CURRICULUM VITAE: SINAN KIRCOVA

kircova@usc.edu

EDUCATION

PhD **University of Southern California** *2021–2027 (Expected)*
PhD Candidate, Political Science and International Relations
Dissertation: "Reactive Secularization: Comparative Perspectives on Secular Resurgence"
Committee members: Eliz Sanasarian (chair), Gerardo Munck, Daniel Schrage

MA **University of Glasgow** *2019–2020*
International Relations
Dissertation: "Individual-Level Determinants of Anti-Americanism in Turkey"

BA **Boğaziçi University** *2015–2019*
Sociology (Major) and Political Science and International Relations (Minor)
Salutatorian, Dean's High Honor List

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Research Interests: Politics & religion; secularization; politics of the Eastern Mediterranean; authoritarianism and digital repression.
Courses Prepared to Teach: Introduction to Comparative Politics; Politics of the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean; Religion and Politics; Research Design

PUBLICATIONS

Kircova, S. & Çevik, S. B. (2026). "Competitive autocracy goes online: analysis of the Turkish case." *Democratization*, 1–26. doi: 10.1080/13510347.2026.2733598 *2026*

Kircova, S. (2026). Review of *The Changing Landscape of Israeli Archaeology: Between Hegemony and Marginalisation*, by Hayah Katz. *Israel Affairs* 1–3. doi: 10.1080/13537121.2026.2613288 *2026*

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Cevik, S. & Kircova, S. "Strategic Narrative Continuity Amid Diplomatic Normalization: TRT World's Instagram Coverage of Turkey-Israel Relations." *Mediterranean Politics*. *Revise & Resubmit*

Kircova, S. "Reactive Secularization: A New Framework." *Politics and Religion*. *Under Review*

LECTURES, CONFERENCE TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talk, "Reactive Secularization: The Paradox of Religious Mobilization in Israel," the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California *Scheduled*

Presenter for "Secularization through Nativist Backlash: The Deçan Movement in Kosovo," the Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Boston, Massachusetts *2026*

Invited Talk, "From Blue Anatolia to Blue Homeland: Cycles of Conflict and Reconciliation in Greco-Turkish Relations," International Studies 2000 at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Study Abroad Program, Athens, Greece *2026*

Presenter for "Reactive Secularization: Evidence from Israel and Turkey" at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA), Columbus, Ohio *2026*

Presenter for "Reactive Secularization Evidence from Turkey" at the USC Center for International Studies (CIS), Los Angeles, California *2026*

Lecture, "Religion and Politics," POLS 120: Comparative Politics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California *2025*

Panelist for "Languages in Education: Hebrew" at Language and Career Week, USC Dornsife Center for Cultures and Languages, Los Angeles, California *2025*

Presenter for "When Competitive Autocracy Meets Social Media" at the Working Paper Series, Center for International Studies, Los Angeles, California *2024*

Presenter for "Variations in Online Self-Censorship: The Analysis of the Turkish Case" at the Annual Conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia, PA *2024*

Presenter for "Self-Censorship and Ideology: Insights from Turkey" at the World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Athens, Greece *2024*

Presenter for "Online Self-Censorship and the Return of Pluralistic Ignorance?" at USC Spring Research and Mentorship Conference at the Global Policy Institute, Los Angeles, California *2024*

Discussant for "Mass Politics 2.0: Organizations and Political Identity in Neoliberal Latin America" by Poertner, Garay, Palmer-Rubin at Comparative Politics Working Paper Series, USC Center for International Studies, Los Angeles, California *2023*

Discussant for "Globalization, Territorial Attachment, and the City" by Sellers, Bernardaux & Sarain at Comparative Politics Working Paper Series, USC Center for International Studies, Los Angeles, California *2023*

Panelist for "Perceptions of US Abroad," Global Studies Program at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) *2022*

Presenter for "The Autocratic Consent: Shortcut to Democratic Transitions?" at Global Perspectives on Governance at International Studies Association-West (ISA-West), Los Angeles, California *2022*

RESEARCH GRANTS

Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC Graduate School *2026*

Herman Student Aid Foundation Research Grant, USC Dornsife College *2026*

Sherwin Family Research Grant, USC Dornsife College *2025*

Research Grant, USC Casden Institute for the Study of Jewish Role in American Life *2025*

Research Grant, USC Center for International Studies (CIS) *2022, 2024*

Summer Research Grant, USC Department of Political Science & International Relations *2021–2023*

Fulbright Doctoral Grant, Turkish Fulbright Program *2021–2022*

HONORS & AWARDS

International Studies Association (ISA) Travel Grant Award *2025*

USC Phi Kappa Phi Student Recognition Award *2024*

USC Dornsife Willard and Betty Beling Student Scholars Award *2022*

Winifred Greanleaf Allen Scholarship, USC Department of Political Science & International Relations *2021–2022*

Award of Merit in International Relations, the University of Glasgow *2020*

National Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies by Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) *2015–2019*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Grader in IR 308 "Economic Globalization" *Spring 2026*

Grader in IR 330 "Politics of the World Economy" *Spring 2026*

Teaching Assistant in POSC 120 "Comparative Politics" *Fall 2025*

Grader in IR 304 "National Intelligence and the Shaping of Policy" *Spring 2024*

Grader in IR 319 "Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention" *Spring 2024*

Grader in POSC 351 "Politics of the Middle East" *Fall 2023*

Grader in POSC 320 "Urban Politics" *Fall 2023*

Teaching Assistant in IR 210 "International Relations: Introductory Analysis" *Spring 2023*

Teaching Assistant in IR 210 "International Relations: Introductory Analysis" *Fall 2022*

SERVICE & RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President *2025–2026*
USC Turkish Graduate Students Association

Programming Chair *2025–2026*
Graduate Student Government – USC Department of Political Science & International Relations

Journal Administrator and Reviewer *2021–2023*
Student Strategy & Security Journal (3SJ) – University of Glasgow

Intern *2016–2017*
Turkey-U.S. Business Council (TAIK)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

RStudio, Python, LaTeX, NVivo

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native)
English (full professional proficiency)
Hebrew (limited working proficiency)
German (limited working proficiency)
Albanian (limited working proficiency)

REFERENCES

Eliz Sanasarian, Professor of Political Science, University of Southern California *sanasari@usc.edu*

Gerardo Munck, Professor of Political Science, University of Southern California *munck@usc.edu*

Daniel Schrage, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Southern California *dschrage@usc.edu*