

Deniz Girgin

Ph.D. Student and Graduate Assistant at University of Connecticut

Storrs, CT, USA | deniz.girgin@uconn.edu

 linkedin.com/in/deniz-girgin-607136232 |  github.com/denizgirgin

Education

University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Ph.D. in Political Science GPA: 4.00/4.00 Advisor: Professor Oksan Bayulgen	2025–Present
Ozyeğin University Institute of Social Sciences M.A. in International Relations and Globalization GPA: 3.96/4.00 Advisor: Associate Prof. Ebru Ertugal	2022–2025
Marmara University Faculty of Political Sciences B.A. in International Relations GPA: 3.82/4.00	2017–2022

Research & Teaching Experience

University of Connecticut Graduate Assistant, Energy and Elections Lab • Organizing an undergraduate team and supporting data collection (Fall 2025, Spring 2026).	2025–Present
University of Connecticut Teaching Assistant • POLS 1402 – Introduction to International Relations, Undergraduate Course (Fall 2025, Spring 2026).	2025–Present
Ozyeğin University Full-time Research and Teaching Assistant • IR202 – Research Methods, Undergraduate Course (Spring 2024). • IR202 – Research Methods Recitation Class, Undergraduate Course (Spring 2024). • IR303 – Turkish Politics, Undergraduate Course (Fall 2024).	2024–2025
Altınbas University Full-time Research and Teaching Assistant	2023–2024
TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye) Full-time Research Assistant, <i>Nativism in Türkiye</i> Project • Project Managers: Prof. Dr. Evren Balta, Prof. Dr. Deniz Sert, Asst. Prof. Ezgi Elci. • Conducted literature review, data collection, data cleaning, and data transformation.	2023–2024
Ozyeğin University Part-time Teaching Assistant	2022–2024

Honors & Awards

- UConn Research Apprentice Award, 2026.
- Graduate Scholarship, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye.
- Graduate Scholarship, Ozyeğin University.

Grants

- **\$1,000 Research Grant** for project: *Benchmarking ClimateBERT on Developing-Country NDCs*, 2026.

Publications & Working Papers

1. Girgin, Deniz. M.A. Thesis, Ozyeğin University (2025). *Middle Power's Compliance with EU Environmental Governance: The Case of CBAM*.
2. Girgin, Deniz; Helin Yaren Ekmen; Mahsum Okmen. Working Paper. *Environmental Protest Analysis & Diffusion*.

Presentations

- *Food Security and the Fragile States*, FAO Türkiye (2024).
- Benchmarking ClimateBERT on Developing-Country NDCs, PaCSS Conference, September 2026.

Conferences & Summer Schools

- Participant, SICSS Istanbul, July 2026.
- Presenter, PaCSS Conference, September 2026.

Research Interests

International Relations, Climate Change and Energy Politics, Environmental Policies, Public Opposition to Renewable Energy, Environmental Movements, Computational Social Science

Skills

Computer: SPSS, STATA, RStudio, Python

Language: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

References

Oksan Bayulgen – University of Connecticut, Professor of Political Science & Head of Department

oksan.bayulgen@uconn.edu

Deniz Sert – Ozyeğin University, Professor of Political Science & Head of Department

deniz.sert@ozyegin.edu.tr

Evren Balta – Ozyeğin University, Professor of Political Science

evren.balta@ozyegin.edu.tr

H. Akin Unver – Ozyeğin University, Associate Professor of International Relations

akin.unver@ozyegin.edu.tr

Erzen Oncel – Ozyeğin University, Assistant Professor of International Relations

erzen.oncel@ozyegin.edu.tr

Selected Research Project

Benchmarking ClimateBERT on Developing-Country NDCs

2026

- Investigated model performance and benchmarking strategies for climate-policy text in developing-country NDC settings.