

ERZEN ÖNCEL

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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, August 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 *Electoral Systems, Race and Representation*. In process.

Michael Latner, Oscar Pocasangre, Erzen Öncel. “Consequences of Electoral Design: Race, Representation, and Governance” in *Electoral Systems, Race and Representation*. In process.

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 the Turkish Parliament.

In Progress.

Leader Tenure in Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic.

In Progress.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

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: *A Comprehensive Historical Dataset*" 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