

# Omer F. Yalcin

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University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Data Analytics and Computational Social Science  
School of Public Policy

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## EMPLOYMENT

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

## EDUCATION

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**Pennsylvania State University**  
2021      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  
**Humboldt University of Berlin**  
2016      M.A., Research Training Program, Social Sciences  
**Bogazici University**  
2014      B.A., Political Science and Economics (Dual Degree)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Political Elites, Social Media, Network Analysis, Machine Learning

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Publications

Kevin Munger, James Bisbee, **Omer Yalcin**, Joseph Phillips, Matthew Hindman. Pressing Play on Politics: Quantitative Description of YouTube. In *Journal of Quantitative Description* 2025. [\[Link\]](#)  
Abdullatif Köksal, **Omer Yalcin**, Ahmet Akbiyik, M Kilavuz, Anna Korhonen, Hinrich Schütze. Language-Agnostic Bias Detection in Language Models with Bias Probing. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2023* 2023. [\[Link\]](#)  
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. [\[Link\]](#)

## Other Publications

Nicole Schwitter and **Omer Faruk Yalcin**. Web Data Collection. In *Handbook of Quantitative Methods in Sociology*, ed. Ulf Liebe, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming. (SSRN preprint: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5009050>)

## WORKING PAPERS

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Ahmet Akbiyik, **Omer F. Yalcin**, Abdullatif Köksal, and M. Tahir Kilavuz. Blame Thy Neighbor: Terrorist Attacks and Anti-Refugee Sentiment. (SSRN preprint: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4986999>)

**Omer F. Yalcin**. Empirical Study of Elite Networks with Wikidata. (OSF preprint: <https://osf.io/yrfvs>)

Nitheesha Nakka, **Omer Yalcin**, Bruce Desmarais, Sarah Rajtmajer, and Burt Monroe. The study of short texts in digital politics: Document aggregation for topic modeling. (arXiv preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.05065>)

Firat Kimya, Abdullah Said Ozcan, **Omer Faruk Yalcin**. Elite Networks and Personalized Rule. (SSRN preprint: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5173713>)

## TEACHING

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- Courses Taught at the University of Massachusetts:
  - **DACSS 756 Machine Learning for the Social Sciences**: Spring 2023; Winter 2024; Spring 2025; Fall 2025; Spring 2026
  - **DACSS 611 Introduction to Python for Data Science**: Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Winter 2025; Summer 2025; Fall 2025; Summer 2026
  - **DACSS 603 / POLISCI 755 Introduction to Quantitative Analysis**: Fall 2022; September 2022; Fall 2024; Fall 2025
- Courses Taught at the ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan
  - **Introduction to Python**: 2023; 2024
  - **Introduction to LaTeX**: 2023; 2024
- Courses Taught at Penn State
  - **SoDA 308 Research Design for Social Data Analytics**: Fall 2020
- Teaching Assistant at the ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan
  - **Network Analysis I: Introduction**: 2019; 2020
  - **Network Analysis II: Advanced Topics**: 2019; 2020
- Teaching Assistant at Penn State
  - **PLSC 10 Scientific Study of Politics**: Fall 2019
- Guest Lecturer at Penn State
  - **Government & Politics of the Middle East** (three lectures): Fall 2021

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

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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

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**Reviewer:** *Political Analysis, The Web Conference*

**Disciplinary:** *Political Networks Section, American Political Science Association, Best Conference Paper Award Committee Member (2022) and Chair (2023)*

## TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

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10/2024	Data for Good in Education Workshop, Academic Data Science Alliance (ADSA) Annual Meeting, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
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## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- Public Interest Technology (PIT) at UMass Faculty Fellowship, UMass Amherst (2025-2026)
- 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

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Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (advanced), Arabic (advanced)  
R, Python, Bash, SQL, Git

## REFERENCES

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### [Bruce Desmarais](#)

Professor of Political Science  
Director of the Center for Social Data Analytics  
Pennsylvania State University  
email: [bdesmarais@psu.edu](mailto:bdesmarais@psu.edu)

### [Justin H. Gross](#)

Associate Professor of Public Policy  
Director of Data Analytics and Computational Social Science  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
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### [Kevin L. Young](#)

Professor of Economics  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
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