



Yusuf Emre KARAÇAM

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ABOUT ME

After completing my **BA and MA in Political Science and International Relations** at **Istanbul 29 Mayıs University**, where my master's thesis comparatively examined **democratic backsliding in Turkey and Hungary**, I joined the **Turkish National Agency**, under the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, as an **Assistant EU Specialist** in 2021. In this role, I worked extensively with **Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programs**, focusing on youth participation, civic engagement, and democracy.

I later earned an **MSc in Data Analysis** from **Çankaya University**, where my thesis applied **machine learning methods to forecast political conflict in the Middle East**. I am currently pursuing a **PhD in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh**, where my research focuses on **comparative politics, political conflict, regime dynamics, and quantitative methodology**. My broader interests include **conflict forecasting, democratization and authoritarian politics, machine learning, data science, and artificial intelligence** as tools for understanding political processes and improving political analysis and decision-making.

WORK EXPERIENCE

JOE'S CRAB SHACK – Myrtle Beach, United States

SERVER

[12/06/2018 – 12/09/2018]

I worked in a seafood restaurant for 4 months in America. As a waiter, I improved my English and gained experience by working in the same working environment with foreigners.

THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS-TURKISH NATIONAL AGENCY – Ankara, Türkiye

EU AFFAIRS EXPERT

[20/10/2021 – Current]

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I am responsible for **implementing, coordinating, and supervising Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps** projects in Türkiye. These projects aim to strengthen **education, youth participation, and civil society** across the country. In collaboration with the **European Commission** and other **National Agencies**, we ensure that all activities are implemented in full compliance with EU standards and objectives. The position requires **frequent domestic and international missions**, making it a highly **dynamic and cross-cultural professional environment**.

Key Skills and Competencies:

Diplomatic and Intercultural Communication: Regularly engages with the **European Commission, National Agencies**, and **foreign partners**, developing strong **diplomatic, negotiation, and representation skills** in multicultural contexts.

Project Design and Implementation: Experienced in drafting, evaluating, and coordinating *Erasmus+* and *European Solidarity Corps* projects focused on **democracy, inclusion, green transition, and digitalization**.

Project Supervision and Evaluation: Conducts risk assessment, budget control, and outcome monitoring of national and international youth projects in line with EU quality standards.

Event Management: Organized multiple *international seminars, trainings, and dissemination events* with cross-sectoral stakeholders.

Capacity Building and Inclusion: Developed methodologies to improve participation of **disadvantaged groups** and strengthen the link between **youth work and policy-making**.

Analytical and Administrative Skills: Skilled in project auditing, policy evaluation, and impact analysis within EU frameworks.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BACHELOR DEGREE

Istanbul 29 Mayıs University [01/09/2014 – 20/07/2019]

Address: No: 40 34662 İcadiye-Bağlarbaşı Street, 34662 İstanbul (Türkiye) | Website: 29mayis.edu.tr/tr/ | Field(s) of study: Social sciences, journalism and information: • Political sciences and civics

MASTER DEGREE

Istanbul 29 Mayıs University [22/09/2019 – 01/01/2022]

Address: No: 40 34662 İcadiye-Bağlarbaşı Street, 34662 İstanbul (Türkiye) |

Website: <https://www.29mayis.edu.tr/tr/> | Field(s) of study: Social sciences, journalism and information: • Political sciences and civics | Final grade: 3.94 | Thesis: A comparative analysis of democratic backsliding in Hungary and Turkey

I work as teaching assistant while studying master.

My thesis: A comparative analysis of democratic backsliding in Hungary and Turkey

MASTER DEGREE

Çankaya University [15/09/2023 – 23/09/2025]

City: Ankara | Country: Türkiye | Website: <https://aday.cankaya.edu.tr/> | Field(s) of study: Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics: • Mathematics and statistics not further defined • Statistics

Data Analytics Master

ERASMUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Vytautas Magnus University [21/08/2017 – 18/01/2018]

City: Kaunas | Country: Lithuania

Bachelor (Online)

Anadolu University [15/09/2023 – Current]

City: eskisehir | Country: Türkiye | Website: <https://www.anadolu.edu.tr/en> | Field(s) of study: Social sciences, journalism and information: • Economics

I have been registered in an online bachelor program provided by Anadolu University to support my economic knowledge and mathematics background to support data science education.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

University of Pittsburgh [30/07/2026 – Current]

City: Pittsburgh | Country: United States

Leverages machine learning algorithms to analyze democratization and autocratization trends, predictive modeling of regime transitions, and forecasting potential internal conflicts or societal crises derived from political shifts.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Turkish

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C2 **READING** C2 **WRITING** C2

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** C2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Microsoft Office / Microsoft Word / Microsoft Powerpoint / R / Data Science / statistics / Machine Learning / Mentoring and Leadership Skills / EU projects / first aid

DRIVING LICENCE

Driving Licence: B

CREATIVE WORKS

Data Science I started to be interested in data science and artificial intelligence at university. Then, I graduated from Çankaya University's data science master's program, and I also have certificates regarding libraries such as scikit-learn, pandas, numpy, and keras from international online education platforms such as datacamp.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Chess and Sudoku Passionate about **chess** and **sudoku**, activities that sharpen problem-solving and strategic planning skills relevant to data analysis and research.

Football I have been passionate about football since my childhood, having played on both my school and university teams. Today, I serve as the **captain of the Entelijansiya Football Team**, an experience that has strengthened my leadership, teamwork, and strategic decision-making skills in competitive environments. I also play **tennis regularly with my wife**, which helps me maintain focus, discipline, and resilience.

Art and Literature Art & Creativity: After being inspired by various architectural movements across Europe, I began to practice **sculpting as an amateur artist**, mainly working with clay. This hobby provides me not only with a sense of relaxation and mindfulness but also allows me to feel a unique connection with the **visionary minds of the Renaissance**, whose creativity continues to shape my way of thinking and aesthetic perception. **Literature & Writing:** I have always been deeply passionate about **poetry and literature**—not only as a reader but also as a writer. I regularly read both classical/*Divan* and contemporary poets, and I also write my own poems as a means of self-expression and reflection. This engagement with literature nurtures my **empathy, critical reflection, and nuanced communication**, all of which are essential skills for academic writing and cross-cultural dialogue.

VOLUNTEERING

[10/05/2023 – Current]

AFAD (The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) It is a governmental disaster management agency operating under the Turkish Ministry of Interior.

[01/02/2017 – Current] Türkiye

TEMA As a member of the **TEMA Foundation**, I actively support environmental awareness and sustainability initiatives. This experience has helped me develop a stronger sense of social responsibility and appreciation for collective action toward protecting nature.

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Leadership Skills

Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have developed strong **management, leadership, and organizational** skills. During my undergraduate studies, I served as a **student representative**, organizing academic and social events for a large number of students. Later, I worked as a **student assistant** while completing my master's degree, which enhanced my communication and coordination abilities in academic settings.

Currently, as an **Assistant EU Specialist at the Turkish National Agency**, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have been responsible for **organizing and managing international meetings and Erasmus+ events**, bringing together diverse stakeholders in the fields of **education and youth policy**. These experiences have strengthened my ability to lead teams, facilitate cross-institutional cooperation, and manage complex projects in multicultural environments.

Working in the field of EU affairs has also allowed me to **observe diplomatic processes closely** and understand how decision-making can be most effective between managers and those they serve. My professional philosophy is grounded in the belief that **sound leadership begins with understanding all components of a system**—from senior diplomats to the most disadvantaged social groups—because successful strategies depend on recognizing and integrating every dynamic within a policy structure.

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

International Meetings

Academically, I have a solid theoretical background in **human rights, democracy, and security studies**. Through my current position, I have gained a comprehensive understanding of **how international organizations operate**, particularly through my close collaboration with the **European Commission** and other EU institutions.

My professional experience has equipped me with strong **organizational and meeting management skills**, including the ability to **coordinate and facilitate international conferences and diplomatic meetings**. Working within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also helped me develop a disciplined approach to work, adaptability within **hierarchical structures**, and effective cross-cultural communication.

Beyond my professional duties, I also serve as the **captain of the Entelijansiya Football Team**, an experience that has enhanced my **leadership, teamwork, and motivational abilities** in competitive and dynamic environments.

PROJECTS

[01/10/2024 – Current]

Conflict Forecasting in the Middle East (Independent Research Project) Developed a comprehensive conflict dataset covering the **MENA region**, integrating political, demographic, and economic indicators. Employed **machine learning methods** (logistic regression, random forest, and neural networks) to detect **structural ruptures and regime instability patterns**. The project demonstrates proficiency in **data collection, preprocessing, and predictive modeling** for political analysis, and is currently being prepared as a **co-authored research article with Professor Nihat Solakoğlu**.

[07/07/2023 – Current]

RAY Network – Research-Based Analysis of European Youth Programs (National Youth Unit Representative, Türkiye) Serving as the **Turkish representative for the RAY Network**, a Europe-wide research initiative evaluating the **impact of volunteering and mobility programs on young people's soft skills**. Responsible for the **national data collection process**, coordination with EU partners, and ensuring methodological alignment with the network's research framework. The project combines **quantitative analysis with policy evaluation**, linking empirical evidence to youth development outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

[2022]

Comparative Analysis of Democratic Backsliding in Hungary and Turkey. A comparative study examining the mechanisms of democratic erosion in two hybrid regimes, focusing on populism, institutional autonomy, media control, and rule of law.

[2025]

The Impact of Volunteering Activities on the Career Development of Volunteers. (Specialization Thesis) A **quantitative research study** analyzing how participation in youth volunteering projects contributes to skill acquisition, employability, and social inclusion. *(Currently being prepared as a journal article.)*

Predicting Political Instability in the MENA Region Using Machine Learning Approaches. A collaborative project combining political science and data science, developing a machine-learning-based conflict forecasting model using demographic and institutional indicators. *(Currently being prepared as a journal article.)*

Authors: Karaçam, Y. E., & Solakoğlu, N.