

Semuhi Sinanoglu

PH.D. CANDIDATE (ABD)

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Short Bio

I am a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Toronto. I study the political economy of authoritarianisms. My dissertation is on how autocratic regimes politically control the business elite using repression and polarization during economic crises. I employ computational and experimental methods for my research. I'm a graduate associate at POSTCOR Lab. Previously, I was a Trudeau Centre Fellow at the Munk School.

Education

Degree programs

University of Toronto, CA

2018-24

PhD in Political Science

- Thesis | For Better for Worse: Autocrats and the Business Elite under Economic Hardship
- Committee Members: [Lucan Way](#), [Kanta Murali](#), [Michael Donnelly](#)

Koc University, TR

2014-17

MA in International Relations

- Thesis | [Varieties of Capitalism in the Middle East & North Africa: A Comparative Perspective](#)
- Committee Members: Murat Somer, Ziya Onis, Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu

Bogazici University, TR

2009-14

Double Major with Political Science & International Relations & Economics

Non-degree programs & training

University of Michigan, USA

Summer 2019

ICPSR Summer Program

- [EITM-certified courses](#): Introduction to Bayesian Statistics, Advanced Bayesian Statistics

McGill University, CA

2017-18

Graduate Research Trainee

Harvard Kennedy School, USA

Spring 2017

Executive Education: Leadership, Organizing, and Action

Columbia University, USA

Spring 2013

Exchange Program

Academic Research

Peer-reviewed publications

- 2023 Out of sight, out of mind: The impact of lockdown measures on sentiment towards refugees. [Journal of Information Technology & Politics](#) (March): 1-10 (with Amir Abdul Reda and Amine Aboussalah).
- 2022 Containing ethnic conflict: Repression, co-optation, and identity politics. [Comparative Politics](#) (54)5: 765-86 (with Ceren Belge).
- 2021 Mobilizing the masses: Measuring resource mobilization on Twitter. [Sociological Methods and Research](#) (February): 1-40 (with Amir Abdul Reda and Mohamed Abdalla).

Under review

- 2022 Divided at home, divided abroad? [Affective polarization and political tolerance](#) among migrants (with Selin Kepenek).

Working papers

- 2023 Taming a paper tiger? [A political economy of support for repression of the business elite](#).
- 2023 Every cloud has a silver lining? [Cross-partisan outreach, political tolerance, and affective polarization in Turkey](#) (with Michael Donnelly).
- 2023 [Authoritarian power-sharing and information leaks](#) (with Sahib Jafarov).

Work in progress

- 2023 The impact of fiction on support for repression (with Michael Donnelly).
- 2023 The determinants of business support for authoritarianism.
- 2023 The determinants of defection in civil wars: [Survey experiments with rebel groups in Myanmar](#) (with POSTCOR).
- 2023 The prosecution of heads of state and democratic backsliding (with Seva Gunitzky).

Selected presentations

- 2022 Does every cloud have a silver lining? Disasters and polarization. [APSA Annual Conference, Montreal](#) (with Michael Donnelly).
- 2021 Divided at home, divided abroad? [APSA Annual Conference, Seattle](#); [ECPR General Conference, September](#) (with Selin Kepenek).
- 2019 Containing ethnic conflict: Repression, co-optation, and identity politics. [ISA, Toronto](#) (with Ceren Belge).
- 2014 A typology of welfare regimes in the Middle East and North Africa. [ECPR General Session, Warsaw](#).

Other research experience

- 2022 Preventing civil war recurrence (with [POSTCOR Lab](#)).
- 2020 Protests, resource curse and economic diversification (with Jacques Bertrand).

Research Grants

- 2023 **Reserch Grant** by the [IHS](#) for online survey experiments in Turkey *Virginia, USA*
- 2022 **Hayek Fund** by the [IHS](#) for my research on the business support for autocracies *Virginia, USA*
- 2022 **Travel, Research, Engagement Grant** by [POMEPS](#) to fund my research on depolarization *DC, USA*
- 2021 **Priority Theme Small Grants Fund** by [EGAP](#) to fund my research on depolarization *Berkeley, USA*

Fellowships and Affiliations

- 2022-23 **Regional Manager** at the [Digital Society Project](#) *ND, USA*
- 2022-23 **Graduate Associate** at the [POSTCOR Lab](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2022-23 **Trudeau Centre Fellow in Peace, Conflict, and Justice** at [Munk School](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2022 **Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship** by the [Mercatus Center](#) *Virginia, USA*
- 2019-22 **Non-resident Junior Fellow** at [Massey College](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2017-18 **Resident Junior Fellow** at [Jeanne Sauvé Foundation](#) *Montreal, CA*
- 2016 **Human Rights & Governance Fellowship** by the [Open Society Foundation](#) *Budapest, HU*
- 2012 **Young Scholar** at the [Global Relations Forum](#) *Istanbul, TR*

Awards and Scholarships

- 2023 **Outstanding TA Award** by the University of Toronto *Toronto, CA*
- 2021-23 **Mary H. Beatty Scholarship** by the University of Toronto *Toronto, CA*
- 2022 **M. W. Donnelly Fellowship in Political Economy** by the University of Toronto *Toronto, CA*
- 2020 **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)** by the [Province of Ontario](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2020 **The Morimitsu Inaba Doctoral Scholarship** by the [University of Toronto](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2019 **The Ranjit Kumar Graduate Scholarship** by the [University of Toronto](#) *Toronto, CA*
- 2019 **ICPSR Scholarship** by the [EITM](#) *Ann Arbor, USA*
- 2014 **Graduate Scholarship** by the [Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey](#) *Ankara, TR*
- 2009 **Outstanding Success Scholarship** by the [Turkish Educational Foundation](#) *Istanbul, TR*

Other Selected Publications

- 2021 A time of crisis and opportunity: [Digitizing SMEs in Turkey](#). Istanbul: Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation & CIPE.
- 2021 COVID [Impact Assessment Report](#). Istanbul: Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation.
- 2021 Otoriter rejimlerde bürokrasi: Sadık mı layık mı? [Bureaucracy under authoritarianism: Loyal or competent?] [Daktilo1984](#), February 15.
- 2019 We need a new conservative party in Turkey for regime transition. [The Jerusalem Post](#), March 31.
- 2018 Memlekete dönmek [Returning home]. [Birikim](#), November 12.
- 2018 Building a policy school that has real social impact. [Policy Options](#), February 28.
- 2018 Socially inclusive Fourth Industrial Revolution: Fostering youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa. In [Realizing Youth Potential in the Mediterranean: Unlocking Opportunities, Overcoming Challenges](#), edited by Lorenzo Kamel & Asli Selin Okyay: 101-12. Rome: IAI Research Studies.
- 2018 Op-eds published on civil society in Turkey on [Civic Pages](#).
- 2017 Death & politics: the burial of a Kurdish woman in Turkey. [openDemocracy](#), October 4.
- 2017 Review of Steven Cook's False Dawn: Protest, Democracy, and Violence in the Middle East. [Turkish Policy Quarterly](#) (Summer): 107-11.
- 2017 Parti ebed müddet: Bir siyaset teknolojisi olarak Yeni Osmanlıcı TRT dizileri [The eternal party: New Ottomanist TV series as a political technology]. [Birikim](#), March 30.

- 2016 5 disturbing facts about living under occupation. *Middle East Monitor*, August 22.
- 2016 Tackling the Syrian refugee crisis: Prospects & challenges. *Turkish Policy Quarterly* (Spring): 123-30 (with E. Arslan & I. Taner).
- 2015 Development Analytics. [Improvement of basic services delivery for the poor in the OIC member countries](#). Ankara: COMCEC.
- 2014 Development Analytics. [Supply and demand for child care services in Turkey](#). Washington, DC: World Bank.
- 2011 Youth who make the future. *openDemocracy*, September 23.
- 2009 Ein kristallener leuchter ist die zeit am Istanbul Lisesi: 125 jahre mit dokumenten (1884 -2009). Istanbul: IEL Educational Foundation (with L. Deniz & I. Buyukkal).

Teaching Experience

University of Toronto, CA

2020 - current

Course Instructor

- POL402 - POL403: [The Political Economy of Economic Crises](#)
- POL305 - POL487: [Autocrats of the World: International Politics of Authoritarianisms](#)
- POLC97 - POLD94 - POL479: [Politics in the Middle East](#)

University of Toronto, CA

2018 - current

Teaching Assistant

- POL101: Democracy, Dictatorship, War and Peace: An Introduction by Courtney Jung and Ryan Balot
- POL201: Politics of Development by Courtney Jung
- POLB92: Democratization in Modern Europe by Lucan Way
- POL222 - 232 - 242: Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning I-II by Olga Chyzh & Mujahed Islam
- POL218: State, Society and Power by Nicole Wu
- POL304: Using Data to Understand Politics and Society by Olga Chyzh
- POL362: Global Political Economy II: Policy and Analysis by Mark Nieman
- POL386: U.S. Government and Politics by Ryan Hurl
- POL2503: Thinking Through Research Design (grad-level) by Ludovic Rheault
- POL2504: Statistics for Political Scientists (grad-level) by Michael Donnelly

Trinity College, CA

2019 - 2022

Academic Don

Koc University, TR

2014-2016

Teaching Assistant

- INTL101: Introduction to Political Science by Zeynep Goker
- INTL318: Social Network Analysis by Gunes Ertan

Professional Experience

Maidan, CA

2019-current

Co-founder

- [Maidan](#) forecasts elections and protests using big data analytics.

CityInclusive, CA

2017-19

Co-founder

- CityInclusive is a social-impact initiative dedicated to fostering youth participation in the design of smart cities.
- Canada's [Smart Cities Challenge](#) presented an opportunity for cities to make themselves socially inclusive. On our digital platform, we documented and analyzed the works of Canadian cities as they went through the process of developing applications for the Challenge.
- We also had a successful track record of facilitating future-cities-visioning simulations for high-school and college students.
- CityInclusive team was also recognized as futurists in residence at the Concordia University's [Institute for Urban Futures](#).

Co-Opinion Network, TR

2015-17

Founding President

- Co-Opinion is a policy-oriented network that mobilizes more than 30 stakeholder institutions in 6 countries across the Middle East & North Africa to tackle youth unemployment in the wake of 4th Industrial Revolution.
- The network aims for cross-sectoral collaboration between the private sector and youth-led non-governmental organizations. We achieved collaboration with region's several business associations.
- The network organized annual summits, capacity development workshops, and stakeholder meetings in Belgium, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey, with support by established organizations such as the Rockefeller Foundation.

Social Policy Researcher

- **Development Analytics** is a consultancy company that provides decision-makers in the public and private sectors with evidence-based research on social policy and development programmes. The company is specialised in large-scale data analysis and the application of statistical and econometric techniques to development issues.
- I assisted with quantitative and geo-spatial analysis, and desk reviews for two policy reports delivered to the World Bank and COMCEC.

Public Speaking

- 2022 ChatGPT Hayatimizi Nasıl Etkileyecek? [How will ChatGPT impact our lives?]. Istanbul: [TUIC](#) (December).
- 2019 Podcast: Görsel Kültürün Politikası [The Politics of Visual Culture]. Istanbul: [Medyapod](#) (February).
- 2018 Future of Turkey's Youth in a Time of Turmoil. Washington, DC: [Middle East Institute](#) (December).
- 2018 Middle Powers: Saudi Arabia. Toronto: Global Citizens Dialogue (November).
- 2018 On Spaces and Rights: Refugee Settlement Policies in Lebanon & Turkey. Montreal: McGill University (March).
- 2018 Socially Inclusive Fourth Industrial Revolution. Rome: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (March).
- 2017 Youth Cooperation under an Authoritarian Regime. Istanbul: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (April).

Selected Trainer Experience

- 2021 An Introduction to [spatial Analysis using R](#). Toronto: University of Toronto (March).
- 2017 Organizational Development & Management: Digital Security in the Age of Hyper-Surveillance. Istanbul: Co-Opinion (April-June).
- 2017 Design Lab: Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism. Istanbul: Co-Opinion & Hollings Center for International Dialogue (April).

Selected Events and Trainings

- 2023 IHS Discussion Colloquium: Polarization, Pluralism, and Democracy. VA: Institute for Humane Studies (May).
- 2021 IHS Discussion Colloquium: Polarization and Contemporary Political Life. VA: Institute for Humane Studies (November).
- 2021 IHS Discussion Colloquium: Liberty and Civil Society. VA: Institute for Humane Studies (April).
- 2017-18 Making Powerful Brand Storytelling; Business Model Canvas; Theory of Change & Design Thinking; VOX Method: Public Speaking; Social Impact Assessment; Making Persuasive Business Recommendations. Montreal: Jeanne Sauvé Foundation.
- 2017 Leadership Academy: Strengthening NGOs. Germany: Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (March).
- 2017 CDN Study Session. Budapest: Council of Europe (January).
- 2016 Middle East & North Africa Regional Meeting. Nicosia: PUGWASH (November).
- 2016 Prospects for Job Generation in the Middle East. Italy: Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center (October).
- 2016 Young Peacebuilders Forum. The Hague: UNOY (September).
- 2016 ChangemakerXChange. Lisbon: Ashoka Foundation (August).
- 2016 Sulaimani Forum. Sulaimani: American University of Sulaimani (March).
- 2015 T-20. Antalya: TEPAV (November).
- 2012 Winter School. Ankara: Center for Strategic Research (January).

Service

- 2022 **Search Committee for Middle Eastern Politics**, grad. rep. at the University of Toronto.
- 2020-23 **Quantitative Methods Research Cluster**, co-organizer at the University of Toronto.
- 2022 **APSA General Conference**, discussant & panel organizer.
- 2021 **APSA General Conference**, discussant.
- 2019 **Search Committee for Quantitative Methods**, grad. rep. at the University of Toronto.
- 2019 **The Khashoggi Killing and the Future of US-Saudi Relations**, event organizer.
- 2018-20 **Comparative Autocracy Research Cluster**, organizer at the University of Toronto.

Skills

- Language:** Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (Sprachdiplom-C1-2009), Arabic (beginner)
- Software:** R, Qualtrics, Java, STATA, ArcGIS, Python, Premiere Pro
- Gallup Clifton Strengths:** Developer, Individualization, Input, Learner, Empathy