

# Açelya Altun

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Repression, political violence, state terror, historical legacies, contentious politics, quantitative methods, machine learning, data visualization.

## EDUCATION

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**University of Washington**, Seattle, WA 2025 – Present  
PhD in Political Science  
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, Methodology

**Sabancı University**, Istanbul, Turkey 2023 – 2025  
MA in Political Science  
Advisor: Assist. Prof. Serkant Adıgüzel

**Bogazici University**, Istanbul, Turkey 2017 – 2023  
BA in Political Science and International Relations  
Certificate in Film Studies

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Fig Gardens in Syria:** Legacies of Repression on Dissent and Insurgency

**Tracing Autocrats:** Rethinking Repertoire of Repression and Threat Perceptions  
- Ione E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant (2026-2027)

## DATA PROJECTS

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TRACE – Turkey Repression and Contentious Events Dataset (2013-2025)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Teaching Assistant**, University of Washington  
Pol S 204: Introduction to Comparative Politics - Prof. Asli Cansunar Autumn 2025  
Pol S 331: Middle East and North Africa - Prof. Asli Cansunar Winter 2026

**Teaching Assistant**, Sabancı University  
SPS 102: Humanity and Society II 2023 – 2025

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant**, Sabancı 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 Adıgüzel.

**Research Assistant**, Sabancı 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

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Ione E. Curtis Graduate Research Grant, University of Washington (\$1500)	2026-2027
Graduate School Fellowship, University of Washington	Spring 2026
Graduate School Fellowship, Sabancı University	2023 – 2025
Undergraduate Fellowship, Bogazici University Foundation	2017 – 2022

## SKILLS

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**Languages:** Turkish (native), English (advanced), Persian (beginner), Arabic (Beginner)

**Software:** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stata, Python (beginner)

## REFERENCES

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**Assoc. Prof. Asli Cansunar**

Department of Political Science  
University of Washington  
[cansunar@uw.edu](mailto:cansunar@uw.edu)

**Assist. Prof. Serkant Adıgüzel**

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**Prof. Mine Eder**

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**Assist. Prof. Mert Arslanalp**

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