

Murat Abus, Ph.D. Candidate




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Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Syracuse University	<i>Expected 2026</i>
Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics	
M.A. in Political Science, Arkansas State University	<i>2019–2021</i>
B.A. in Political Science, Bogazici University	<i>1994–1998</i>

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- [4] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. 2025. “Local News, Partisanship, and Perceptions About Election Administration.” **Electoral Studies** 97: 102970.  doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2025.102970.
- [3] Abus, Murat. 2025. “The Gendered Politics of Candidate Selection: An Analysis of Left-Right Preferences in Parliamentary Democracies.” **Political Research Quarterly** 78(3): 1060-1073.  doi:10.1177/10659129251340227.
- [2] Abus, Murat. 2024. “A Theory of Gender’s Effect on Vote Shift with a Test Based on Turkish Elections.” **Mediterranean Politics** 29(5): 729-754.  doi:10.1080/13629395.2023.2194154.
- [1] Abus, Murat. 2004. “Democratization in the Balkans, 1990-2002.” **Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations** 2(3&4): 86-105.

Interests

Research

Political Behavior | Election Science | Political Communication | Public Opinion | Public Administration

Teaching

Data Science | Data Visualization | Spatial Econometrics | Political Behavior | Election Science | American Government | State and Local Politics | Authoritarianism | Populism

Course Offerings (Selected)

Political Behavior | American Public Opinion | Election Science - Cases & Applied Analysis | State and Local Politics | Politics of Authoritarianism & Populism

Introduction to Social Science Research Methods | Applied Data Analysis for Social Science | Spatial Econometrics - Theory, Tools, and Applications

Additional Training

“From Text to Insights: Building and Analyzing Custom Political Event Data”	
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods	2025
Research Methods Training, Texas A&M University	2021–2023
Professional Development Certificate (Research Methods), KiND/SPSA	2023-2026
Writing Your Own Stata Commands (NetCourse 251), Stata	2025
Introduction to Panel Data (NetCourse 471), Stata	2025
Introduction to Survival Analysis Using Stata (NetCourse 631), Stata	2025
Introduction to Stata Programming (NetCourse 151), Stata	2025
Russian Language Certification, Privet Language School, Kaliningrad, Russia	2013-2014

Teaching & Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Syracuse University	2024→
Institute for Democracy, Journalism, and Citizenship (Washington, D.C.)	
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Syracuse University	2023–2024
PSC 124 Introduction to International Relations	Spring 2004
PSC 124 Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2023
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University	2021–2023
POLS 200 Foundations of Political Science	Spring 2003
POLS 209 Introduction to Political Science Research Methods	Fall 2022
POLS 200 Foundations of Political Science	Spring 2022
POLS 200 Foundations of Political Science	Fall 2021
Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Arkansas State University	2019-2021
POSC 2103 Intro to US Government	Spring 2020
POSC 3003 Intro to Political Analysis	Fall 2020
Lecturer, Istanbul Aydin University	Fall 2004
Department of Applied English-Turkish Translation	
Courses taught: Comparative Structure I, Societies and Culture, English classes of several departments	
Research Assistant, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation	February 1997
Took part in the initial coding of the thousands of surveys from the 3 rd World Values Survey Turkey section administered in 1996.	

Works in Progress

“Subnational Unit Proliferation and Electoral Dynamics” (with Sabri Ciftci) (under review)	
“Social Context, Local News, and Voter Confidence” (with Johanna Dunaway)	
“Local News and Political Competition” (with Johanna Dunaway)	
“Consequences of Administrative Unit Proliferation”	
“Local News, Incumbency Effects, and Electoral Fortunes” (with Johanna Dunaway and Paru Shah)	

“Political Economy of Demographic Aging” (with Margarita Estévez-Abe)

“Spatial Analysis of Local News Decline” (with Johanna Dunaway)

“Local Media Access and Voter Confidence” (with Sakshi Bhalla)

“Local News and the Nationalization of Politics, 2004–2024” (with Johanna Dunaway, Joshua Darr, and Matthew Hitt)

Conference Presentations


- [40] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. “Social Context, Unemployment, and Local News: A New Look at Voter Confidence.” 9th Election Science, Reform, and Administration Conference. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL. June 2025.
- [39] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. “Uncontested Elections and Declining Local News.” 3rd Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference. Stony Brook University. Stony Brook, NY. May 2025.
- [38] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. “Local News Effects on Down-Ballot Electoral Competition.” Mini Conference on Information and Messages in Sociopolitical Life. University of Houston. Houston, TX. May 2025.
- [37] Abus, Murat, Johanna Dunaway, and Paru Shah. “Local News and Minority and Women Candidate Emergence.” Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Politics Workshop. Georgetown University. Washington, D.C. May 2025.
- [36] Abus, Murat, and Sabri Ciftci. “Subnational Unit Proliferation and Electoral Dynamics: The Case of Turkey.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [35] Abus, Murat, Johanna Dunaway, and Paru Shah. “Local News Declines, Incumbency Effects and the Electoral Fortunes of Women and Candidates of Color.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [34] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. “Local News and the Down-Ballot Incumbency Advantage.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [33] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. “Social Context, Unemployment, and Local News: A New Look at Voter Confidence.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [32] Abus, Murat, and Margarita Estévez-Abe. “Political Economy of Demographic Aging: New Pressures on Voter Turnout.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [31] Abus, Murat. “Electoral Consequences of Administrative Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey.” Midwest Political Science Association 82nd Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.

- [30] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. "Spatial Analysis of News Deserts: The Distribution of U.S. Local Newspapers." Local Journalism Researchers Workshop. Duke University & University of North Carolina. Durham, NC. March 2025.
- [29] Abus, Murat, and Sabri Ciftci. "Government Type, Electoral Dynamics, and Subnational Unit Proliferation in Turkey." PSA Turkish Politics Online Workshop. February 2025.
- [28] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. "Local Media and Voter Confidence." Southern Political Science Association 96th Annual Meeting. San Juan, Puerto Rico. January 2025.
- [27] Abus, Murat, and Johanna Dunaway. "Local News and the Down-Ballot Incumbency Advantage." American Political Science Association 120th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. September 2024.
- [26] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Media Access and Perceptions of Election Administration." Midwest Political Science Association 81st Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [25] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Inequality, Local Media, and Voter Confidence." Midwest Political Science Association 81st Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [24] Abus, Murat, and Sarah A. Fulton. "Variety of Women Candidates in Parliamentary Democracies." Midwest Political Science Association 81st Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [23] Abus, Murat. "Subnational Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey." Midwest Political Science Association 81st Annual Conference. Chicago. IL. April 2024.
- [22] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Local Media Access and Perceptions of Election Integrity." Local News Researchers Workshop. Duke University & University of North Carolina. Durham, NC. March 2024.
- [21] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Media, Partisanship, and Election Integrity." 2nd Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL. March 2024.
- [20] Abus, Murat, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Media Access and Perceptions of Election Administration." Southern Political Science Association 95th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.
- [19] Abus, Murat, and Sarah A. Fulton. "Variety of Women Candidates in Parliamentary Democracies." Southern Political Science Association 95th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.
- [18] Abus, Murat. "Partisanship and Election Administration." Southern Political Science Association 95th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.
- [17] Abus, Murat. "Inequality and Voter Confidence in American Elections." Southern Political Science Association 95th Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.

- [16] Abus, Murat. "Reforming and Backsliding: A Comparative Analysis of Administrative Reforms in Hungary and Turkey." Midwest Political Science Association 80th Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2023.
- [15] Abus, Murat. "Reforming and Backsliding: A Comparative Analysis of Administrative Reforms in Hungary and Turkey." Texas Comparative Politics Circle 5th Annual Conference. Poster Presentation. Texas Tech University. January 2023.
- [14] Abus, Murat. "Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms in Turkey (1985–2018)." Southern Political Science Association 94th Annual Conference. St. Pete, FL. January 2023.
- [13] Abus, Murat. "Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms." 5th Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science. Poster Presentation. Rice University. May 2022.
- [12] Abus, Murat. "Democracy at the Intersection of Religious Cleavage and Populism." Midwest Political Science Association 79th Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. April 2022.
- [11] Abus, Murat. "Ideology and Gender Role Incongruity: Resilience and Rise of Parties under Authoritarianism." Texas Comparative Politics Circle 4th Annual Conference: European Politics in Comparative Perspective. Poster Presentation. University of Texas at Austin. February 2022.
- [10] Abus, Murat. "Ideology and Gender Role Incongruity: The Rise of IYI Party in Perspective." Southern Political Science Association 93rd Annual Conference. San Antonio, TX. January 2022.
- [9] Abus, Murat. "Clientelism and Structured Voting: Evidence from Turkey." Southwestern Social Science Association Centennial Meeting. Virtual Presentation. April 2021.
- [8] Abus, Murat, and Cameron Wimpy. "Are We There Yet? Political Participation in Transitional Democracies." Midwest Political Science Association 78th Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. April 2021.
- [7] Abus, Murat. "Do Elections Create or Further Path Dependencies?" Midwest Political Science Association 78th Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. April 2021.
- [6] Abus, Murat. "Election Administration and UOCAVA Voting." Arkansas Political Science Association 48th Annual Meeting. Virtual Presentation. February 2021.
Best Graduate Paper Award
- [5] Abus, Murat. "Clientelism and Structured Voting: Evidence from Turkey." Southern Political Science Association 92nd Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. January 2021.
- [4] Abus, Murat. "Does Religion Conquer All? An Empirical Analysis of Religion and Political Participation in Turkey." 26th World Congress of Political Science. Lisbon, Portugal. (2020 congress cancelled due to COVID-19).
- [3] Abus, Murat. "Reflections in the Mirror: Authoritarian Values and Political Identities in Turkey." Arkansas Political Science Association 47th Annual Meeting. Arkadelphia, AR. March 2020.
Best Graduate Paper Award

- [2] Abus, Murat. "A Model of Voter Turnout in Bulgaria and Romania." 2nd Graduate Conference of Turkish Political Science Association. Istanbul, Turkey. October 2004.
- [1] Abus, Murat. "Democratization in the Balkans, 1990-2002." 1st Graduate Conference of Turkish Political Science Association. Istanbul, Turkey. October 2003.

Other Papers

"Clientelism and Structured Voting: Empirical Evidence from Turkey."  doi:10.2139/ssrn.4137781.

Grants & Awards

APSA Travel Award	August 2024
APSA Organized Section on Political Communication	
Research Assistant Fellowship for AY 2024–2025	May 2024
Political Science Department, Syracuse University	
Graduate Student Research and Presentation Travel Award	February 2023
Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies	
Outstanding Graduate Student Award	April 2021
Arkansas State University Political Science Department	
Exemplary Graduate Service Scholarship	March 2021
Arkansas State University Graduate Student Council	
Best Graduate Paper Award	August 2020, August 2021
Arkansas Political Science Association	

Service

Reviewer

Political Research Quarterly, Political Communication, Mediterranean Politics, Electronic News

Conferences

Panel Chair, Southern Political Science Association 96th Annual Conference, Election Science CwC, Panel on Voter Experience.

Panel Chair, Midwest Political Science Association 79th & 81st Annual Conference, Lightning Talk Panel on Public Opinion (Comparative Politics) & Undergraduate Panel on American Politics.

Panel Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association 79th Annual Conference, Undergraduate Panel on American Politics.

Panel Discussant, Arkansas Political Science Association 47th Annual Meeting, Comparative Politics Panel

University

Ph.D. Class Representative at the Graduate and Professional Student Government 2022-2023

Technical Skills

Stata, , L^AT_EX, GeoDa, Python (beginner), Qualtrics

Languages

Turkish (native)

English (fluent)

Russian (upper-intermediate B2)

Professional Memberships

- Member, *American Political Science Association*
- Member, *Midwest Political Science Association*
- Member, *Southern Political Science Association*
- Member, *The Society for Political Methodology*

Public Service

Media Coverage & Appearances

“World Have Your Say” programme participant, broadcast live from Istanbul, *BBC Worldwide*, November 2006.

Contingency Operation Awards

Superior Performance Award *April 2010*
IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq

Certificate of Appreciation *March 2010*
705th MP Battalion, Camp Taji, TIFRC (Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center), Iraq

Work Achievement Award *March 2010*
IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq

Outstanding Achievement Award *11 September 2009*
IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq

Letter of Recommendation *May 2008*
556th Signal Company, Department of the Army, Camp Taji, Iraq

References

Johanna Dunaway

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Syracuse University
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last update: September 18, 2025