

# BUSRA NUR OZGULER AKTEL

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Langdale Hall 1060  
Georgia State University  
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## EDUCATION

**Georgia State University** Atlanta GA, USA

Ph.D. in Political Science

*Dissertation: Choosing the Lesser Evil: Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars*

*Committee: [Louis-Alexandre Berg](#) (chair), [Carrie Manning](#), [Dan Altman](#)*

Present

Expected April 2025

**Middle East Technical University** Ankara, Turkey

MS in Middle East Studies

*Thesis: [Israel's Policy Responses to Egypt in the Post-Mubarak Era](#)*

*Supervisor: [Ozlem Tur](#)*

2017

**Bogazici University** Istanbul, Turkey

BA in Political Science and International Relations

*Dean's Honors Degree*

2013

## WORK IN PROGRESS

### Book Projects

Choosing the Lesser Evil: Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars

The Lost Alliance of the Middle East: Egypt and Turkey (in Turkish), with *O.B. Dincer* and *M. Hecan*,  
*Manuscript upon request*

### Article Projects

Strategic Silence: Israel's Foreign Policy Discourse towards Egypt during the Arab Spring, **Revise and Resubmit**, *the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*

Tribes in Civil Wars: Choosing Alliances and Confronting Threats, *JMP*

Thriving with Resilience: Fieldwork in the Middle East as a Woman Researcher, *Presented at the 2024 APSA Virtual Research Meeting, Scheduled to Present at the 2025 ISA Annual Meeting*

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

### Analyses, Policy Reports, and Op-Eds

2021. [Is Re-Calibration Feasible in Turkey-Egypt Relations? Limits And Possibilities](#) *Turkish Policy Quarterly*, 20:2, with *O.B. Dincer* and *M. Hecan*

2021. New President, Old Problem: The Israeli-Palestinian Question Under Biden, *FeniksPolitik*

2020. Jordan: The Lynchpin of a Middle East in Death Throes, *FeniksPolitik*

2020. [China's Investments in Israel Reflect its Grand Strategy](#), *FeniksPolitik*

2016. [Tunisia's "Muslim Democrats:" A New Stage for Political Islam](#), *USAK Policy Briefs*, with *O.B. Dincer* and *M. Hecan*

2014. Eternal Process without Peace: The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, *The Journal of Turkish Weekly*

### Book Reviews

2016. [Women and Media in the Middle East: From Veiling to Blogging](#) by *Nahed Eltantawy*, *Review of International Law and Politics*, 12:1

2014. [The Arabs of the Ottoman Empire, 1516-1918: A Social and Cultural History](#) by *Bruce Masters*, *Uluslararası Hukuk ve Politika*, 10:37

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Craigie International Security Scholars Fellowship (22,000 USD)

2023-2024

APSA Centennial Center Research Grant

Summer 2023

[APSA First Generation Scholar Travel and Accessibility Grant](#)

2023

APSA Travel Grant

2023

The International Studies Association (ISA) Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2023

[Provost's Dissertation Fellowship](#), Georgia State University (9,000 USD)

January-June 2023

International Education Fee (IEF) Study Abroad Programs Scholarship Award

Spring 2023

Craigie International Security Scholars Fellowship (20,000 USD)

July 2022-June 2023

GSU Summer Research and Professional Development Fellowship

Summer 2019

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University

2018-2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<b>Fieldwork Researcher</b> , Iraqi Kurdistan and Jordan	January-March 2023	
	Project: Choosing the Lesser Evil: Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars Tasks: <i>Conducting interviews with tribal leaders, tribespeople, and professionals</i>		
	<b>Graduate Research Assistant</b> , Georgia State University	2018-2020, Summer 2022	
	Political Science Supervisor: <i>Louis-Alexandre Berg</i>		
	<b>Data Analyst</b> , Party at the Mailbox	Dec. 2020-Jan. 2021	
	Project: 2021 Senate Runoff Elections in Georgia USA Tasks: <i>Matching data for experimental research</i>		
	<b>Fieldwork Researcher</b> , Cairo, Egypt	June 2016	
	Project: Turkish-Egyptian Relations and Political Islam Tasks: <i>Conducting interviews with former government officials, scholars, and intellectuals</i>		
	<b>Fieldwork Researcher</b> , Israel and Palestine	June-Sept. 2015	
	Project: Track Two Diplomacy: Improving Turkish-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian Relations Tasks: <i>Interviewing with the community of think tanks and the research institutes</i>		
	<b>Research Assistant</b> , The NATO Center of Excellence-Defense against Terrorism	Dec. 2014-May 2015	
	Project: Defeating Daesh: Alternative Policy Options Tasks: <i>Collecting data, writing report, and organizing the workshops of the project</i>		
	<b>Research Intern</b> , The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace	Summer 2014	
	Summer Assistantship Tasks: <i>Collecting data on the Kurdish issue in Turkey, translation from Turkish to English</i>		
	TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Instructor of Record</b> , Georgia State University	
		Global Issues (POLS 2401)	Summer, Fall 2024
		<b>Instructor of Record</b> , Perimeter College	
		Global Issues (POLS 2401)	Spring 2024
<b>Instructor of Record</b> , Georgia State University			
Global Issues (POLS 2401) - Online American Government (POLS 1101) - Online		Summer 2021 Spring 2021	
	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Georgia State University		
	American Government (POLS 1101) - Synchronous Hybrid US Foreign Policy (POLS 3450) - Online	Fall 2022 Spring 2022	
	PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<b>FeniksPolitik</b> Amsterdam, Netherlands	2020-2023
		General Coordinator and Political Analyst Podcast Host of FeniksPod Middle East Series	
		<b>International Strategic Research Organization (USAK)</b> Ankara, Turkey	
		Research Assistant at the Center for Middle East and Africa Coordinator of Internship and Training Program Editor of Official Websites (Turkish and English)	2013-2016 2015-2016 2013-2015
<b>Analist</b> (Turkish monthly magazine) Ankara, Turkey		2014-2016	
Co-editor of the Middle East and North Africa section			
	<b>The Journal of Turkish Weekly (JTW)</b> Ankara, Turkey	2013-2016	
	Digital News Content Creator		
	CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	2024 February. <b>Americal Political Science Association (APSA) Virtual Research Meeting</b> , Thriving with Resilience: Fieldwork in the Middle East as a Woman Researcher, <i>Online</i>	
		2023 October. <a href="#">Journeys in World Politics Workshop</a> , Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, <i>UW Madison</i>	

- 2023 October. **International Studies Association - South**, Strategic Silence: Israeli Foreign Policy Discourse towards Egypt after the Arab Spring, *Atlanta*
- 2023 September. **APSA Annual Meeting**, Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, *Los Angeles*
- 2023 April. **Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting**, Tribal Alignment Formation and Side-switching in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, *Chicago*
- 2022 November. **The TARI Research Conference**, [From Ancient to Modern: the Current State of Research on Iraq](#), The Academic Research Institute in Iraq, Tribal Alignment Formation in Civil Wars: Evidence From Iraq, *Washington DC*
- 2021 April. **MPSA Annual Meeting**, Choosing the Lesser Evil: Alliance Formation of Tribes, *Online*
- 2021 February. **Atlanta Symposium on Political Science**, Choosing the Lesser Evil: Alliance Formation of Civilian Groups with the State and Insurgents, *Online*
- 2021 January. **Doha Institute Graduate Winter School**, [The State in Flux](#), Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Choosing the Lesser Evil: Alliance Formation of Civilian Groups with the State and Insurgents, *Online*
- 2020 September. [Politics After War \(PAW\) Research Workshop](#), Can Pandemic Develop Institutions in Post-Conflict Countries? *Online*
- 2020 March. [Atlanta Symposium on Political Science](#), Electoral Participation of the Rebel Groups and Peace Implementation, *Atlanta*

#### SKILLS

**Languages:** Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Intermediate), Hebrew (Elementary)  
**Software:** R, RStudio, STATA, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, NVivo.

#### SERVICES AND AFFILIATIONS

Graduate Representative, Faculty Hiring Committee, Department of Political Science, GSU 2023-2024  
 Co-Discussant, Journeys in World Politics October 2023  
 Co-Discussant, Civil Conflict and Peacebuilding Panel, MPSA April 2023  
 Panel Host and Chair, Women in Academia: Perspectives from Political Science Department March 2021  
 President, Political Science Graduate Student Association at GSU 2020-2021  
 Member, International Studies Association (ISA)  
 Member, American Political Science Association (APSA)  
 Member, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)  
 Member, The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARI)

#### REFERENCES

**Louis-Alexandre Berg**  
 Georgia State University  
 Associate Professor

**Carrie Manning**  
 Georgia State University  
 Professor

**Dan Altman**  
 Georgia State University  
 Associate Professor

**Michael Fix**  
 Georgia State University  
 Professor

**Osman Bahadir Dincer**  
 Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies  
 Senior Researcher, PhD

October 2024