

# ERZEN ÖNCEL

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[Google Scholar](#)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Charles Hamilton Houston Institute Fellow, Harvard Law School (2026-2027)

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Wellesley College (2025-2026)

Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Özyeğin University (2018-present; on leave 2025–2026)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Boston University, Department of Political Science, 2015

M.A., Boston University, Department of Political Science, 2011

B.A., Boğaziçi University, International Relations & Political Science, Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Istanbul, 2003

B.A., Boğaziçi University, History, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Istanbul, 2003

## FIELD

Comparative Politics, Political history, Methodology

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Articles*

John Gerring, Connor T. Jerzak, Erzen Öncel. 2024. “Composition of Descriptive Representation.” *American Political Science Review* 118 (2): 784-801.

John Gerring, Erzen Öncel, Kevin Morrison, Daniel Pemstein. 2019. “Who Rules the World? A Portrait of the Global Leadership Class.” *Perspectives on Politics* 17(4): 1079-97.

John Gerring, Strom Tacker, Yuan Lu, Erzen Öncel. 2017. "When Are Minorities Worse Off? A Systematic Investigation of Size and Status." *Journal of Development Studies* 53(12): 2086-2101.

### **Books**

John Gerring, Allen Hicken, Connor T. Jerzak, Robert G. Moser, Erzen Öncel. *Electoral Rules and Descriptive Representation*. Cambridge Elements in Campaigns and Elections, Cambridge University Press. Under Contract.

John Gerring, Andrés Cruz, Laura de Castro Quaglia, Kenny Miao, Erzen Öncel and Harunobu Saijo. *Leadership and Power: A Comprehensive Survey through the Prism of Leader Tenure*. Manuscript in progress.

### **Working Papers**

John Gerring, Andrés Cruz, Laura de Castro Quaglia, Kenny Miao, Erzen Öncel and Harunobu Saijo. *Leader Tenure and Leader Power*. Under review.

John Gerring, Connor T. Jerzak, Erzen Öncel. *Elite Cleavages: A New Approach to Measurement*. Working paper.

Erzen Öncel. *Elite Entrenchment and Re-Election Among Kurdish Parliamentarians in Turkey*. Working paper.

Erzen Öncel. *Elite Circulation and Leader Tenure in Turkey: From the Ottoman Empire to the Republic*. Working paper.

### **Book Chapters and Other Publications**

Michael Latner and Erzen Öncel. "Engineering Inclusion: Electoral Systems and Minority Representation in Electoral Systems, Race and Representation" in *The Next Reconstruction: Race, Electoral Systems, and Democracy*. Forthcoming.

Erzen Öncel, Michael Latner, Oscar Pocasangre. "Consequences of Electoral Design: Race, Representation, and Governance" in *The Next Reconstruction: Race, Electoral Systems, and Democracy*. Forthcoming.

Erzen Öncel. 2007. "US Foreign Policy in the Middle East" in *Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States*, ed. by Joceylne Cesari, Greenwood Publishing.

Erzen Öncel. 2007. "Turkish Muslims" in *Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States*, ed. by Joceylne Cesari, Greenwood Publishing.

Erzen Öncel. 2007. "Orientalism" in *Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States*, ed. by Joceylne Cesari, Greenwood Publishing.

## DATA COLLECTION PROJECTS

Global Leadership Project (GLP). Co-PI: John Gerring.

Website: <https://globalleadershipproject.net/>

Ethnic Composition of Members of Assembly of the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic.  
*In Progress.*

Leader Tenure in Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic.  
*In Progress.*

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

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|-----------|---|
| 2024-2025 | Visiting Non-Residential Fellow at Guinier Project, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School.  |
| 2010-2018 | Project Manager, "Global Leadership Project", funded by Clinton Global Initiative and the World Bank. (trained ~250 country experts).   |
| 2011-2012 | Visiting Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC.   |
| 2008-2010 | Head Research Assistant and Project Manager, "Colonialism and Its Legacies: <i>A Comprehensive Historical Dataset</i> " Project (Co-PI Prof. John Gerring and James Mahoney), funded by NSF, Boston University. |

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Grant to support *The Global Leadership Project II* (Co-PIs: John Gerring, Erzen Öncel, Kevin M. Morrison, and Stephen Knack), Development Research Group, World Bank. Total award: \$99,240, 2016.

Grant to support *The Global Leadership Project I* (Co-PIs: John Gerring, Erzen Öncel, Philip Keefer, Kevin M. Morrison. Funder: Development Research Group, World Bank. Total award: \$67,189, 2012.

Research Fellow Scholarship, Boston University, 2008-2012.

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Boston University, 2010-2011.

ICPSR Summer School in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, Full Tuition Fellowship, 2010.

Full Tuition Teaching Fellowship, Boston University, 2004-2007.

DAAD scholar for Summer Workshop, 2002.

## CONFERENCES and INVITED TALKS

Presenter: “Elite Cleavages: A New Approach to Measurement.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada, 2025 (with John Gerring, Connor T. Jerzak).

Presenter: “Global Affairs - A Kaleidoscope of Albright Faculty & Student Research Perspectives.” Albright Institute for Global Affairs, Wellesley, MA, April 14, 2025.

Panelist: “Gender Equality in a Shifting Political Landscape.” Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA, March 28, 2025.

Invited Presenter: “Envisioning Democratic Futures.” Clough Center Spring Symposium, Boston College, Boston, March 21-22, 2025.

Invited Presenter: “Engineering Inclusion: Electoral Systems and Minority Representation.” Guinier Research Round Table, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2025.

Presenter: “Where Minorities are the Majority: Electoral Rules and Ethnic Representation.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2024 (with John Gerring, Allen Hicken, Connor T. Jerzak, Robert G. Moser).

Presenter: “The Global Leadership Project: A Comprehensive Database of Political Elites.” International IDEA, Stockholm, 2016 (with John Gerring).

Presenter: “The Global Leadership Project: A Comprehensive Database of Political Elites.” European Consortium for Political Research, Prague, 2016 (with John Gerring, Philip Keefer, Kevin Morrison).

Panelist: “The Global Leadership Project: A Comprehensive Database of Political Elites.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2014 (with John Gerring, Philip Keefer, Kevin Morrison).

Presenter: “Kurdish Representation in Turkey: Diversity and Inclusiveness since 1920.” Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, 2011.

Presenter: “Diversity and Inclusiveness among Political Elites: Descriptive Representation of Ethno-Cultural Groups Around the World.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, 2010.

Presenter: “Educational Policymaking in Turkey: Implications of European Union Accession.” Second International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of Granada, Spain, 2007.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Advanced Research Methods (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Comparative Political Institutions: Political Parties & Electoral Systems (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Comparative Political Leadership (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Democratic Institutions (Wellesley College; undergraduate)  
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Özyeğin University, Wellesley College; undergraduate)  
Introduction to Political Science (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Middle East Politics (Wellesley College; undergraduate)  
Research Methods I- Qualitative (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Research Methods II- Quantitative (Özyeğin University; undergraduate)  
Research Methods and Ethics (Özyeğin University; graduate)  
State and Society in the Middle East (University of Mississippi, Boston University; undergraduate)  
Politics of Race and Ethnicity (Özyeğin University, Boston University, Wellesley College; undergraduate)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Reviewer:

*American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Perspectives in Politics, Electoral Politics.*

Institutional:

Departmental Recruitment Committee, Özyeğin University.  
Departmental Internship Committee, Özyeğin University.  
MA Program Development Committee, Özyeğin University.  
Departmental Review Committee, Özyeğin University.

## **ADDITIONAL**

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Ottoman Turkish (advanced reading)

Technical Skills: R, Stata, LaTeX

## **ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association, APSA  
Midwest Political Science Association, MPSA  
European Consortium for Political Research, ECPR