



Ozum Yesiltas, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
East Texas A&M University
2200 Campbell Street
Commerce, TX 75428

ozum.yesiltas@tamuc.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, Miami, FL, 2014
Graduate Certificate: Middle East and Central Asian Studies
Graduate Certificate: Strategic and Security Studies
- M.S. International Relations, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2006
- M.S. European Studies, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2005
- B.A. Sociology, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2001

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2021 Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, East Texas A&M University
- 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, East Texas A&M University
- 2014 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, St. Norbert College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2022 Yesiltas, Ozum. *Rethinking State-Non-State Alliances: Change and Continuity in the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, Kurdish Societies, Politics, and International Relations Series.

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Refereed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 2024 Nationalism and Feminism Intersecting: A Comparative Analysis of Kurdish Women's Movement in Iraq and Syria." *Nations and Nationalism* (Revised&Resubmitted).
- 2022 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Understanding Rojava: Representations of Kurdish Women Fighters in U.S. Mainstream Media." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 18 (3): 337-358.
- 2021 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Rethinking State-Non-state Alliances: A Theoretical Analysis of the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship." *Kurdish Studies Journal* 9 (2): 189-204.
- 2019 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Continuity and Change in Syrian Kurdistan: The Rojava Revolution and Beyond," in Michael Gunter, David Romano and Mehmet Gürses (eds.), *Kurds in the Middle East: Enduring Problems and New Dynamics* (pp. 129-147). Maryland: Lexington Books.
- 2018 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Taking Voluntariness Seriously: Legal Challenges Impeding the Syrian Refugees' Right of Return." *Midsouth Political Science Review* 19: 83-110.
- 2018 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Turkey and the Kurdistan Regional Government: Unlikely Allies?" *The Journal of Turkish Studies* 1 (1): 188-215.
- 2016 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Contested Notions of National Identity, Ethnic Movements and Democratization in Iran." *Studies of Transition States and Societies* 8 (1): 53-68.
- 2016 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Discursive Formations of the Kurdish Question in Turkey," in F. Donelli, M. Ferez, A. Chiriatti (eds.), *Modern Turkey: Opportunities and Challenges*. Mexico City: Anahuac University.
- 2015 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Democratization and Ethnic Conflict: Transformation of Turkey's Kurdish Question," in Michael Fonkem (ed.), *Nationalism and Intra-State Conflicts in a Postcolonial World* (pp. 277-300). Maryland: Lexington Books.
- 2014 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Iraq, Arab Nationalism and Obstacles to Democratic Transition," in David Romano, Mehmet Gürses (eds.), *Conflict, Democratization, and the Kurds in the Middle East: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria* (pp. 41-57). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Book Reviews, Research Notes, Web-Based Publications

- 2020 Yesiltas, Ozum. "Gender Mainstreaming in Teaching International Relations," *Humanities and Social Sciences Online*, Teaching Roundtable XXI-39 on Teaching Gender in IR, May 1, 2020.
- 2019 Yesiltas, Ozum. "The Case for Re-Opening Turkey-Rojava Dialogue," *Kurdistan Weekly Digest*, Washington Kurdish Institute, June 18, 2019.

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- 2015 Yesiltas Ozum. *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity*. Kamran Scot Aghaie, Afshin Marashi (Eds.) in *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 15 (1): 210-212.

Media Appearances

- 2023 “Change and Continuity in the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship with Ozum Yesiltas,” Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights Podcast, February 2, 2023.
- 2023 Yesiltas, Ozum. “New Publication: Rethinking State-Non-State Alliances,” Washington Kurdish Institute Podcast, January 30, 2023.
- 2019 “Silent No Longer: Trump’s Betrayal Stirs DWF’s Sizable Kurdish Community to Action,” Commentator, Dallas Observer, November 11, 2019.

Manuscripts in Progress

“Foreign Policy as a Tool for Legitimacy and Recognition for Armed Non-State Actors: The Case of the Democratic Union Party in Syria”

“A Democratic Confederal Solution to Conflict in the Middle East: The Kurdish Model in Turkey and Syria”

“What Rising Nationalism in Europe Means for Migrants and the Refugee-Protection Regime?”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Visiting Scholar, Barcelona Institute of International Studies, May-August 2023.
- 2021 Visiting Scholar, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley, August 2021-January 2022.
- 2019 Visiting Fellow, Washington Kurdish Institute, June-August 2019.
- 2018 Visiting Scholar, Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, American Political Science Association, June-July 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Humanities, Social Sciences & Arts Research Grant, East Texas A&M University
- 2021 Global Human Rights Fellowship, East Texas A&M University
- 2021 Faculty Development Leave Award, East Texas A&M University
- 2019 Summer Research Grant, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa
- 2019 Faculty Development Grant, East Texas A&M University
- 2018 Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association
- 2018 Faculty Development Grant, East Texas A&M University
- 2012 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Florida International University
- 2011 Dissertation Evidence Acquisition Fellowship, Florida International University

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- 2007 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Florida International University
- 2006 Best Thesis Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Middle East Technical University
- 2001 Highest GPA Award, Department of Sociology, Middle East Technical University

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Jineoloji: Reflections of the Relationship between Feminism and Nationalism in the Doctrine of Democratic Confederalism” International Studies Association South, St. Petersburg, FL, October 4-5.
- 2024 “Foreign Policy as a Tool for Recognition for Armed Non-State Actors” CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference, Rijeka, Croatia, June 18-21.
- 2023 “The Possibility of Nationalist Feminism: Reflections on the Kurdish and Afghan Women’s Movements” Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington, D.C., November 4-6.
- 2023 “Gender and Sexuality in the Making of a Nation: The Politics of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan” International Studies Association Joint International Conference, Ifrane, Morocco, June 21-23.
- 2022 “Conceptions of a Feminist Nation in the Oppositional Agencies of RAWA and the PKK” National Women’s Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 10-13.
- 2022 “Rethinking State-Non-state Alliances: A Theoretical Analysis of the U.S.-Kurdish Relationship” International Studies Association, Nashville, TN, March 28- April 2.
- 2021 Non-State Actors and Approaches to International Security: The Kurds in a Changing Middle East” International Studies Association Northeast (virtual), November 4-6.
- 2021 “Kurdish Studies in the United States” Middle East Studies Association (virtual), November 29-December 3.
- 2019 “Rojava: A Feminist Revolution” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, November 14-17.
- 2019 “Power from the Margins: The Case for a ‘Coherent’ U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds” Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa, Washington, D.C., October 31-November 2.
- 2019 “Nationalism and Women’s Agency: Constructions of Feminist Nationalist Identity in the Kurdish Movements in Iraq and Syria” Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference, Evanston, IL, June 7-8.

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- 2018 “Understanding Rojava: Western Representations of Kurdish Women Fighting ISIS” Middle East Studies Association, San Antonio, TX, November 15-18.
- 2018 “Taking Voluntariness Seriously: Legal Challenges Impeding the Syrian Refugees’ Right of Return” Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York, NY, May 3-5.
- 2017 “A Source of Hope among Horror: The Feminist Revolution in Rojava” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 16-19.
- 2017 “Rethinking the ‘Right of Return’: An International Law Analysis of the Syrian Refugee Crisis” International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25.
- 2016 “Pragmatism at Work or a Long-Term Shift? Understanding the Nuclear Deal between the U.S. and Iran” International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19.
- 2016 “Nationalizing Iran: Counter-Discourses on Democracy and National identity” International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Yesiltas, Ozum. “The Kurdish Movement’s Reaction to the War in Gaza,” Rojava Center for Strategic Studies Webinar, November 10.
- 2021 “Orientalism Interrupted: The Politics of Sexuality and National Liberation in Kurdistan, Afghanistan, and Iran” Beatrice Bain Research Group Lecture Series, University of California, Berkeley, November 12.
- 2019 “Power from the Margins: The Case for a ‘Coherent’ U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds” Roundtable Discussion: U.S. Foreign Policy toward the Kurds and What’s Next in Syria, Washington Kurdish Institute, Washington, D.C., June 21.
- 2018 “Allies or Terrorists? Contradictions in the U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Kurds” Brownbag Speaker Series, Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, American Political Science Association, Washington D.C., June 27.
- 2017 “Oil Dependence and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, April 5.
- 2017 “Understanding Trump’s Executive Order on Immigration” Global Scholars Forum, St. Norbert College, February 16.
- 2016 “Masculinities for Jews and Other Non-Christian Others” Cassandra Voss Center Annual Masculinity Summit, St. Norbert College, November 3.

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- 2016 “Turkey in the Middle: Domestic and Foreign Perspectives on the Most Recent Events” Global Studies Discussion Series, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, September 30.
- 2016 “The Future of Kurdistan” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, March 3.
- 2016 “A Panel Discussion on the Current World Refugee Crisis” Middle East Initiative-Center for Middle East Studies and Partnerships, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, March 9.
- 2015 “Understanding the Iran Nuclear Deal” Global Scholars Third Annual Global Governance Panel, St. Norbert College, December 2.
- 2015 “We Can’t Look Away: A Conversation about the World Refugee Crisis” Middle East Initiative-Norman Miller Center, St. Norbert College, November 12.
- 2015 “Syria’s Refugee Crisis” Great Decisions Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, February 2.
- 2015 “The ISIS Threat: The Complex War Raging in Iraq and Syria” St. Norbert College Distinguished Lecture Series, Door County Auditorium, January 17.
- 2014 “Kurds and the Situation in the Middle East” Global Studies Discussion Series, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, December 5.
- 2014 “Conflict and Transformation in the Middle East: The Kurds and the Rise of the Islamic State” Department of Sociology Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, November 19.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

East Texas A&M University

Undergraduate Courses

United States Government
 Texas Government
 Principles of U.S. & Texas Government
 U.S. & Texas Government: Institutions and Policies
 Introduction to World Politics
 Non-European Political Systems - The Middle East
 International Relations Theory
 U.S. Foreign Policy
 Gender in International Relations
 Model Arab League
 Women in the Middle East
 International Refugee Law

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Graduate Courses

Seminar in Foreign Policy
Proseminar in Comparative Politics
Proseminar in International Relations
Problems in International Relations
Selected Topics in International Relations

St. Norbert College

Introduction to International Studies
Introduction to Comparative Politics
International Relations Theory
International Protection of Human Rights
Middle East Politics
Politics of Modern Iran
Global Political Extremism
Peace and Conflict Studies in International Relations

Pedagogical Training

Certificate in Effective College Instruction, The Association of College and University Educators and The American Council on Education, 2021.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Profession

Book Manuscript Referee, I.B. Tauris, 2024
Book Manuscript Referee, SAGE Publishing, 2021
Book Manuscript Referee, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2019
Book Manuscript Referee, W. W. Norton & Company, 2019
Book Manuscript Referee, Cognella Academic Publishing, 2018
Book Manuscript Referee, Oxford University Press, 2015
Manuscript Referee, *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*, 2024
Manuscript Referee, *Middle East Journal*, 2023
Manuscript Referee, *Midsouth Political Science Review*, 2019
Manuscript Referee, *Studies of Transition States and Societies*, 2017
Manuscript Referee, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, 2017
Manuscript Referee, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 2016
Secretary, Kurdish Studies Association
Advisory Council Member, Center for Middle East Studies & Partnerships, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay
Affiliate Fellow, Washington Kurdish Institute
Affiliate Fellow, Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights
Member, Kurdish Women's Studies Network

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University Service

East Texas A&M University

Academic Committee Memberships

Faculty Senate Academic Life Committee
Faculty Senate Budget Committee
Faculty Development Leave Committee
Political Science Department Scholarship Committee
Political Science Department Curriculum Committee
Political Science Department Representative to the ETAMU Faculty Senate
College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts Faculty Advisory Group
College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts Tenure and Promotion Committee
College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts Post-Tenure Review Committee
Gender Studies Advisory Committee
Global Human Rights Initiative Steering Committee
Anti-Racist Reading Group

Campus Lectures

“Recognition by Omission: Representations of Kurdish Women Fighters in U.S. Mainstream Media” Global Human Rights Fellows Brownbag Series, East Texas A&M University, October 28, 2022.

“Power from the Margins: The U.S. and the Kurds as a Case of State-Non-State Alliance” Honors Colloquium Series, East Texas A&M University, October 12, 2020.

“Syrian Refugees and Human Rights in 2018” Holocaust Days of Remembrance, East Texas A&M University, February 21, 2018.

“Understanding Rojava: Western Representations of Kurdish Women Fighting ISIS” Gender Studies Lecture Series, East Texas A&M University, February 20, 2018.

Member of Search Committee

College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts, Career Coach Search, 2020
Department of History, Tenure-Track Faculty Search, Spring 2019
Department of Political Science, Tenure-Track Faculty Search, Spring 2019

Member of Master’s Thesis Committee

Christopher Michael Rowback, Department of History
Song Wang, Department of Political Science

Supervisor-PSCI 595 Research Project

Timothy Shelby, Department of Political Science, Spring 2024
Megan Ross, Department of Political Science, Fall 2023

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Member of PSCI 595 Non-Thesis Committee

Jeffrey Leachman, Department of Political Science
Egzon Krasniqi, Department of Political Science
Matthew Markovitch, Department of Political Science
Dovlet Hudayberdiyev, Department of Political Science
Rebecca Lynch, Department of Political Science
David Gosbee, Department of Political Science

Member of Honor's Thesis Committee

Alexandra Corrales, Department of Political Science
Hannah Anderson, Department of Political Science
Carissa Carter, Department of Political Science

Panel Judge

TAMU Pathways Student Research Symposium, Spring 2023
ETAMU Annual Research Symposium, Spring 2022
ETAMU Federation Graduate Student Research Symposium, Spring 2022
ETAMU Annual Research Symposium, Spring 2019

Graduate Council Representative

Servenaz Balali Ph.D. Proposal Defense, Department of Literature and Languages, 2021

Faculty Advisor

Model Arab League, 2018-2022
Mock Organization of American States, 2018-2023 (assisted Dr. Robert Rodriguez)

Representative of East Texas A&M University, Department of Political Science

East Texas A&M University, Mane Event, Spring 2024
The University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School Fair, Fall 2023
Texas A&M University, Graduate and Professional School Fair, Spring 2022
University of North Texas, McNair Conference Graduate Recruitment Fair, Spring 2019

Lecturer

Global Frontier Program, East Texas A&M University, Summer 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Kurdish Studies Association
International Studies Association
American Political Science Association
Association for the Study of Nationalities
Middle East Studies Association
Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa
National Women's Studies Association

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