

Yunus Emre Tapan

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Boston, MA

EDUCATION

Northeastern University <i>Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Political Science; minor in Computational Social Science</i> Dissertation: “Exposure Diversity and Character in Political Segregation Online” Committee: Nick Beauchamp (advisor), David Lazer, and Risa Kitagawa Expected: Spring 2027	Sep 2021 – Present Boston, MA
Kadir Has University <i>Completed Ph.D. coursework in International Relations</i>	Sep 2019 – Jul 2021 Istanbul, Turkey
Middle East Technical University (METU) <i>M.Sc. in Middle East Studies</i>	Sep 2016 – Sep 2019 Ankara, Turkey
Bogazici University <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	Jun 2016 Istanbul, Turkey

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Computational social science and political methodology; machine learning and natural language processing for political text; large-language-model interpretability; (inferential) network analysis; online political segregation and exposure diversity.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Ethics Institute — AIDE Summer Program, Northeastern University <i>CS Bootcamp Lead (Instructor) — graduate workshop, 15 students</i> Designed and led a ten-lab Python and machine-learning bootcamp (~1,200 minutes of instruction). Topics: Python fundamentals; data manipulation with NumPy/Pandas; supervised ML (linear/logistic regression, decision trees); ML fairness and bias mitigation (COMPAS, FairLearn); differential privacy; neural networks, transformers, and embeddings; LLM applications via Hugging Face (classification, NER, QA, summarization, generation, translation); prompt engineering; and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG/GraphRAG). Materials: github.com/kacreel/aide_summer	May – Jul 2025 Boston, MA
Northeastern University, Department of Political Science <i>Teaching Assistant — eight course sections</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Statistical Analysis</i> (graduate, in R; 40 students): simple and multiple linear regression (OLS); causal inference from randomized experiments and observational data; descriptive statistics; the linear probability model; statistical inference — confidence intervals and hypothesis testing.<i>Quantitative Techniques</i> (undergraduate; 30 students): descriptive statistics; probability and probability distributions; sampling and estimation; hypothesis testing of group differences (t-tests, ANOVA, nonparametric tests); correlation and regression. Software: Excel/SPSS.<i>Research Methods</i> (undergraduate; two sections): research design, measurement, hypothesis formulation and testing, and quantitative and qualitative methods for social science.Substantive courses: <i>Comparative Politics</i>; <i>Government & Politics in the Middle East</i>; <i>Globalization & International Affairs</i> (two sections).	Sep 2021 – Present Boston, MA
Kadir Has University <i>Instructor of Record</i> Taught <i>Computational Thinking</i> (Python-based) and <i>Civic Values</i> with full instructional responsibility — lectures, assessment design, and grading.	Sep 2020 – Sep 2021 Istanbul, Turkey

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Istanbul

Co-founder, Co-organizer, and Instructor

2018 – Present

Istanbul, Turkey

Co-founded and run an annual two-week institute training graduate students and early-career researchers in programming, data collection, machine learning, and text analysis for the social sciences.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: R, Python, SQL, Bash, HTML/XML/CSS

Methods: Machine learning; statistical inference and regression; natural language processing; large language models; inferential network analysis

WORKING PAPERS

- “How Does Anti-Americanism Evolve in Turkish Social Media over Time?” (with Tuba Bilgiç and Zeynep Koç). Presented at ISA 2025.
- “How Do Networks Respond to Shocks?” Presented at NetSci 2026; to be presented at PaCSS 2026.
- “How Do Transnational Epistemic Elites Interact Online?” Presented at ISA 2026 and MPSA 2026.
- “Stance Is Not a Construct: LLM Validity Gaps in Annotation.” Presented at MPSA 2026; to be presented at PolMeth 2026 and APSA 2026.
- “The Political Geometry of Ideology in LLMs.” To be presented at IC2S2 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Anti-communist Propaganda: The Example of Büyük Doğu Journal,” book chapter (with O. Çolak and E. Aksu), Nobel Academic Publishing, 2016.
- “Turkish Salafism on Twitter: A Social Network Analysis,” M.Sc. thesis (unpublished), approved by METU, 2019.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Global Resilience Institute / Aldrich Resilience Lab, Northeastern University Jan – Apr 2026

Research Scientist (PI: Prof. Daniel Aldrich)

Boston, MA

Studied social capital in disaster recovery with a three-wave panel of Marshall Fire survivors, finding it is not uniformly protective — with divergent effects across perceived support, civic engagement, and bonding versus linking ties. Separately surveyed 92 disaster-and-crisis professionals on how the field conceptualizes “polycrisis.”

Boston Area Research Initiative (Northeastern & Harvard Universities) May 2023 – Feb 2025

Data Consultant

Boston, MA

NULab for Digital Humanities and Computational Social Science May – Aug 2022

Research Fellow (DITI / Women Writers Project)

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Northeastern University May 2020 – May 2021

Researcher — Turkish Foreign Policy Barometer on Twitter (funded by the German Marshall Fund of the U.S.)
Boston, MA

Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies Sep 2016 – Jun 2018

Research Assistant — project funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Ankara, Turkey

SELECTED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Invited Speaker, “LLM Classification Strategies for Political Text,” NULab Critical Forum, Northeastern University — Dec 2025.
- Poster, 18th Annual PolNet–PaCSS Conference, Harvard University — Aug 2025.
- Poster, PolMeth Conference, Riverside, CA — Jul 2024.

- Poster, PolNet Conference, Tallahassee, FL — Jun 2024.
- Invited Speaker, “Using the Twitter API for Academic Research,” Twitter, Boston — Aug 2022.
- Poster, 8th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), University of Chicago — Jul 2022.
- Paper, 5th Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference, Harvard University — Jun 2022.
- Poster, 6th International Conference on Computational Social Science, MIT (online) — Jul 2020.
- Poster, 3rd Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Conference, Northeastern University (online) — Aug 2020.

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- NULab BLISS Grant (\$500, to organize generative-AI for social sciences workshops) — 2025.
- APSA Political Communication Section Travel Grant — 2024.
- APSA PolMeth Travel Grant — 2024.
- Northeastern University Political Science Department Travel Grant — 2024.
- NULab Travel Grant — 2022.
- Stipended Graduate Assistantship (SGA), Northeastern University — 2021 – Present.
- Turkish Academy of Sciences GEBIP Ph.D. Fellowship (full-year stipend) — 2019 – 2020.
- 4th Place, COVID-19 Datathon by TRIA AI — 2020.
- ICPSR Scholarship for Political Science Research — 2020.
- Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Fellowship (Russell Sage Foundation; Helsinki/Aalto) — 2018.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- Community Lead, Twitter Developers Community (Istanbul–Boston) — 2021 – Present.
- Co-Organizer, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Istanbul — 2018 – Present.

ADVANCED TRAINING

- Oxford Spring School in Advanced Research Methods — Machine Learning (2021).
- ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods — Advanced Network Analysis and Text Analysis (2020).
- Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) — Project-Based Learning, Helsinki (2018).

REFERENCES

- **Nick Beauchamp** — Assoc. Professor, Political Science & Network Science, Northeastern University.
n.beauchamp@northeastern.edu
- **David Lazer** — Professor of Political Science & Computer Sciences, Northeastern University.
d.lazer@northeastern.edu
- **Dan O’Brien** — Professor of Public Policy & Urban Affairs and Criminology & Criminal Justice, Northeastern University.
d.obrien@northeastern.edu
- **Risa Kitagawa** — Associate Professor of Political Science & International Affairs, Northeastern University.
r.kitagawa@northeastern.edu
- **David Bau** — Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Khoury College of Computer Sciences, Northeastern University.
d.bau@northeastern.edu