

# İBRAHİM ÖKER

807 Union Street Schenectady, NY 12308

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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*Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of Political Science, Union College, Schenectady, NY *September, 2024 -*

*Visiting Instructor*, Department of Political Science, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN *January-May, 2024*

*Research Associate*, Social Policy Center, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey *2014-2017*

## EDUCATION

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**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA** *2017- February 2024*  
Ph.D. in Political Science

**Boğaziçi University** *2015-2017*  
Ph.D. (Not Completed) The Atatürk Institute for Modern Turkish History

**Sabancı University, İstanbul, Turkey** *2013-2014*  
M.A. in Public Policy

**Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey** *2008-2013*  
B.Sc. in Political Science and Public Administration

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* Denotes equal contribution.

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- Caraway, Teri and **İbrahim Öker**.\* (*Forthcoming*.) "The US Minimum Wage in Comparative Perspective." *Perspectives on Politics*. (2026, Online first)
- Caraway, Teri and **İbrahim Öker**.\* (*Forthcoming*.) "The Politics of the Minimum Wage in the Global South." *ILR Review*.
- **Öker, İbrahim**, Mehmet Fuat Kına, and İbrahim Kuran. "Belonging to unions across the world: Macro and micro dynamics." *European Journal of Industrial Relations* 32.2 (2026): 159-186.
- Yoruk, Erdem, **İbrahim Öker**, and Gabriela Tafoya. "The Four Worlds of Global Welfare Capitalism: Institutional, Neoliberal, Populist and Residual Welfare State Regimes." *Journal of European Social Policy*, 2022: 32(2), 119–134.
- Yoruk, Erdem, **İbrahim Öker**, and Lara Sarlak. "Indigenous Unrest and the Contentious Politics of Social Assistance in Mexico." *World Development*, 123 (2019): 104618.
- Yoruk, Erdem, **İbrahim Öker**, Kerem Yildirim, and Burcu Yakut-Cakar. "The Variable Selection Problem in the Three Worlds of Welfare Literature." *Social Indicators Research*, 2019: 144(2), 625–646.

### Book Chapters

- Celik Cetin, Fatos Goksen, Alpay Filiztekin, **İbrahim Öker** and Mark Smith. "Fragile Transitions from Education to Employment: Youth, Gender and Migrant Status in the EU." In E. Colombo (2019), *Youth and the Politics of the Present: Coping with Complexity and Ambivalence*. London: Routledge.

- Goksen, Fatos and **İbrahim Öker**.\* “Gender and Migrant Workers’ Fragile Transitions from Education to Employment.” In J. O’Reilly, C. Moyart, T. Nazio, and M. Smith (2018), *Youth Employment: STYLE Handbook*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Goksen Fatos, Deniz Yukseker, Alpay Filiztekin, **İbrahim Öker**, Fernanda Mazotta, and Lavinia Parisi. “Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home during the Economic Crisis.” In J. O’Reilly, C. Moyart, T. Nazio, and M. Smith (2018), *Youth Employment: STYLE Handbook*. Bristol: Policy Press.

### Policy Reports

- Goksen, Fatos, Alpay Filiztekin, **İbrahim Öker** Mark Smith, and Cetin Celik. (2016) “Vulnerable Youth and Gender in Europe.”
- Goksen, Fatos, Deniz Yukseker, Alpay Filiztekin, **İbrahim Öker**, Fernanda Mazotta, and Lavinia Parisi. (2016) “Leaving and Returning to the Parental Home during the Economic Crisis.”
- Goksen, Fatos, Deniz Yukseker, **İbrahim Öker**, and Sinem Kuz. (2015) “Policy Performance and Evaluation: Turkey.”
- Fatos Goksen, Deniz Yukseker, **İbrahim Öker** and Sinem Kuz. (2015) “Barriers to and Triggers of Policy Innovation and Knowledge Transfer in Turkey.”

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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\* Denotes equal contribution.

### Articles Under Review

- **Öker, İbrahim**. “The Post-Colonial Origins of Generous Authoritarian Welfare States: The Middle East and Beyond.” *Under review*.
- **Öker, İbrahim**. “Popularity Through Debt: How Do Bank Credits Reinforce Authoritarian Popularity?” *Under review*.

### Ongoing Book Project

*The Politics of Generous Authoritarian Welfare States: The Middle East and Beyond*

- Book workshop held in May 2024 at the University of Minnesota

### Working Papers (Available upon request)

- Pedro Accorsi **İbrahim Öker**.\* “Guns versus Governance: Military Rule and Defense Spending.”
- **İbrahim Öker** and Ryan Cudworth. “Ecological Rift and Water Rights in the West Bank.”
- **Öker, İbrahim**. “The Strategic Allocation of Social Rights: Cyclical Insurance in Authoritarian Regimes.”

### Ongoing Article Projects

- **Öker, İbrahim**. “The Ottoman Roots of Local Development Disparities in the Middle East.”
- Gürel, Burak **İbrahim Öker**\*, and Zach Rodrigez. “The Dynamics of Chinese BRI in the Middle East”
- Accorsi, Pedro and **İbrahim Öker**\*. “Foreign Intervention and Authoritarian Popularity.”
- **Öker, İbrahim**\* and Lewis Davis. “The Colonial Roots of Patriarchy.”
- **Öker, İbrahim**\* and Josef Woldense. “Correcting Distortions in Latent Measures: A Penalized Regression Approach to Item Response Theory.”

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Guns versus Governance: Military Rule and Defense Spending” (with Pedro Accorsi). American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2026. (*Accepted for presentation*)

“The Strategic Allocation of Social Rights: Cyclical Insurance in Authoritarian Regimes.” Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2–4, 2026. (*Accepted for presentation*)

“Ecological Rift and Water Rights in the West Bank” (with Ryan Cudworth). Project on the Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Virtual Workshop, 2026. (*Accepted for presentation*)

“Ecological Rift and Water Rights in the West Bank” (with Ryan Cudworth). Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, November 22–25, 2025.

“America’s Minimum Wage in Comparative Perspective” (with Teri Caraway). American Political Science Association Comparative Labor Workshop, March 19–20, 2025.

“Guns versus Governance: Military Rule and Defense Spending Reduction” (with Pedro Accorsi). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 5–8, 2025.

“Popularity Through Debt: How Consumer Credit and Mortgages Reinforce Authoritarian Popularity.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, *Virtual*, November 2–5, 2024.

“America’s Minimum Wage in Comparative Perspective” (with Teri Caraway). American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 31–September 3, 2024.

“Financial Liberalization and Autocratic Survival: The Role of Banking System Deregulation.” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California, August 31–September 3, 2023. (*Attended virtually*)

“Financial Liberalization and Autocratic Survival: The Role of Banking System Deregulation.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, November 2–5, 2023.

“The Authoritarian Origins of Comprehensive Social Legislation.” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, September 15–18, 2022.

“The Authoritarian Origins of Comprehensive Social Legislation.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, December 1–4, 2022.

“The Politics of the Minimum Wage” (with Teri Caraway). American Political Science Association Comparative Labor Workshop, March 7, 2022.

“The Politics of Authoritarian Social Welfare Provision: Why Do Some Autocracies Develop Generous Welfare States?” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, September 30–October 3, 2021.

“The Politics of Authoritarian Social Welfare Provision: Insights from the Middle East and North Africa.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Ontario, Canada, October 28–31, 2021.

“The Politics of the Minimum Wage” (with Teri Caraway). American Political Science Association Annual Conference (*Virtual*), September 9–13, 2020.

“Four Worlds of Welfare Capitalism” (with Erdem Yoruk and Gabriela Tafoya). International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP4), Montreal, June 26–28, 2019.

“Indigenous Revolts and Politics of Social Assistance in Mexico” (with Erdem Yoruk and Lara Sarlak). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 5–8, 2018.

“Four Worlds of Welfare Capitalism” (with Erdem Yoruk and Gabriela Tafoya). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 5–8, 2018.

“A Beauvoirian Approach to a Historical Novel: I Killed My Love” (with Sultan Toprak). Women’s Studies Symposium, Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey, November 3–4, 2016.

## INVITED TALKS

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“The Politics of Social Rights in Autocracies: The Middle East and Beyond.” Virginia Military Institute, Political Science Speaker Series. November 20, 2025.

“The Historical Origins of Generous Authoritarian Welfare States.” Macalester College, Political Science Colloquium Series. March 8, 2023.

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- *Summer 2023* MnDRIVE Human in the Data Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *2022–2023* Dissertation Development Grant, Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2022* Claggett Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Spring 2022* Dissertation Development Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2021* Andrew Dickinson Memorial Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Spring 2021* Thesis Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *2020–2021* Interdisciplinary Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2020* Larson Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2020* Joyce C. Le Vi Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2019* Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Summer 2018* Summer Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *2013–2014* Graduate Student Fellowship, Sabancı University, Istanbul

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### **Union College, Schenectady, NY, USA**

- Introduction to Global Politics (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Winter 2026) (*approx. 40 students per section*)
- International Political Economy (Winter 2025, Winter 2026) (*approx. 30 students per section*)
- Politics of Colonialism (Spring 2026) (*approx. 25 students*)
- International Politics of the Middle East (Fall 2025) (*approx. 25 students*)
- Politics of the Middle East — comparative politics focus (Fall 2024) (*approx. 25 students*)
- Muslim Political Thought (Winter 2025) (*approx. 20 students*)
- Comparative Ethnic and Racial Politics (Fall 2025) (*approx. 25 students*)
- Democracy Under Siege (Spring 2025) (*approx. 25 students*)

### **Macalester College, St. Paul, MN, USA**

- Global Political Economy (Spring 2024) (*approx. 25 students*)
- Politics of the Middle East (Spring 2024) (*approx. 25 students*)
- The Politics of Colonialism: The Birth of the Modern International Order (Spring 2024) (*approx. 25 students*)

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA** (*Instructor of Record*)

- Political Economy of the Middle East (Summer 2024) (*approx. 20 students*)
- Democracy Under Threat (Summer 2024) (*approx. 20 students*)
- Political Economy of Development (Summer 2022, Summer 2023) (*approx. 20 students per section*)

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA** (*Teaching Assistant*)

- Sociology of Ethnic and Racial Conflict (Fall 2023) (*approx. 100 students*)
- Politics Around the World (Fall 2021) (*approx. 85 students*)
- Politics of Class, Race, and Ethnicity (Fall 2020) (*approx. 40 students*)
- Russian Politics (Spring 2020) (*approx. 50 students*)
- Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations (Fall 2019) (*approx. 50 students*)
- European Government and Politics (Spring 2019) (*approx. 50 students*)
- American Democracy in a Changing World (Fall 2018) (*approx. 150 students*)

**Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey** (*Teaching Assistant*)

- Introduction to Social and Political Science 101 (Fall 2013) (*approx. 40 students*)
- Introduction to Social and Political Science 102 (Spring and Summer 2014) (*approx. 40 students*)

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISING**

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**Union College, Schenectady, NY, USA**

**Ongoing**

- Colonialism and Christian Missionary Practices in Isolated Nations (Jay Spahn)
- Economic Sanctions and Authoritarian Survival: The Case of South Africa (Alkis Skemperis)
- US–UK Trade Relations after Brexit (Jacob Perry)
- The Development of Political and Social Polarization in the United States (Grace Arcoleo)

**Completed**

- Water Rights, Sovereignty, and the Pursuit of Palestinian Statehood (Ryan Cudworth)
- National Affinity Toward Israel among Arab-Israelis (Peter D'Agata)
- Politically-Motivated Banking Sector Regulation in the US (Buchanan William)
- A Neo-Keynesian Solution to Financial Crisis: A Comparison Between the 2008 Recession and the Great Depression (Graham Brooke)

**SERVICE**

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Co-convenor, Middle East Beyond Conflict Lecture Series, Union College

Co-organizer, Pizza and Politics, Political Science Speaker Series, Union College

Referee, *Comparative Political Studies*

Referee, *International Interactions*

Referee, *Global Labor Journal*

Referee, *Kurdish Studies Journal*

Co-organizer, Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota (2019–2020)

Graduate School Representative, Graduate Student Life Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota (2018–2019)

## LANGUAGES

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Turkish (Native)   Arabic (Native)   English (Fluent)   French (Research)

## COMPUTER SKILLS

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STATA, R, Python, SPSS, nVivo, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Visual Studio Code

## REFERENCES

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Teri L. Caraway, Professor of Political Science  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
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Kathleen Collins, Professor of Political Science  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
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