

BUSRA NUR OZGULER AKTEL

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Baltimore, MD 21250 USA

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Maryland, Baltimore County Baltimore MD, USA
Assistant Professor

August 2025–

EDUCATION

Georgia State University Atlanta GA, USA

May 2025

Ph.D. in Political Science

Fields: International Relations, Political Methodology

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

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

Middle East Technical University Ankara, Turkey

2017

MS in Middle East Studies

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

Supervisor: Ozlem Tur

Bogazici University Istanbul, Turkey

2013

BA in Political Science and International Relations

Dean's Honors Degree

ACADEMIC WRITING

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](#)

Working Papers

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*

Work-in-Progress

Rethinking Fieldwork: A Holistic Praxis and Meta-Reflective Methodology

The Fabric of Tribal Society: Power, Hierarchy, and Identity in Conflict and Peacebuilding

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

Graduate Travel Award (GTA), Georgia State University
Craigie International Security Scholars Fellowship (22,000 USD)
APSA Centennial Center Research Grant

2025
2023-2024
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
	Craigie International Security Scholars Fellowship (20,000 USD)	July 2022-June 2023
	International Education Fee (IEF) Study Abroad Programs Scholarship Award	Spring 2023
	GSU Summer Research and Professional Development Fellowship	Summer 2019
	Graduate Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University	2018-2022
RESEARCH	Fieldwork Researcher , Iraqi Kurdistan and Jordan	January-March 2023
	Project: Choosing the Lesser Evil: Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars	
	Tasks: Conducting interviews with tribal leaders, tribespeople, and professionals	
	Graduate Research Assistant , Georgia State University	2018-2020, Summer 2022
	Political Science	
	Supervisor: Louis-Alexandre Berg	
	Data Analyst , Party at the Mailbox	Dec. 2020-Jan. 2021
	Project: 2021 Senate Runoff Elections in Georgia USA	
	Tasks: Matching data for experimental research	
	Fieldwork Researcher , Cairo, Egypt	June 2016
	Project: Turkish-Egyptian Relations and Political Islam	
	Tasks: Conducting interviews with former government officials, scholars, and intellectuals	
	Fieldwork Researcher , Israel and Palestine	June-Sept. 2015
	Project: Track Two Diplomacy: Improving Turkish-Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian Relations	
	Tasks: Interviewing with the community of think tanks and the research institutes	
	Research Assistant , The NATO Center of Excellence-Defense against Terrorism	Dec. 2014-May 2015
	Project: Defeating Daesh: Alternative Policy Options	
	Tasks: Collecting data, writing report, and organizing the workshops of the project	
	Research Intern , The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace	Summer 2014
	Summer Assistantship	
	Tasks: Collecting data on the Kurdish issue in Turkey, translation from Turkish to English	
TEACHING	Assistant Professor , University of Maryland, Baltimore County	
	Dynamics of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (POLI 485)	Fall 2025
	Politics and Cinema in the Middle East (POLI 390)	Fall 2025
	Instructor of Record , Georgia State University	
	Global Issues (POLS 2401)	Summer, Fall 2024
	Global Issues (POLS 2401) - Perimeter College	Spring 2024
	Global Issues (POLS 2401) - Online	Summer 2021
	American Government (POLS 1101) - Online	Spring 2021
	Teaching Assistant , Georgia State University	
	American Government (POLS 1101) - Synchronous Hybrid	Fall 2022
	US Foreign Policy (POLS 3450) - Online	Spring 2022
PROFESSIONAL WORK	FeniksPolitik Amsterdam, Netherlands	2020-2023
	General Coordinator and Political Analyst	
	Podcast Host of FeniksPod Middle East Series	
	International Strategic Research Organization (USAK) Ankara, Turkey	
	Research Assistant at the Center for Middle East and Africa	2013-2016
	Coordinator of Internship and Training Program	2015-2016
	Editor of Official Websites (Turkish and English)	2013-2015

	Analist (Turkish monthly magazine) Ankara, Turkey Co-editor of the Middle East and North Africa section	2014-2016
	The Journal of Turkish Weekly (JTW) Ankara, Turkey Digital News Content Creator	2013-2016
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>2025 November Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, The Fabric of Tribal Society: Power, Hierarchy, and Identity in Conflict and Peacebuilding, <i>Washington DC</i></p> <p>2025 October IS-ISSS Annual Conference, Toward a Holistic Praxis of Fieldwork: Rethinking Methodology, Mindset, and Meta-Reflection in Polical Science Research + The Fabric of Tribal Society: Power, Hierarchy, and Identity in Conflict and Peacebuilding, <i>Washington DC</i></p> <p>2025 September Americal Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Convention, Navigating Challenges and Embracing Opportunities: Fieldwork in Conflict Zones, <i>Vancouver</i></p> <p>2025 March International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Tribes in Civil Wars: Choosing Alliances and Confronting Threats, <i>Chicago</i></p> <p>2025 February POMEPS Virtual Research Workshop, Tribes in Civil Wars: Choosing Alliances and Confronting Threats, <i>Online</i></p> <p>2024 February. APSA Virtual Research Meeting, Thriving with Resilience: Fieldwork in the Middle East as a Woman Researcher, <i>Online</i></p> <p>2023 October. Journeys in World Politics Workshop, Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, <i>UW Madison</i></p> <p>2023 October. ISA - South, Strategic Silence: Israeli Foreign Policy Discourse towards Egypt after the Arab Spring, <i>Atlanta</i></p> <p>2023 September. APSA Annual Meeting, Tribal Alignments in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, <i>Los Angeles</i></p> <p>2023 April. Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, Tribal Alignment Formation and Side-switching in Civil Wars: Iraq as a Case Study, <i>Chicago</i></p> <p>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, <i>Washington DC</i></p> <p>2021 April. MPSA Annual Meeting, Choosing the Lesser Evil: Alliance Formation of Tribes, <i>Online</i></p> <p>2021 February. Atlanta Symposium on Political Science, Choosing the Lesser Evil: Alliance Formation of Civilian Groups with the State and Insurgents, <i>Online</i></p> <p>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, <i>Online</i></p> <p>2020 September. Politics After War (PAW) Research Workshop, Can Pandemic Develop Institutions in Post-Conflict Countries? <i>Online</i></p> <p>2020 March. Atlanta Symposium on Political Science, Electoral Participation of the Rebel Groups and Peace Implementation, <i>Atlanta</i></p>	
SKILLS	<p>Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Intermediate), Hebrew (Elementary)</p> <p>Software: R, RStudio, STATA, L^AT_EX, NVivo.</p>	
SERVICES AND AFFILIATIONS	<p>Graduate Representative, Faculty Hiring Committee, Department of Political Science, GSU</p> <p>Co-Discussant, Journeys in World Politics</p> <p>Co-Discussant, Civil Conflict and Peacebuilding Panel, MPSA</p> <p>Panel Host and Chair, Women in Academia: Perspectives from Political Science Department</p> <p>President, Political Science Graduate Student Association at GSU</p> <p>Member, Women in Conflict Studies (WICS)</p> <p>Member, Women in International Security (WIIS)</p> <p>Member, International Studies Association (ISA)</p> <p>Member, American Political Science Association (APSA)</p> <p>Member, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)</p> <p>Member, The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARI)</p>	<p>2023-2024</p> <p>October 2023</p> <p>April 2023</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>2020-2021</p>
		October 2025