

# CIGDEM UNAL

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## CURRENT POSITION

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**Research Fellow** at University College London (UCL) July 2022 to Present  
The GRIEVANCE Project (funded by the European Research Council)  
Principal Investigator: Paul Gill

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD</b>	University of Pittsburgh, Political Science	Expected in December 2023
	Dissertation: "Three Essays on Terrorism and Political Behavior: An Analysis at Country, Individual, and Party Levels"	
	Committee: Steven Finkel (chair), Burcu Savun, Jae-Jae Spoon, Luke Condra	
<b>MA</b>	University of Pittsburgh, Political Science	April 2019
<b>MA</b>	Sabanci University, Political Science	June 2017
<b>BA</b>	Bahcesehir University, Political Science and International Relations	June 2015
	<b>Study Abroad:</b> Syracuse University, NY, USA	Spring 2014
	Viadrina European University, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany	Spring 2013

## PUBLICATION

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- Chris Chinda, Cigdem Unal, Zoe Marchment & Paul Gill (2023) The Impact of Public Holidays on Insurgent Attacks: The Case of Thailand, Terrorism and Political Violence, DOI: [10.1080/09546553.2023.2222810](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2023.2222810)

## WORKING PAPERS

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- "The Effects of Rainfall on Terrorist Attacks in Northern Ireland" with Paul Gill
- "Does Airport Security Reduce Terrorism? Analysis of Prevention and Displacement toward Transport Hubs" with Amber Seaward, Zoe Marchment, and Paul Gill
- "Terrorist Attacks and Political Attitudes and Behavior: A p-curve analysis" with Sandy Schumann
- "The Consequences of Civilian Casualties Caused by Counterterrorism Operations: The Case of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan" with Paul Gill
- "Do Terrorist Attacks Mobilize People to Protest?"
- "The Impact of Terrorism on the Level of Voter Turnout"

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor

Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2023

International Terrorism, University of Pittsburgh Summer 2020

**Teaching Assistant**

World Politics, University of Pittsburgh 2018, 2019, 2022  
Humanity and Society I, Sabanci University Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

**Guest Lecturer**

Media and Terrorism, NATO Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism Summer 2022

**Achievement in Pedagogy Badge**, Center for Teaching and Learning 2020-2021

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**PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Participant** at Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Summer 2020

**Research Assistant** to Steven Finkel, University of Pittsburgh Spring 2020  
• Reviewed the current literature on civic education and democratic backsliding

**Research Assistant** to William Spaniel, University of Pittsburgh 2019 to 2020  
• Wrote case studies on the effect of competition on terrorist group operations

**Research Assistant** to Laura Paler, University of Pittsburgh Spring 2019  
• Assisted in creating replication files  
• Cleared and transformed data

**Research Assistant** to Kerim Can Kavakli, Sabanci University 2015 to 2016  
• Collected data on terrorist incidents from newspapers  
• Gave computer-based implicit bias tests to undergraduate students

**Research Assistant** to Ozge Kemahlioglu, Sabanci University Summer 2016  
• Reviewed the V-Dem Project Codebook and inspected relevant variables for the project

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**CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION**

- Society for Terrorism Research (2023)
- American Political Science Association (2022, 2023)
- International Studies Association (2022)
- “Political Turbulence” Workshop at University College London (2020)
- Southern Political Science Association (2019)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2018)
- “Refugee and “refugees”: Challenge for the World, not just for Europe” Workshop by Academia Aestiva Internationalis Summer School in Ljubljana, Slovenia (2016)

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**HONORS AND AWARDS**

First-Generation Scholar Travel and Accessibility Grant, APSA	2022
Pitt Three Minute Thesis Competition, University of Pittsburgh	2022
Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2020-2021
Outstanding Presenter Award at the Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh	2019 & 2018
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2017-2018

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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Peer reviewer for: *International Interactions*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Annals of Criminology*

**University of Pittsburgh**

Member of the <i>Structural Racism</i> (Assistant Professor) Search Committee	2022
TA/TF Mentor for the Department of Political Science	2020-2021
President of Turkish American Students Association	2020-2023

**RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Istanbul Policy Center</b> , Istanbul, Turkey	2017
• Project Assistant	
<b>Co-Opinion</b> (NGO with a focus on youth employment)	2015 to 2017
• Board Member, Academic Affairs	
<b>American Studies Center (AMERS)</b> , Istanbul, Turkey	2012 to 2014
• Administrative Assistant	

**SKILLS**

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**Methods**

Quantitative research methods including time-series/longitudinal analysis, maximum likelihood estimation, structural equation modeling, and quasi-experimental approaches such as difference in difference and event study design

**Programming**

Stata, R, Python

**REFERENCES**

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**Steven E. Finkel**

Daniel H. Wallace Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Pittsburgh  
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**Jae-Jae Spoon**

Professor and Chair  
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**Paul Gill**

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**Burcu Savun**

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