

Omer F. Yalcin

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Data Analytics and Computational Social Science
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EMPLOYMENT

2022 - present **University of Massachusetts Amherst**
Faculty Fellow, Data Analytics and Computational Social Science (DACSS)

EDUCATION

2021 **Pennsylvania State University**
Ph.D., in Political Science and Social Data Analytics
Committee: Bruce Desmarais (Chair), Sona Golder, Joseph Wright, Sarah Rajtmajer
Title: Measuring and Modeling the Dynamics of Elite Political Networks

2018 M.A., Political Science
Major Field: Comparative Politics
Minor Field: Methodology

2016 **Humboldt University of Berlin**
M.A., Research Training Program, Social Sciences

2014 **Bogazici University**
B.A., Political Science and Economics (Dual Degree)

DISSERTATION

Measuring and Modeling the Dynamics of Elite Political Networks

The dissertation comprises three papers. The first one builds a network theory of coalition formation among elite actors, showing that polarization among the elites leads to smaller ruling coalitions with a more concentrated power structure. The second paper uses Wikidata to study kinship ties among political elites. An application to a global dataset shows that kinship ties among the elite are more prevalent in authoritarian countries. The third paper studies political elite networks in the Arab world using Arabic newspaper text and shows that elite network centralization increases with authoritarianism.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Elites, Social Media, Network Analysis, Machine Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Sangyeon Kim, **Omer F. Yalcin**, Samuel Bestvater, Kevin Munger, Burt Monroe, and Bruce Desmarais. The Effects of an Informational Intervention on Attention to Anti-Vaccination Content on YouTube. In *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2020*.

WORKING PAPERS

Omer F. Yalcin. “Empirical Study of Elite Networks with Wikidata”

Empirically studying political elites across large number of countries is difficult. This project uses Wikidata, a collaborative knowledge graph, to study elite kinship networks, and shows that kinship ties among the elite are more prevalent among authoritarian countries. (OSF preprint: <https://osf.io/yrfvs>)

Omer F. Yalcin. “A Network Theory of Coalition Formation”

This paper models the political coalition formation process as formation of an elite network, where individuals are free to choose their support ties given everyone’s exogenously given power and ideology.

Nitheesha Nakka, **Omer Yalcin**, Bruce Desmarais, Sarah Rajtmajer, and Burt Monroe. “The study of short texts in digital politics: Document aggregation for topic modeling”

We explore the implications for statistical topic modeling of aggregating relatively short documents into larger documents based on a natural unit that partitions the corpus using tweets by U.S. state legislators. Our results illustrate how document definitions can alter the findings in topic modeling.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

• Instructor

Summer 2023 Introduction to LaTeX (ICPSR, Umich)
Summer 2023 Introduction to Python (ICPSR, Umich)
Spring 2023 Machine Learning for the Social Sciences (UMass)
Spring & Fall 2022 Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (UMass)

• Instructor of Record

Fall 2020 Research Design for Social Data Analytics (Penn State)

• Teaching Assistant

Summer 2020 Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics (ICPSR, UMich)
Summer 2020 Network Analysis I: Introduction (ICPSR, UMich)
Fall 2019 Scientific Study of Politics (Penn State)
Summer 2019 Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics (ICPSR, UMich)

Summer 2019 Network Analysis I: Introduction (ICPSR, UMich)

• **Guest Lecturer**

Fall 2021 Government & Politics of the Middle East (Penn State)

[three lectures: “Physical Geography”, “the Ottoman Empire”, and “the Eastern Question”]

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

4/2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
8/2021 Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS), Virtual Conference
7/2021 Political Networks (PolNet) Conference, Virtual (Penn State University)
7/2021 Political Methodology (PolMeth) Conference, Virtual (New York University)
7/2021 Networks 2021: A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference (Indiana University / Virtual)
3/2021 PolMeth Europe Meeting, Virtual (University of Hamburg)
9/2020 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting
8/2020 Politics and Computational Social Science & Political Networks Conf., (PolNet track)
7/2020 Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, Virtual Meeting
6/2020 International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Virtual Meeting
9/2019 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
8/2019 Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference, Washington, DC
5/2019 Political Networks (PolNet) Conference, Durham, NC (Duke University)
4/2019 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

SERVICE

Reviewer: *Political Analysis*

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Program in Comparative Politics (PiCP) Award for Arabic Language Study in Jordan (Summer 2017) and Turkey (Summer 2018)

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and TEV (Turkish Education Foundation) Joint Scholarship for M.A. Study in Germany (9/2014 –3/2016)

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Turkish (native), German (proficient), Arabic (good)
R, Python, Bash, SQL, Git

REFERENCES

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