

Merve Keskin

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Political Science Department
University of Pittsburgh

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: International Relations, Political Violence, Conflict Processes, Conflict Management and Resolution, Peacebuilding, Peace Agreements, Negotiations, Bargaining, External Intervention.

Methodological: Quantitative Methodology, Spatial Analysis, Text Analysis, Survival Analysis, Network Analysis, Time Series Forecasting, Process Tracing.

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, expected: 2025

- Dissertation: The Logic and Consequences of Local Peace Agreements in Civil Wars
- Committee: Michael P. Colaresi (co-chair), Burcu Savun (co-chair), Jude Hays, Elizabeth Menninga (University of Iowa)

M.A., Political Science, 2021

Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey

M.A., International Relations, 2019

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

B.A., Political Science and International Relations, 2017

Study Abroad: **Keele University**, Spring 2015

WORKING PAPERS

“Mitigating Conflict Violence Locally: Local Peace Agreements in Civil Wars”

“The Logic of Local Peace Agreements”

“A Rebel with a Sanction: UN Sanctions against Non-state Armed Groups and Civil Conflict Duration” *with Omer Zarpli (Under Review)*

“Competitive Intervener Dyad, Bargaining Failure, and Civil War Duration” *with Jungmin Han*

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Using Knowledge Graphs for Visualizing Political Violence and Human Rights Violations” *with Michael Colaresi and Bree Bang-Jensen*

“Peace or Retribution? Territorial Control and Public Opinion Toward Peace”

“Child Recruitment and Rebel Groups’ Legitimacy Seeking in Civil Wars” *with Isil Idrisoglu*

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPER

“Zhang, Xiaozhong, and Jiawei Xu, Merve Keskin, Michael Colaresi, Vladimir Zadorozhny and Panos Chrysanthis. 2022. “HR-VEAW: A Human Rights Violation Exploration, Analytics, and Warning System” International Workshop on Big Data Visual Exploration and Analytics.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS APSA (2023-2024); ISA (2022-2024); Peace Science Society (International) Annual Meetings (2023-2024); ISSS-IS (2024); PennState-Pitt IR Workshop (2024); 12th Euroasian Peace Science Conference (2024), CRS Annual Conference (2023).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE **University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA
Instructor of Record
Visualizing and Understanding Social Data **Spring 2025**
Introduction to International Relations **Summer 2022, Summer 2024**
International Law and Problems of World Order **Summer 2023**

Teaching Assistant
Introduction to International Relations **Fall 2020 - Spring 2021**

Guest Lecturer
Civil Wars, "Civilian Agency in Civil Wars" **Fall 2023**
Civil Wars, "Participation and Recruitment" **Fall 2021**

Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey
Teaching Assistant
Introduction to International Relations **Summer 2018**
Terrorism, Insurgency, and World Politics **Spring 2018**
International Relations Capstone **Fall 2017**

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
Teaching Assistant **Spring 2016**
Introduction to Turkish Politics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE Research Assistant for Michael P. Colaresi
Project: Tracking Horizontal Inequalities Across Dimensions to Forecast and Understand Instability (TriAD) (Summer 2023 - Summer 2024)
Project: Parsing Unstructured Language into Sentiment-Aspect Representations (PULSAR) (Fall 2021 - Spring 2022)

Research Assistant for Aala Abdelgadir; Data Collection (Fall 2023 - Spring 2024)

Research Assistant for Max Goplerud; Data Cleaning, Replication, Research on Survival Models (Summer 2021 - Spring 2022)

Research Assistant for Belgin San-Akca
Project: State-NAG Cooperation Dataset (Spring 2018 - Summer 2019)

Research Assistant for Mert Arslanarp and Deniz Erkmen
Project: Emergency Rule: Protest, Law and Authoritarian Consolidation in Contemporary Turkey (Summer 2017)

Research Assistant for Resat Bayer
Project: Correlates of War (COW) Diplomatic Missions Dataset (Summer 2016)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS 2024 (Fall), Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2022-2023 Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

2021, Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

2018-2019, National Scholarship Program, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye

2017-2019, Master of Arts Full Scholarship, Koc University

Travel awards: International Studies Association (2025: \$600; 2019: \$600), American Political Science Association & Conflict Processes Section (2023: \$200), Graduate Student Government, University of Pittsburgh (2022: \$400; 2023: \$400; 2024: \$400), Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences, University of Pittsburgh (2023: \$250)

SERVICE

Workshop Organization

- Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop, Spring 2024 - ongoing

Departmental Service

- Teaching Assistant / Teaching Fellow Mentor, Fall 2024 - Spring 2025
- Committee Member, Assistant Professor in IR Search Committee, Fall 2023
- Committee Member, Mellon Endowed Chair Search Committee, Fall 2021
- Graduate Student Representative, Political Science Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
- Political Science Graduate Student Mentor, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Discussant

- “Rebel Group Behavior in Multi-party Civil Wars,” 2024 APSA Annual Conference
- “Third Parties and Conflict Actors,” 2023 APSA Annual Conference

Reviewer

International Interactions

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SKILLS

- Workshops: Rising Scholars (2024), Analyzing Peace Processes (2023)
- Software: R, Python, ArcGIS, INCEpTION
- Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French and Persian (beginner)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

Last updated: October 2024