

ZEYNEP OZGEN

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Social Science Division
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025–present Associate Professor, Social Research and Public Policy, NYU Abu Dhabi
Global Network Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Science, New York University

2016–2024 Assistant Professor, Social Research and Public Policy, New York University Abu Dhabi

2014–2016 Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Germany

EDUCATION

2014 PhD Sociology, University of California-Los Angeles
Dissertation: “Schooling, Islamization, and Religious Mobilization in Turkey” (Rogers Brubaker, chair)

2008 MA Sociology, University of California-Los Angeles

2005 MA Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul

2003 BA Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Political sociology; social movements, sociology of culture, religion, and citizenship; sociological theory; ethnographic and historical methods; Islam, Middle East.

BOOK

2025 *Pious Politics: Cultural Foundations of the Islamist Movement in Turkey*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

2024 Zeynep Ozgen. "Why Is America Interested in Islam in Turkey?" Fieldwork and Problems of Gaining Trust in a Low-Trust Society." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 56(1): 120–126. DOI: 10.1017/S0020743824000205.

2023 Zeynep Ozgen. "From Secularization to Religious Resurgence: An Endogenous Account." *Theory and Society* 52(4): 543–580. DOI: 10.1007/s11186-023-09512-9.

- Distinguished Article Award, Section on Sociology of Religion, American Sociological Association, 2024

2022 Zeynep Ozgen and Matthias Koenig. "When Global Scripts Do Not Resonate: International Minority Rights and Local Repertoires of Diversity in Southern Turkey." *Qualitative Sociology* 45(1): 149–187.
DOI: 10.1007/s11133-021-09504-0.

- Best Scholarly Article Award (honorable mention), Section on Global and Transnational Sociology, American Sociological Association, 2022

2021 Zeynep Ozgen and Sharif Ibrahim El Shishtawy Hassan. "Meaning of a Textbook: Islamic Education and the Politics of Reform in the United Arab Emirates." *Nations and Nationalism* 27(4):1181–1197. DOI: 10.1111/nana.12734.

2015 Zeynep Ozgen. "Maintaining Ethnic Boundaries in 'Non-Ethnic' Contexts: Constructivist Theory and the Sexual Reproduction of Diversity." *Theory and Society* 44(1):33–64. DOI: 10.1007/s11186-014-9239-y.

BOOK CHAPTERS, BOOK REVIEWS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2023 Sharif Ibrahim El Shishtawy Hassan and Zeynep Ozgen. "Working for God (and Country): Religious Education and Economic Diversification in the United Arab Emirates." In Mizanur R. and Al Azm A. (ed.) *Social Change in the Gulf Region: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*. Singapore: Springer, pp. 383–396.
DOI: 10.1007/978-981-19-7796-1

2013 Zeynep Ozgen. "From Religious Schooling to Mobilization in a Secular State." In "State of Europe," ed. Peter Scholten, special issue, *Perspectives on Europe* 43(1):145–149

2012 Zeynep Ozgen. Review of *Islam's Marriage with Neoliberalism: State Transformation in Turkey* by Yıldız Atasoy. *New Perspectives on Turkey* 46(2):250–53

CURRENT PROJECTS

“Political Repression and the Dynamics of Dissent” (journal manuscript, under review).

“A Cultural Theory of Mobilization” (journal manuscript).

“Conspiracies and Mistrust: Topography of an Ethnographic Fieldsite” (journal Manuscript with Eric Schoon).

“Chasing a Moving Target: How Ethnographic and Historical Methods Can Help Us Analyze the Present” (journal manuscript).

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

EXTERNAL

2024	Distinguished Article Award, Section on Sociology of Religion, American Sociological Association
2022	Best Scholarly Article Award (honorable mention), Section on Global and Transnational Sociology, American Sociological Association
2022	National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend Award (\$6,000)
2013	American Council of Learned Societies, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$33,000)
2013	Council for European Studies, Mellon/CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, (\$25,000— <i>declined</i>)
2011	Fulbright-Hays/IIE, Graduate Fellowship for International Study (\$30,000)
2011	Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant (\$20,000)
2010	Council for European Studies, Mellon Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
2007	Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship (\$5,000)
2004	International Institute for Political and Economic Studies, Georgetown University Summer School, Greece (\$3,000)

INTERNAL**NYUAD**

2025 Humanities Research Fellowship for the Study of the Arab World, NYUAD Institute, NYU Abu Dhabi (\$2,000)

2023 Provost's Office, Publication Grant for the book manuscript "Pious Politics: Cultural Foundations of the Islamist Movement in Turkey," NYU Abu Dhabi (\$5,000)

2019 NYUAD Institute, Conference Grant for "Theorizing Social Change: Policies, Institutions, Culture Conference," NYU Abu Dhabi (\$45,000)

UCLA

2012 UCLA College of Letters and Sciences, Russian/Eurasian Studies Fellowship (\$18,000)

2010 UCLA Alumni Association Fellowship (\$18,000)

2008 UCLA Center for World Languages, Summer Fellowship for the Study of Intensive Arabic (\$2,000)

2006–2008 UC-Berkeley Institute of European Studies, Entering Graduate Student Fellowship in Modern European Studies (\$15,000)

2006–2008 International Institute, Global Scholars Fellowship (\$10,000)

2006–2008 College of Letters and Sciences, Shirley and Ralph Shapiro International Student Fellowship (\$10,000)

2006 Department of Sociology, Departmental Fellowship (\$18,000)

REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

2022 "A Cultural Approach to Mobilization." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, USA.

2017 "When Scripts Do Not Resonate: Global Minority Rights and Local Boundary Dynamics in Southern Turkey." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

2015 "Religious Change and Religious Revival: An Institutional Approach." ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference on Rethinking Remaking Modernity, Chicago, USA.

2013 "From Madrasa to Underground and Back: Is Turkish Secularization Path

Dependent?" ASA Comparative-Historical and Political Sociology Mini-Conference on Capitalism, the Politics of Inequality, and Historical Change, New York City, USA.

2012 "Islamism's Bid for Everyday Life: Religion, Politics, and Education in Post-1980 Turkey." Council for European Studies Meeting, Boston, USA.

2011 "Marriage and Ethno-Religious Boundaries in a Multiethnic Society." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, USA.

2006 "Change and Resistance: The European Union and Democratization in Turkey." Tenth Annual Graduate Student Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA.

2005 "Rethinking the Social Philosophy of Multiculturalism: The Case of Antioch." Third Pavia Graduate Conference in Political Philosophy, University of Pavia, Italy.

2005 "Çokkültürlülük Felsefesini Yeniden Düşünmek: Çatışan Kimlikler ve Hatay Örneği." Third Graduate Student Convention, Turkish Political Science Association, Ankara, Turkey.

INVITED TALKS AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

2022 Discussant, "Recasting Minority: Islamic Modernists between the Middle East, South Asia, and the World, 1856–1947." Humanities Research Fellowship for the Study of the Arab World Graduate Student Workshop, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE.

2019 Presenter, "Schooling and Islamization in Turkey: A Cultural Theory of Mobilization." Theorizing Social Change: Policies, Institutions, Culture Conference, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE.

2016 Presenter, "When Scripts Do Not Resonate: Global Minority Rights and Local Boundary Dynamics in Southern Turkey" (with Matthias Koenig). Imagining and Regulating Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Turkey Conference, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany.

2015 Presenter, "Schooling, Islamization, and Religious Mobilization in Turkey." Social Science Division, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE.

2015 Presenter, "Schooling, Islamization, and Religious Mobilization in Turkey." Sociology Department, New York University, USA.

2015 Presenter, "Schooling, Islamization, and Religious Mobilization in Turkey."

Sociology Department, Colby College, Waterville, USA.

2015 Discussant, "Plural Discursive Regimes and Repertoires of Difference." Siting Pluralism: Practices of Religious Difference Workshop, Göttingen University, Germany.

2014 Presenter, "Islamist Mobilization in Secular Turkey." Sociology Colloquium, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany.

2010 Presenter, "Marriage and Ethno-Religious Boundaries in a Multiethnic Society." UCLA Comparative-Historical Seminar, Los Angeles, USA.

TEACHING

2016–present NYU Abu Dhabi, Social Research and Public Policy, Instructor
SRPP-UH 2211: Ethnographic Field Research
SRPP-UH 2412X: Islamist Social Movements
SOCSC-UH 1312 Modern Social Theory in Comparative Perspective
SRPP-UH 4001: Capstone (Honor Thesis) Project Advising

2008–2014 UCLA, Sociology, Teaching Assistant
SOC 1: Introduction to Sociology
SOC 110: Sociohistorical Methods
SOC 101: Classical Sociological Theory
SOC 102: Contemporary Sociological Theory
SOC 182: Political Sociology

2005–2006 Bilgi University, Department of Political Science, Teaching Assistant
POLS 101: Introduction to Politics
POLS 230: Introduction to Turkish Politics

2003–2005 Boğaziçi University, Department of Political Science, Teaching Assistant
POLS 101: Introduction to Politics
POLS 246: Introduction to Turkish Politics

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

NYU ABU DHABI

Social Science Representative, Faculty Taskforce on Admissions, 2025–2026.
SRPP Representative, Candidate Weekend Interviewer, 2024, 2025, 2026.
Social Science Representative, Global Education & Outreach Faculty Advisory Committee, 2020–2023.
Participant, Unconscious Bias Training in Recruitment, Office for Faculty Development and Diversity, 2019.

Panelist, Productive Writing Strategies, Office for Faculty Development and Diversity,

2019.

SRPP Representative, Candidate Weekend Academics Fair, 2017–2019.

Committee Member, Conference Program Committee for NYUAD Research Conference,
2018.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION, NYU ABU DHABI

Committee Member, Faculty Review Committee for 3rd Year Review of Tenure Track
Faculty, 2025–2026.

Committee Member, Faculty Review Committee for Instructor Performance and
Promotion, 2021–2024.

Committee Member, Faculty Review Committee for Post-graduation Fellowship
Program, 2019–2022.

Session Chair, Social Science Division, Winter Capstone Festival, 2016.

Committee Member, Faculty Review Committee for Undergraduate Research Grants,
2016–2022.

SOCIAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY (SRPP) PROGRAM, NYU ABU DHABI

Associate Program Head, SRPP, 2025–present.

Academic Advisor, SRPP Freshman students, 2016–present.

Committee Member, Faculty Review Committee for Emerging Scholars, 2022.

Participant, SRPP Open House, Faculty Presentation on Qualitative Research Cluster,
2022.

Committee Member, Faculty Search Committee for Senior Hire in SRPP, 2021.

Session Chair, SRPP Winter Capstone Festival, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Second Reader, Capstone Final Papers, 2016–2019.

SOCIOLOGY, UCLA

Advisor, Undergraduate Honor Thesis Program, 2013–2014.

Panelist, Information Session for Graduate Students. Topics: The Job Market, 2014;
Winning Dissertation Research/Writing Fellowships, 2013; Conducting Fieldwork
Overseas, 2012.

Graduate Student Peer Mentor, 2009–2014.

Graduate Student Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee Member, Distinguished Article Award, Sociology of Religion Section,
ASA, 2025

Organizer, “Theorizing Social Change: Policies, Institutions, Culture Conference,”
NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2019

Committee Member, Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award, Comparative-Historical
Sociology Section, ASA, 2019

Co-organizer and Presider, "Imagining and Regulating Ethnic and Religious Diversity in Turkey" Conference, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany, 2016

Occasional Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Theory and Society, Qualitative Sociology, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Mobilization, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Sociology, Nations and Nationalism, International Journal of Middle East Studies, British Journal of Political Science, and New Perspectives on Turkey.*

Book Manuscript Reviews *Edinburgh University Press*, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- American Sociological Association (sections: Political Sociology; Collective Behavior and Social Movements; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Global and Transnational Sociology; Sociology of Religion; and Sociology of Culture)
- Social Science History Association
- Middle East Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native), English (fluent), Arabic (beginner)