

## DEFNE ÖVER

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- ACADEMIC POSITIONS** Assistant Professor of Sociology Fall 2019  
**Texas A&M University**
- Early Career Fellow 2017-2019  
**Göttingen University**, Lichtenberg Kolleg  
Human Rights, Constitutional Politics & Religious Diversity Group
- Country Expert 2016-2019  
The Free Speech Repository Project
- EDUCATION** PhD, Sociology 2017  
**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA
- MA, Social and Political Sciences 2009  
**Humboldt University**, Berlin, Germany
- BA, Sociology 2006  
**Boğaziçi University**, Istanbul, Turkey
- INTERESTS** State-society relations, Authoritarianism, Populism, Media, Legal Institutions, Social Movements, National Identity
- ARTICLES** Över, Defne; Tuncer-Ebetürk, Irem. 2022. "Insult, Charisma and Legitimacy: Turkey's Transition to Personalist Rule" *Social & Legal Studies*.
- Över, Defne. 2021. "From Self-Censorship to Contention: Shame Triggered Participation in the 2013 Gezi Protests" *Current Sociology*.
- Över, Defne. 2021. "Democratic Backsliding and the Media: the Convergence of News Narratives in Turkey" *Media, Culture and Society*, 43:2, 343-358.
- Över, Defne; Taraktaş, Başak. 2017. "When Does Repression Trigger Mass Protest? The Case of 2013 Gezi Protests." *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change*, 41, 205-239.
- Över, Defne. 2016. "Cultural Tourism and Complex Histories: The Armenian Akhtamar Church, The Turkish State and National Identity" *Qualitative Sociology*, 39:2, 173-194.

**BOOK  
CHAPTERS**

Ilkiz, Fikret; Över, Defne. 2018. "Freedom of Expression and the Press in Turkey." in Emrah Altındış, Gaye Özpınar & Esra Özyürek (eds.) *Authoritarianism and Resistance in Turkey: Conversations on Democratic and Social Challenges*. Springer.

Över, Defne. 2018. "Qualitative Research in a Politically Polarized Atmosphere: Conducting In-depth Interviews with Journalists in Turkey" *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Över, Defne. 2013. "Construction of Public and Private Spheres in the Soviet Communal Apartments: Erving Goffman's Notion of Territories of Self" in Jacqueline Low & Gary Bowden (eds.) *The Chicago School Diaspora*. McGill-Queens University Press.

**IN PROGRESS** The Authoritarian Turn in the Media (BOOK MANUSCRIPT)

**PUBLIC  
SOCIOLOGY &  
INTERVIEWS**

"Sociologist of the Month: Defne Över" *International Sociological Association Journal: Current Sociology*, August, 2021.

"Illuminating Humanities: Defne Över" *Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research*, October 21, 2020.

"Al Jazeera Journalists Detained in Egypt" *The Diplomatist*, March 5, 2015.

"The Gezi Park Protests and the Future of Turkish Politics: An Interview with Seyla Benhabib", *Dissent*, September 9, 2013.

"Gezi Parkı Protestoları: Küresel Bağlam ve Türkiye'de Siyasetin Geleceği", Interview with Seyla Benhabib, *konusakonusa.org*, August 25, 2013.

"Gezi Parkı Protestoları bağlamında Yeni Orta Sınıflar, Neo-liberal Dönüşüm ve Yoksulluk", Interview with Çağlar Keyder, *konusakonusa.org*, September 5, 2013.

"Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector: Turkey and the World", TESEV, February 2005. (Transcription & Text Redaction)

"Armenian and Turkish Citizens: Mutual Dialogue", Ferhat Kentel and Gevorg Poghosyan, TESEV, April 2005. (Translation)

**AWARDS**

ADVANCE NCFDD Faculty Success Fellow, Texas A&M Univ., Fall 2021.

Montague-Center Teaching Excellence Scholar, Texas A&M Univ., 2020-21.

Sidney Tarrow Paper Award, Best paper in the field of European Politics, Cornell University, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies. 2015.

Excellence in Teaching Award, Cornell University, Dep. of Sociology. 2011.

Sakıp Sabancı International Research Award, Honorable Mention. 2009.

**FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS** Innovation [X] Project Grant, the School of Innovation & the Office of Diversity, Texas A&M University, 2020.

Glasscock Faculty Research Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2020-2021.

Research Lab: Constitutional Politics in Turkey II, Institute for Social Sciences at Humboldt University zu Berlin 2018-2019.

Luigi Einaudi Fellowship for Dissertation Research from the Cornell Institute of European Studies 2013-2014.

SAGE Fellowship, Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences. Fall 2015, Fall 2014, 2012-2013, 2009-2010.

Research & Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University, Graduate School. 2012, 2011, 2010.

TUBITAK (Science and Research Council of Turkey), Conference Travel Grant, 2009.

DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) - TEV (Turkish Education Foundation) Scholarship for M.A. Study in Germany. 2006-2009.

Graduate Exchange Study Scholarship at Duke University, Duke University - Humboldt University. 2007.

DAAD Scholarship for Summerschool in Social Sciences and German at Albert Ludwigs University, Freiburg, Germany. 2005.

Undergraduate Study Scholarship, Istanbul Highschool Alumni Association, 2001(*Under Review*)-2006.

**INVITED TALKS**

Insult and Charisma: Deployment of an Obsolete Law in Turkish Democratic Backsliding. (with Irem Ebetürk). *Göttingen University*, Göttingen, Germany, 2019.

Insult and Charisma: Deployment of an Obsolete Law in Turkish Democratic Backsliding. (with Irem Ebetürk), *WZB Berlin Social Science Center*, Berlin, Germany, 2019.

Political Trials as Didactic Spectacles. *Göttingen University, Lichtenberg Kolleg*, Göttingen, Germany, 2018.

Destabilization, Self-censorship & Institutional Change: the Turkish Mainstream Media as a Case Study. *Texas A&M University*, College Station, TX, USA, 2018.

Submission and Contention: Formation of Political Action in Contemporary Turkey. *Boğaziçi University*, Istanbul, Turkey, 2016.

Conditions and Emotions in Professional Settings: The Widespread Practice of Self-censorship in Contemporary Turkish Mainstream Media. *Istanbul Technical University*, Istanbul, Turkey, 2016.

Fear and Insecurity: Self-censorship in Contemporary Turkish Mainstream Media. *Koç University*, Istanbul, Turkey, 2016.

Institutional Adjustment as Normalization of Emergency Measures: State Security Courts in Turkey. *Cornell Mediterranean Studies Initiative*, Ithaca, NY, 2010.

**WORKSHOPS** Illiberal Practices in Authoritarian Political Institutions: The Case of the Turkish Media. *Authoritarianism Beyond the State*, ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop, Mons, Belgium, 2019.

(Organizer) *Liberalism and Its Critics: National Identities and Institutions in Transition*, Lichtenberg Kolleg, Göttingen, Germany, 2019.

Illiberal Challenges to Political Institutions: the Case of the Turkish Media. *Liberalism and Its Critics Workshop*, Lichtenberg Kolleg, Göttingen, Germany, 2019.

(Discussant) *Fantasies, Anxiety, Difference: The Figure of the Other in the Aftermaths of a Violent Political Transformation*, MPI-MMG, Göttingen, Germany, 2018.

Normalization of Repression and the Rise of a Populist Media in Turkey. *SSRC - CSDS India Turkey Workshop*, Delhi, India, 2018.

A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Populist Success Beyond Europe, *International QCA Young Researcher Workshop*, Zürich, Switzerland, 2017. (with Irem Ebetürk)

**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** Insult and Charisma: Deployment of an Obsolete Law in Turkish Democratic Backsliding, *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, 2021. (with Irem Ebetürk)

Insult and Charisma: Deployment of an Obsolete Law in Turkish Democratic Backsliding, *27th International Conference of Europeanists*, 2021. (with Irem Ebetürk)

Free Speech Decisions of the Turkish Constitution Court. *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, 2019.

A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Populist Success Beyond Europe, *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting* Philadelphia, PA, 2018. (with Oliver Cowart & Irem Ebetürk)

Emerging Insecurities: The Case of Rising Self-Censorship in Turkish Media. *23rd International Conference of Europeanists*, Philadelphia, PA, 2016.

Politics and Emotions: Race, Ethnicity and Political Identity. Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2016 (Panel Organizer)

Clustering Opposition: A Data Driven Analysis of Gezi Park Protestors, *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, 2015.

When Do Small Events Trigger Mass Protest? The Case of 2013 Gezi Protests, *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, 2014.

State Security Courts in Turkey: Judicial Spaces of Negotiation over the Limits of Freedom of Expression. *Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Washington DC, 2014.

Hierarchies of Membership to The Nation-State: Regulating Property Ownership in Turkey. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Denver, CO, 2012.

An Ethnicist State sells its Multicultural Heritage: Marketization as a Rupture in Turkish Nationalism. *International Sociological Association Forum*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2012.

Normalization of Emergency Measures: Abolition of State Security Courts in Turkey. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Las Vegas, NV, 2011.

Production of Turkish National Memory at Marketized Sites of National Heritage. *Annual ASN World Convention*, New York City, NY, 2011.

Institutional Adjustment as Normalization of Emergency Measures: State Security Courts in Turkey. *Law and Society Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, 2010.

Construction of Public and Private Spheres: Erving Goffman's Notion of Territories of Self. *Qualitatives*, Fredericton, Canada, 2008.

## TEACHING

Instructor, Texas A&M University  
Political Sociology

Fall 2019/21, Spring 2020/21/22

Social Movements Fall 2019/21, Spring 2020/21/22

Guest Lecturer, Clark University  
“Populist Politics” (Course Title: Globalization) Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University  
Introduction to Sociology Spring 2012/15, Summer 2015  
Politics and Culture Fall 2010/11  
Classical Theory Spring 2011

**SERVICE**

Reviewer: American Sociological Review, Cambridge University Press, I.B. Tauris, International Journal of Press/Politics, Law & Society Review, New Diversities, Qualitative Sociology, Sociological Focus, Sociological Forum, Tourism Management

Memberships: American Sociological Association, Council for European Studies, European Consortium for Political Research, Law and Society Association

**SKILLS**

Turkish (native); English (fluent); German (fluent); French (reading)

Nvivo, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**REFERENCES** available upon request