

# Merisa Bahar Şahin

University of Michigan  
Department of Political Science  
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## Curriculum Vitae

### **Education**

*Ph.D.* in Political Science, University of Michigan, September 2018 - December 2024  
(expected)

Dissertation Title: "Anticolonial Cosmopolitanisms: Young Ottoman Anticolonial Thinkers and Projects of Global Integration, 1884-1914."

*M.A.* in Humanities and Social Thought, New York University, September 2016 - May 2018

M.A. Thesis Title: "Critique and Emancipation: Musical and Philosophical Interpretation in Adorno's Thought."

*B.A.* in Political Science and Sociology (High Honors), Boğaziçi University, September 2011 - January 2016

### **Current Position**

Research Fellow, "The Africana Muslim and Genealogies of White Supremacy: Seminar for Interdisciplinary Study of Blackness and Muslimness," Mellon Sawyer Seminars, University of Michigan, August 2024 - April 2025

### **Former Positions**

Marc and Constance Jacobson Graduate Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, September 2023 - June 2024

### **Publications**

Sahin, Merisa. (2022) Ahmed Rıza Bey's Positivist and Anticolonial World Order. *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*. 9(1): 325-329.

### **Working Papers**

Sahin, Merisa. (2024) The Young Turks and International Law: Carving an Anticolonial Cosmopolitanism (invited to revise and resubmit at *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*)

Sahin, Merisa. (2024) Dual Despotisms (manuscript in progress)

## **Honors and Awards**

### ***External***

Hayek Fund for Scholars Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, 2022, \$1500

Etor Foundation Tuition Scholarship, 2016-2018, \$40000

Kredi Yurtlar Kurumu (KYK) Outstanding Achievement Grant, 2011-2016, \$26000<sup>1</sup>

Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (TÜBİTAK) Undergraduate Scholarship, 2014

### ***University of Michigan***

Department of Political Science, One Term Dissertation Fellowship, 2024, \$10328

Institute for the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship, 2023-2024, \$39770

Rackham International Research Award (RIRA), 2023, \$5000

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, 2023, \$3000

Department of Political Science Conference Travel Grant, 2022 & 2023, \$750 & \$400

Department of Political Science Research Fellowship, 2022-2023, \$24000

Rackham Conference Travel Grant, 2021 & 2022, \$900 & \$1150

Global Islamic Studies Center (GISC) Fellowship, 2022, \$1500

Rackham International Research Award (RIRA), 2022, \$6500

Matthew K. Smith Study Abroad Award, 2022, \$1750

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, 2021, \$1500

Department of Political Science Fellowship, 2018-2019, \$22000

### ***New York University***

Honorable Mention, Hirschhorn Master's Project Award, New York University, 2018

Hurston Scholarship, New York University, 2016-2018, \$13000

### **Invited Talks**

(scheduled) "Dual Despotisms," Early Career Seminar in the History of Political Ideas at the Institute of Historical Research, May 14, 2025, London, UK.

## **Conference & Workshop Activity**

### ***Paper Presentations***

Sahin, Merisa. 2024. "Dual-despotisms: Resisting Domestically and Internationally." Presented at 2024 American Political Scientists Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 5-9, 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

Sahin, Merisa. 2023. "The Young Turks and International Law: Carving an Anticolonial Cosmopolitanism." Presented at the Global Political Thought 2024 Conference, April 26-27, 2024, Princeton, NJ.

Sahin, Merisa. 2024. "Ottoman Cosmopolitanism." 2024 Midwestern Political Scientists Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, April 4-7, 2024, Chicago, IL.

Sahin, Merisa. 2024. "Dual-despotisms: Resisting Domestically and Internationally in an Inegalitarian World." Presented at 'Workshop: Re-thinking Liberal Democracy,' March 7-8, 2024, Potsdam, Germany.

Sahin, Merisa. 2024. "Dual-despotisms." Presented at the Duke Graduate Conference in Political Theory, February 22-23, 2024, Durham, NC.

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<sup>1</sup> Approximate value with the exchange rate at the time.

## **Conference & Workshop Activity (continued)**

### ***Paper Presentations***

- Sahin, Merisa. 2024. "Dual-despotisms." Presented at the Institute for the Humanities Fellows Seminar, January 24, 2024, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2023. "The Young Turks and International Law: Carving an Anticolonial Cosmopolitanism." Presented at the Eleventh Workshop on Armenian and Turkish Scholarship (WATS XI) November 10-11, 2023, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2023. "The Young Turks and International Law: Carving an Anticolonial Cosmopolitanism." Presented at 2023 American Political Scientists Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, August 31-September 3, 2023, Los Angeles, CA.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2023. "Prens Sabahaddin: Decolonization by Capitalism." Presented at 2023 Midwestern Political Scientists Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, April 13-16, 2023, Chicago, IL.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2023. "Prens Sabahaddin: Decolonization by Capitalism." Presented at 2023 Western Political Scientists Association (WPSA) Annual Meeting, April 6-8, 2023, San Francisco, CA.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2022. "Prens Sabahaddin's Decentralization: Decolonization by Capitalism." Presented virtually at the University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, November 11, 2022.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2022. "Ottoman Materialism: Beşir Fuad and His Theory of a Materialist Citizenship." Presented at Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT) Annual Meeting, September 12-17, 2022, Berlin, Germany.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2022. "Anticolonial Cosmopolitanisms: Young Ottoman Anticolonial Thinkers and Projects of Global Integration, 1884-1914." Presented at Critical Theory Workshop / Atelier de Théorie Critique, July 4-22, 2022, Paris, France.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2022. "Positivist Anticolonialism: Ahmed Riza Bey and his search for a New World Order." Presented at "Voices of Emerging Scholars: A Webinar Series," organized by Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul, March 23, 2022.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2022. "Ahmed Riza's Antinationalist Anticolonialism: Towards a Global Solidarity." Presented at the 2022 Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Annual Meeting, March 10-12, 2022, Portland, OR.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2021. "Anticolonial Cosmopolitanisms: Young Ottoman Anticolonial Thinkers and Projects of Global Integration, 1884-1914." Presented virtually at the University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, October 29, 2021.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2020. "Ottoman Positivism: An Ambivalent Critique of Colonialism." Paper presented virtually at the Third Year Research Conference at the University of Michigan, January 21, 2021.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2020. "Ottoman Positivism: An Ambivalent Critique of Colonialism." Paper presented virtually at the Oxford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, October 26-27, 2020.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2020. "Ottoman Positivism." Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, October 5-17, 2020.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2020. "Ottoman Positivism: An Ambivalent Critique of Colonialism." Paper presented at the University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, January 24, 2020, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Sahin, Merisa. 2018. "Critique and Emancipation: Musical and Philosophical Interpretation in Adorno's Thought." Master's thesis presented at NYU Center for Experimental Humanities, Thesis Symposium, May 4, 2018, New York, NY.

## **Conference & Workshop Activity (continued)**

### ***Paper Presentations***

Sahin, Merisa. 2017. "An Obligation to Democracy: Understanding Right-Wing Populisms via Nonsynchronism." Paper presented at the Radical Democracy Conference at The New School for Social Research, May 5-6, 2017, New York, NY.

### ***Workshop Paper Discussant***

Discussant, "Citizenship is as Citizenship Does: State/Citizen Interaction and the Perception of Personal Citizenship," Charlotte Boucher (University of Michigan), University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, November 3, 2023.

Discussant, "Vicious Environments: Threats to Republicanism from a Regime Agnostic View," Maxwell Lykins (University of Michigan), University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, September 24, 2021.

Discussant, "Constructing Colonial Peoples: W.E.B. Du Bois's Democratic Transnationalism," Adam Dahl (UMass Amherst), University of Michigan Political Theory Workshop, February 14, 2020.

### **Translations**

Heinrich Geiselberger et al., *Büyük Gerileme (The Great Regression)*, translation from English to Turkish, Istanbul, Metis Yayınları, 2017.

### **Teaching**

*Primary Instructor*, Political Science, University of Michigan

Development of Political Thought: Modern and Recent (Spring 2022)

*Graduate Student Instructor*, Political Science, University of Michigan

Introduction to Political Theory (Fall 2019, Fall 2020 and Winter 2022)

German Politics after 1945 (Winter 2021 and Fall 2021)

*Teaching Assistant* (Fall 2013-Spring 2015), Political Science, Boğaziçi University

Contemporary Political Ideologies (Spring 2015)

Diplomatic History (Fall 2013)

### **Research Experience**

Conducted archival research at İBB Atatürk Kitaplığı, Salt Araştırma and Cumhurbaşkanlığı Devlet Arşivleri in Istanbul, Fall 2022-Winter 2023.

Conducted archival research at Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), Summer 2022.

*Research Assistant* (Summer 2021), Professor Murad Idris, Political Science, University of Michigan

*Research Assistant* (Summer 2019-Summer 2020), Professor David Temin, Political Science, University of Michigan

*Research Assistant* (Winter 2020), Professor Lisa Disch, Political Science, University of Michigan

Conducted archival research at the University of Michigan Libraries (Special Collections: Islamic Manuscripts), Summer 2019.

*Research Assistant* (Fall 2014), Professor Zeynep Gambetti, Political Science, Boğaziçi University

**Service**

Referee for *Polity*

Third Reader, Department of Political Science Honors Thesis (Winter 2021), University of Michigan

Student Member, Political Theory Search Committee (Fall 2019), University of Michigan

**Languages**

Turkish (Native), English (Near-native/bilingual), French (Advanced), German (Intermediate), Ottoman Turkish (Reading Proficiency)

**Memberships**

American Political Science Association

Association for Global Political Thought

Association for Political Theory

Gesellschaft für Turkologie, Osmanistik und Türkeiforschung

Midwest Political Science Association

Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association

Western Political Science Association