

Adil Yildiz, Ph.D.

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Areas of Specialization

European Politics · Human Rights & Human Security · Contentious Politics & Social Movements · Democratic Backsliding & Autocratization · Quantitative & Mixed Research Methods

Education

Ph.D. & M.A., Political Science — University of Mississippi, USA *M.A. May 2024; Ph.D. Dec. 2025*

GPA: 3.93/4.0, Top of Class — Dissertation: *Illiberal Movements in Europe: Impacts on Democracy, Human Rights, and the Dynamics of Diffusion*

M.A., European Studies — University of Padova, Italy. Cum Laude 2021

Thesis: *Democracy and Social Movements: Comparing the ‘Yellow Vests’ and ‘Gezi Park’ Movements*

B.A., Political Science and International Relations — Istanbul University, Turkey. Cum Laude 2017

Erasmus+, Faculty of International and Political Studies — Jagiellonian University, Poland. 2017

Work Experience

Graduate Assistant & Instructor, University of Mississippi *Aug 2021 – Dec 2025*

Political Science Analyst Intern, Biasly, Salt Lake City *Summer 2022*

Research Associate, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade *Feb – Aug 2020*

Research Assistant, University of Padova *Spring 2019*

English Teacher (AIESEC Global Volunteer Project), Ecuador Ministry of Education *Sep 2017 – Feb 2018*

Student Assistant, Istanbul University *Sep 2013 – Jan 2017*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Political Polarization and Human Rights,” *Journal of Humanity, Peace and Justice*, 2024.
- “Actor Interactions through the Policymaking Process of the EU’s Single-Use Plastics Policy,” *European Studies Review*, 2024.
- “Humanitarian Interventions: A Comparative Analysis of Human Rights Organizations,” *Journal of Global Politics and Current Diplomacy*, 2023.
- “Prior Rebel Experience of Leaders and Its Influence on Physical Integrity Rights,” *Aurum Journal of Social Sciences*, 2023.
- “The Rise of China and its Interplay with the Russian and Turkish Regimes,” *International Relations*, 2023.

Working Papers

- “How Illiberal Movements Undermine Human Rights Through Democratic Backsliding” — *under review, European Journal of Political Research*
- “The Diffusion of Illiberal Movements Across European Democracies – How and When They Spread” — *working paper*
- “Transnational Complicity of Liberal Democracies in State Repression: Evidence from the Gezi Park Movement” — *revised and resubmitted, Interface Journal*

Other Publications

- “From Streets to Policies: The Impact of Yellow Vests Movement on French Public Policy,” *The Young Journal of European Affairs*, 2024.
- “A Brief Reflection on Social Movements,” *American Political Science Association Educate*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2023.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record, University of Mississippi:

- Intro to International Relations, Fall 2025 (4.78/5.0)
- Intro to Comparative Politics, Fall 2023 (4.0/5.0)

Teaching Assistant, University of Mississippi:

- Intro to Political Science Methods
- International Politics of Nuclear Weapons
- Gender and Politics
- Politics of Latin America

Research & Data Experience

- UN treaty declarations and reservations data coding (with Prof. Timothy Nordstrom)
- NSF-funded project on crises (e.g., COVID-19) and executive approval data collection (with Prof. Gregory Love)
- Economic crises (e.g., banking, currency, debt, and inflation) data collection and coding (with Prof. Timothy Hellwig)
- Text labeling & sentiment analysis via LightTag/Hugging Face (with Dr. Robert W. Horne)
- Data verification and coding of U.S. Police chiefs (with Dr. Laura Huber)
- Red Cross annual reports data coding (with Prof. Sam Bell)

Grants & Scholarships

Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi (2024) · Dwight Tays Scholarship (2023) · Goberdhan Bhagat Award Endowment (2021, 2022) · Erasmus+ EU Traineeship Grant (2020) · Council of Europe Traineeship Grant (2020, *declined*) · University of Padova Tuition Fee Waiver (2018–2021) · Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship (2018, *declined*) · Erasmus+ Study Abroad Grant (2017)

Conferences

Turkey Computational Social Sciences Conference (2025) · ISA Midwest (2023, 2024) · ISA Northeast (2024) · New York State Political Science Association (2022, 2023) · Ole Miss GSC Symposium (2023) · Three Minute Thesis (2022–2025) · Arkansas Political Science Association (2022)

Additional Skills

Languages: Turkish (native), English (proficient), Russian (intermediate)

Computational: Microsoft Office; Stata, RStudio (causal inference, data visualization); NVivo (thematic analysis); LaTeX (templating); LightTag (text labeling); Python (Hugging Face fine-tuning)

Fieldwork: Designed and conducted two waves of semi-structured interviews, Serbia

Professional Affiliations

International Studies Association · European International Studies Association · American Association for the Advancement of Science · Young Professionals in Foreign Policy