

# Murat Abus

Department of Government, Law & Policy | Arkansas State University

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## Employment & Affiliations

### Postdoctoral Fellow in Political Science

Arkansas State University

Jonesboro, AR

2026-present

### Affiliate Researcher at the Institute for Rural Initiatives

Arkansas State University

Jonesboro, AR

2026-present

### Affiliate Researcher at the Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship

Syracuse University

Washington, D.C.

2026-present

## Education

### Ph.D. in Political Science

Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY

2026

### M.A. in Political Science

Arkansas State University

Jonesboro, AR

2021

### B.A. in Political Science

Bogazici University

Istanbul, Turkey

1998

## Research

### Publications

\* indicates equal authorship; author order is alphabetical

### Journal Articles

5. **Murat Abus** and Sabri Ciftci. 2026. "Administrative Unit Proliferation in Parliamentary Systems: Evidence from Turkish Elections, 1960-2018." *Electoral Studies* 101: 103087.
4. **Murat Abus** and Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway. 2025. "Local News, Partisanship, and Perceptions About Election Administration." *Electoral Studies* 97: 102970.
3. **Murat Abus**. 2025. "The Gendered Politics of Candidate Selection: An Analysis of Left-Right Preferences in Parliamentary Democracies." *Political Research Quarterly* 78 (3): 1060-1073.
2. **Murat Abus**. 2024. "A Theory of Gender's Effect on Vote Shift with a Test Based on Turkish Elections." *Mediterranean Politics* 29 (5): 729-754.
1. **Murat Abus**. 2003. "Democratization in the Balkans, 1990-2002." *Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations* 2 (3&4): 86-105.

### Works in Progress

6. **Murat Abus**. "Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms." (Under review).

5. **Murat Abus** and Cameron Wimpy. "Nationalization of Local Elections."
4. Cameron Wimpy and **Murat Abus**. "Turnout in Local Elections."
3. **Murat Abus** and Johanna Dunaway. "Local News and Political Competition."
2. Sabri Ciftci and **Murat Abus**. "Municipalities and Territorial Reforms in the Context of Authoritarianism."
1. **Murat Abus** and Kexin Bai. "Local Media Access and Voter Confidence."

## Research Interests

Political Behavior; Election Science; Political Communication; Public Opinion; Comparative Public Administration; Local Politics; Democratization

## Conference Presentations

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| <b>"Left in the Dark: Local Newspaper Closure and Rural Political Disengagement"</b><br>Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration Conference (with Cameron Wimpy)                                     | Phoenix, AZ<br>June 2026         |
| <b>"The Nonstationary Geography of Nationalization in American Elections, 2000-2024"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Cameron Wimpy)                                     | Chicago, IL<br>April 2026        |
| <b>"Local News and Political Competition"</b><br>National Capital Area Political Science Association American Politics Workshop (with Johanna Dunaway)                                                    | Washington, D.C.<br>January 2026 |
| <b>"Social Context, Unemployment, and Local News: A New Look at Voter Confidence"</b><br>Election Sciences, Reform, and Administration Conference (with Johanna Dunaway)                                  | Tallahassee, FL<br>June 2025     |
| <b>"Uncontested Elections and Declining Local News"</b><br>Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference (with Johanna Dunaway)                                                               | Stony Brook, NY<br>May 2025      |
| <b>"Local News Effects on Down-Ballot Electoral Competition"</b><br>Mini Conference on Information and Messages in Sociopolitical Life (with Johanna Dunaway)                                             | Houston, TX<br>May 2025          |
| <b>"Local News and Minority and Women Candidate Emergence"</b><br>Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Politics Workshop (with Johanna Dunaway and Paru Shah)                                                      | Washington, D.C.<br>May 2025     |
| <b>"Subnational Unit Proliferation and Electoral Dynamics: The Case of Turkey"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Sabri Ciftci)                                            | Chicago, IL<br>April 2025        |
| <b>"Local News Declines, Incumbency Effects and the Electoral Fortunes of Women and Candidates of Color"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Johanna Dunaway and Paru Shah) | Chicago, IL<br>April 2025        |
| <b>"Local News and the Down-Ballot Incumbency Advantage"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Johanna Dunaway)                                                               | Chicago, IL<br>April 2025        |
| <b>"Social Context, Unemployment, and Local News: A New Look at Voter Confidence"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Johanna Dunaway)                                      | Chicago, IL<br>April 2025        |
| <b>"Political Economy of Demographic Aging: New Pressures on Voter Turnout"</b>                                                                                                                           | Chicago, IL                      |

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| Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Margarita Estévez-Abe)                                                                                  | April 2025                            |
| <b>"Electoral Consequences of Administrative Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting                 | Chicago, IL<br>April 2025             |
| <b>"Spatial Analysis of News Deserts: The Distribution of U.S. Local Newspapers"</b><br>Local Journalism Researchers Workshop (with Johanna Dunaway)               | Durham, NC<br>March 2025              |
| <b>"Government Type, Electoral Dynamics, and Subnational Unit Proliferation in Turkey"</b><br>PSA Turkish Politics Online Workshop (with Sabri Ciftci)             | Virtual presentation<br>February 2025 |
| <b>"Local Media and Voter Confidence"</b><br>Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Johanna Dunaway)                                          | San Juan, PR<br>January 2025          |
| <b>"Local News and the Down-Ballot Incumbency Advantage"</b><br>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Johanna Dunaway)                       | Philadelphia, PA<br>September 2024    |
| <b>"Media Access and Perceptions of Election Administration"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway)      | Chicago, IL<br>April 2024             |
| <b>"Inequality, Local Media, and Voter Confidence"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway)                | Chicago, IL<br>April 2024             |
| <b>"Variety of Women Candidates in Parliamentary Democracies"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Sarah A. Fulton)                   | Chicago, IL<br>April 2024             |
| <b>"Subnational Unit Proliferation: Evidence from Turkey"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting                                              | Chicago, IL<br>April 2024             |
| <b>"Local Media Access and Perceptions of Election Integrity"</b><br>Local News Researchers Workshop (with Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway)                          | Durham, NC<br>March 2024              |
| <b>"Media, Partisanship, and Election Integrity"</b><br>Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference (with Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway)             | Tallahassee, FL<br>March 2024         |
| <b>"Media Access and Perceptions of Election Administration"</b><br>Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Kexin Bai and Johanna Dunaway)     | New Orleans, LA<br>January 2024       |
| <b>"Variety of Women Candidates in Parliamentary Democracies"</b><br>Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Sarah A. Fulton)                  | New Orleans, LA<br>January 2024       |
| <b>"Partisanship and Election Administration"</b><br>Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting                                                         | New Orleans, LA<br>January 2024       |
| <b>"Inequality and Voter Confidence in American Elections"</b><br>Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting                                            | New Orleans, LA<br>January 2024       |
| <b>"Reforming and Backsliding: A Comparative Analysis of Administrative Reforms in Hungary and Turkey"</b><br>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting | Chicago, IL<br>April 2023             |

**"Reforming and Backsliding: A Comparative Analysis of Administrative Reforms in Hungary and Turkey (poster presentation)"**

Texas Comparative Politics Circle Annual Conference

Lubbock, TX

January 2023

**"Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms in Turkey (1985-2018)"**

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting

St. Pete, FL

January 2023

**"Electoral Consequences of Administrative Reforms (poster presentation)"**

Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science

Houston, TX

May 2022

**"Democracy at the Intersection of Religious Cleavage and Populism"**

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Virtual presentation

April 2022

**"Ideology and Gender Role Incongruity: Resilience and Rise of Parties under Authoritarianism (poster presentation)"**

Texas Comparative Politics Circle Annual Conference

Austin, TX

February 2022

**"Ideology and Gender Role Incongruity: The Rise of IYI Party in Perspective"**

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting

San Antonio, TX

January 2022

**"Clientelism and Structured Voting: Evidence from Turkey"**

Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting

virtual presentation

April 2021

**"Are We There Yet? Political Participation in Transitional Democracies"**

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (with Cameron Wimpy)

Virtual presentation

April 2021

**"Do Elections Create or Further Path Dependencies?"**

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Virtual presentation

April 2021

**"Election Administration and UOCAVA Voting"**

Arkansas Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Virtual presentation

February 2021

**"Clientelism and Structured Voting: Evidence from Turkey"**

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Virtual presentation

January 2021

**"Reflections in the Mirror: Authoritarian Values and Political Identities in Turkey"**

Arkansas Political Science Association

Arkadelphia, AR

March 2020

**"A Model of Voter Turnout in Bulgaria and Romania"**

Graduate Conference of Turkish Political Science Association

Istanbul, Turkey

October 2004

**"Democratization in the Balkans, 1990-2002"**

Graduate Conference of Turkish Political Science Association

Istanbul, Turkey

October 2003

## Teaching

### Teaching Interests

Introduction to Data Analysis; Applied Data Analysis; Advanced Data Analysis; Data Visualization; Introduction to Comparative Politics; Political Behavior; Election Science; Local Elections and Local Politics; Authoritarianism & Populism; Media and Politics; Introduction to Political Psychology; Comparing Democracies / Comparative Political Behavior; Public Opinion and Political Parties; Russian State & Politics; Politics of Developing Countries

## Courses & Workshops Taught

### PLSC 3003, Introduction to Political Analysis

Arkansas State University

Fall 2026

### PLSC 3203, Introduction to Comparative Politics

Arkansas State University

Fall 2026

### PLSC 6013, Advanced Political Analysis

Arkansas State University

Fall 2026

## Fellowships, Honors & Awards

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### Graduate research assistantship

Syracuse University

2024–2026

### Outstanding Graduate Student

Political Science Department, Arkansas State University

2021

### Graduate research/teaching assistantship

Arkansas State University

2019–2021

## Professional Memberships & Service

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### Peer Reviewer

*Political Research Quarterly* (6), *Electoral Studies* (1), *Political Communication* (1), *Politics and Religion* (1), *Mediterranean Politics* (1), *Electronic News* (1)

### Panel Discussant

2022 MPSA

### Panel Chair

2022 MPSA, 2024 MPSA, 2025 SPSA, 2026 MPSA

## Skills & Software

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### Languages

English (Fluent), Turkish (Native), Russian (Upper Intermediate B2)

### Methods

Spatial Econometrics, Matching Analysis, Survival Analysis, Panel Data

### Software

R, Stata,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , GeoDa, Qualtrics

## Certifications

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### Russian Language Certification

Privet Language School, Kaliningrad, Russia

2014

## Research Methodology & Software Workshops

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### From Text to Insights: Building and Analyzing Custom Political Event Data

**Stata Courses for Panel Data, Survival Analysis, and Programming**

StataCorp

2025

## Professional References

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### **Dr. Sabri Ciftci**

Professor of Political Science  
Michael W. Suleiman Chair in Arab and Arab-American Studies  
Kansas State University  
📍 Manhattan, KS 66506  
✉ ciftci@ksu.edu

### **Dr. Johanna Dunaway**

Professor of Political Science  
Research Director at Institute for Democracy, Journalism, and  
Citizenship  
Syracuse University  
📍 Washington, D.C. 20036  
✉ jldunawa@syr.edu

### **Dr. William P. McLean**

Senior Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor  
Academic Affairs and Research  
Arkansas State University  
📍 State University, AR 72467  
✉ wmclean@astate.edu

### **Dr. Michelle Taylor-Robinson**

Professor, Mays Family Foundation Building Democracy Chair  
Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Education  
Texas A&M University  
📍 College Station, TX 77843  
✉ m-taylor11@tamu.edu

### **Dr. Emily Thorson**

Associate Professor of Political Science  
Syracuse University  
📍 Syracuse, NY 13244  
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### **Dr. Cameron Wimpy**

Associate Professor and Department Chair  
Department of Government, Law & Policy  
Arkansas State University  
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