

Açelya Altun

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contentious politics, repression, violence, autocratization, quantitative methods, machine learning, data visualization.

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2025 – Present

PhD in Political Science

Fields: Comparative Politics, Methodology, Political Economy

Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey 2023 – 2025

MA in Political Science

Thesis Title: “The Determinants of Civic Space Crackdowns: Evidence from Human Rights Reports”

Thesis Advisor: Assist. Prof. Serkant Adigüzel

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey 2017 – 2023

BA in Political Science and International Relations

Certificate in Film Studies

WORKING PAPERS

Tracing Autocrats: Rethinking Repertoire of Repression and Measurement

Exceptional Rule, Exceptional Repression: Prisons during Turkey’s Authoritarian Turn

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Washington

POL S 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics - Prof. Asli Cansunar Autumn 2025

Teaching Assistant, Sabanci University

SPS 102: Humanity and Society II 2023 – 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Sabanci University Summer 2024

Conducted a literature review on late Ottoman and early Republican media as part of a research project carried out by Prof. Serkant Adigüzel.

Research Assistant, Sabanci University Summer 2024

Conducted data analysis using STATA to support Prof. Esra Durceylan Kaygusuz in studying generational attitudes toward women’s workforce participation.

Research Assistant, Bogazici University Summer 2022

Carried out archival research from newspapers for Prof. Mert Arslanalp and Prof. Deniz Erkmen’s research project on protests and mobile emergency bans in Turkey.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate School Fellowship, University of Washington	Spring 2026
Graduate School Fellowship, Sabancı University	2023 – 2025
Undergraduate Fellowship, Bogazici University Foundation	2017 – 2022

SKILLS

Languages: Turkish (native), English (advanced), Persian (beginner)

Software: R, L^AT_EX, Stata, Python (beginner)

REFERENCES

Assoc. Prof. Asli Cansunar

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Assist. Prof. Serkant Adıgüzel

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Prof. Mine Eder

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Assist. Prof. Mert Arslanalp

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