

ALMILA BAŞAK

PhD Candidate, Political Science

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy — Political Science 2027
Syracuse University, United States of America *(Expected)*

- Fields: Comparative Politics (Major), Law and Courts (Minor)
- Dissertation: *Who Deserves What? Welfare Politics of Right-Wing Populist Parties in Europe*
- Committee: Dr. Seth K. Jolly (Chair), Dr. Margarita Estevez-Abe, Dr. Jessie Trudeau

Master of Arts — Political Science 2023
Syracuse University, United States of America

Bachelor of Science — Political Science and Public Administration 2019
Middle East Technical University, Turkey
Minor: Economics

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Graduate Research Associate
Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Maxwell School
Center for European Studies 2024 – Present
Middle Eastern Studies Program 2023 – Present

Teaching Associate 2023 – 2026
Future Professoriate Program, Syracuse University

Research

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Political Behavior, Political Economy
Specific Interests: Political Parties, Populism, Welfare Politics, Social Policy, European Politics, Turkish Politics
Methodological Interests: Survey Research, Expert Surveys, Mixed-Methods Approach, Text-as-Data

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] Deservingness from the Inside: Groups and Instruments in Right-Wing Populist Welfare Agendas. (Job Market Paper)
- [2] The Electoral Returns to Vote-Buying: Evidence from Brazil (with Dr. Trudeau)
- [3] Dissatisfied Voters or Alienated Abstainers? Abstention and Voter-Parliament Redistribution Incongruence (with Dr. Jolly)

IN PROGRESS

- [1] Policy Feedback at the Ballot Box: How Do Social Policy Recipients Vote?
- [2] Social Benefits and Retrospective Voting During Economic Downturns: Evidence from Turkey
- [3] Is the Class Gap a Trust Gap? Working-Class Defection and the Decline of Mainstream Left in Europe

[4] Measuring Welfare Issue Saliency in Party Documents Using LLMs

RESEARCH	Graduate Research Assistant , Dr. Jessie Trudeau	Spring 2026
APPOINTMENTS	Graduate Research Assistant , Dr. Jessie Trudeau	Spring 2025
	Graduate Research Assistant , Dr. Jessie Trudeau	2023-2024
	Global Free Speech Repository Research Assistant , Dr. Thomas Keck	2022 – 2023
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	[15] “The electoral returns to vote buying: Evidence from Brazil”, presented at the Electoral Integrity Project Conference with Dr. Jessie Trudeau.	June 2026
	[14] “Welfare Promises of Right-Wing Populist Parties: Whom to Attract and How to Allocate”, presented at the European Political Science Society Conference.	June 2026
	[13] “Welfare Promises of Right-Wing Populist Parties: Whom to Attract and How to Allocate?”, presented at the APSA Dissertation Workshop on European Politics.	June 2026
	[12] “Welfare Promises of Right-Wing Populist Parties: Whom to Attract and How to Allocate?”, presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference.	April 2026
	[11] “The electoral returns to vote buying: Evidence from Brazil”, presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference with Dr. Jessie Trudeau.	April 2026
	[10] “The electoral returns to vote buying: Evidence from Brazil”, presented at the Political Science Research Workshop at Syracuse University.	April 2026
	[9] “Welfare Promises of Right-Wing Populist Parties: Whom to Attract and How to Allocate?”, presented at the European Politics Workshop at Syracuse University.	March 2026
	[8] “Dissatisfied Voters or Alienated Abstainers? Abstention and Voter-Parliament Incongruence”, presented at the European Union Studies Association Conference with Dr. Seth Jolly.	May 2025
	[7] “Welfare Platforms of Populist Entrepreneurs”, presented at the Political Science Research Workshop at Syracuse University.	March 2025
	[6] “Welfare Platforms of Populist Entrepreneurs”, presented at the European Politics Workshop at Syracuse University.	March 2025
	[5] “Welfare State Policies: Window for Party Politics?”, presented at the <i>American Political Science Association</i> Conference.	September 2024
	[4] “Welfare State Policies: Window for Party Politics?”, presented at the Political Science Research Workshop at Syracuse University.	April 2024
	[3] “Understanding the Gender Gap in Party Preferences: The Case of the AKP era in Turkey”, presented at the European Politics Workshop at Syracuse University.	March 2025
	[2] “Understanding the Unnatural Voting: The Case of the AKP era”, presented at the Annual Meeting of Northeastern Political Science Association.	November 2022

[1] “Understanding the Unnatural Voting: The Case of the AKP era”,
presented at the Political Science Research Workshop at
Syracuse University.

September 2022

SKILLS

Software: R, RStudio, ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, MAXQDA, Git

Document Preparation Systems: L^AT_EX, R Markdown, Microsoft Office Suite

Language English (advanced), Turkish (native)

Grants, Awards, and Honors

GRANTS

APSA Travel Grant	2026
American Political Science Association	
Summer Dissertation Fellowship	2026
Graduate School, Syracuse University	
Professional, Academic and Creative Work Travel Grant	2026
Graduate School, Syracuse University	
Research Assistantship Fellowship	2026
Political Science Department, Syracuse University	
Roscoe Martin Fund for Dissertation and Thesis Research	
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University	2025
Goekjian/Center for European Studies Research Grant	2025
Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University	
Research Assistantship Fellowship	2025
Political Science Department, Syracuse University	
Professional, Academic and Creative Work Travel Grant	2024
Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University	
Professional, Academic and Creative Work Travel Grant	2023
Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University	
Fulbright PhD Scholarship	2022-23
Fulbright PhD Scholarship	2021-22

AWARDS

The Peter Mair Memorial Award	2026
American Political Science Association	
European Politics and Society Section	
Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award	2026
American Political Science Association	
Political Organizations and Parties Section	
The Ketcham Award	2026
For students whose work exhibits a commitment to open and just public life	
Political Science Department, Syracuse University	
Certificate in University Teaching	2026
The Future Professoriate Program, Syracuse University	
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	2026
Graduate School, Syracuse University	
Koff Award	2025
The best graduate student paper written each year on comparative politics	
Political Science Department, Syracuse University	
Young Scholar Prize	2023
For the paper “Social Policy and the Gender Gap in Party Preferences: The Case of the AKP era in Turkey”	

Middle East Studies Program, Syracuse University

HONORS	1st-ranked student,	2019
	Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University	
	3rd-ranked student,	2019
	Middle East Technical University (university-wide)	

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD	Global Community (co-instructor)	Fall 2026
	Globalization and the Rise of Populism	May 2024
TEACHING ASSISTANT	Comparative Government and Politics ,	Fall 2025
	Prof. Margarita Estevez-Abe Role: Section Leader	
	Comparative Government and Politics ,	Fall 2024
	Prof. Margarita Estevez-Abe Role: Section Leader	

Service

TO THE INSTITUTION	Graduate Student Representative ,	2026
	Dr. Yuksel Sezgin's Promotion Committee.	
	Co-President ,	2023-2024
	Political Science Graduate Student Association.	
	Pre-Comprehensive Exams Student Representative ,	2022-2023
	Political Science Graduate Student Association.	
	Political Science Department Representative ,	2021-2022
	Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization, Graduate Pandemic Committee member.	
TO THE DISCIPLINE	Discussant , Populism and Democratic Erosion in Europe, APSA	2026
	Discussant , Party Organization, Representation, and the Populist Challenge, APSA	2026
	Discussant , Dissertation Workshop on European Politics, APSA	2026
	Panelist , "Independent Teaching as a Graduate Student"	
	organized by Future Professoriate Program	2025
	Co-organizer , Future Professoriate Program seminar: "How to present at a conference?"	
	at Political Science Research Workshop, Syracuse University	2024
	Organizer , Geocoding Workshop with Dr. Trudeau for Political Science Graduate Students.	2024
	Co-organizer , Future Professoriate Program seminar: "Predocs, Postdocs, and Fellowships: What You Need to Know"	
	at Political Science Research Workshop, Syracuse University.	2023
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	European Political Science Society	2026 – Present
	Midwest Political Science Association	2026 – Present
	European Union Studies Association	2025 – Present
	American Political Science Association	2024 – Present

References

Dr. Seth Jolly

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University

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PhD Advisor

Dr. Margarita Estevez-Abe

Associate Professor, Syracuse University

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Committee Member

Dr. Jessie Trudeau

Assistant Professor, Syracuse University

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Committee Member

Updated September 13, 2026