

Rabia Karakaya Polat, PhD



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Employment history:

- 02/2016 – present Chair and Professor
Işık University, Department of International Relations
- 09/2010 – 01/2016 Chair and Associate Professor
Işık University, Department of International Relations
- 05/2005 - 09/2010 Assistant Professor
Işık University, Department of International Relations

Education and Qualifications

PhD, De Montfort University, Department of Public Policy, Leicester, United Kingdom, 2004

Thesis Title: The Internet, Local Participation and Democracy: An Institutional Approach

Supervisors: Prof. Lawrence Pratchett, Prof. Vivien Lowndes

BA, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, 1999

Department of Political Science and International Relations, Honours degree

Research Interests

Electronic democracy and government; digital divide; control of the Internet; NGOs and the Internet; political participation; local democracy; securitization theory.

Publications

Articles in refereed journals

(With Ozlem Kayhan Pusane) "Technology and Politics: Have the ICTs Turned into a Domain for Civil-Military Relations in Turkey", *South European Society and Politics*, 21(3), pp: 301-318, 2016, **SSCI**.

(with Elif Cagli) "New Directions for Women's Political Development in Turkey: Exploring the Implications of the Internet for Ka-der", *Information Polity*, 19 (3-4), pp: 179-194, 2014.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) "Citizenship in the Age of the Internet: A Comparative Analysis of Britain and Turkey", *Citizenship Studies*, 18(1), pp. 63-80, 2014, **SSCI**.

"Digital Exclusion in Turkey: A Policy Perspective", *Government Information Quarterly*, 29(4), pp. 589-596, 2012, **SSCI**.

"The 2007 Parliamentary Elections in Turkey: Between Securitization and Desecuritization", *Parliamentary Affairs*, 62(1), pp. 129-148, 2009, **SSCI**.

(with Bulent Aras) "From Conflict to Cooperation: Desecuritization of Turkey's Relations with Syria and Iran", *Security Dialogue*, 39(5), pp. 475-495, 2008, **SSCI**.

"The Kurdish Issue: Can the AK Party Escape Securitization", *Insight Turkey*, 10(3), pp. 75-86, 2008.

(with Bulent Aras) "Turkey and the Middle East: Frontiers of the New Geographic Imagination", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 61 (4), pp. 471-488, 2007, **SSCI**.

(with Lawrence Pratchett and Melvin Wingfield) Local Democracy Online: An Analysis of Local Government Websites in England and Wales, *International Journal of e-Government Research*, 2 (3), pp. 75-92, 2006.

"The Internet and Political Participation: Exploring the Explanatory Links", *European Journal of Communication*, 20 (4), pp. 435-459, 2005, **SSCI**.

"The Internet and Democratic Local Governance: The Context of Britain", *International Information and Library Review*, 37 (2), pp. 87-97, 2005, **SSCI**.

Books and book chapters

(with Mete Yildiz) "A Critical Assessment of E-Government Practice in Turkey" in Z. Sobaci and M. Yildiz *E-Devlet: Kamu Yonetimi ve Teknoloji Iliskisinde Guncel Gelismeler [e-Government: Recent Developments in Public Policy and Technology]*, Nobel Publishers, 2012, pp: 423-447 (in Turkish).

The Internet, Local Participation and Democracy: An Institutional Approach, Saarbrücken: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010.

"How Far away from the Politics of Fear: Turkey in the EU Accession Process" in Tunkrova, L. and Saradin P. (eds.) *The Politics of EU Accession: Turkish Challenges and Central European Experiences*, London: Routledge, 2010, pp. 58-71.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) 'e-Citizenship: Reconstructing the Public Online' in Durose C., Greasley, S. and Richardson, L. (eds), *Changing Local Governance, Changing Citizens?* Bristol: Policy Press, 2009, pp. 193-209.

(with Lawrence Pratchett and Melvin Wingfield) "Local Democracy Online: An Analysis of Local Government Websites in England and Wales" in Norris, D. (ed), *E-Government Research: Policy and Management*, University of Maryland: Baltimore County, USA, 2008, pp. 120-139.

"From Securitization to Desecuritization? The Impact of the EU Membership Process on Political Culture in Turkey" in Tunkrova, L. and Saradin, P. (eds.) *Turecko a Evropska Unie: Ceska a Turecka Perspektiva (Turkey and the European Union: Czech and Turkish Perspectives)*, Olomouc: Vydavatelstvi UP, 2007, pp. 109-127.

"The Internet and Citizen Participation: Exploring the Barriers to Reform in the Context of UK Local Government" pp. 261-287 in Reynaert, H., Delwit, P., Steyvers, K., Pilet, J.B., (eds), *Revolution or Renovation? Reforming Local Politics in Europe*, Vanden Broele: Brugge, 2005, pp. 261-287.

Conference Presentations

(with Ozlem Kayhan Pusane) *How the Internet Has Turned into a Domain for Civil-Military Power Struggle in Turkey*, Paper presented at the 73rd Midwest Political Studies Association Conference, Chicago, April 2015.

(with Elif Cagli) *The Internet and Women's NGOs in Turkey: The case of Ka-der*, Paper presented at the 63rd Annual Conference of Political Studies Association, Cardiff, United Kingdom, April 2013.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) *Citizenship in the Age of the Internet: A Comparison of Liberal-Individualist and Civic-Republican Traditions*, Paper presented at Symposium on Globalization, New Inequalities and Citizenship, Marmara University, March 2012 (in Turkish).

Internet and the Transformation of the Concept of Citizenship, Paper presented at the 16th Internet Conference, Ege University, Izmir, December 2011 (in Turkish).

Digital Divide in Turkey, Paper presented at the 28th Informatics Conference, Ankara, October 2011 (in Turkish).

The Implications of the Arab Spring for Turkish Foreign Policy in the Middle East, International Conference on "Iran, Turkey and the Arab Spring: Foreign Policy towards Recent Developments in the Middle East", University of Tehran, Center for Graduate Studies, May 2011.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) *Electronic Citizenship in Britain and Turkey: Rights, Responsibilities, Liberties*, Paper presented at the 69th Annual National Conference of Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, March 2011.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) *Citizenship in the Age of the Internet: A Comparative Analysis of Britain and Turkey*, Paper presented at the 60th Annual Conference of Political Studies Association, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, April 2010.

The European Union as a Desecuritizer: Securitization and Desecuritization of Turkey's Kurdish Question, Paper presented at the 58th Annual Conference of Political Studies Association, Swansea University, United Kingdom, April 2008.

Constitutional Dimension of the Parliamentary Elections in Turkey, Paper presented at Strategic Research Center, Tehran, December 2007.

Europeanization and Turkish Foreign Policy toward the Middle East: A process of desecuritization?, Paper presented at Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Canada, November 2007.

Securitization and desecuritization: Assessing the impact of the EU membership process on political culture in Turkey, Paper presented at European Political Science Network Plenary Conference "Europe Integration and/or Fragmentation", University of Ljubljana, June 2007.

Europeanization in Turkey: Searching for Impacts on Foreign Policy, Paper presented at the European Political Science Network Plenary Conference "Europe In Context: Debating the Project", Central European University, Budapest, June 2006.

(with Lawrence Pratchett) *Enacting Electronic Democracy*, Paper presented at the 55th Annual Conference of Political Studies Association, University of Leeds, April 2005.

The Internet and Citizens' Participation: Exploring the Barriers to Reform, Congress on Political and Electoral Reforms at the Local Level, Universiteit Gent, Belgium, December 2004.

The Internet and Citizen Participation: How Institutional Environment Impacts upon the Strategy of a Local Authority? Paper presented at European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, Marburg, Germany, September 2003.

The Use of the Internet for Citizen Participation: Enhancing Democratic Local Governance? Paper presented at the Annual Conference of Political Studies Association, University of Leicester, United Kingdom, April 2003.

Political Participation at the Local Level: New Challenges in Researching the Impacts of the Internet, Paper presented at the Central and Northern Universities Graduate Network Conference, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, November 2001.

Research Awards and Experience

- Işık University Research Fund, Research grant for the project titled: Ideological Positioning of Political Parties in Turkey: A Closer Look at the 2007 Elections, (with Dr. Odul Celep), September 2007 - December 2009.
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), Research grant for the project titled: The Political Cartoons: Means of Political Change and Modernisation in Azerbaijan and Turkey, (with Dr. Salih Bicakci), January 2007 - January 2008.
- Işık University Research Fund, Research grant for the project titled: The Political Cartoons: Means of Political Change and Modernisation in Azerbaijan and Turkey, (with Dr. Salih Bicakci), March 2006 - January 2008.
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBİTAK), Grant for organising an international workshop on "e-Democracy: Rethinking Concepts and Methods", 2006.
- National Project on Local e-Democracy: Developing the e-Democracy Environment. Research commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom and is being carried out by Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University, September 2004 - February 2005.
- Central European University, Budapest, Full scholarship to study 'Globalisation and Public Policy' in the Summer School July 2004, sponsored by Open Society Institute.
- European Consortium for Political Research Grant for attending Essex Summer School on Data Collection and Analysis, August 2003.

- Project on Defining the Parameters of e-Municipality in Turkey. Commissioned by Turkish Informatics Society, December 2004 - February 2005.
- Research on political party websites and the websites of the national parliaments in the member states of the European Union. Commissioned by the European Parliament and the European University Institute (Italy), 2003.
- De Montfort University, PhD Bursary, 2001 - 2004.

Teaching Experience

Designed and taught the following courses at BA level:

- Internet and Politics
- Public Policy
- Political Theory
- Comparative Politics
- Introduction to Political Science
- European Union Politics
- Turkey-EU Relations
- Research Strategy and Writing Skills
- Political Change and Modernisation

Designed and taught the following course at MA level:

- Political Change and Modernisation in the Middle East

Short term teaching experience in Spain, Poland, Estonia, Czech Republic, Mexico, France as part of international exchange programmes.

Referee Services

- Citizenship Studies
- Security Dialogue
- Parliamentary Affairs
- Turkish Studies
- Public Management Review
- Local Government Studies
- South European Society and Politics
- Information Polity
- Journal of Global Analysis
- International Journal of Electronic Government Research
- Urban Studies
- Public Administration: An International Quarterly
- Icelandic Research Fund
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBİTAK)

Professional Memberships and Activities

- Member of Political Studies Association, United Kingdom
- Member of Turkish Political Science Association
- Member of ECPR Standing Group on Local Government and Politics
- Member of ECPR Standing Group on Forms of Participation
- Member of ECPR Standing Group on Internet and Politics
- Member of e-TR Awards jury sponsored by Turkish Informatics Society and TUSIAD
- Member of advisory board, National mGovernment Conference, 2009 and 2010
- Committee member for IADIS International Conference on “e-Democracy, Equity and Social Justice”, 2010, Freiburg, Germany
- Member of Scientific Committee, International symposium on “Online political participation and its critics”, 2013, Paris, France

Language Skills

Turkish (native)

English (fluent)

French (beginner)