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POSITIONS HELD Fellow for the Middle East, Baker Institute, Rice University, 2017–Present
MLI Fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute, 2019–2021
Instructor, Political Science Department, Rice University, 2019–2020
Research Scholar, Baker Institute, Rice University, 2015–2017
Assistant Professor, Furman University, 2011–2015
Postdoctoral Fellow, Niehaus Center, Princeton University, 2010–2011

EDUCATION Ohio State University, Ph.D. in Political Science, 2006–2010
University of Chicago, Intensive Summer Arabic Program, 2007
Ohio State University, M.A. in Political Science, 2004–2006
University of Houston, Grad. Coursework in Political Science, 2002–2004
Bilkent University, B.A. in International Relations, 1998–2002

BOOK “Breaking with God: Institutions and Religious Parties in Western Europe and the Middle East.” (under contract with Cambridge University Press)
Muslim Democratic Parties in the Middle East: Economy and Politics of Islamist Moderation. Indiana University Press. 2016.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS “Religious Parties and Ideological Change: The Case of Iranian and Turkish Islamists.” (with M. Tabaar). *Political Science Quarterly*. 135(4): 697–723. 2020.
“Ideological Congruence and Social Media Text as Data.” (with A. Aydogan and T. Tuna). *Representation*. 55(2): 159–178. 2019.
“Patronage and Industrial Football: Explaining the De-politicization of Turkish Soccer Fandom.” *Soccer & Society* 20(2): 232–251. 2019.
“The Big Impact of Owning a Small Business: Evidence from the European Social Survey.” (with S. Sokhey and J. Schaffer). *Comparative European Politics*. 2017.

- “Between Anti-Westernism and Development: Political Islam and Environmentalism.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 52(2): 215-232. 2016.
- “Bending with the Wind: Revisiting Islamist Parties’ Electoral Dilemma.” (with C. Lancaster) *Politics and Religion* 8(3): 588-613. 2015.
- “Globalization, Political Islam, and Moderation: The Case of Muslim Democratic Parties.” *Sociology of Islam* 3(1-2): 76-106. 2015.
- “Islamist Moderation in Perspective: Comparative Analysis of the Moderation of Islamist and Western Communist Parties.” (with S. Karakaya) *Democratization* 20(7): 1322-1349. 2013.
- “Economic Liberalization and Political Moderation: The Case of Anti-System Parties.” (with S. Sokhey) *Party Politics* 19 (2): 230-255. 2013.
- “New Democrats: Religious Actors, Social Change and Democratic Consolidation in Turkey.” *Contemporary Islam* 7(3): 311-331. 2013.
- “The Political Economy of Turkey’s Eastern Turn: An Empirical Analysis of Erdogan’s State Visits.” (with F. Ekmekci) *Romanian Journal of Political Science* 13 (1): 52-75. 2013.
- “The AKP and the Eastern Turn (?) of Turkey: An Economic Analysis.” (with F. Ekmekci) *USAK Yearbook of International Politics and International Relations* 5: 37-60. 2012
- “Muslim Democratic Parties in Turkey, Egypt, and Morocco: An Economic Explanation.” *Insight Turkey* 11 (4): 65-76. 2009.

**OTHER
PUBLICATIONS**

- “PJD & Economic Policymaking in Morocco.” (With E. Zhang) Report, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Aug 19, 2021.
- “Islamist Reactions to the Biden Presidency in the Middle East.” Issue Brief, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Apr 13, 2021.
- “Islamist Responses to Arab Normalization Agreements with Israel.” Issue Brief, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Jan 28, 2021.
- Review of *Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). *Perspectives on Politics*. 2020.
- “What is the Role of Islam and Islamists in the Middle East?” in *Seven Pillars: What Really Causes Instability in the Middle East?* (eds. Michael Rubin and

Brian Katulis). AEI Press. pp.33-52. 2019. (book chapter)

“The Aftermath of the Arab Spring Protests: What a Public Opinion Survey Tells Us.” (with M. McCain) Issue Brief, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Mar 21, 2019.

“The New Guardians of Religion: Islam and Authority in the Middle East.” Policy Report, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Mar 12, 2019.

“Pluralism and Inclusion in the Post-Arab Spring World.” Policy Report (ed.), Baker Institute for Public Policy, Jan 14, 2019.

“Inclusion in Post-2011 Kuwait.” Policy Report (ed.), Baker Institute for Public Policy, Aug 13, 2018.

“PJD, Islam, and Governance.” Policy Report (ed.), Baker Institute for Public Policy, Jun 3, 2018.

“Religion and Politics in post-2011 Tunisia.” Policy Report (ed.), Baker Institute for Public Policy, May 1, 2018.

Review of Luca Ozzano and Francesco Cavatorta, eds., *Religiously Oriented Parties and Democratization* (New York: Routledge, 2014). Party Politics. 2017.

“Contemporary Turkish Politics.” Policy Report, Baker Institute for Public Policy in collaboration with POMEPS, Dec 8, 2016.

“U.S. Engagement with Islamists.” Issue Brief, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Dec 5, 2016.

“Military, Political Islam, and Future of Democracy in Egypt.” *Insight Turkey* 15(4): 61-68. 2013.

Review of Ümit Cizre, ed., *Secular and Islamic Politics in Turkey: The Making of the Justice and Development Party* (New York: Routledge, 2008). *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 43 (2): 358-361. 2011.

UNDER REVIEW

“Preaching Politics: How Political Contestation Affects Religious Authority in the Middle East.”

GRANTS & HONORS

“The Umma in the Time of Corona: Exploring Muslim Responses to the 2020 Global Pandemic.” Luce Foundation (PI), \$90,000 – 2020-2021.

“Religious Authority and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East.” Luce Foundation (PI), \$400,465 – 2017-2019.

“Confronting the Governance Crisis in MENA: Rewriting the Social Contract Post-Arab Spring.” Carnegie Corporation of New York (PI), \$598,653 – 2016-2018.

Strategy & Policy Fellows Program, Smith Richardson Foundation (PI), \$60,000 – 2016-2018

“Political Christianity vs. Political Islam: Institutional Sources of Moderation.” IIIT (PI), \$2,250 – 2015-2016

Turkey Democracy Report, Demokrasi Denetçileri (PI), \$3,500 – 2015

Furman Advantage Program, Furman University, 2012-2014

RPG Grant, Furman University, 2012

Graduate Associate, Ohio State University, 2004-2010

Mershon Center Grant, 2009

James C. Cotting Research Abroad Grant, Ohio State University, 2008

OIA Travel Grant, Ohio State University, 2008

CAS International Travel Grant, Ohio State University, 2008

Alumni Grants for Grad. Research & Scholarship, Ohio State University, 2007

Foreign Language Enhancement Program (FLEP) Fellowship, Ohio State University, 2007

Teaching Assistant, University of Houston, 2002-2004

University Fellowship, Bilkent University, 1998-2002

OPINION PIECES

“Will the Pandemic Spark a Religious Revival in the Muslim World?”

Washington Post, Apr 2, 2021 (with T. Masoud and P. Mandaville)

“Will Joe Biden Pave a New Path for US-Turkey Relations?” *Responsible Statecraft*, Jan 2, 2021.

“Triumphalism in Hagia Sophia.” *Sada* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Jul 29, 2020.

“A Turning Point for Turkey’s Opposition?” *Sada* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Apr 3, 2019.

“Can Tunisia’s Experiment Spur Democracy in the Region? It Depends on the Economy.” *LSE Middle East Blog*, Jan 2, 2019 (with A. Aydogan).

“The Opposition’s Moment? Turkey’s Elections Produce a Divided Government.” *Houston Chronicle*, Jun 26, 2018.

“The Next Challengers of US Role in the Middle East.” *The Hill*, Jun 25, 2018 (with K. Ulrichsen).

“Erdogan’s Persistent Popularity.” *Sada* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Jun 13, 2018.

“The Economic and Political Dissatisfaction Behind Tunisia’s Protests.” *Sada* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Jan 23, 2018 (with A. Aydogan).

“What the Iran Sanctions Case in New York Means for Turkey and Erdogan.” *Washington Post*, Dec 2, 2017.

“How Erdogan Won More Power But Lost Legitimacy in Turkey’s Constitutional Referendum.” *Washington Post*, Apr 20, 2017.

“Is There Still Hope for Turkish Democracy,” *Washington Post*, Dec 8, 2016 (with Marc Lynch).

“Turkey’s Impending Eastern Turn.” *Sada* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Aug 18, 2016.

“How Erdogan May Exploit Turkey’s Failed Coup.” *Washington Post*, Jul 20, 2016.

“Religion and the Middle East in U.S. Foreign Policy.” *Huffington Post*, May 31, 2016.

“The Reality of Turkey’s Pakistanization.” *Huffington Post*, Mar 16, 2016.

“Why Turkey’s Government is Threatening Academic Freedom.” *Washington Post*, Jan 16, 2016.

“Why Aren’t There Any Progressive Muslim Parties and Why That’s a Problem.” *Huffington Post*, Jan 11, 2016.

“The Tragic Fatalism of Islamic Revivalism.” *Houston Chronicle*, Oct 5, 2015.

“Repeat Elections in Turkey: Erdogan’s Hope for Survival.” *Houston Chronicle*, Aug 26, 2015.

“Turkey’s Kurdish Party at the Threshold.” *Washington Post*, May 26, 2015.

“Clientelism 2.0 vs. Democracy in Erdogan’s ‘New Turkey’.” *Washington Post*, Mar 13, 2015.

“Turkish Voters Face Tough Choice.” *Greenville News*, Aug 8, 2014.

“Turkey’s Presidential Elections: What is at Stake?” *Al Jazeera*, Aug 6, 2014.
“Turkey: Crackdown on the Opposition and Rule of Law.” *Open Democracy*, Jul 28, 2014.
“The Slow Death of Turkish Higher Education.” *Al Jazeera*, Jul 10, 2014.
“Turkish Elections: Money and the Media.” *Open Democracy*, Apr 8, 2014.
“Turkey: The Road to a Democratic Future.” *Al Jazeera*, Mar 26, 2014.
“Opposition, the AKP and Democracy in Turkey.” *Open Democracy*, Mar 21, 2014.

**TALKS,
WORKSHOPS, &
CONFERENCES**

“Turkey: Navigating the Minefield,” Houston Seminar, February 25, 2020.
“The Land of Endless Wars: What Really Causes Instability in the Middle East?” American Enterprise Institute, January 8, 2020.
“Preaching Politics: How Politicization Undermines Religious Authority in the Middle East”, Harvard University Kennedy School, Middle East Initiative Speaker Series, November 5, 2019.
“Religious Authority in the Middle East: Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy.” Conference organized at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C. Mar 19, 2019.
“Religion and Politics in the Middle East.” Sheikh Lecture for Islamic Understanding, Oakland University, Oct 11, 2018.
“Building Pluralistic and Inclusive States Post-Arab Spring.” Conference at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., Sep 13, 2018.
“Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East.” Workshop at Baker Institute, May 14, 2018.
“Invoking God: Institutions and Religious Party Evolution in Western Europe and Middle East.” Book workshop at Baker Institute, Apr 27, 2018.
“Pluralism and Inclusion in Post-2011 Jordan.” Workshop in Amman, Jordan, May 7, 2018.
“Pluralism and Inclusion in Post-2011 Kuwait.” Workshop in Kuwait City, Kuwait, May 5, 2018.
“PJD, Islam, and Governance in Post-2011 Morocco.” Workshop in Ifrane, Morocco, Feb 20, 2018.

“Islam and Politics in Post-2011 Tunisia.” Workshop in Tunis, Tunisia, Feb 12, 2018.

“Building Pluralistic and Inclusive States Post-Arab Spring.” Conference at American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, Feb 1-2, 2018.

Turkish Politics.” Workshop at Baker Institute, Oct 14, 2016 (co-organized with Marc Lynch).

“Turkey at the Crossroads: Contemporary Debates and Future Scenarios.” Invited Talk at Ohio University, Apr 13, 2017.

“Elite Competition, Threat Perception, and Ideological Change.” Workshop at Arizona State University, Feb 16-17, 2017.

“Middle East Developments.” Invited Talk at Rotary Club of Tryon, May 15, 2014, Tryon, NC.

“A Defining Moment in Turkey’s Democratic History.” Invited Talk at Columbia Rotary Club, Apr 12, 2014, Columbia, SC.

“Turkey’s Challenges.” Invited Talk at St. Louis Council on World Affairs, Mar 20, 2014, St. Louis, MO.

“Middle East Developments.” Invited Talk at Hendersonville Rotary Club, Feb 25, 2014, Hendersonville, NC.

“Political Islam, Sacred and Freedom of Expression.” Presentation at “Freedom of Expression vs. Respect for the Sacred” Conference at John Carroll University, Apr 13, 2013, Cleveland, OH.

“The Arab Spring: Prospects for Democratization.” Invited Talk at Hendersonville Rotary Club, Feb 26, 2013, Hendersonville, NC.

“The Arab Spring: Prospects for Democratization.” Invited Talk at High Noon, Feb 20, 2013, Greenville, SC.

“Peace in the Middle East.” Invited Talk at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Feb 11, 2013, Greenville, SC.

“The Gulen Movement and the Justice and Development Party: Religion and Democracy in Turkey.” Department of Near Eastern Studies, Feb 28, 2011, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

“A Century of Turkish Democracy: Elites, Masses and Secularism.” Invited Lecture, October 7, 2010, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA.

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Editor, Digest of Middle East Studies.

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) - Section Chair for Middle East Politics, 2018.

Reviewer for American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, World Politics, British Journal of Political Science, European Journal of Political Research, Party Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Politics & Religion, Mediterranean Politics, Democratization, Turkish Studies, Insight Turkey, European Journal of Economic and Political Studies, Muslim World Journal of Human Rights, International Journal of Conflict Management, Indiana University Press, and Temple University Press.

TEACHING

Introduction to World Politics

Politics of the Middle East

Politics of Developing Nations

Islam and Politics

Arab-Israeli Conflict

Soccer and Society

First Year Seminar: Islam, Women, and Media

FIELDWORK

Lebanon, Feb-Mar 2018, Mar 2017

Tunisia, Feb 2018, Mar-Apr 2017

Morocco, Feb 2018, Dec 2009

USA, UK, Canada Apr-May 2017

Egypt, Oct-Dec 2008

Turkey, Aug-Oct 2008

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

SKILLS

Language: Turkish - Native, Arabic - Intermediate

Statistical: Stata, R, SPSS

Computer Programming: Java

REFERENCES

Sarah Brooks - Ohio State University

Amaney Jamal - Princeton University

Irfan Nooruddin - Georgetown University

Marcus Kurtz - Ohio State University