Betül Demirkaya

(Updated: September 2025)

Department of Political Science
University of Kentucky
betul.demirkaya@uky.edu

EMPLOYMENT

University of Kentucky. Assistant Professor. 2019-present.

Pennsylvania State University. Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow. 2017-2019.

EDUCATION

Washington University in St. Louis. Ph.D. in Political Science, May 2017.

Dissertation: What is Opposition Good For?

Committee: Matthew Gabel (Chair), Brian Crisp, Justin Fox, John Patty, Randall Calvert, Norman Schofield

Additional Coursework: Microeconomic Theory Sequence

Washington University in St. Louis. M.A. in Political Science, 2013.

Bogazici University (Istanbul). M.A. in Political Science and International Relations, 2006.

Bogazici University (Istanbul). B.A. with Honors in Political Science and International Relations, 2003.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), University of Michigan, 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Demirkaya, Betül, Patrick Cunha Silva, and Brian F. Crisp. 2022. "The Logic of Campaign Spending in Mixed-Member Electoral Systems" *Electoral Studies* 79:1-6.

Ainsley, Caitlin, Clifford Carrubba, Crisp, Betül Demirkaya, Matthew Gabel, and Dino Hadzic. 2020. "The Perils of Using Roll-Call Vote Results to Study Representation" *American Political Science Review* 114(3):691-706.

Crisp, Brian F. and Betül Demirkaya. 2020. "Strategic Entry and Strategic Voting in Majoritarian Systems" *Journal of Politics* 82(1):57-71.

Demirkaya, Betül. 2019. "What is Opposition Good For?" *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 31(2):260-280.

Crisp, Brian F., Betül Demirkaya, Leslie A. Schwindt-Bayer, and Courtney Millian. 2018. "The Role of Rules in Representation: Group Membership and Electoral Incentives" *British Journal of Political Science* 48(1):47-67.

Tepe, Sultan and Betül Demirkaya. 2011. "(Not) Getting Religion: Has Political Science Lost Sight of Islam?" *Politics and Religion* 4(2):203-228.

Book Chapters

Demirkaya, Betül and Norman Schofield. 2015. "Trading Portfolios: Stability of Coalition Governments" in Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero (ed.) *The Political Economy of Governance*. Springer. 179-193.

Schofield, Norman and Betül Demirkaya. 2013. "Spatial Model of Elections in Turkey: Tracing Changes in the Party System in 2000s" in Norman Schofield, Gonzalo Caballero and Daniel Kselman (ed.) *Advances in Political Economy*. Springer. 317-330.

WORKING PAPERS

Demirkaya, Betül. "Working to Rule: The effect of electoral rules on party unity and substantive focus"

Demirkaya, Betül. "Whistleblower in the Parliament"

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Dr. Brian Crisp and Dr. Matthew Gabel, Washington University in St. Louis. Research Project entitled "Telling Half the Story?: Using Roll Call Votes to Understand Legislative Behavior." 2012 - 2017.

Research Assistant for Dr. Yesim Arat, Bogazici University, Istanbul and Dr. Ayse Gul Altinay, Sabanci University, Istanbul. Research Project entitled "Gender-based Violence: Analyzing the Problem and the Struggle Against It." 2006 - 2007.

Research Assistant for Dr. Murat Somer, Koc University, Istanbul. Research Project entitled "Islamist Parties, Domestic and External Mechanisms, and Democratization: Lessons from Turkey's AKP." 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky

Comparative Political Institutions (Graduate)

Comparative Political Parties and Elections (Graduate)

Comparative Theory and Methods (Graduate)

Contemporary Global Conflicts

European Union

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Introduction to Quantitative Political Methodology (Graduate)

Representation

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University

Analysis of Comparative Political Institutions and Democratic Representation

Introduction to Comparative Politics

Quantitative Political Analysis

Statistical Methods for Political Research (Graduate)

Social Data Analytics: Special Topics

Instructor, University College, Washington University in St. Louis

Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Instructor, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis
"Summer Camp" for Introduction to Programming with Python

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence for 2015-2016. Washington University in St. Louis. Spring 2016.

Graduate Student Associate. Center for Empirical Research in the Law, Washington University in St. Louis. 2014-2017.

Dissertation Fellowship. Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis. 2016 - 2017.

Graduate Fellowship. Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis. 2011 - 2012.

Ragsdale Fellowship. Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at Chicago. 2007 - 2008.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2025, 2018, 2016, 2015.

Conference to Celebrate the Career of Brian Crisp. 2025.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2025, 2023, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015.

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2025, 2018, 2017, 2015.

Women in Legislative Studies. 2024.

Washington University in St. Louis Comparative Politics Annual Conference 2014-2016

Second Annual Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Conference. 2015.

International Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2014.

International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions. 2014, 2012.

Wash U./University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Graduate Student Conference. 2014.

Illinois Political Science Association Annual Conference. 2011.

SERVICE

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky

Professional Service
Member of SPSA 2025 Program Committee. 2024 - 2025.

College Service
Acting Chair Appointment Advisory Committee. Spring 2023.

Department Service
Community Engagement Committee - Fall 2025
Graduate Program Committee. Fall 2024 - Spring 2025. Fall 2019 - Spring 2023.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Fall 2023 - Spring 2024.

Comparative Field Committee. Fall 2021- 2023. Spring 2022 - 2023, 2025.

Methods Field Committee. Spring 2022.

Faculty Mentor

Postdoctoral Teaching

Dr. Audrey Baricovich - Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

Graduate Student

MD Al Amin - Fall 2025

Cynthia Campello - Fall 2024

Obaloluwa Aka - Fall 2024

Yasuki Kudo - Spring 2023

Jingwen Wu - Fall 2021

Undergraduate Student

Cameron Thapa - Spring 2024

Graduate Student, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis

Department Service

Cohort Representative. Fall 2013 - Spring 2017.

Graduate Student Coordinator for Comparative Politics Annual Conference. Washington University in St. Louis. May 2015.

Graduate Council Student Representative for Political Science. Fall 2013 - Spring 2015.

Reviewer: American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Electoral Studies, Games and Economic Behavior, International Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Political Behavior, Political Studies Review, Quarterly Journal of Political Science.

SKILLS

Languages

English: fluent, Turkish: native, German: intermediate, French: intermediate, Spanish: intermediate

Computer

`R`, `Python`, `JAGS`, `STATA`, `LaTeX`.