

DOLUNAY BULUT

1145 E South Campus Dr #139B

Tucson, AZ 85719

dolunaybulut@arizona.edu

dolunaybulut@proton.me

Dr. Bulut's research draws from constitutional and democratic theory at the intersection of politics, law, and sociology, with a focus on the themes of legitimacy, sovereignty, and authoritarianism in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Her current project investigates the global escalation of the authoritarian appeal to constitutional politics and examines the commodification of the constitution against liberal democratic legal-institutional power configuration.

EMPLOYMENT

2024 – **Postdoctoral Research Associate**

University of Arizona | School of Government and Public Policy

EDUCATION

2024 **PhD *magna cum laude*, Politics** | The New School for Social Research

Committee: Prof. Andrew Arato (Chair), Prof. Banu Bargu, Assoc. Prof. Andreas Kalyvas, Assist. Prof. Sandipto Dasgupta

2020 **MPhil in Politics** | The New School for Social Research (NSSR)

2013 **MS *cum laude*, Political Science** | Middle East Technical University (METU)

2010 **BA *magna cum laude*, Political Science and Public Administration** | Bilkent University

TEACHING

Lecturer

2022 – 2023 Global Works and Society: Modernity | NYU Liberal Studies

2021 – 2022 Techno-social Imaginaries and Conceptual Change | New School

2017 – 2018 Comparative Political Systems | FIT Social Sciences

2016 – 2017, 2019 Introduction to American Politics and Government | City College of New York

Teaching Assistant

2018 - 2019 Habermas and After (Graduate course)

Politics, Democracy, and Sovereignty (Graduate course)

Instructor: Hubertus Buchstein | NSSR & University of Greifswald

- Spring 2019** Sociology of Critical Theory (Graduate course)
 Instructors: Andrew Arato, Hubertus Buchstein | NSSR
- 2019 – 2022** Design, Self, and Society (Undergraduate course)
 Instructor: Matthew Robb | Parsons Strategic Design
- Summer 2018** Time is Out of Joint (Graduate course)
 Instructor: Agnes Heller | TCDS Poland Summer School

RESEARCH

My research grapples with the mutating relationship between authoritarianism and constitutional democracy in contemporary politics. There are three strains that shape my research agenda, in pursuit of mapping out how contemporary authoritarian upheaval is not an ephemeral side-effect but a new political form. First, the political theory strain of my work examines the historical and conceptual evolution of constitutionalism and the constitution as a multilayered, complex, and sometimes polemical concept at the crossroads of law and politics, state and society, facts and norms, public and private, and finally, democracy and autocracy. Second, the legal strain concentrates upon the interplays between constitutional law and political discourse and identity of authoritarian governments, to demonstrate how authoritarianism inverts the premises of democratic legitimacy and instrumentalize it for authoritarian survival and consolidation. Third, the sociological strain of my work focuses on how authoritarian appeal to legal-institutional means initiate social transformations, change the fabric of society, and redeem it suitable for authoritarian government interests.

Assistantships

- 2018 – 2019** Otto Kirchheimer and critical institutionalism
 PI: Hubertus Buchstein, University of Greifswald & NSSR
- 2017 – 2018** Self-destructive violence & weaponization of body in Turkey
 PI: Banu Bargu, NSSR
- 2016** Mapping the DNA of Community Building
 PI: Anasa Scott, Parsons School of Design & NYC Mayor’s Office
- 2011 – 2013** Domestic violence and sexism in Turkey
 PI: Feride Acar, UN CEDAW & METU & Turkish Armed Forces

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2024** ISA West Emerging Scholars Travel Grant
- 2024** Frieda Wunderlich Memorial Award for Outstanding Dissertation

- 2023 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards (\$10,000)
Best original contribution to republicanism in theory and application with the article:
“Republic after New Authoritarianism: Constitution as an Object of Fetish”
- 2023 Institute for Critical Social Inquiry Fellowship
- 2023 NSSR Research Travel Grant
- 2022 – 2023 NSSR Frank Altschul Fellowship
- 2022 NSSR Graduate Faculty and Student Senate (GFSS) Research Grant
- 2022 – 2023 NSSR Politics Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2021 NSSR Travel, Conference, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2019 *Critical Theory in Berlin* Summer Fellowship, Berlin-Humboldt University
- 2018 TCDS Fellowship, *Open Society*
- 2016 – 2017 Dean’s Endowed Fellowship, NSSR
- 2013 – 2018 President’s Scholarship, NSSR
- 2010 – 2012 Graduate Education Scholarship for Research Excellence, TUBITAK
- 2006 – 2010 Comprehensive Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Bilkent University

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Invited

- 2024 “Inversion of Democracy: Constitution as an Authoritarian Commodity”
Democracy and Democratization After the Third Wave Symposium, University of
Guadalajara
- 2023 “Secularism in Turkey: The Evolution of the Diyanet”
UN DPPA Religion and Constitutions Workshop, New York
- 2021 “Constitutionalism and Constitutional Change in Turkey”
NSSR Constitutional Comparisons Lecture Series, New York
- 2016 “Whither Turkey? Authoritarian Deadlock”
NSSR General Seminar, New York

Contributed

- 2025 “Constructing ‘the People:’ Religification of Education in Authoritarian Regimes” |
SGPP Faculty Workshop, Tucson

- 2025 Challenges of Teaching and Studying the Middle East in 21st Century | SPSA Annual Convention, San Juan
- 2024 “Constitutional Politics of Memory: Two Tales of Legal Resentment” | ISA West Emerging Scholars Forum, Pasadena
- 2024 “Populism and Authoritarianism: Where I End and You Begin” | Canadian Political Science Association Annual Convention, McGill University
- 2024 “How to Make a People: Politics of Resentment and Populist Interpellation” | Northwestern University Politics of Stigmatization and Human Insecurities Workshop, Chicago
- 2024 “Liberal International Order and Contemporary Populism(s): A Theory of Relativity” | ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco
- 2023 “Constitutional Politics of Contemporary Authoritarianism: Hungary and Turkey” | Global Summit on Constitutionalism, U Texas Austin Law School
- 2022 “Authoritarianism between Constitutional Politics and International Institutions: A Corner Case” | Rutgers Center for Transnational Law Workshop
- 2022 “Janus-faced Authoritarianism: A Layered Narrative” | ISA Annual Convention, Nashville
- 2016 “Democratic Confederalism: A Proto-Constitutional Experiment amid Civil War” | Stateless Democracy in Syrian and Turkish Kurdistan Conference, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

“Jurisdiction Report: Turkey” in *International Review on Constitutional Reform 2024*, co-authored with Evren Celik Wiltse ~ Accepted

“Pedagogy of Populist Resentment: Constructing ‘the People’ in Authoritarian Regimes” in *Contemporary Politics* ~ Submitted

“Multi-textuality and the Question of Constitutional Authorship: The Legacy of the 1982 Turkish Constitution” in *Multi-textual Constitutions of the World* (Hart Publishing) ~ Accepted

“Authoritarianism between Constitutionalism and International Law: A Corner Case in the Liberal Democratic Parameter Space” in *Rutgers International Law and Human Rights Journal*, Fall 2023.

PUBLICATIONS (NON-PEER REVIEWED)

- 2017 – 2023 Special Delivery on Academic Freedom
[Social Research Journal: An International Quarterly](#)
- 2016 – 2024 Annual country reports and regular updates on academic freedom violations in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia
[Endangered Scholars Worldwide](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025 SPSA Middle East Studies Caucus | Co-organizer
- 2016 – 2023 [Endangered Scholars Worldwide](#) | Research associate and editor
- 2018 – 2021 [Social Research Journal: An International Quarterly](#), Editorial Assistant
- 2016 – 2020 [Constellations](#), Book Review Coordinator
- 2016 Continuing Threats to Academic Freedom, Roundtable co-organizer
- 2016 Constitutional Politics in Turkey, Conference co-organizer
- 2016 Civil War in Turkey and Right to Democratic Autonomy, Panel co-organizer

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy (ASPLP)
Association for Political Theory (APT)
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)
International Studies Association (ISA)
Law and Society Association (LSA)
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)
UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab IPL Expert
Country Expert for Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)
Western Political Science Association (WPSA)