

## **Bilgesu SÜMER**

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### **Education**

2013 – 2022 **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Political Science - PhD

2009 – 2012 **Boğaziçi University (İstanbul)**

Political Science and International Relations – MA

2004 – 2009 **Boğaziçi University (İstanbul)**

Political Science and International Relations

### **Languages**

**Turkish** (Native), **English** (Excellent), **Spanish** (Fluent),  
**Modern Arabic – Levantine Dialect** (Intermediate) –  
(Beginner), **Kurdish** – (Beginner)

### **Work Experience:**

2019 – GEO-UAW 2322 Membership Organizer  
2016 – Violence and Conflict Laboratory Research Assistant  
2013 – 2019 Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.  
2010 – 2012 Human Rights Association Volunteer in Van, Turkey.  
2010 – 2013 Research Assistant – Yüzüncü Yıl University, Department of  
International Relations.  
2007 – 2008 CASA Chapulin Volunteer – Mexico, Oaxaca.  
2005 – 2006 Boğaziçi University Fund Raising Office Assistant.

### **MA Thesis:**

"Kurdish Urban Politics in the Neoliberal Era: Cases of Diyarbakir and Van Municipalities Mobilized under BDP" (2012), adviser: Dr. Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu.

### **Published Work:**

"The Population Exchange Between Turkey and Greece during 1923-1925: History of East Mediterranean As We Know It " in *El Río Bravo Mediterráneo. Las regiones fronterizas en la época de la globalización*, Edited by Natalia Ribas-Mateos, Barcelona: Edicions Bellaterra (2010).

"The Neoliberal Transformation of Local Government in Turkey and the Contracting Out of Municipal Services: Implications for Public Accountability" (2012), coauthored with Zeynep Kadirbeyoğlu, *Mediterranean Politics*, 17(3).

" The invisible dimension of institutional violence and the political construction of impunity: necropopulism and the averted medicolegal gaze" in *Handbook on Human Security, Border and Migration* Edited by Natalia Ribas-Mateos and Timothy J. Dunn, Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing (2021).

## **Paper Presentations:**

*"Conceptualizing Science and Democracy: An Interpretive Frame for understanding Ethics and Power"*, presented at the MPSA 2016 Conference in Chicago, USA. April 2016.

*"Politicization of the Dead and the State Sponsorship of Cultural Violence: Turkish Counterinsurgency in Kurdish Cultural Geography and The Mimetic Violent Response"*, presented at the AAA 2017 Conference in Washington DC. December 2017.

*"The Political Lives of Dead Insurgents and The Rise of Religious Nationalism in New Turkey"*, paper presented at the Graduate Students Conference on Politics and Society of Turkey, in Northeastern University, Boston, USA. April 13, 2018.

*"Political life of P'ling's dead body: Politicization of the dead in Turkey"*, paper presented the 2019 Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference at Northwestern University Buffett Institute for Global Studies, June 7 – 8, 2018.

*"The Political Lives of Dead Insurgents in Turkey: Implications for Human Rights"*, paper presented at the International Studies Association 2019 Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, March 27 – 30, 2019.

*"Transnationalism of Vanquished Sovereignties: Seeing the problem through the lens of dead bodies"*, paper presented at the 2020 International Studies Northeast Annual Convention, Baltimore, USA, November 5 – 8, 2020.

## **Book Translations**

Watts, Nicole (2010) *"Activists in Office: Kurdish politics and protest in Turkey"*, from English to Turkish.

## **Conference Organization**

2017 Political Science Graduate Students Organization Conference *"Violent Times, Violent Spaces"*, March 24 – 25, 2017. Keynote speaker: Dr. Ventura Pérez, UMass Amherst Anthropology Department.

## **Awards Received**

UMass Political Science Department Conference Travel Grant – 2016

UMass Political Science Department Summer Training Grant – 2016

UMass Political Science Department Summer Research and Writing Grant – 2018

UMass Political Science Department Conference Travel Grant – 2018

UMass Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant - 2018

UMass Political Science Department Summer Research Assistantship – 2019

UMass Political Science Department Summer Research and Writing Grant – 2020