Muhammet Ozkaraca

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science 102 Emerson Drive CB #3265 UNC-Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC 27599	Email: Website:	ozkaraca@unc.edu muhammetozkaraca.github.io

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Armed Conflicts | Conflict Resolution | Non-State Violent Groups | Peace Studies | Political Violence | Terrorism Studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science — August 2024 - Present
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

M.A., Political Science — May 2021
Central European University
Thesis: Secularism as an Antidote to Religious Terrorism: The Case of Turkey

B.A., International Relations — June 2020
Bilkent University

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

University of Oslo & PRIO International Summer School, Oslo, Norway — 2019
– Course taken: Peace Research

ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Budapest, Hungary — 2019
– Courses taken: R Basics, Qualitative Data Analysis, Longitudinal Research Designs-Qualitative Approaches, Math Refresher

Erasmus-Exchange Student at Sciences-Po, Paris, France — 2018

EXPERIENCE

Project Assistant — July 2022 - Aug 2024
International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Ankara, Türkiye
– 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.

Research Assistant — Dec. 2021 - Feb. 2022
İstanbul Policy Center, İstanbul, Türkiye
– Gathered, analyzed, and visualized social, economic, and demographic data on Turkey. Some parts of the work accessible online here.
– 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.

Research Assistant — June 2019 - Sept. 2020
Research Assistant to Prof. Berk Esen, Ankara, Türkiye
– 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 literature review on Turkish foreign aid. This was part of a different study investigating the distribution patterns of the assistance.

Intern   Feb. 2019 - May 2019

Center for Foreign Policy and Peace Research, Ankara, Türkiye

– 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 Aydınlı)
– Edited and translated articles on political methodology from English to Turkish for publication in the All Azimuth journal. Additionally, I involved in drafting written materials for the center.

Summer Intern   June 2018 - Aug. 2018

Issam Fares Institute, Beirut, Lebanon

– 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)
– 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, managed the transportation and accommodations of the participants.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS		
	Departmental Assistantship Award, UNC-Chapel Hill	2024
	International Relations Research Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill	2024
	CEU Scholarship for Master's Studies, Central European University	2020-2021
	Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship, Bilkent University	2015-2020
	First Prize in Transdisciplinary Senior Project Competition, Bilkent University	2019
	Romanian Embassy Essay Contest, First Prize, Bilkent University	2019
	Erasmus+ Student Mobility Grant	2018
	Summer Internship Grant, Crossing Paths	2018

TECHNICAL SKILLS   R/R Studio/R Markdown, LaTeX, MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word), NVivo

LANGUAGES   Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)