

SERCAN CANBOLAT

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D., Political Science	2023
University of Connecticut (UConn), Storrs, Connecticut, USA	
Concentration: International Relations and Comparative Politics	
Dissertation: Leadership Types and Organizational Formation of Violent Non-State Actors in the Middle East and North Africa: An Arabic Operational Code Approach	
M.A., Political Science	
University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA	2018
M.A., <i>Cum Laude</i> , International Relations	2014
Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey	
Thesis: Understanding the New Middle Eastern Leaders: An Operational Code Approach	
B.A., <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , International Relations and European Union	2011
B.A., Honors, Economics [Double Major]	
Izmir University of Economics, Izmir, Turkey	

Additional Training

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)	2019
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, USA	
Courses: Machine Learning, Network Analysis, Survey Analysis, Experimental Design	
Summer Academy in Political Psychology	2018
International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)	
San-Antonio, Texas, USA	
Courses: Formal Modeling, Psychology of Terrorism, Voting Behavior	

Teaching

As Instructor of Record

POLS 1202 “Introduction to Comparative Politics”: Fall 2024; Spring 2024; Spring 2022; Fall 2021; Fall 2018; Spring 2018 (UConn Storrs, Stamford and Hartford Campuses)

POLS 1402 “Introduction to International Relations”: Spring 2022; Fall 2021; Spring 2019 (UConn Stamford and Hartford Campuses)

POLS 3426 “Politics, Propaganda, and Cinema”: Spring 2022 (UConn Stamford Campus)

POLS 3202 “Comparative Political Parties and Electoral Systems”: Fall 2021 (UConn Stamford Campus)

POLS 2998 “International Relations in the Movies”: Fall 2017 (UConn Storrs Campus)

UNIV 1810 “Global Citizenship and University Research Skills” Spring 2021; Fall 2020; Spring 2020; Fall 2019; Spring 2019; Fall 2018; Spring 2018; Fall 2017; Spring 2017 (Global House Learning Community, UConn Storrs Campus)

As Teaching Assistant

POLS 1202 “Introduction to Comparative Politics”: Fall 2016 (Prof. Matthew Singer)
POLS 1402 “Introduction to International Relations”: Spring 2017 (Prof. Stephen Dyson)
POLS 1207 “Introduction to Nonwestern Politics”: Fall 2015 (Prof. Oksan Bayulgen)
SOCI 3351 “Social Psychology”: Spring 2015 (Prof. Bradley Wright)
IR 333 “Foreign Policy Analysis”: Spring 2014 (Prof. Ozgur Ozdamar)
IR 349 “International Relations in Movies”: Fall 2012; Spring 2013 (Prof. Ozgur Ozdamar)

Honors and Awards

2024. ISA Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) Section’s *The Best Book Award*, USA

2021. *The University Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award*, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), UConn, USA

2021. *The ISA-Midwest Margaret Hermann Best Paper Award*, USA

2020. *The ISA-Midwest Margaret Hermann Best Paper Award*, USA

2019. *Excellence in Teaching Letter*, Vice President for Academic Affairs (Prof. John Elliott), UConn, USA

2018. *The Polity Prize* for the best article published in Polity, the journal of the Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA), USA

2014. *Fulbright Ph.D. Grant* (Host Institution: UConn), USA

Publications

Book

2023. Ozgur Ozdamar and **Sercan Canbolat**. [Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa: How Ideology Shapes Foreign Policy](#). Cambridge University Press. Received the *Best Book in Foreign Policy Award* from International Studies Association (ISA) Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) Section at the ISA’s 65th Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA.

Peer-reviewed Articles

2025. **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Have Middle Eastern Leaders Learned from the Arab Uprising: An Arabic Operational Code Approach](#).” *Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi (Journal of International Relations)*, Advanced Online Publication, pp. 1–21. DOI: 10.33458/uidergisi.1680774

2023. **Sercan Canbolat**, Sarah Gansen, and Patrick James. “[Systemism and International Relations: How a Graphic Method Can Enhance Communication](#).” *International Studies Review*, 25(2): p. viad013.

2023. **Sercan Canbolat** and Stephen B. Dyson. “[Dominating the Superpower: A Bounded Rationality Approach to Nuclear Proliferation and Inhibition in the U.S. / North Korea Dyad](#).” *Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi (Journal of International Relations)*, 20(80): 49-71.

2021. **Sercan Canbolat**, Sarah Gansen and Patrick James. “[Systemism and Foreign Policy: An Exercise in Systematic Synthesis](#).” *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*, 27(3): 404-434.

2020. Brummer, Klaus, Michael D. Young, Özgur Özdamar, **Sercan Canbolat**, Consuelo Thiers, Christian Rabini, Katharina Dimmroth, Mischa Hansel, and Ameneh Mehvar. "[Coding in Tongues: Developing Non-English Coding Schemes for Leadership Profiling](#)." *International Studies Review* 22(4): 1039-1067.

2020. **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Understanding Political Islamists’ Foreign Policy Rhetoric in Their Native Language: A Turkish Operational Code Analysis Approach](#).” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, 3(1): 13-16. Received the 2021 Margaret Hermann Award from International Studies Association Midwest (ISA-MW) for the best use of text analysis in leadership studies presented at the conference each year.

2020. **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Profiling Leaders in Arabic](#).” In A Forum Coding in Tongues: Developing Non-English Coding Schemes for Leadership Profiling, *International Studies Review*, 22(4): 1049-1052.

2020. Ozgur Ozdamar, **Sercan Canbolat**, and Michael D. Young. “[Profiling Leaders in Turkish](#).” In A Forum Coding in Tongues: Developing Non-English Coding Schemes for Leadership Profiling, *International Studies Review*, 22(4): 1045-1049.

2018. Oksan Bayulgen, Ekim Arbatli, and **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Elite Survival Strategies and Authoritarian Reversal in Turkey](#).” *Polity*, 50(3): 333-365. Received the 2018 Polity Prize from Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA) for the best research article published in the journal each year.

2018. Ozgur Ozdamar and **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Understanding New Middle Eastern Leadership: An Operational Code Approach](#).” *Political Research Quarterly*, 71 (1): 19-31.

Book Chapters

2021. **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Deciphering Deadly Minds in Their Native Language: The Operational Codes and Formation Patterns of Militant Organizations in the Middle East and North Africa](#).” In *Operational Code Analysis and Foreign Policy Roles: Crossing Simon’s Bridge*, edited by Stephen G. Walker and Mark Schafer, p. 69-93. London: Routledge. Received the 2020 Margaret Hermann Award from the ISA-MW Region for the best use of text analysis in leadership studies, presented at the conference each year.

2020. Balkan Devlen and **Sercan Canbolat**. “[Historical Foundations of American Foreign Policy](#).” In *American Foreign Policy*, edited by Mustafa Aydin and Nejat Dogan, p. 30-63. Eskisehir, Turkey: Anadolu University Press.

2019. **Sercan Canbolat**. “[The Palestinian Resistance Literature: A Political Psychology Approach](#).” In *the Exiled Prophet Selected Short Stories by Naji Dhaher*, edited by Hazza Abu Rabia, p. 33-44. San Diego, CA: Cognella Press. 2019. Also published in Arabic titled “النبي المهجّر” In “الأدب الفلسطيني من منظور علم النفس السياسي” edited by Hazza Abu Rabia, translated by Naji Dhaher, p. 30-40. 2020.

Book Reviews

2013. John. J. Mearsheimer. Why Leaders Lie: The Truth about Lying in International Politics (Oxford University Press, New York, 2011), *Perceptions*, 18(1): 226-229.

2010. Adam Quinn. US Foreign Policy in Context: National Ideology from the Founders to The Bush Doctrine (Palgrave, New York, 2010), *Journal of Turkish Weekly (Online)*.

Public Writing

Sercan Canbolat and Daniel Weiner. “[Abrahamic Programs Promote Coexistence, from US University Campuses to the Middle East](#)” Jerusalem Post (Online). December 2, 2025.

Sercan Canbolat. “[Syria's Upheaval Presents Perils – and Opportunities – for the West](#).” Inside Policy Report (Online), The Macdonald-Laurier Institute (MLI). January 13, 2025.

Sercan Canbolat and Daniel Weiner. “[As Israel and Hamas Battle in Gaza, the Abrahamic Process Plants Seeds of Peace](#).” New York Post (Online). November 18, 2023.

Manuscripts Under Review

“Leadership Types and Organizational Formation of Armed Non-State Actors: Empirical Evidence from Palestinian Territories.”

Book-length edited volume: “Where the Sun Rises: Crossroads of Energy Transition and Security in the Levant.” (Edited by Oksan Bayulgen, **Sercan Canbolat**, Evan Perkoski, and Daniel Weiner).

“Understanding the Two-Level Game in Political Islamists' Foreign Policy Rhetoric: A Novel Turkish Operational Code Analysis Approach.”

Works in Progress

“Critical Language Leader Assessment (Russian, Arabic, and Mandarin Chinese).” (With Michael D. Young). Research Grant Proposal (\$ 500,000) Submitted to National Science Foundation (NSF) Security and Preparedness Program on August 15, 2024 (Not Funded).

“Power Transition Theory: The View from Systemism.” (With Yuzhu Zeng and Patrick James).

“Visualization and International Relations Studies in Turkey: How Systemism Can Enhance Dialogue and Cross-Pollination.” (With Birol Yesilada, Patrick James and Sarah Gansen).

“L'État, c'est moi? Operational Codes of the World's Leaders against Their Representatives.” (With Baris Kesgin and Leah Windsor).

“The Operational Code of World Leaders: A New Comparison Sample Using the United Nations General Debate Corpus 1970-2021.” (With Baris Kesgin and Leah Windsor).

“Democratic Peace in Their Mind: The Operational Codes of Biden, Trump and Obama on Democracies and non-Democracies.” (With Melike Kocacik).

Experience

Assistant Professor in Residence Department of Political Science University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT	January 2026-Present
Inaugural Director of Abrahamic Programs Office of Global Affairs University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT	May 2023-Present
Nonresident Fellow, The TransResearch Consortium (TRC) Claremont Graduate University Claremont, California	September 2025-Present
Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) Critical Language Leader Assessment Project The Leadership Analysis and Influence Operations Laboratory, UAlbany, Albany, NY	May 2023-Present
The Director of Middle East and Turkey Affairs Perim Media, Specialist Content Firm, NY	May 2023-Present
Visiting Lecturer Department of Political Science University of Connecticut, Stamford, CT	August 2021-May 2022
Acting Faculty Director University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT • Global House, An Interdisciplinary Learning Community at UConn	August 2020-July 2021
Teaching Assistant and Lecturer Department of Political Science University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT	August 2014-May 2021
Data Analyst Fortuna Consulting Ltd., Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey	June 2015-July 2015
Graduate Teaching Assistant Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey	February 2012-June 2014

Conference Participation

ISA: 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
ISA-Hong Kong: 2017
APSA: 2016, 2018
ASMEA: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
ISA-Midwest: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
ISPP: 2018
MPSA: 2015
SPSA: 2017

Invited Talks and Workshops

“Abraham Accords and Regional Security Challenges: Quo Vadis Post-Assad Syria?” Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi, the UAE, November 26, 2025.

“Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa: How Ideology Shapes Foreign Policymaking”, Department Seminar, Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey, November 5, 2025.

“Leaders, Ideology and Foreign Policy Making from Europe to the Middle East” Research Seminar, Izmir University of Economics, Izmir, Turkey, November 7, 2025.

“Navigating Grad School and Academic Job Market in the US”, Career Talk, Izmir University of Economics, Izmir, Turkey, November 7, 2025.

‘Leaders, Ideology, and Foreign Policy-Making in the Middle East: Israel, Iran, Syria’, Research Seminar, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey, October 20, 2025.

[“Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa: How Ideology Shapes Foreign Policy”](#), Virtual Book Talk, Inaugural Event of the ISA Foreign Policy Book Talk Series, May 5, 2025.

[“Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa”](#) Virtual Book Webinar, MENA2050, April 3, 2025.

“Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa: How Ideology Shapes Foreign Policy”, Book Talk, Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs at Middlebury College, Vermont, USA, March 2024.

“Foreign Policy Analysis and Leaders in Foreign Policymaking” Yeditepe University, Department of Political Science and International Relations, March 2021.

“Leaders and Belief Systems in Foreign Policymaking” Izmir University of Economics, Department of Political Science and International Relations, April 2021.

“Leaders and Foreign Policy: Operational Code Analysis Approach” Izmir Katip Celebi University, Department of International Relations, May 2021.

“Understanding Deadly Minds in Their Native Language: The Operational Codes and Formation Patterns of Militant Organizations in the Middle East and North Africa” Kadir Has University, Department of International Relations, June 2021.

“What Makes Them Tick? Leaders and Belief Systems in Foreign Policymaking” Elon University, Department of Political Science, September 2021.

Professional Service

Associate Editor, Journal of International Relations/Uluslararası İlişkiler, 2024-Present.

Member, Steering Committee on Abrahamic Programs for Academic Collaboration in the MENA Region, Global Affairs, UConn, September 2019-Present.

Member, The Inaugural Board of The Visual International Relations Project (VIRP), Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Southern California, April 2022-Present.

Member, Summer Academy Steering Committee, International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), 2018-2019.

Reviewer, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Studies Review*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Global Studies Quarterly*, *Democratization*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of East Asian Affairs*, *Journal of International Relations/Uluslararası İlişkiler*, *Mediterranean Politics*, Routledge.

Research Grants

2020. Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)

2019. Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)

2019. Dissertation Research Grant, Global Affairs, UConn

2018. Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)

2017. Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)

2017. Collaborative Faculty Research Grant (with Prof. Stephen B. Dyson), Political Science Department, UConn

2016. Grad Initiative Research Grant (with Prof. Stephen B. Dyson), Political Science Department, UConn

2015. Collaborative Faculty Research Grant (with Prof. Oksan Bayulgen), Political Science Department, UConn

Travel Grants

2019. ISA Travel Grant for 2019 Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, USA

2019. Travel Grant, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) in Turkey, Sloan Foundation and Princeton University

2018. ISA Travel Grant for 2018 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA

2017. Dissertation Field Research (in Turkey) Travel Grant, Global Affairs, UConn

2017. ISA Travel Grant for 2017 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, USA

2016. Graduate Student Travel Grant for the 5th Annual Han-Jyun Conference, Political Science Department, State University of New York at Binghamton, New York, USA

2016. ASMEA Travel Grant for the 2016 Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., USA

2016. APSA Travel Grant for 2016 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA

2016. Travel Grant, Political Science Department, UConn

2016. ISA Travel Grant for 2016 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, USA

2015. Travel Grant, Political Science Department, UConn

2015. ISA Travel Grant for 2015 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA

Fellowships

2019. Initiative on Campus Dialogues Fellowship (ICD), Humanities Institute, UConn

2018. Michael L. Dunphy Fellowship, Political Science Department, UConn

2017. Getulio P. Carvalho Endowment for Dissertation Research, Political Science Department, UConn

Other Achievements

2014. *Cum Laude* in MA Program, Department of International Relations, Bilkent University

2011. *Magna Cum Laude*, Izmir University of Economics

Languages

Turkish (native), English (fluent), Arabic (advanced), French (beginner)

Computer Skills

R, Stata, Profiler Plus (XERF, TERF), SPSS, MS-Office, Open-Office, Linux

Professional Memberships

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), 2018-Present

American Political Science Association (APSA), 2014-Present

International Studies Association (ISA), 2012-Present

References

Available upon request