

Sabri Ciftci

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor, Political Science, Kansas State University	2021–present
<i>Michael W. Suleiman Chair in Arab and Arab-American Studies</i>	2015–present
<i>Founding Director, Middle East Studies Minor</i>	2020–present
Associate Professor, Political Science, Kansas State University	2015–2020
Assistant Professor, Political Science, Kansas State University	2008–2015
<i>On leave, Cumhuriyet University, Turkey</i>	2009–2011
Research Faculty, Center for Criminology and Public Policy, Florida State University	2005–2008

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Florida State University	2005
M.S., Department of Political Science, Florida State University	2003
M.A., Political Theory, Ankara University, Turkey	1997
B.A., Public Administration, Ankara University, Turkey	1994

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Islam, Justice, and Democracy. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2022.

Beyond Piety and Politics: Religion, Social Relations, and Public Preferences in the Middle East and North Africa (with F. Michael Wuthrich and Ammar Shamaileh). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, Middle East Studies Series, 2022.

1877'den Günümüze Parlamento: 22. Dönem TBMM'nde Parlamento ve Parlamentar Rol Algısı (with Yusuf Tekin). Ankara, Turkey: Siyasal, 2008.

Articles

“Unruly Mystics and the State: Antinomian Dervishes, Religion, and State Formation in Medieval Anatolia.” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Online First, 2025.

“Crafting Cross-Border Connections: Religion and Perceptions of Erdoğan in the Middle East and North Africa.” *Middle East Law and Governance*, 16, 3 (2024): 316–340.

“Military Might: A Domestic Economy Explanation of Turkish Foreign Policy.” *Turkish Studies*, 24, 5 (2023): 764–787.

“On Weber, Pathogens, and Culture: A Global Empirical Analysis of Religion and Individualism.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 61, 2 (2022): 331–348.

“Islamist Parties, Intraparty Organizational Dynamics, and Moderation as Strategic Behavior” (with Michael Wuthrich). *Mediterranean Politics*, 27, 3 (2022): 321–343.

“Devotion at Sub-National Level: Ramadan, Nighttime Lights, and Religiosity in the Egyptian Governorates” (with Michael Robbins and Sofya Zaytseva). *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 33, 1 (2021): 99–117.

“Ethnic Violence and Substantive Representation of Minorities in Parliament” (with Tevfik Murat Yildirim). *International Political Science Review*, 42, 3 (2021): 383–399.

“Islam, Social Justice, and Democracy.” *Politics & Religion*, 12, 4 (2019): 549–576.

“Hiding Behind the Party Brand or Currying Favor with Constituents: Why Do Representatives Engage in Different Types of Constituency-Oriented Behavior?” (with Tevfik Murat Yildirim). *Party Politics*, 25, 3 (2019): 369–381.

“Islam, Religious Outlooks, and Support for Democracy” (with Michael Wuthrich and Ammar Shamaileh). *Political Research Quarterly*, 72, 2 (2019): 435–449.

“Self-Expression Values, Loyalty Generation, and Support for Authoritarianism: Evidence from the Arab World.” *Democratization*, 25, 7 (2018): 1132–1152.

“Who Favors al-Qaeda? Anti-Americanism, Religious Outlooks, and Favorable Attitudes toward Terrorist Organizations” (with Becky O’Donnell and Allison Tanner). *Political Research Quarterly*, 70, 3 (2017): 480–494.

“Globalization, Contact, and Religious Identity: A Cross-National Analysis of Interreligious Favorability” (with M.A. Nawaz and T. Sydiq). *Social Science Quarterly*, 97, 2 (2016): 271–292.

“Soft Power, Religion and Anti-Americanism in the Middle East” (with Gunes Murat Tezcur). *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 12, 3 (2016): 374–394.

“Utilitarian and Modern: Clientelism, Citizen Empowerment, and Civic Engagement in the Arab World” (with Ethan Bernick). *Democratization*, 22 (2015): 1161–1182.

“Secular-Islamist Cleavage, Values and Support for Democracy and Shari’a in the Arab World.” *Political Research Quarterly*, 66, 4 (2013): 781–793.

“Social Identity and Attitudes toward Foreign Policy: Evidence from a Youth Survey in Turkey.”

International Journal of Middle East Studies, 45, 1 (2013): 25–43.

“Islamophobia and Threat Perceptions: Explaining Anti-Muslim Sentiment in the West.” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 32, 3 (2012): 293–309.

“Modernization, Islam or Social Capital: What Explains Attitudes toward Democracy in the Muslim World?” *Comparative Political Studies*, 43, 11 (2010): 1442–1470.

“Committee Assignments in a Nascent Party System: The Case of the Turkish Grand National Assembly” (with W. Forrest and Y. Tekin). *International Political Science Review*, 29, 3 (2008): 303–324.

“Treaties, Collective Responses and the Determinants of Aggregate Support for European Integration.” *European Union Politics*, 6, 4 (2005): 469–492.

Book Chapters

“Justice, Muslim Liberation Theology, and Turkish Islamism.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Muslim Liberation Theologies*, forthcoming 2026.

“Islamic Conception of Justice.” In *The Concept of Justice in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, edited by Rachik, Catharina and Tamer, Georges, pp. 115–177. De Gruyter-Brill, 2025.

“Soft Power, Domestic Dividends, and Turkish Foreign Policy: The Case of Palestine.” In *Inter-state and Intra-state Conflicts in Global Politics: From Eurasia to China*, edited by T. Ari, pp. 89–106. Lexington Books, London.

Works Under Review and In Progress

“Subnational Unit Proliferation in Parliamentary systems” (with Murat Abus). Revise and Resubmit.

“Religious Divides as Diplomatic Tools” Under Review.

“Technonationalism and Foreign Policy.” Under Review.

“Varieties of Nationalism and Defense Spending.” Under Review.

Sufi Paths to Power: Informal Religious Institutions and State-Building in the Muslim World. Book project, in progress.

Historical Origins of Military-Industrial Complex and Political Implications: Turkish Foreign Policy in Context. Book project, in progress.

“State Building, War, and Representation.” Working paper.

Other Publications

Review of M. Hakan Yavuz, *Erdogan: The Making of an Autocrat*. *Middle East Policy*, 2021.

Review essay, M. Hakan Yavuz, *Nostalgia for the Empire: The Politics of Neo-Ottomanism*. *Turkish Studies*, 2021.

Review of Andrew March, *The Caliphate of Man*. *Middle East Policy*, 2020.

Review of Erik Love, *Islamophobia and Racism in America*. *Rutgers Book Review Journal*, October 2017.

"The Many Faces of Kurdish Political Representation in Turkey." *POMEPS Studies Series: Contemporary Turkish Politics*.

"Radical Turks: Why Turkish Citizens are Joining ISIS." *ForeignAffairs.com*, November 2014.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Michael W. Suleiman Chair in Arab and Arab-American Studies, endowed chair, Kansas State University	2015–present
Visiting Scientist Award, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). \$4,000	2019–2020
Open/Alternative Textbook Award, Center for the Advancement of Digital Scholarship, Kansas State University. \$4,500	2018–2019
Project Launch Grant, Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame. \$10,000	2017–2018
Commerce Bank and W.T. Kemper Foundation Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, Kansas State University	2017
Curriculum Development Grant, Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame. \$4,000	2017
Jewell Limar Prestage Best Paper Award, Southwestern Political Science Association	2017
Stamey Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Advising, College of Arts and Sciences, Kansas State University	2016
Top Reviewer Award, <i>Political Research Quarterly</i>	2015, 2016
Political Islam Distance Education Project, Kansas State University. \$7,000	2013
Youth Attitudes toward Turkish Foreign Policy and EU Membership, Cumhuriyet University. \$6,600	2009–2010
Graduate Assistantship, Department of Political Science, Florida State University	2002–2005
Full Scholarship for Graduate Studies, Turkish Higher Education Council	2000–2004

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial and Leadership Roles

Co-Editor-in-Chief, <i>Politics and Religion</i> (APSA Politics and Religion Section journal)	2026–present
Chair-Elect, Politics and Religion Section, American Political Science Association	2025–2026
Secretary-Treasurer, Politics and Religion Section, APSA	2024–2025

Executive Committee Member, Politics and Religion Section, APSA	2023–2025
Chair, Susanne Hoerber Rudolph Outstanding Scholar Award, Politics and Religion Section, APSA	2024–2025
Section Head, Middle East Politics Section, Midwest Political Science Association	2024–2025
Member, International Travel Award Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	2021
Member, Organizing Committee, International Conference on Representation and National Sovereignty, 100th Anniversary of Turkish Parliament, Ankara	2020

Invited Talks and Presentations

Middle East Studies Initiative State University at Buffalo	2026
Center for Islam and Global Affairs, Istanbul Zaim University (virtual)	2023
MENA Seminar, Central European University	2022
Republic at the Centennial Conference, University of Kansas	2023
Özyeğin University, Istanbul (virtual)	2021
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (virtual)	2020
Social, Ethnic, and Racial Boundaries on Campus and Community, Illinois State University	2018
İDE İstanbul Düşünce Evi, Istanbul	2017
Conference on Social Justice in the Arab World Since 2010, American University of Beirut	2017
Contemporary Turkish Politics Workshop, Rice University, Baker Institute and POMEPS	2016
Annual Security Conference Program, From Köprü (Bridge) to Merkez (Center): Turkey's Regional and Global Impact	2014
Workshop on the Origins and Effects of Arab Spring, Istanbul Şehir University	2014
Human Development, Corruption, and Political Satisfaction in Arab Societies, Princeton University	2016

Grant Review Panels

National Science Foundation	2024
Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame	2018–present
Carnegie Corporation of New York, Transnational Movements and the Arab Region	2017

Manuscript Review

Regular reviewer for the following journals: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Comparative Political*

Studies, Democratization, International Studies Quarterly, Foreign Policy Analysis, European Union Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, European Journal of Political Research, Comparative Politics, Political Behavior, Social Science Quarterly, Party Politics, Turkish Studies, Politics and Religion, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Book manuscripts and proposals: Oxford University Press, Temple University Press, Routledge, Lynne Rienner (1–2 per year). External reviewer for tenure and promotion files (1–2 scholars annually).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kansas State University

Political Islam (Undergraduate/Graduate)
Middle East Politics (Undergraduate/Graduate)
International Politics of the Middle East (Graduate)
Comparative Politics (Undergraduate)
Advanced Research Methods (PhD Seminar)
Seminar in Comparative Politics (PhD Seminar)
US Security and the Middle East (PhD Seminar)
Comparative Democratization (Graduate)

Florida State University and Study Abroad Program, Turkey

Middle East Politics; Turkish Politics; Political Islam; West European Politics; European Union Politics; Research Methods

Cumhuriyet University, Turkey (2009–2011)

Middle East and Turkish Foreign Policy; Turkish Constitutional System; Turkish Politics

University of Florida (Adjunct Lecturer)

Research Methods

PHD STUDENTS SUPERVISED

Currently advising 3 PhD students.

Mohaned Al-Hamdi, “Civil-Military Relations, Coup-Proofing and Arab Militaries During Arab Spring.” PhD, Chair. *Completed.*

Donya Karimi, “Development, Religiosity, and Women’s Formal Employment in the Middle East.” PhD, committee member.

Yu-Ping Chang, "Rationalizing Chinese Hegemony." PhD, committee member.

Asif Nawaz, "How Terrorism Ends: The Impact of Lethality of Terrorist Groups on Their Longevity." PhD, committee member.

Katelyn Tietzen, "With and Without the Kremlin: Iraqi Military and Diplomatic Interventions, 1968–2003." PhD, committee member.

Jacob Mauslein, "Three Essays on International Cyber Threats: Target Nation Characteristics, International Rivalry, and Asymmetric Information Exchange." PhD, committee member.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

At Kansas State University

Founding Director, Middle East Studies Minor	2020–present
Middle East Lecture Series Coordinator	2016–present
University Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activity Committee	2023–present
Kassebaum Scholarship Committee; Research and Scholarly Activity Committee	2016–present
Area Studies Task Force Committee (ACTFC)	2016–present
USD-383 Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member	2019

At Cumhuriyet University, Turkey

Assistant Department Head, Political Science	2008–2011
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At Florida State University

Senior Policy Researcher and Data Coordinator, Center for Criminology and Public Policy	2005–2008
Coordinator and Researcher, Survey Research Lab	2003–2004

LANGUAGES

Languages: Turkish (Native), Dimli (Native), English (Fluent), Arabic (Elementary), Kurdish (Elementary).

Fieldwork and Original Data Collection

Turkish Foreign Policy Attitudes Survey	2025
Fieldwork on Turkish foreign policy, Turkey	2022
Fieldwork on human development in Turkish provinces	2019–2020
Fieldwork on social justice and political attitudes, Turkey	2017

Fieldwork on religion, economic development, and democratic attitudes, Turkey	2016
Fieldwork on Kurdish political representation, Turkey	2016
Turkish Youth Attitudes Survey	2011
Turkish Parliamentarians Survey	2003–2004

References Available Upon Request

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