

Omer F. Yalcin

Pennsylvania State University
Department of Political Science
230 Pond Lab
University Park, PA 16802

omerfyalcin.com
oxy4@psu.edu

Education

	Pennsylvania State University
(exp. 2021)	Ph.D., in Political Science and Social Data Analytics <i>Committee:</i> Bruce Desmarais (Chair), Sona Golder, Joseph Wright, Sarah Rajtmajer <i>Title:</i> Measuring and Modeling the Dynamics of Elite Political Networks
2018	M.A., Political Science <i>Major Field:</i> Comparative Politics <i>Minor Field:</i> Methodology
	Humboldt University of Berlin
2016	M.A., Research Training Program, Social Sciences
	Bogazici University
2014	B.A., Political Science and Economics (Dual Degree)

Dissertation

Measuring and Modeling the Dynamics of Elite Political Networks

In this project, I broadly investigate how political elites form networks and the implications of these networks on the regime in question. In a theoretical paper, I show how individual actors respond to ideological and financial incentives when seeking allies. I also contribute to the empirical study of elite networks by making use of an unconventional graph database, Wikidata, that allows for the measurement of multiple layers of networks, dynamically, and across countries.

Research Interests

Political Elites, Social Media, Network Analysis

Publications

Sangyeon Kim, **Omer F. Yalcin**, Samuel Bestvater, Kevin Munger, Burt Monroe, and Bruce Desmarais. The Effects of an Informational Intervention on Attention to Anti-Vaccination Content on YouTube. In *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)* 2020.

Working Papers

Public Emotions Contextualized by Places: An Investigation of Geotagged Tweets on the Black Lives Matter Movement

Coauthored with Lulu Peng, Shipi Dhanorkar, and Guangqing Chi

A Network Theory of Coalition Formation

Part of my dissertation, this paper models the political coalition formation process as formation of an elite network, where individuals are free to choose their support ties given everyone's exogenously given power and ideology.

Buying Influence through Sovereign Wealth

This paper analyzes Sovereign Wealth Fund investment flows in comparison to other types of monetary flows, specifically FDI, to see whether political factors motivate SWF investments as opposed to economic gains.

Research Experience

Research Assistant

2019	Center for Social Data Analytics / Bruce Desmarais, worked on project on vaccine-related misinformation on social media, including writing a YouTube bot in Python
2018 - 2019	Marie Hojnacki, scraping of Twitter data and Lobby Disclosure Reports of organized interest groups using the APIs
2016 - 2017	Vineeta Yadav, data collection for project on Islamist political parties and elections in the Muslim world from online sources

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Fall 2020	Research Design for Social Data Analytics (Penn State)
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Teaching Assistant

Sum. 2020	Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics (ICPSR)
Sum. 2020	Network Analysis I: Introduction (ICPSR)
Fall 2019	Scientific Study of Politics (Penn State)
Sum. 2019	Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics (ICPSR)
Sum. 2019	Network Analysis I: Introduction (ICPSR)

Conferences & Presentations

- Measuring Political Elite Networks with Wikidata

3/2021	PolMeth Europe Meeting, Virtual (University of Hamburg)
9/2020	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting
8/2020	Politics and Computational Social Science & Political Networks Conf., (PolNet track)

7/2020	Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, Virtual Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Effects of an Informational Intervention on Attention to Anti-Vaccination Content on YouTube
6/2020	International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Virtual Meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Network Theory of Coalition Formation
9/2019	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
8/2019	Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference, Washington, DC
5/2019	Political Networks (PolNet) Annual Conference, Durham, NC.
4/2019	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

Invited Talks

3/2021	University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Research Brown Bag series (Virtual)
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Awards & Fellowships

Program in Comparative Politics (PiCP) Award for Arabic Language Study in Jordan (Summer 2017) and Turkey (Summer 2018) DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and TEV (Turkish Education Foundation) Joint Scholarship for M.A. Study in Germany (9/2014 –3/2016)
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Languages & Skills

Turkish (native), English (Fluent), German (Proficient), Arabic (Good) R, Python, Bash / Linux / High Performance Computing, Git, REST API

Memberships

American Political Science Association Midwest Political Science Association

References

Bruce Desmarais Professor of Political Science Pennsylvania State University email: bdesmarais@psu.edu	Sona Golder Professor of Political Science Pennsylvania State University email: sgolder@psu.edu
Joseph Wright Professor of Political Science Pennsylvania State University email: joseph.g.wright@gmail.com	