

Murat Abus, Ph.D. Candidate




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Education

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|---|----------------------|
| 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**.  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

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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, 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

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|---|---------------|
| 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 & 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)


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

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| 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

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

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| Superior Performance Award IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq | <i>April 2010</i> |
| Certificate of Appreciation 705 th MP Battalion, Camp Taji, TIFRC (Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center), Iraq | <i>March 2010</i> |
| Work Achievement Award IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq | <i>March 2010</i> |
| Outstanding Achievement Award IAP Worldwide Services, Camp Taji, Iraq | <i>11 September 2009</i> |
| Letter of Recommendation 556 th Signal Company, Department of the Army, Camp Taji, Iraq | <i>May 2008</i> |

References

Johanna Dunaway

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Syracuse University
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