

# Murat Abus, Ph.D. Candidate




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## Education

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

## Selected Course Offerings

Introduction to Social Science Research Methods | Applied Data Analysis for Social Science | Spatial Econometrics - Theory, Tools, and Applications | Political Behavior | American Public Opinion | Election Science - Cases & Applied Analysis | State and Local Politics | Politics of Authoritarianism & Populism

## Additional Training

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

## Academic Experience

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

## Works in Progress

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These are listed in the order of progress made.

- [8] “Subnational Unit Proliferation and Electoral Dynamics” (with Sabri Ciftci) (under review)
- [7] “Social Context, Local News, and Voter Confidence” (with Johanna Dunaway)
- [6] “Local News and Political Competition” (with Johanna Dunaway)

- [5] “Consequences of Administrative Unit Proliferation”
- [4] “Local News, Incumbency Effects, and Electoral Fortunes” (with Johanna Dunaway & Paru Shah)
- [3] “Political Economy of Demographic Aging” (with Margarita Estévez-Abe)
- [2] “Spatial Analysis of Local News Decline” (with Johanna Dunaway)
- [1] “Local Media Access and Voter Confidence” (with Sakshi Bhalla)

## Conference Presentations

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- [40] **Abus, Murat**, and Johanna Dunaway. “Social Context, Unemployment, and Local News: A New Look at Voter Confidence.” 9<sup>th</sup> 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.” 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [34] **Abus, Murat**, and Johanna Dunaway. “Local News and the Down-Ballot Incumbency Advantage.” Midwest Political Science Association 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2025.
- [31] **Abus, Murat**. “Electoral Consequences of Administrative Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey.” Midwest Political Science Association 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 96<sup>th</sup> 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 120<sup>th</sup> 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 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [25] **Abus, Murat**, Kexin Bai, and Johanna Dunaway. "Inequality, Local Media, and Voter Confidence." Midwest Political Science Association 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [24] **Abus, Murat**, and Sarah A. Fulton. "Variety of Women Candidates in Parliamentary Democracies." Midwest Political Science Association 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. April 2024.
- [23] **Abus, Murat**. "Subnational Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey." Midwest Political Science Association 81<sup>st</sup> 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." 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.
- [18] **Abus, Murat**. "Partisanship and Election Administration." Southern Political Science Association 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. January 2024.
- [17] **Abus, Murat**. "Inequality and Voter Confidence in American Elections." Southern Political Science Association 95<sup>th</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. St. Pete, FL. January 2023.
- [13] Abus, Murat. "Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms." 5<sup>th</sup> 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 79<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 93<sup>rd</sup> 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 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. April 2021.
- [7] Abus, Murat. "Do Elections Create or Further Path Dependencies?" Midwest Political Science Association 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. April 2021.
- [6] Abus, Murat. "Election Administration and UOCAVA Voting." Arkansas Political Science Association 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Virtual Presentation. February 2021.  
**Best Graduate Paper Award**
- [5] Abus, Murat. "Clientelism and Structured Voting: Evidence from Turkey." Southern Political Science Association 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Virtual Presentation. January 2021.
- [4] Abus, Murat. "Does Religion Conquer All? An Empirical Analysis of Religion and Political Participation in Turkey." 26<sup>th</sup> 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 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Arkadelphia, AR. March 2020.  
**Best Graduate Paper Award**

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

## Other Papers

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

## Grants & Awards

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|---|--------------------------|
| [6] APSA Travel Award<br>APSA Organized Section on Political Communication  | August 2024              |
| [5] Research Assistant Fellowship for AY 2024–2025<br>Political Science Department, Syracuse University                         | May 2024                 |
| [4] Graduate Student Research and Presentation Travel Award<br>Texas A&M University Office of Graduate and Professional Studies | February 2023            |
| [3] Outstanding Graduate Student Award<br>Arkansas State University Political Science Department                                | April 2021               |
| [2] Exemplary Graduate Service Scholarship<br>Arkansas State University Graduate Student Council                                | March 2021               |
| [1] Best Graduate Paper Award<br>Arkansas Political Science Association   | August 2020, August 2021 |

## Service

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### Reviewer

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

### Conferences

**Panel Chair**, Southern Political Science Association 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Election Science CwC, Panel on Voter Experience.

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

**Panel Discussant**, Midwest Political Science Association 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Undergraduate Panel on American Politics.

**Panel Discussant**, Arkansas Political Science Association 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Comparative Politics Panel

## University

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

## Technical Skills

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Stata, , L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, GeoDa, Python (beginner)

## Languages

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Turkish (native)

English (fluent)

Russian (upper-intermediate B2)

## Professional Memberships

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

## Public Service

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### Media Coverage & Appearances

- [1] “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*  
705<sup>th</sup> 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*  
556<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, Department of the Army, Camp Taji, Iraq

## References

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**Johanna Dunaway**

Professor, Research Director  
Institute for Democracy, Journalism  
and Citizenship (Washington, D.C.)  
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**Cameron Wimpy**

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