

Basak TARAKTAS

Curriculum Vitae

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EMPLOYMENT

Sep 2019–Present	Associate Professor of Political Science, Boğaziçi University
Sep 2018–Sep 2019	Senior Analyst, FutureMap
Oct 2016–Aug 2018	Postdoctoral Researcher, Northwestern University, Buffett Institute for Global Studies
Sep 2015–Jan 2016	Country Expert (Ottoman Empire, Egypt), Varieties of Democracy Project ¹

Affiliations

Sep 2022–Present	Director, Center for European Studies
Sep 2021–Present	Director, Computational Social Science Lab

EDUCATION

2016	Ph.D., Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
2009	M.A., Political Science, Sabancı University, Turkey
2006	M.A., European Political & Administrative Studies, College of Europe, Belgium
2005	B.A., Political Science & International Relations, Galatasaray University, Turkey

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Methodology: Computational social sciences (network analysis, agent-based modeling, text analysis), historical-comparative analysis

Comparative politics: Collective action, opinion dynamics, regime change, and social movements

International relations: International political economy, financial and sovereign debt crises

Area specialization: European studies

PUBLICATIONS

Articles under review

"Protesting for Progress: The Impact of Black Lives Matter Protests on Policing Reform in the U.S.," with Emekcan Yucel

"Sincerity and Conformity: A Network Game of Political Expression" with Tolga Umut Kuzubas, Murat Ali Cengelci

¹<https://www.v-dem.net/en/historical/country-experts/>

"Media Portrayals of Racial Minority Protests: An In-depth Analysis of BLM Coverage in the New York Times," with Cihan Duran, Ugur Deniz Kutlu, Suzan Uskudarli, Ozgur Togay

"Recurring authoritarian revivals: Evidence from Ottoman and Republican Turkey"

"When Talk is not enough: Social Context and the persistence of ideological polarization" with Isaac Mehlhaff and Irem Kocak

Refereed journal articles

"Lowest common denominator messaging: issue prioritization in #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo digital coalitions." (2025) *Social Network Analysis and Mining*, 15, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13278-025-01522-y> (with Alp Unal)

"Strategic convergence, ideological discounting, and pre-electoral coalition formation: evidence from the 2023 Turkish presidential elections", (2025), *Turkish Studies*, 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683849.2025.2576098> (with Uzay Cetin)

"A Comparative Analysis of Online Mobilization through Slogan Specificity: The Case of the Countermovements to #BlackLivesMatter", (2025), *New Media & Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448251336421>, (with Cihan Duran, Suzan Uskudarli, Orkun Irisoy).

"Is justice served for Black victims of police brutality? The effect of online activism on court processes and verdicts," (2025), *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, 1–26, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2025.2518533> (with Cihan Duran, Suzan Uskudarli).

"Structural inequalities exacerbate infection disparities", (2025), *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 9082, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-91008-w>, (with Sina Sajjadi, Mehrzad Shadman-gohar, Pourya Toranj, Ulya Bayram, Mavi Peru, Fariba Karimi)

"Protesting during the Covid: When the abstention cost overweighs infection risk" (2024) *Social Movement Studies*. 23(6), 830–848, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2024.2349580>

"Do activists prioritize solutions over grievances? A Twitter Study of Black Lives Matter," (2024), *Marmara Universitesi Siyasal Bilimler Dergisi*, 12 (1): 1–22, <https://doi.org/10.14782/marmarasbd.1316065>, (with Cihan Duran, Suzan Uskudarli).

"At the intersection of faith, allegiances toward the state, and economic deprivation: The Case of the Christian Democratic unions in 19th century Western Europe", (2022) *Alternatif Politika*. 14 (3): 612–640, <https://doi.org/10.53376/ap.2022.21>.

"Tweeting through a Public Health Crisis: Communication Strategies of Right-Wing Populist Leaders during the COVID-19 Pandemic." (2022). *Government and Opposition: An International Journal of Comparative Politics* 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1017/gov.2022.34>, (with Berk Esen, Suzan Uskudarli).

"Tolerable levels of disagreement: Collective action capacity & shape of coalitions", (2021) *Social Networks*. 68. 15-30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2021.04.002>

"Simulating phase transitions and control measures for network epidemics caused by infections with presymptomatic, asymptomatic, and symptomatic stages", (2020), *PLOS ONE*

15(9): e0238412, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0238412. with (Ben Braun, Brian Beckage, and Jane Molofsky)

"The Irish Bailout: When resolve breaks down," (2012) *Contemporary European Studies*, 2, pp. 83-113.

"A Comparative Approach to Euroscepticism," (2008) *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, Nov., 16: 2, pp. 249-266.

Book chapters

"Exploring the diffusion of computational social science methods in political science using network analysis," (2026) in Paulo Ravecca and Mehtap Soyler (eds). *How to Research Researchers: Methods for Studying Political Scientists Worldwide*, Routledge.

"Karsilastirmali Perspektifte Osmanli Anayasal Gelismeleri," (2026) in Şebnem Gümüşçü and Berk Esen (eds.) *Türkiye'de Siyasetin Temel Dinamikleri*. İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları, ISBN: 9786053993865.

"Etiket Aktivizmi ve Çerçeveleme Stratejileri: Sosyal Medya Verilerini Ağ Analiziyle İncelemek." (2025) IN ed. Akin Unver. *Sosyal Veri Bilimi*. İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları.(195-215).

"Incorporating computational social science in political science," (2022) In ed. Enes Abanoz. *Advances in Human and Social Aspects of Technology*, IGI Global, 23–44. <https://services.igi-global.com/resolvedoi/resolve.aspx?doi=10.4018/978-1-7998-8553-5.ch002>.

"When Does Repression Trigger Mass Protest? The 2013 Gezi Protests," (2016) in Julie M. Mazzei (ed.) *Non-State Violent Actors and Social Movement Organizations* (Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change, Volume 41) Emerald Publishing Limited, pp.205 - 239. (with Defne Over), <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0163-786X20170000041017>

- awarded Sidney Tarrow Best Article Prize

Other publications

"Checking presidential power: executive decrees and the legislative process in new democracies," by Valeria Palanza, *Democratization*. (2020), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2020.1787990>.

"Studying alliance formation using case studies and network analysis, (2019) " *SAGE Research Methods Cases*, doi:10.4135/9781526486639.

Selected work in progress

"A SIR-model for misinformation spread," with Isaac Mehlhaff and Irem Kocak

"Case studies in the age of big data"

"From Fandom to frontline: K-Pop fan activism and strategies of countering backlash movements" with Helin Yaren and Suzan Uskudarli

PROJECTS

Dia-Pol: Polarization or dialogue? A deep learning study of the Black Lives Matter and Me Too online social movements (H2020-MSCA-IF-2020 #101028566), <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101028566/results>

HeForShe (Bogazici University Scientific Research Project #18241)

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

“Activists’ strategic use of hashtags kept justice for George Floyd in the spotlight”, *USAPP*, August 2025, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2025/08/18/activists-strategic-use-of-hashtags-kept-justice-for-george-floyd-in-the-spotlight/>

“Erdogan’s risky course: Will the lira crisis bring him down?” (*Erdogans riskanter Kurs: Bringt die Lira-Krise ihn zu Fall?*), *Die Presse*, 01.12.2021. <https://www.diepresse.com/6068832/erdogans-riskanter-kurs-bringt-die-lira-krise-ihn-zu-fall>

“Sage Methods Short Film on Methods: An Interview on Network Analysis,” (2018). <http://methods.sagepub.com/video/srmpromo/VXbwhb/an-introduction-to-network-analysis>

“Katılanların gözünden ABD kadın yürüyüşü” (2017 Women’s March from the perspective of protesters), *Medyascope.tv*, Jan. 23, 2017. <http://medyascope.tv/2017/01/23/ozel-yay-in-katilanlarin-gozunden-abd-kadin-yuruyusu-tugba-tanyeri-basak-taraktas/>

“‘Biz’, ‘Onlar’ ve toplumsal dayanışma (‘We’, ‘Them’ and social cooperation)”, *Radikal* 2, Feb. 2007.

“Milliyetçilik, siyasallaşma, militanlaşma” (Nationalism, politicization, militantism), *Radikal* 2, Feb. 2007.

“Manifestations and the shortage of political supply” (*Mitinglerin Siyasi Arz Eksikliği*), *Yeni Şafak*, May 2007.

“Turkish points of view on EU accession,” *Faith in Europe Magazine*, May 2007.

“Rights, identities and EU citizenship,” *Faith in Europe Magazine*, May 2007.

“Opening of the negotiations with Turkey,” *Yeni Aktüel*, Oct. 2005.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2021 Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (H2020-MSCA-IF) (€145,000)
- 2021 HeForShe, Boğaziçi University Scientific Research Project #18241 (USD 10,000)
- 2020 TÜBİTAK Eşik Üstü Ödülü
- 2020 2nd Project Award, *Exploring Network Epidemiology in the Time of Coronavirus* (University of Maryland & University of Vermont, Complex Systems Center, 29 groups). Project title: *Racial disparities in COVID-19 cases: Beyond inherent vulnerability*. <https://sites.google.com/umd.edu/net-covid/home>
- 2015 Sidney Tarrow Best Article Prize, Cornell Institute for European Studies
- 2014 Democracy, Constitution, and Citizenship Graduate Fellow
- 2014 Boies Fellow
- 2013 UPenn School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Teece Fellowship
- 2009 Ben Franklin Award
- 2005 European Commission Jean Monnet Fellowship
- 2005 TÜBİTAK Fellowship (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)
- 2003 National Agency of Turkey Fellowship (Ulusal Ajans)

INVITED TALKS

- “Büyük veri çağında vaka çalışmaları,” *Sosyal Bilimlerde Metotlar ve Sınırlar: Disiplinler-arasıliğin Neresindeyiz?*, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi, Santral Kampüsü, May 10, 2025.
- “Analyzing Collective Power Dynamics,” *Optimism Collective*, Dec 4, 2024.
- “Voting under constraint: An agent-based modeling approach to clientelism in the presence of ethnic groups,” *Competing Authorities*, University of Gothenburg, Jun. 24–27, 2024.
- “ZuConnect,” Panels on crypto, AI, governance, decentralized science, İstanbul, Oct. 23, 2023.
- “The Rise of Alliances among the Turkish Opposition Parties,” *MEISA Webinar: The Vote of the Century: Opposition and Minority Groups in the 2023 Turkish Elections*, May 25, 2023.
- “Computational Social Science & Political Science,” *Tevitol Sosyal Bilimler Çalıştayı*, Jun. 12, 2022.
- “Surviving the Pandemic: The Effect of Socioeconomic Disparities on Mortality Rates by COVID,” *Manchester University Mitchell Centre Seminar*, Nov. 4, 2020.
- “Computational Methods in Social Science,” Boğaziçi University, Department of Computer Engineering, Apr. 24, 2019.
- “Tolerable Disagreements: Dynamics of Coalition Formation,” Sabancı University, Mar. 6, 2019.
- “Tolerable Disagreements: Dynamics of Coalition Formation,” University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Department of Computer Engineering, Feb. 28, 2018.
- “Workshop on Network Analysis,” University of Illinois, Chicago, Apr. 28, 2017.
- “Perceptions of Ethnicity,” Penn Middle East Center, Philadelphia, Nov. 10, 2015.
- “Turkey: Culture & Ethnic Diversity,” Penn Middle East Center, Philadelphia, May 24, 2015.
- “L’euroscépticisme en Turquie,” Institut Français d’Études Anatoliennes, İstanbul, May 2007.
- “European Citizenship,” ARI Workshop on European Civilisation and Culture (EU Commission Action I project), Koç University, İstanbul, May 2005.
- “Legal Violations in Cyprus History,” Greco-Turkish Forum on Cyprus, Galatasaray University, İstanbul, Aug. 2002.
- “Questioning the EU’s 5th Enlargement,” European Days 2002, Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, Oct. 2002.
- “Defining Terrorism,” Campus Forum, İstanbul University, Apr. 2002.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

- “Political and Social Network Analysis: Formation, Resilience, and Inference,” AI & METHODS IN COMPUTATIONAL COMMUNICATION (AIM-CC 2026), Astana, Aug. 8–16, 2026.
- Advanced Network Analysis: Exponential Random Graph Models*, Instats, Oct. 3–4, 2025.
- Beyond Linear Data: Network Analysis with R*, Louvain-la-Neuve, Sep. 12, 2025.
- Social Network Analysis: Strength vs. Vulnerability*, Instats, Aug. 15–16, 2025.
- Short Course on Computational Social Science*, APSA 2023, Workshop on Analytics for a Better World, İstanbul, Sep. 11, 2023.
- Short Course on Computational Social Science*, APSA 2023. <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2023/pre-conference-short-courses/>
- Advanced Network Analysis*, SICSS İstanbul 2023, Özyeğin University, Jul. 7, 2023.
- Computational Social Science*, APSA Short Course, Sep. 8, 2020.
- Short Course on Network Analysis*, Bilkent University, Dec. 27–28, 2019.
- Computational Modeling in Political Science*, APSA Short Course, Aug. 28, 2018.
- Short Course on Complexity*, APSA Short Course, 2017.
- Workshop on Network Analysis*, University of Illinois, Chicago, Apr. 28, 2017.

REFeree EXPERIENCE

EU COST Action (2025, 2026)
Horizon 2020 (2024, 2026)
Tubitak (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Advanced Social Statistics, Bogazici University (2022–2026)
Decision theory, Bogazici University, (2021–2026)
Comparative state and bureaucracies, Bogazici University, (2020–2026)
Social Statistics, Bogazici University, 2019–2026)
Research Methods, Bogazici University, (2020–2026)
Quantitative Research Methods, Bogazici University
Democratic Transitions, Northwestern University, 2017, 2018

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Turkish: Native
English: Reading (fluent), speaking (fluent), writing (fluent)
French: Reading (fluent), speaking (fluent), writing (fluent)
Italian: Reading (beginner), speaking (beginner), writing (beginner)

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Netlogo, Python, Java, L^AT_EX

DATASETS

19th-century Ottoman regime challengers
19th-century French regime challengers
Survey data on 2013 Gezi Protests
Twitter data on Black Lives Matter & Me Too Movements DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6981405
Twitter data on HeForShe
Turkish political elites (with Berk Esen)

REFEREES

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