

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Kadir Cihan Duran
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EDUCATION

- 08/2024 – Current **Ph.D. Political Science and Social Data Analytics (Dual Title)**
Pennsylvania State University, PA - USA
Advisor: Bruce Desmarais
- 09/2020 – 06/2023 **M.A. Political Science and International Relations**
Bogazici University, Istanbul - Turkey
Thesis Title: Examining the echo chambers of countermovements to black lives matter on twitter
Advisor: Basak Taraktas
- 09/2015 – 06/2020 **B.A. Political Science and International Relations**
Bogazici University, Istanbul - Turkey

PUBLICATIONS

4. YILMAZ, R., AND DURAN, K. C. Can opposition win without unity in hybrid regimes: Rethinking opposition victory in turkey 2024 local elections. *Government and Opposition* (2026)
3. TARAKTAS, B., DURAN, K. C., AND USKUDARLI, S. Hashtag activism and framing strategies in the aftermath of george floyd's death and the 2020 elections. *Politics, Groups, and Identities* (2025), 1–26
2. TARAKTAS, B., IRSOY, O., DURAN, K. C., AND USKUDARLI, S. A comparative analysis of online mobilization through slogan specificity: The case of the countermovements to #black-livesmatter. *New Media & Society* (2025)
1. TARAKTAS, B., DURAN, K. C., AND ÜSKÜDARLI, S. Do activists prioritize solutions over grievances? a twitter study of black lives matter. *Marmara Üniversitesi Siyasal Bilimler Dergisi* 12, 1 (2024), 1–22

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. DURAN, K. C., YUAN, Y., AND DESMARAIS, B. Graph neural networks for inferential network analysis. *International Conference on Machine Learning*

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

3. DURAN, K. C. Social media strategies in competitive authoritarian regimes
2. DURAN, K. C., AND YILMAZ, R. From opposition to ally: The akp-mhp coalition and its impact on voter behavior in turkey
1. DURAN, K. C., AND YILMAZ, R. The role of friday khutbah in forming public opinion: The politicization of the directorate of religious affairs in the akp rule

CONFERENCES

15. *DURAN, K. C. Social media strategies in competitive authoritarian regimes. *American Political Science Association 122nd APSA Annual Meeting* (2026)
14. *DURAN, K. C., YUAN, Y., AND DESMARAIS, B. Graph neural networks for inferential network analysis. *American Political Science Association 122nd APSA Annual Meeting* (2026)
13. *DURAN, K. C. Social media strategies in competitive authoritarian regimes: Incumbent infiltration vs. opposition mobilization. *83rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference* (2026)
12. DURAN, K. C., AND YILMAZ, R. From opposition to ally: The akp-mhp coalition and its impact on voter behavior in turkey. *American Political Science Association 121st APSA Annual Meeting* (2025)
11. YILMAZ, R., AND DURAN, K. C. Can opposition win without unity in hybrid regimes: Rethinking opposition victory in turkey 2024 local elections. *American Political Science Association 121st APSA Annual Meeting* (2025)
10. DURAN, K. C., YUBAI, Y., AND DESMARAIS, B. Interpreting graph neural networks in political network studies. *2025 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, PolMeth* (2025)
9. YILMAZ, R., AND DURAN, K. C. Helping the re-democratization process of turkey by damaging the triangular dependency of akp's competitive authoritarian regime. *International Political Science Association 28th World Congress: Seoul* (2025)
8. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Apsa short course on computational social sciences. *The 2023 APSA Political Networks Section* (2023)
7. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Introduction to network analysis lecture with hands-on applications. *Analytics for a Better World Workshop* (2023)
6. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Framing and coherence of countermovements to black lives matter. *Turkish Political Science Association I. National Political Science Congress* (2022)
5. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Studying intersectionality using twitter data: the cases of me too & black lives matter. *X. TEVITOL Social Science Workshop* (2022)
4. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Framing and coherence of countermovements to black lives matter. *Sunbelt 2022, the XLII Social Networks Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis* (2022)

3. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Studying intersectionality using twitter data: the cases of me too & black lives matter. *Koc University AI & CSS Seminar* (2022)
2. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Similarity, selection and influence: A cross-disciplinary symposium on homophily in social networks. *The Patio an Interdisciplinary Research Group on Social Networks* (2022)
1. TARAKTAS, B., AND DURAN, K. C. Studying intersectionality using twitter data: the cases of me too & black lives matter. *IV. Complex Systems and Data Science Workshop* (2022)

GRANTS

Spring 2026	Lynn M. Sebulsky Memorial Award, Pennsylvania State University College of Liberal Arts Amount: \$1000
Spring 2026	Program in Comparative Politics Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University Department of Political Science Amount: \$15322.50
Fall 2025	C-SoDA Accelerator Award, Pennsylvania State University Center of Social Data Analytics Amount: \$1000
Fall 2025	Department Research Grant, Pennsylvania State University Department of Political Science Amount: \$3000
Fall 2025	Conference Travel Grant for APSA 2025, Pennsylvania State University Department of Political Science Amount: \$1250
Fall 2025	Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award, Political Organizations and Parties section of the APSA Amount: \$300
Summer 2025	Summer Graduate Research Award, Pennsylvania State University Department of Political Science Amount: \$4894.50
Summer 2025	Conference Travel Grant for PolMeth 2025, Society for Political Methodology and the Political Methodology section of the American Political Science Association Amount: \$1000
Summer 2025	Conference Travel Grant for IPSA 2025, Pennsylvania State University Department of Political Science Amount: \$1000

Spring 2025 **Conference Travel Grant for IPSA 2025, Pennsylvania State University**
J. Jeffrey and Ann Marie Fox Graduate School
Amount: \$1500

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 01/2025 – Current **Graduate Assistant**
Position: Research Assistant for Bruce Desmarais
Location: Pennsylvania State University
- 08/2024 – 12/2024 **Graduate Assistant**
Position: Teaching Assistant for PLSC 10: Scientific Study of Politics
Location: Pennsylvania State University
- 12/2021 – 07/2024 **Graduate Assistant**
Position: Research Assistant for Scientific Research Project Program
Location: Bogazici University
- 07/2021 – 11/2023 **Graduate Assistant**
Position: Research Assistant for Dia-Pol Project
Location: Bogazici University
- 02/2019 – 05/2019 **Undergraduate Assistant**
Position: Student Assistant for POLS 203: Social Statistics
Location: Bogazici University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 01/2019 – 06/2020 **Education Reform Initiative**
Position: Data Analyst Intern
Location: Istanbul, Turkey

SERVICES

- Peer Reviewer**
Journal: New Media & Society
Conference Proceedings: International Conference on Machine Learning

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Python (pandas, numpy, networkx, regex, nltk, scikit-learn, pytorch, plotly)
R (tidyr, dplyr, ggplot2, tidyverse), Gephi, L^AT_EX, Git

April, 2026