

AVITAL LIVNY

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign ◊ Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Champaign-Urbana, IL)	
Associate Professor of Political Science	2023-present
Assistant Professor of Political Science	2015-2023
Carlos III-Juan March Institute (Madrid, Spain)	
Junior Research Fellow	2014-2015

EDUCATION

Stanford University (Stanford, CA)	
Ph.D. in Political Science	2016
M.A. in Political Science	2009
University of Oxford (Oxford, United Kingdom)	
M.Sc. with distinction in Comparative Politics Research Methods	2006
M.Phil. with high honors in Modern Middle Eastern Studies	2005
Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)	
B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i> in Political Science	2002

RESEARCH

Books

2020. [Trust and the Islamic Advantage: Religious-Based Movements in Turkey and the Muslim World](#). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. ([Appendices](#))
2022. [Paperback edition](#).
2022. [Review](#) by Toygar Sinan Baykan. *Party Politics*, 28 (3): 588-90.
2021. [Review](#) by Güneş Murat Tezcür. *Perspectives on Politics*, 19 (3): 1019-21.
2021. [Review](#) by Buket Oztas. *Turkish Studies*, 22 (5): 828-31.
2020. [Author Exchange](#) with Elizabeth Nugent. *APSA: Democracy and Autocracy*, 18 (3): 27-31.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

2023. [“A Student-Centered, Expanded Approach to the Undergraduate Research Experience.”](#) *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 56 (4): 463-68. ([Dataverse](#))
2021. [“Can Religiosity be Sensed with Satellite Data? An Assessment of Luminosity during Ramadan in Turkey.”](#) *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 85 (S1): 371-98. ([Dataverse](#))
2021. [“Survey Design, Order Effects, and Causal Mediation Analysis”](#) (with Stephen Chaudoin and Brian J. Gaines). *The Journal of Politics*, 83 (4): 1851-56. ([Appendix](#))

Invited Contributions

2020. “How Extraordinary was the Arab Spring? Examining ‘Protest Potential’ in the Muslim World.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Politics in Muslim Societies*, Melani Cammett and Pauline Jones (eds.) New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Other Publications

2017. [Book review](#) of Cihan Tuğal’s *The Fall of the Turkish Model* (London: Verso), 2017, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 49, 1.

2016. [“Counting the Uncounted: Measuring the Politicization of Kurdish Identity in Turkey.”](#) *POMEPS Studies* (Washington, DC: Project on Middle East Political Science) 22.

Ongoing Research & Working Papers

“Ottoman Brothers’ Still? The Legacy of Contact on Tolerance in Contemporary Turkey” (with Mark Westcott). (Under review)

“Improving Diversity Estimates using Transparent Methods.” (Working paper)

“Political Regulation of Social Norms: The Tradeoff between Religious Education and Support for Religious Parties” (with Jean-Paul Carvalho and Jared Rubin).

“Institutions, Trust, and Growth.” (Working paper)

“Counting the Uncounted: Measuring Kurdish Identity in Turkey.”

“Says Who? Estimating the Costs of Diversity Using Observed and Self-Identified Ethnicity” (with Adam Harris).

HONORS & AWARDS

Awards & Prizes

2023. [Helen Corley Petit Scholar](#), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2023. Clarence A. Berdahl Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Pi Sigma Alpha, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2022. Best Book Award (*Trust and the Islamic Advantage*, CUP), Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Politics Section, American Political Science Association.

2021. [Larine Y. Cowan “Make a Difference” Award](#), Teaching and Mentoring in Diversity, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2021. Social Good Award, Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab, Grinnell College (with Jordan Daley, Christopher Etheridge, Nick Judd, and Rezvaneh Rezapour).

2017. Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award (“A State of Distrust,” Stanford University), Democracy & Autocracy Section, American Political Science Association.

Research Grants

2023 (since 2018). Principal Investigator, National Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Political Science Program Standard Grant, [“Improving and Integrating Global Diversity Estimates Using Transparent Methods”](#) (with Scott Althaus, Co-PI). (\$315,583)

2021. Research Grant, Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, Russell Sage Foundation, Social Science Research Council, “The Toxic Audience: Investigating Online Harassment of Local Journalists” (with Jordan Daley, Christopher Etheridge, Nick Judd, and Rezvaneh Rezapour). (\$4,000)

2015. Research Grant, The Europe Center, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University (with Eric Min and Paul Zachary). (\$4,500)

2013. Research Grant, Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies, Stanford University. (\$5,930)

2011. Graduate Research Opportunity (GRO) Grant in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Stanford University. (\$4,000)

2010. Field Research Grant, Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford University. (\$3,000)

Research Fellowships

2019. Visiting Fellow, [Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society](#), Chapman University.

2018. Faculty Fellow, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2016 & 2017. David F. Linowes Fellow, Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2012. Dissertation Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The Stanford Humanities Center.

2011. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Dissertation Research Fellow, United States Department of Education.

Teaching Grants

2013. Curriculum Development Grant for Middle East Politics Lab, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University (with Lisa Blaydes). (\$16,502)

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

2022 & 2023. “Can Religiosity be Sensed with Satellite Data? An Assessment of Luminosity during Ramadan in Turkey” presented at the DC-AAPOR *Public Opinion Quarterly* Special Issue Webinar (July 2022) and invited to present at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research Program in Survey and Data Science’s 5th Annual Likert Workshop (February 2023).

2021 & 2023. “Improving Global Diversity Estimates Using Transparent Methods” presented at the Chicago Area Behavior Workshop (May 2021) and at the University of California-Berkeley Comparative Politics Colloquium (October 2021); and invited to present at Northwestern University Comparative Politics Workshop (February 2023).

2021. “Trust and the Islamic Advantage: Religious-Based Movements in Turkey and the Muslim World” presented at the Central European University Political Science Department Seminar (February) and at the Yale University Comparative Politics Workshop (April).

2019. “Remote Sensing Religiosity in the Muslim World: An Initial Assessment in the Turkish Case” presented at the Vanderbilt Comparative Politics Speaker Series (January); at the Middle East Initiative Speaker Series, Harvard Kennedy School (March); and at University of Wisconsin-Madison Comparative Politics Colloquium (April).

2019. Manuscript Conference for Timur Kuran’s *Freedoms Delayed: Political Legacies of Islamic Law in the Middle East* (Princeton University Press) at the F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University (March).

2018. “Trust and the Islamic Advantage in Turkey and the Muslim World” presented at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (June).

2017. “A New Method for Measuring Fractionalization Using Sampled Survey Data” presented at the Center for Peace and Security Studies, University of California, San Diego (January); and at the Institute for Future Studies (November).

2016, 2017 & 2018. “Persistent Effects of Inter-Religious Contact on Tolerance: The Case of Ottoman Turkey” presented at the Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison (November 2016); at the Comparative Politics Speaker Series, University of California, San Diego (January 2017); at the Comparative Politics Seminar, Columbia University (October 2017); at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (November 2017); and at the Indiana University-Bloomington World Politics Research Seminar (February 2018).

2016. “Counting the Uncounted: Measuring the Politicization of Kurdish Identity in Turkey” presented at the Project on Middle East Political Science Workshop on Contemporary Turkish Politics, Baker Institute, Rice University (October)

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

2023. “Political Regulation of Social Norms: The Tradeoff between Religious Education and Support for Religious Parties” (with Jean-Paul Carvalho and Jared Rubin) presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (April).

2022. “Improving Global Diversity Estimates Using Transparent Methods” presented at the 9th Conference of *Doctores Miembro* and Alumni of the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (June); and at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (September).

2019. “Remote Sensing Religiosity in the Muslim World: An Initial Assessment in the Turkish Case” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (February); at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March); and at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (August).

2018. “Says Who? Estimating the Costs of Diversity Using Observed and Self-Identified Ethnicity” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August).

2018. “Institutions, Trust, and Growth” presented at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Annual Meeting (March).

2017 & 2018. “Persistent Effects of Inter-Religious Contact on Tolerance: The Case of Ottoman Turkey” presented at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March 2017); at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (April 2017); at the

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2017); at the 60th Anniversary Conference at the Middle East Centre, University of Oxford (September 2017); at the 8th Conference of *Doctores Miembro* and Alumni of the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (June 2018).

2016 & 2018. “Counting the Uncounted: Measuring Kurdish Identity in Turkey” presented at the Project on Middle East Political Science workshop on Contemporary Turkish Politics (October 2016) and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2018).

2015 & 2016. “A New Method for Measuring Fractionalization Using Sampled Survey Data” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2015); and at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March 2016).

2015. “The Religious Ties that Bind? Islam and Anti-Kurdish Bias in Turkey” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August).

2015. “Ethnic Diversity and Inter-Group Trust in Turkey” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (May).

2015. “A Twitter (R)Evolution? Identifying First-Movers in a Political Uprising with Social Media Data” (with Eric Min and Paul Zachary) presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (April).

2014 & 2016. “Political Participation and Political Identity: The Making of Young Activists in Turkey’s Gezi Park” presented at the 8th Turkish Studies Symposium, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (April 2014); and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2016).

2014. “The Gezi Generation: Political Attitudes and Behavior in Contemporary Turkey” presented at the Eighth Annual Turkish Studies Symposium, European Union Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (April).

2012 & 2014. “Faith in the Electorate: Islam’s Solution to Vote Volatility in Turkey” presented at the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society (IRES) Graduate Student Workshop, (June 2012); at the American Research Institute in Turkey (June 2012); and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2014).

2012. “In Allah We Trust? Islamic Activism as Collective Action” presented at the International Conference on Islam, University of Wisconsin-Madison (April 2012); and at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (April).

2010. “The Inclusion Effect: Explaining Moderation Among Extremist Groups in the Middle East” (with Keren Eva Fraiman and Aila M. Matanock) presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (April).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Comparative Politics in Developing Nations, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2016 (included on the University of Illinois “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Spring 2018 (ranked “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Fall 2018 (ranked as “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Spring 2021 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Fall 2021

Spring 2023 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Comparative W.E.I.R.D. Politics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2022 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2022 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2023

Conceptualization and Measurement, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2020 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Spring 2023 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Government and Politics of the Middle East, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2015
Spring 2017 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Spring 2021 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Identity Politics in Comparative Perspective, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2015
Fall 2016 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2017 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

The New Middle East, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2017 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2017 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2018 (ranked as “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2020
Spring 2022 (included on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2022

Junior Honors Seminar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2018 (ranked as “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)
Fall 2021 (ranked as “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent”)

Senior Honors Seminar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2023

Undergraduate Research Practicum, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2018-present)

Middle East Politics Lab (with Prof. Lisa Blaydes), Stanford University (Spring 2014)

Middle East Politics, Stanford University (Summer 2013)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society (Orange, CA)

Visiting Fellow

AY 2019-2020

Institute for Future Studies (Stockholm, Sweden)

Visiting Researcher

Summer 2018

KONDA Research and Consultancy (Istanbul, Turkey)

Affiliated Researcher

2012-2016

Koç University, Department of Economics (Istanbul, Turkey)

Affiliated Researcher

June-August 2010; September 2011-June 2012

Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) (Washington, DC)

Policy Assistant, Economic Justice Program

August 2002-July 2003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

Service to Professional Associations

2023. Member, Best Book Award Committee, [Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) Politics Section](#), American Political Science Association (APSA).

2022-23. Member, Executive Board, [Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science \(MWEPS\)](#).

2021-23. Treasurer, [Democracy & Autocracy Section](#), American Political Science Association (APSA).

2021-22. Member, Working Group on the Ethics of Research Dissemination in the Social Sciences, [Research Ethics in the Middle East and North Africa \(REMENA\) Project](#), Middle East Institute, Columbia University.

2019-Present. Member, Board of Directors, [Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture \(ASREC\)](#).

2019. Program Co-Chair, [Religion and Politics Section](#), American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting.

2018. Member, Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award Committee, [Democracy & Autocracy Section](#), American Political Science Association (APSA).

2015-Present. Faculty Fellow, previously Junior Fellow (2012-2015), [Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies \(AALIMS\)](#).

Editorial Service

Present (since 2021). Member, Board of Reviewing Editors, [PNAS Nexus](#).

Referee, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *European Political Science Review*, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, National Science Foundation, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Politics and Religion*, *Political Geography*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, *World Politics*

Other Professional Service

Present (since 2021). Co-Organizer, [Religion in Public Talks \(RIPT\)](#).

Present (since 2020). Coordinator, [Identity Lab \(IL@IL\)](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Political Science.

Present (since 2018). Co-Coordinator, [The Politics of Identity across Subfields \(PIAS\) Working Group](#), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (with Cara Wong and Yoshiko Herrera).

Present (since 2018). Faculty Mentor, Graduate Student Workshop, [Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society](#), Chapman University.

2018. Coordinator, “Roundtable: The Future of Democracy in Turkey,” European Union Center 12th Annual Turkish Studies Symposium, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

2016. Coordinator, “Ethnicity and Diversity: Concepts, Measures, Causes and Consequences” Conference, held at the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (Madrid, Spain).

LANGUAGES & SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Languages: English (*native*), Hebrew (*native*), Modern Turkish (*advanced*), Modern Standard Arabic (*intermediate*), French (*intermediate*)

Academic Leadership and Management Institute, National Center for Principled Leadership and Research Ethics (NCPRE), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 2023

Advanced Turkish Course, Turkish Language and Culture Program, Boğaziçi University. 2008

Sponsored by Council of American Overseas Research Centers, U.S. Department of State.

Intermediate Turkish Course, Turkish Language and Culture Program, Boğaziçi University. 2004