

# Muhammet Özkaraca

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

**Central European University**, Vienna, Austria Sep 2020 – Jun 2021

### *Master of Political Science*

- Thesis: "[Secularism as an Antidote to Religious Terrorism: The Case of Turkey](#)" (Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Matthijs Bogaards)
- Selected Coursework: Terrorism: A Comparative Politics Perspective, Nationalism Populism and Ethnic Conflict Management in Eastern Europe, Programming in R, Social Network Analysis-I, Comparative Case Study Research, Process Tracing
- Graduated with High Honor (GPA: 3.73/4.00)

**Bilkent University**, Ankara, Turkey Sep 2015 – Jun 2020

### *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

- Senior Project: Turkish Foreign Aid Toward Africa, End or Mean?
- Selected Coursework: United Nations Peacekeeping Theory and Practice, International Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Introduction to Data Analysis for Social Sciences
- Graduated with High Honor (GPA: 3.86/4.00)
- Exchange Semester at Sciences Po-Paris

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

**University of Oslo & PRIO International Summer School**, Oslo, Norway Jun 2021 – Aug 2021

- Course taken; Peace Research

**CIVICA Online Data Science Summer School** Jul 2021 – Jul 2021

- Courses taken; Text as Data: Quantitative Text Analysis with R, Modern Survey Methods, Data Visualisation with R, Data Access: Web Scraping with R, Research Design And Causal Analysis with R, GeoData and Spatial Data Analysis with R

**ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques**, Budapest, Hungary Jul 2019 – Aug 2019

- Courses taken; R Basics, Qualitative Data Analysis, Longitudinal Research Designs-Qualitative Approaches, Math Refresher

## EXPERIENCE

**Istanbul Policy Center**, Istanbul, Turkey Nov 2021 –

### *Research Assistant*

- Gathered, analyzed, and visualised social, economic, and demographic data on Turkey.
- Conducted web scraping in R to extract selected local newspapers' online texts and analyzed them using quantitative text analysis.
- Prepared daily national and international press readers.

**Bilkent University**, Ankara, Turkey Jun 2019 – Sep 2020

### *Research Assistant to Asst. Prof. Berk Esen*

- Participated in three separate research projects on Turkish domestic and foreign policy.
- Collected, coded and analysed background information on candidates in the 2019 Turkish Municipal Elections (N=4500) and the Justice and Development Party (AKP)'s political elites (N=70) using the MS Excel program for the purpose of undertaking a social network analysis of the Turkish electoral system.
- Conducted academic research and compiled documents listing and summarising previous articles published on Turkish Foreign Aid in preparation for a study investigating patterns of the assistance's distribution.

**Bilkent University**, Ankara, Turkey Sep 2019 – Dec 2019

### *Research Assistant to Prof. Alev Çınar*

- Conducted archival research on Islamist magazines published in Turkey through collecting and digitizing the documents as part of Prof. Alev Çınar's study of Political Islam in Turkey.

**Center for Foreign Policy and Peace Research**, Ankara, Turkey Feb 2019 – May 2019

### *Part-time Undergraduate Research Student*

- Collected syllabi for graduate-level IR Theory courses (N=50) taught at universities throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean region for the Global IR project, whose results were presented at the "4th All Azimuth Workshop on Dialogue in Core-Periphery IR". (Advisor: Prof. Ersel Aydın)ı
- Translated articles on Political Methodology from English to Turkish for publication in the All-Azimuth journal in addition to editing and drafting written works for the center.

**Issam Fares Institute, Beirut, Lebanon** Jun 2018 – Aug 2018

**Summer Research Assistant in Energy Policy and Security Program**

- Conducted academic research and compiled documents listing and summarising prior works on energy security and nuclear energy in Turkey in preparation for the study examining the implications of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant on the Turkish energy market. (Advisor: Dr. Ali Ahmad)
- As a member of the organizing team for the "International Panel on Exiting Violence," sponsored by the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme and held in Beirut, I was in charge of the participants' transportation and lodgings.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2021. [Sending Automated and Customized Emails in R using blastula](#). RPubs.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2018. Interview with American scholar Gregory Feifer on 2018 Russian Elections (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2018. Interview with Turkish writer, journalist and academic Tanıl Bora on his latest book and history of Turkish politics (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2018. On Syrian Civil War (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2017. Kingdom of Heaven: Jerusalem (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2017. On China's Rising Power (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2017. Venezuela: The story of a Crisis (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.
- Özkaraca, Muhammet. 2017. Anthology of a President: Barack Hussein Obama (Available in Turkish, [here](#)). GazeteBilkent.

**AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

- High Honor Student, Central European University Aug 2021  
Awarded for graduating with a GPA of at least 3.50.
- CEU Master's Scholarship, Central European University Sep 2020 – Jun 2021  
Awarded for academic excellence.
- Dean's High Honor List, Bilkent University Dec 2016 – Jun 2020  
Awarded for attaining a semester GPA of at least 3.50.
- Transdisciplinary Senior Project Competition, First Prize, Bilkent University Dec 2019  
Awarded based on the senior year project; Turkish Foreign Aid Toward Africa, End or Mean?
- Romanian Embassy Essay Contest, First Prize, Bilkent University May 2019  
Awarded for the best essay written on the Turkish-Romanian relations among undergraduate students in Bilkent University.
- Erasmus+ Student Mobility Grant Sep 2018 – Dec 2018  
Awarded for conducting an Erasmus Exchange program at Sciences Po, Paris.
- Summer Internship Grant, Crossing Roads Jun 2018 – Aug 2018  
Awarded for conducting the summer internship in the Issam Fares Institute by Crossing Roads Foundation.
- Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship Sep 2015 – Jun 2020  
Awarded for being in the top 0.001 percent of 1.5 million students who took the university entrance exam in Turkey.

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**Conflict and Security Research Group**, Central European University Oct 2020 – Present  
**Computational Social Science Lab**, Boğaziçi University Apr 2020 – Present

**STUDENT CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**GazeteBilkent**, Ankara, Turkey Sep 2017 – May 2019  
**Columnist**

- Wrote columns on international affairs and Turkish politics in Turkish.
- Conducted interviews with Turkish and international scholars.

**International Relations and European Union Society**, Ankara, Turkey Sep 2017 – May 2018  
**Member of Executive Board**

- Organized conferences and round table activities with scholars, journalists and diplomats to raise awareness on specific political issues such as immigrants' problems, Turkey-EU relations, Turkey-US relations.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Bilkent Social Awareness Projects**, Ankara, Turkey Sep 2016 – May 2018  
**Active Volunteer in Sun Rises from Village Project**

- Assisted in the establishment of 4 libraries in 4 separate Turkish village schools as part of the Bilkent Social Awareness Projects.

- Was a member of the fundraising team charged with the responsibility of gathering funds to cover the price of necessary construction supplies and education materials to build libraries in rural schools.

**LANGUAGES**

Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate)

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

RStudio/RMarkdown(Intermediate), Python(Intermediate), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (Intermediate), NVivo (Beginner)

**CERTIFICATES**

- DataCamp courses on [Importing and Cleaning Data with R Track](#) | [Data Visualization with R Track](#)
- Coursera courses on [Linear Regression and Modeling](#) | [Regression Models](#) | [Classical Sociological Theory](#)

**REFEREES**

Assoc. Prof. Matthijs Bogaards  
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