

Curriculum Vitae: Aytuğ Şaşmaz

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Bryn Mawr College
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2022- Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA, USA
Assistant Professor of Political Science (starting from August 2022)
- 2021-22 Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
- 2020-21 Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, USA
Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, Middle East Initiative

EDUCATION

- 2021 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
PhD Political Science
- 2014 Brown University, Providence, RI, USA
MA Political Science (started as a PhD student, transferred to Harvard)
- 2008 London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK
MSc (Merit) International Political Economy
- 2007 Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey
BA (High Honors) Political Science and International Relations

BOOK PROJECT

Electoral Weakness of Secular Parties in the Middle East and North Africa during the Post-Uprisings Era of the 2010s: Evidence from Tunisia and Turkey
→ ***Dissertation won the Edward M. Chase Prize for the best dissertation on a subject relating to the promotion of world peace (Harvard University Department of Government)***

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- 2022 “The IO Effect: International Actors and Service Delivery in Refugee Crises”
(with Melani Cammett), *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 66.
- 2022 “How Voters Respond to Presidential Assaults on Checks and Balances: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Turkey” (with Alper Yagci and Daniel Ziblatt),
Comparative Political Studies, Vol. 55.
- 2022 “Navigating Welfare Regimes in Divided Societies: Diversity and the Quality of Service Delivery in Lebanon” (with Melani Cammett), *Governance*, Vol. 35.

- 2021 “Targeting Humanitarian Aid Using Administrative Data: Model Design and Validation” (with O. Altindag, S. D. O’Connell, Z. Balcioglu, P. Cadoni, M. Jerneck, A. Kunze Foong), *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 148.
- 2017 “Political Context, Organizational Mission and the Quality of Social Services, Insights from the Health Sector in Lebanon” (with Melani Cammett), in *World Development*, Vol. 98.
→ **Best Comparative Policy Analysis Paper Award (2017) given by the Public Policy section of the American Political Science Association**

Book chapters

- 2023 “Local Political Priorities during Tunisia’s First Democratic Municipal Elections” (with Alex Blackman and Julia Clark), in *Governance and Local Development in the Middle East and North Africa* (Kristen Kao and Ellen Lust, eds.), New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming.
- 2016 “Social Welfare in Developing Countries” (with Melani Cammett), in *Oxford Handbook of Historical Institutionalism* (Tulia Falleti, Orfeo Fioretos and Adam Sheingate, eds.), New York: Oxford University Press.

Other publications (selected, full list available upon request)

- 2022 “CHP’nin Dönüşümünde ve Seçim Başarısında Parti Örgütlerinin Rolü.” Policy brief published by Turkish Foundation for Social, Economic and Political Studies. Also published as a three-part op-ed series at *PolitikYol* website ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).
- 2021 “The Collapse of Tunisia’s Party System and the Rise of Kais Saied” (with Nate Grubman). Analysis piece in MERIP Online. Available [here](#).
- 2020 “Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia is a mosque again. Do Turkish citizens want Erdogan to restore the caliphate?” (with Tarek Masoud). Analysis piece at the Monkey Cage Blog of The Washington Post. Available [here](#).
- 2018 “Who really won Tunisia’s first democratic local elections?” Analysis piece at the Monkey Cage Blog of The Washington Post.
- 2015 “Politics of Educational Expansion in Turkey”, Background Paper for *UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2015*. Available [here](#).

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Unequal Political Selection: Candidate Recruitment Selection in Secular-Islamist Competition in Tunisia” – Presented at APSA and MESA 2021 conferences, under review
→ **Best Paper Award (2022) by the Political Organizations and Parties section of the American Political Science Association**
2. “What Men Want: Politicians’ Strategic Response to Gender Quotas in Tunisia’s 2018 Municipal Elections,” (with Alexandra Blackman and Julia Clark) – Under review
3. “Governing Locally: Threat, Affirmation and Responsiveness among Local Politicians during Decentralization” (with Chantal Berman, Alexandra Blackman and Julia Clark) – presented at MPSA 2019, EGAP pre-analysis plan available [here](#), under review

4. “After Moderation? Implementation and Consequences of Infitah in Tunisia’s Ennahda” (with Alexandra Blackman and Julia Clark) – Presented at 2022 Yale Politics & Religion Conference
5. “The Effect of Incumbency on the Formation of Local Political Dynasties” (with Tugba Bozcaga and Rabia Kutlu) – Presented at 2023 GLD Conference
6. “The Microfoundations of Power-Sharing: Citizen Support for and Opposition to Political Sectarianism in Lebanon” (with Melani Cammett, Uma Ilavarasan and Sami Atallah) – EGAP pre-analysis plan [here](#), presented at 2023 POMEPS Research Workshop
7. “Mapping Secularism in Turkey” (with Tarek Masoud) – Data collection ongoing
8. “Electoral and Governance Outcomes of Municipalization of Rural Governance” (with Tugba Bozcaga) – EGAP pre-analysis plan [here](#)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

For fieldwork of the dissertation project

- Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies Field Research Grant (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
- Weatherhead Center Mid-Dissertation Field Research Grant (Fall 2018)
- Institute of Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) Research Support Grant (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
- Democracy International Research Support Grant (Local election candidate survey in Tunisia, Spring 2018)
- Belfer Center for International Affairs Research Support Grant (Household survey in Turkey, Spring 2019)

Other

- Bryn Mawr College Center for Social Sciences Summer Research Grant (Summer 2023)
- Governance and Local Development in the MENA Region Edited Volume Research Grant (Fall 2019)
- George Washington University Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Travel Research Engagement Grant (Summer 2015)
- Brown University Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development (GPD) Preliminary Research Grant (Summer 2014)
- European Commission Jean Monnet Scholarship for Master’s level studies (2007-08)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bryn Mawr College

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| Fall 2023 | Middle East Politics Introduction to Research Design and Data Analysis for Political Science |
| Spring 2023 | Introduction to Comparative Politics Comparative Political Parties |
| Fall 2022 | Middle East Politics |

Teaching fellowships at Harvard University

- Spring 2020 Head Teaching Fellow, Power and Identity in the Middle East
- Fall 2019 Teaching Fellow, Foundations of Comparative Politics
→ **Distinction in Teaching Award; course evaluation average score: 4.6 out of 5**
- Spring 2017 Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Political Science Research Methods
→ **Distinction in Teaching Award; course evaluation average score: 5.0 out of 5**
- Fall 2016 Teaching Fellow, Comparative Politics of the Middle East
Course evaluation average score: 4.3 out of 5

SKILLS

- Languages** Turkish (native speaker), English (fluent), German (fluent), Arabic (Modern Standard, advanced), French (beginner)
- Methods** Interview-based research, survey design (QUALTRICS), analysis of quantitative data (STATA, R), analysis of spatial data (ARCGIS, QGIS, GEODA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH

- 2018-23 Consultancy for UNHCR and WFP Lebanon
Member of the Research Team: “Model Recalibration”
Four-member team providing research for the cash assistance targeting model for Syrian refugees, designed and executed assessment tool for vulnerability
- 2008-13 Education Reform Initiative, Sabanci University, Istanbul
Education Policy Analyst (2008-13)
Designed and executed several policy-oriented research and evaluation projects in collaboration with Ministry of Education, World Bank and UNICEF

REFERENCES

Melani Cammett

Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University
617-495-9849, mcammett@g.harvard.edu

Matthew Blackwell

Associate Professor of Government, Harvard University
617-496-2426, mblackwell@gov.harvard.edu

Steven Levitsky

Professor of Government, Harvard University
617-495-9997, levitsky@gov.harvard.edu

Tarek Masoud

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Daniel Ziblatt

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