

Berker Kavasoglu

Heidelberg University, Germany
berker.kavasoglu@uni-heidelberg.de
www.berkerkavasoglu.com
Google Scholar

Appointments

Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow, Heidelberg University	10/2024–present
Research Affiliate, MENA-PERC Project	10/2024–present
Postdoctoral Fellow, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy Researcher in MENA-PERC , ERC Project	05/2023–10/2024

Education

Ph.D., Political Science University of Gothenburg, Sweden.	2022
M.A., Political Science Central European University, Vienna, Austria.	2017
M.A., Political Science University of Essex, Colchester, UK.	2015
B.A., International Relations Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey.	2014
Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Porto, Portugal.	Fall 2012

Research Interests

Comparative politics; Elite political behavior and coalitions; Political parties and party systems; Democratic backsliding; Political economy of regime transitions; Computational text analysis; Causal inference with panel data

Publications

Kavasoglu, Berker, and Kevin Koehler. (2026). “Social Polarization and Electoral Incentives for Islamist (De-)Moderation: Evidence from Turkish Parliamentary Debates.” *Democratization*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2026.2612725>.

Kavasoglu, Berker. (2024). “The Power of Cabinet Appointments: Elite Co-optation and Anti-regime Mass Uprisings in Autocracies.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027241304703>.

Kavasoglu, Berker. (2022). “Opposition Party Organizations, Ideological Orientations, and Elite Co-optation in Electoral Autocracies.” *Democratization*, 29 (4): 634–654.

Kavasoglu, Berker. (2022). “Autocratic Ruling Parties During Regime Transitions: Investigating the Democratizing Effect of Strong Ruling Parties.” *Party Politics*, 28 (2): 377–388.

Düpont, Nils, Berker Kavasoglu, Anna Luhrmann, and Ora John Reuter (2022). “A Global Perspective on Party Organizations: Validating the Varieties of Party Identity and Organization Dataset (V-Party)”. *Electoral Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2021.102423>.

Datasets

Lindberg, Staffan, Nils Düpont, Masaaki Higashijima, Berker Kavasoglu et al. (2022) “Varieties of Party Identity and Organization (V-Party) Dataset Version 2.”

Lührmann, Anna, Nils Düpont, Masaaki Higashijima, Berker Kavasoglu et al. (2020) “Varieties of Party Identity and Organization (V-Party) Dataset Version 1.”

Book Chapters

Kavasoglu, Berker. (forthcoming) “Ruling Parties in Autocracies”, in *The Encyclopedia of Authoritarianism*, eds. Stephen G. F. Hall and Thomas Ambrosio, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Kavasoglu, Berker. (commissioned) “Politics and Government in Turkey: Institutions, Actors, and Policy”, in *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, eds. Marco Giugni and Maria Grasso, Elsevier.

Other Publications

Lindberg, Staffan, Valeriya Mechkova, Berker Kavasoglu, and Patrik Lindenfors (2020). “Sequences of Democracy and Development”. *USAID Center for Democracy*.

Kavasoglu, Berker. (2020). “Party Systems in Young Democracies: Varieties of Institutionalization in Sub-Saharan Africa” by Edalina Rodrigues Sanches. London: Routledge. 216 p. *African Studies Review* 63 (1): E8-E10.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Presenter (P), Discussant (D)

The WhoGov Workshop on Political Elites, University of Oslo, Sep. 1-2, 2025. (P, D)

European Political Science Association (EPSA) Annual Conference, June 26-28, 2025. (P, D)

Italian Political Science Association (SISP) Annual Meeting, Sep. 12-14, 2024. (P, D)

The WhoGov Project Workshop, University of Oslo, Aug. 29-31, 2024. (P, D)

European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference Aug. 24-28, 2020. (P)

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting, Jan. 9-11, 2020. (P)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, Apr. 4-7, 2019. (P)

Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe Workshop, Central European University, Hungary, 2017. (P)

Grants and Scholarships

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 86,000 €	2024-2026
Wilhelm och Martina Lundgrens Vetenskapsfond, SEK 25,000	2019
Swedish National Data Service, SEK 25,000	2018
Full PhD Scholarship, University of Gothenburg	2017–2021
Academic Excellence Scholarship, Full Tuition and Monthly Stipend, CEU	2016–2017
Academic Excellence Award, £4,000, University of Essex	2014–2015
Erasmus Scholarship for Study Abroad	2012
Undergraduate Studies Scholarship, Bilgi University	2009-2014

Teaching

Instructor, Comparative Party Politics of Autocracies (MA Module) Heidelberg University.	Fall 2025
Instructor, The Politics of Autocratic Regimes (MA Module) Heidelberg University. Student evaluation (avg.): 1.4/5 (1=best)	Fall 2024
Co-instructor, Varieties of Democracy and Democratization (MA Module) University of Gothenburg.	Spring 2020, 2021
Swedish Politics in a Comparative Perspective (BA Module) Co-instructor, Comparative Electoral and Party Systems University of Gothenburg.	Spring 2018, Fall 2018

Additional Training

ECPR Methods School Online	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quantitative Text Analysis and Machine Learning using R.	
ICPSR Summer Program Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, USA.	2018 (on-site), 2019 (on-site), 2020 (online)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Time Series Analysis I: Introduction, Regression Analysis II: Linear Models, Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics, Panel Data and Longitudinal Analysis, Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics, Causal Inference for the Social Sciences.	
Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 1 (Teacher Education) The Unit for Pedagogical Development and Interactive Learning (PIL) University of Gothenburg.	2019
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis University of Essex, United Kingdom	2015

- Beyond OLS: Categorical, Choice, and Count Models.

Skills

Software

- R, L^AT_EX, STATA

Reviewer

Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Democratization, Government and Opposition, International Political Science Review, Mediterranean Politics, Journal of International Development, Politics, Japanese Journal of Political Science