using survey experiments.
- Dissertation **Concentration of Online Information Ecosystem**
Chapter 1
 - Analyzes large-scale social media data to measure the concentration of information across users and sources, showing that a small number of outlets and highly active users dominate online information ecosystem, revealing structural inequalities in who gets seen and heard in digital spaces.
- Dissertation **Online Segregation Across Demographic Groups**
Chapter 2
 - Uses large-scale social media data matched to U.S. voter records to measure demographic segregation in information exposure. Shows that age- and gender-based divisions are equally strong as ideology.
- Fall 2021 **COVID-19 Vaccine Networks on Turkish Twittersphere**
 - Investigated vaccine misinformation in Türkiye by applying social network analysis to uncover influential actors and misinformation spreaders.
- Fall 2020 **Social and Bot Networks of Turkish MPs on Twitter**
 - Examined Turkish MPs' Twitter networks to identify bots and assess their influence on political communication

Presentations

- 2025 **APSA 2025**

- 2025 **IC2S2 2025**
Presented "*Declining Information Quality Under New Platform Governance*"
- 2024 **Stanford Trust and Safety Conference**
Presented "*The Musk Effect: Changes in Misinformation and Partisan Composition*"
- 2024 **IC2S2 2024**
Presented "*Segregation in Online Information Sharing*"
- 2024 **APSA 2024**
Presented "*Segregation in Online Networks*"
- 2024 **PolComm APSA 2024 Pre-Conference**
Presented "*Segregation in Online Networks*"
- 2023 **APSA 2023**
Presented "*The Musk Effect: Misinformation and Partisan Dynamics*"
- 2022 **Political Networks Conference**
Presented "*Networks on Turkish Twitter During the Pandemic*"
- 2022 **79th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference**
Presented "*COVID-19 Infodemics in Turkish Twittersphere*"
- 2021 **Netsci 2021**
Presented "*Analysis of Turkish Members of Parliament Network on Twitter*"
- 2019 **Zurich Text as Data**
Participant

Grants and Awards

- 2025 Institute for Humane Studies Travel Award (\$1,200)
- 2025 NULab Worskhop Grant for BLISS-Boston(\$500)
- 2024 NULab Research Grant for Studying Trust and Bias in AI-Human Interaction (\$1,000)
- 2020 – 2021 DAAD Scholarship for Double Degree at Charles University (\$18,000)
- 2019 – 2020 Grant for Talented International Students, University of Konstanz (\$4,500)
- 2018 Dean's Honor List, Bogazici University
- 2013 – 2018 Ministry of Youth and Sports Undergraduate Scholarship (\$30,000)
 - Top 100 out of 2 million in the national university placement examination

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2019/20 **Empirical Research Methods**, *University of Konstanz*, Prof. Dr. Susumu Shikano
Led tutorials supporting the course on empirical research methods, covering statistical analysis and research design.
- Spring 2019 **Statistics**, *University of Konstanz*, Prof. Dr. Susumu Shikano
& 2020 Conducted weekly tutorials in introductory econometrics, addressing student questions and reinforcing course material.
- October 2019 **Python Block Course**, *University of Konstanz*, Prof. Dr. Karsten Donnay
Taught a Python programming block course focused on applications in the social sciences.

Extracurricular

- 2025 Co-Organizer of Boston LLMs Initiative for Social Sciences (BLISS)
- Summer 2024 Summer School in Mediterranean Summer School of Complexity
- Summer 2020 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science

Skills

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| Programming Languages | Python, R, SQL |
| Data Analysis Tools | Gephi, PySpark, AWS, Relational Databases |
| Statistical Methods | Machine Learning, Social Network Analysis, Statistical Inference |

Empirical Research Advanced skills in manipulating and analyzing complex data, conducting computational experiments, and deriving insights.

Soft Skills Project Management, Technical Communication, Interdisciplinary Collaboration