

# AVITAL LIVNY

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ◊ Department of Political Science  
1407 W Gregory Drive ◊ Urbana, IL 61801  
alivny@illinois.edu ◊ Tel: (+1) 217 265-6796 ◊ <http://www.alivny.com>

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b> (Champaign-Urbana, IL) Assistant Professor of Political Science	<i>2015-present</i>
<b>Carlos III-Juan March Institute</b> (Madrid, Spain) Junior Research Fellow	<i>2014-2015</i>

## EDUCATION

---

<b>Stanford University</b> (Stanford, CA) Ph.D. in Political Science	<i>2016</i>
M.A. in Political Science	<i>2009</i>
<b>University of Oxford</b> (Oxford, United Kingdom) M.Sc. with distinction in Comparative Politics Research Methods	<i>2006</i>
M.Phil. with high honors in Modern Middle Eastern Studies	<i>2005</i>
<b>Washington University in St. Louis</b> (St. Louis, MO) B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i> in Political Science	<i>2002</i>

## PUBLICATIONS

---

*Trust and the Islamic Advantage: Religious-Based Movements in Turkey and the Muslim World*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2020. (Appendices)

“How Extraordinary was the Arab Spring? Examining ‘Protest Potential’ in the Muslim World.” *Oxford Handbook of Politics in Muslim Societies*. Melani Cammett and Pauline Jones (eds.) New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Book review of Cihan Tuğal’s *The Fall of the Turkish Model* (London: Verso). *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 49, 1 (2017).

“Counting the Uncounted: Measuring the Politicization of Kurdish Identity in Turkey.” *POMEPS Studies* (Washington, DC: Project on Middle East Political Science) 22 (2016).

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

---

Visiting Fellow, Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society, Chapman University (AY 2019-2020) (\$20,000)

Principal Investigator, National Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Political Science Program Standard Grant (with Scott Althaus, Co-PI), “Improving and Integrating Global Diversity Estimates Using Transparent Methods” (2018-2021) (\$315,583)

Faculty Fellow, Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (AY 2018-2019) (\$12,000)

Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award, Comparative Democratization Section, American Political Science Association (2017)

David F. Linowes Fellowship, Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (AY 2016-2017, 2017-2018) (\$10,000)

Research Grant (with Eric Min and Paul Zachary), The Europe Center, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University (AY 2014-2015) (\$4,500)

Research Grant, Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies, Stanford University (AY 2013-2014) (\$5,930)

Curriculum Development Grant for Middle East Politics Lab (with Lisa Blaydes), Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University (AY 2013-2014) (\$16,502)

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The Stanford Humanities Center (AY 2012-2013) (\$34,496)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Dissertation Research Fellowship, United States Department of Education (AY 2011-2012) (\$24,504)

Graduate Research Opportunity (GRO) Grant in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Stanford University (2011) (\$4,000)

Field Research Grant, Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford University (2010) (\$3,000)

Critical Language Scholarship, United States Department of State (2008)

## ONGOING RESEARCH

---

“Can Religiosity be Sensed with Satellite Data? An Assessment of Luminosity during Ramadan in Turkey.” Forthcoming, 2021, *Public Opinion Quarterly*. (Dataverse)

“Survey Design, Order Effects, and Causal Mediation Analysis” (with Stephen Chaudoin and Brian J. Gaines). Forthcoming, 2021, *The Journal of Politics*. (Appendix)

“The Cultural Legacy of Tolerance: The Case of Ottoman Turkey” (with Mark Westcott)

“Institutions, Trust, and Growth”

“A New Method for Measuring Fractionalization Using Sampled Survey Data”

“Counting the Uncounted: Measuring Kurdish Identity in Turkey”

“Says Who? Estimating the Costs of Diversity Using Observed and Self-Identified Ethnicity” (with Adam Harris)

## INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

---

“Remote Sensing Religiosity in the Muslim World: An Initial Assessment in the Turkish Case” presented at the Vanderbilt Comparative Politics Speaker Series (January 2019); at the Middle East Initiative Speaker Series, Harvard Kennedy School (March 2019); and at University of Wisconsin-Madison Comparative Politics Colloquium (April 2019).

Manuscript Conference for Timur Kuran's Freedoms Delayed: Political Legacies of Islamic Law in the Middle East (Princeton University Press) at the F. A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University (March 2019).

"Trust and the Islamic Advantage in Turkey and the Muslim World" presented at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (June 2018).

"Persistent Effects of Inter-Religious Contact on Ethnic Tolerance: The Case of Ottoman Turkey" presented at the Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin-Madison (November 2016); at the Comparative Politics Speaker Series, University of California, San Diego (January 2017); at the Comparative Politics Seminar, Columbia University (October 2017); at the Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies (November 2017); and at the Indiana University-Bloomington World Politics Research Seminar (February 2018).

"A New Method for Measuring Fractionalization Using Sampled Survey Data" presented at the Center for Peace and Security Studies, University of California, San Diego (January 2017); and at the Institute for Future Studies (November 2017).

"Counting the Uncounted: Measuring the Politicization of Kurdish Identity in Turkey" presented at the Project on Middle East Political Science Workshop on Contemporary Turkish Politics, Baker Institute, Rice University (October 2016)

## **SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

---

"Remote Sensing Religiosity in the Muslim World: An Initial Assessment in the Turkish Case" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (February 2019); at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March 2019); and at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (August 2019)

"Says Who? Estimating the Costs of Diversity Using Observed and Self-Identified Ethnicity" presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2018).

"Counting the Uncounted: Measuring Kurdish Identity in Turkey" presented at the Project on Middle East Political Science workshop on Contemporary Turkish Politics (October 2016) and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2018).

"Persistent Effects of Inter-Religious Contact on Ethnic Tolerance: The Case of Ottoman Turkey" presented at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March 2017); at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (April 2017); at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2017); at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference at the Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, Oxford University (September 2017); at the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of *Doctores Miembro* and Alumni of the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (June 2018).

"Institutions, Trust, and Growth" presented at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Annual Meeting (March 2018).

"Political Participation and Political Identity: The Making of Young Activists in Turkey's Gezi Park" presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkish Studies Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (April 2014); and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2016).

"A New Method for Measuring Fractionalization Using Sampled Survey Data" presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2015); and at the Association of Religion, Economics and Culture Meeting (March 2016).

“The Religious Ties that Bind? Islam and Anti-Kurdish Bias in Turkey” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2015).

“Ethnic Diversity and Inter-Group Trust in Turkey” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (May 2015).

“A Twitter (R)Evolution? Identifying First-Movers in a Political Uprising with Social Media Data” (with Eric Min and Paul Zachary) presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (April 2015).

“The Gezi Generation: Political Attitudes and Behavior in Contemporary Turkey” presented at the Eighth Annual Turkish Studies Symposium, European Union Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (April 2014).

“Faith in the Electorate: Islam’s Solution to Vote Volatility in Turkey” presented at the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society (IRES) Graduate Student Workshop, (June 2012); at the American Research Institute in Turkey (June 2012); and at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (August 2014).

“In Allah We Trust? Islamic Activism as Collective Action” presented at the International Conference on Islam, University of Wisconsin-Madison (April 2012); and at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (April 2012).

“The Inclusion Effect: Explaining Moderation Among Extremist Groups in the Middle East” (with Keren Eva Fraiman and Aila M. Matanock) presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (April 2010).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Comparative Politics in Developing Nations**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2016,\* Spring 2018,† Fall 2018†)

**Conceptualization and Measurement**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2020|)

**Government and Politics of the Middle East**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2015, Spring 2017\*)

**Freshman Seminar: Identity Politics in Comparative Perspective**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2015, Fall 2016,\* Fall 2017\*)

**The New Middle East**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2017,\* Spring 2017,\* Fall 2018†)

**Junior Honors Seminar**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Spring 2018†)

**Undergraduate Research Practicum**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2018, Spring, Fall 2019)

**Middle East Politics Lab** (with Prof. Lisa Blaydes), Stanford University (Spring 2014)

**Middle East Politics**, Stanford University (Summer 2013)

\*Course evaluations earned inclusion on University of Illinois’ “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent.”

†Course evaluations earned a ranking of “outstanding” on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent.”

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

---

- Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society** (Orange, CA)  
Visiting Fellow *AY 2019-2020*
- Institute for Future Studies** (Stockholm, Sweden)  
Visiting Researcher *Summer 2018*
- KONDA Research and Consultancy** (Istanbul, Turkey)  
Affiliated Researcher *2012-present*
- Koç University, Department of Economics** (Istanbul, Turkey)  
Affiliated Researcher *June-August 2010; September 2011-June 2012*
- Legal Momentum** (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) (Washington, DC)  
Policy Assistant, Economic Justice Program *August 2002-July 2003*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

---

- Board Member, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) (2019-present)
- Co-Chair, Religion and Politics Division, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2019)
- Member, Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award Committee, Comparative Democratization Section, American Political Science Association (2018)
- Faculty Mentor, Graduate Student Workshop, Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society, Chapman University (2018-present)
- Coordinator, “Roundtable: The Future of Democracy in Turkey,” European Union Center 12th Annual Turkish Studies Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2018)
- Co-Coordinator, “The Politics of Identity: Perspectives across Subfields” Working Group, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (with Cara Wong and Yoshiko Herrera) (2018-present)
- Coordinator, “Ethnicity and Diversity: Concepts, Measures, Causes and Consequences” Conference, held at the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (Madrid, Spain) (June 2016)
- Faculty Fellow, Analytic Learning on Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS) (2012-present)
- Referee, *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, European Political Science Review, International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics, National Science Foundation, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Politics and Religion, Political Geography, Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences, World Politics*

## LANGUAGES AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

---

- English (*native*), Hebrew (*native*), Modern Turkish (*advanced*), Modern Standard Arabic (*intermediate*), French (*intermediate*)
- Advanced Turkish Course, Boğaziçi University, Turkish Language and Culture Program *2008*
- Sponsored by Council of American Overseas Research Centers, U.S. Department of State

