

# Muhammet Özkaraca

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill**, NC, United States  
*Ph.D. in Political Science*

Aug 2024 –

**Central European University**, Vienna, Austria

Sep 2020 – Jun 2021

*Master of Political Science*

- Graduated with High Honor (GPA: 3.73/4.00)
- Thesis: "Secularism as an Antidote to Religious Terrorism: The Case of Turkey" (Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Matthijs Bogaards)
- Selected Coursework: Research Design and Techniques, Programming in R, Comparative Case Study Research, Process Tracing, Terrorism: A Comparative Politics Perspective, Social Network Analysis-I, Nationalism Populism and Ethnic Conflict Management in Eastern Europe

**Bilkent University**, Ankara, Türkiye

Sep 2015 – Jun 2020

*Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

- Graduated with High Honor (GPA: 3.86/4.00)
- Minor in Political Science
- Senior Project: Turkish Foreign Aid Toward Africa, End or Mean?
- Selected Coursework: Statistics for Social Sciences, Research Methods in International Relations, Introduction to Data Analysis for Social Sciences, International Security, International Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Nuclear Proliferation and International Politics
- Exchange Semester at Sciences Po-Paris

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

**University of Oslo & PRIO International Summer School**, Oslo, Norway

Jun 2021 – Aug 2021

- Course taken; Peace Research

**ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques**, Budapest, Hungary

Jul 2019 – Aug 2019

- Courses taken; R Basics, Qualitative Data Analysis, Longitudinal Research Designs-Qualitative Approaches, Math Refresher

## EXPERIENCE

**International Centre for Migration Policy Development**, Ankara, Türkiye

Jul 2022 – Jun 2024

*Project Assistant*

- Worked on the EU-funded 'Drafting of a National Integrated Border Management (IBM) Strategy and Updating of the National Action Plan to Implement Türkiye's IBM Strategy (EU4IBMTR)' project. (Budget: €2 Million)
- Seconded to the Ministry of Interior to collaborate with senior officials in crafting key documents in preparation for the country-level integrated border management strategy and action plan.
- Compiled, analyzed, and presented data on migration management and border security.
- Assisted in planning, coordinating, and implementing capacity-building workshops and thematic focus group meetings, while maintaining effective and extensive liaison with competent ministries and project stakeholders.

**Istanbul Policy Center**, Istanbul, Türkiye

Nov 2021 – Feb 2022

*Research Assistant*

- Gathered, analyzed, and visualized social, economic, and demographic data on Turkey. (Some of the work is accessible [on this website](#).)
- Conducted web scraping in R to extract text from selected local newspapers' online platforms and analyzed them using quantitative text analysis techniques.
- Prepared daily summaries of national and international press articles.

**Bilkent University**, Ankara, Türkiye

Jun 2019 – Sep 2020

*Research Assistant to Prof. Berk Esen*

- Participated in three separate research projects focusing on Turkish politics and foreign policy.
- Collected, coded, and analyzed background information on 4,500 candidates in the 2019 Turkish Municipal Elections and 70 political elites from the Justice and Development Party (AKP). This involved using MS Excel, open-source data, and hand-coding for a social network analysis of the Turkish electoral system.
- Conducted academic research and compiled documents listing and summarizing previous articles on Turkish foreign aid. This was part of a study investigating the distribution patterns of this assistance.

	<b>Center for Foreign Policy and Peace Research, Ankara, Türkiye</b> <b>Part-time Undergraduate Research Student</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected syllabi for 50 graduate-level International Relations (IR) Theory courses taught at universities across the Middle East and Mediterranean region for the Global IR project. The results of this project were presented at the "4th All Azimuth Workshop on Dialogue in Core-Periphery IR". (Advisor: Prof. Ersel Aydınli)</li> <li>Translated articles on Political Methodology from English to Turkish for publication in the All Azimuth journal. Additionally, I was involved in editing and drafting written materials for the center.</li> </ul>	Feb 2019 – May 2019
	<b>Issam Fares Institute, Beirut, Lebanon</b> <b>Summer Research Assistant in Energy Policy and Security Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted academic research and compiled documents listing and summarizing prior works on energy security and nuclear energy in Turkey. This was in preparation for a study examining the implications of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant on the Turkish energy market. (Advisor: Dr. Ali Ahmad)</li> <li>As a member of the organizing team for the "International Panel on Exiting Violence," sponsored by the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and held in Beirut, I was responsible for managing the transportation and accommodations of the participants.</li> </ul>	Jun 2018 – Aug 2018
<b>AWARDS &amp; SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEU Scholarship for Master's Studies, Central European University Awarded for academic excellence. Sep 2020 – Jun 2021</li> <li>First Prize in Transdisciplinary Senior Project Competition, Bilkent University Awarded based on the BA honors thesis: 'Turkish Foreign Aid Toward Africa: End or Mean?' Dec 2019</li> <li>Romanian Embassy Essay Contest, First Prize, Bilkent University Awarded for the best essay written on the Turkish-Romanian relations among undergraduate students in Bilkent University. May 2019</li> <li>Erasmus+ Student Mobility Grant Awarded to support the Erasmus Exchange program at Sciences Po, Paris. Sep 2018 – Dec 2018</li> <li>Summer Internship Grant, Crossing Paths Awarded to support summer internship at the Issam Fares Institute in Beirut, Lebanon. Jun 2018 – Aug 2018</li> <li>Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship Awarded for ranking in the top 0.001 percent among 1.5 million students in the Turkish university entrance exam. Sep 2015 – Jun 2020</li> </ul>	
<b>MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>Computational Social Science Lab, Boğaziçi University</b> <b>Conflict and Security Research Group, Central European University</b>	Apr 2020 – Feb 2022 Oct 2020 – Jul 2021
<b>STUDENT CLUB ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>GazeteBilkent, Ankara, Türkiye</b> <b>Columnist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrote columns on international affairs and Turkish politics in Turkish.</li> <li>Conducted interviews with Turkish and international scholars.</li> </ul> <b>International Relations and European Union Society, Ankara, Türkiye</b> <b>Member of Executive Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized conferences and round table activities with scholars, journalists, and diplomats to raise awareness of specific political issues, such as immigrants' problems, Turkey-EU relations, and Turkey-US relations.</li> </ul>	Sep 2017 – May 2019 Sep 2017 – May 2018
<b>VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>Bilkent Social Awareness Projects, Ankara, Türkiye</b> <b>Active Volunteer in Sun Rises from Village Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisted in the establishment of 4 libraries in 4 separate Turkish village schools as part of the Bilkent Social Awareness Projects.</li> <li>Was a member of the fundraising team charged with the responsibility of gathering funds to cover the price of necessary construction supplies and education materials to build libraries in rural schools.</li> </ul>	Sep 2016 – May 2018
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)</li> </ul>	
<b>COMPUTER SKILLS</b>	R/R Studio/R Markdown, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word), NVivo	
<b>CERTIFICATES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DataCamp courses on <a href="#">Importing and Cleaning Data with R Track</a>   <a href="#">Data Visualization with R Track</a></li> <li>Coursera courses on <a href="#">Linear Regression and Modeling</a>   <a href="#">Regression Models</a></li> </ul>	