

UMUT YÜKSEL

University College London
Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

- Sep 2014 – Nov 2019 PhD in International Relations/Political Science (*summa cum laude*)
Geneva Graduate Institute
- Visiting student researcher, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) fellow,
Stanford University (Sep 2018 – Aug 2019)
- Sep 2012 – Aug 2014 MA in International Relations/Political Science
Geneva Graduate Institute
- Sep 2009 – Jun 2012 BA in Political Science (Major) and Law (Minor) (*magna cum laude*)
Université catholique de Louvain

RESEARCH PROJECTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Oct 2025 – *Present* Research Fellow, *Break the Bias: For Equal Access to Human Rights Justice*, University College London (PI: Veronika Fikfak) (Funding: European Research Council (ERC))
- Sep 2023 – Aug 2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow and Principal Investigator, *Beyond Maximalism: The Role of Domestic Political Institutions in the Making and Reception of Excessive State Claims [CLAIMAX]*, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Awarded: 181,152 EUR) (Funding: European Commission)
- Sep 2019 – Feb 2023 Postdoctoral Researcher, *The Domain of International Adjudication: Why Sovereign States Abandon Decision Control*, Global Governance Center (PI: Fuad Zarbiyev) (Funding: SNSF)
- Jan 2020 – Jun 2021 Co-Principal Investigator, *Testing the Focal Point Theory of International Adjudication: An Empirical Analysis of the ICJ's Impact on Maritime Delimitation*, Global Governance Center (with Ezgi Yildiz) (Awarded: 114,802 CHF) (Funding: SNSF)

VISITING & OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- Jan 2026 – *Present* Affiliated Teaching Staff (Professor Col·laborador), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
- Nov 2024 – *Present* Postdoctoral Research Associate, Global Governance Center, Geneva Graduate Institute
- Mar 2023 – Feb 2024 Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Law, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- Jan 2024 – Jan 2024 Visiting Fellow, Department of International Relations, Bilkent University
- Sep 2022 – Feb 2023 Visiting Fellow, The Danish Center of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts)
- Mar 2021 – Jun 2021 Visiting Fellow, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

PUBLICATIONS

- Under contract with Cambridge Univ. Press* Domain of International Adjudication: Why Sovereign States Abandon Decision Control (with Fuad Zarbiyev) [Book]

Mar 2026	The LaGrand Effect: Changes in the Demand and Supply of ICJ Provisional Measures (with Phattharaphong Saengkrai), <i>Journal of International Dispute Settlement</i> [Link] [Data] [Article]
Dec 2024	The Law Behind Dispute Onset: How Legal Uncertainty Drives Maritime Boundary Disputes, <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 69(7-8), 1172-1204. [Link] [Data] [Article]
Jun 2024	The Defocalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation Practices (with Ezgi Yildiz), <i>Review of International Organizations</i> 20, 825-861. [Link] [Article] - Received the inaugural Best Article on International and Social Science Award from the American Society of International Law's Interest Group on International Law and Social Science (2025)
Nov 2023	Legal Uncertainty and the Making of Maritime Boundary Agreements. In: Shesterinina, A., and Matejova, M. (Eds.). <i>Uncertainty in Global Politics</i> , 101-116. Routledge [Link] [Chapter]
Apr 2022	Understanding the Limitations of Behaviouralism: Lessons from the Field of Maritime Delimitation (with Ezgi Yildiz), <i>German Law Journal</i> 23(3), 171-195. [Link] [Article]
Aug 2021	Resource Disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean. In: Gray K. W. (eds) <i>Global Encyclopedia of Territorial Rights</i> . Springer, Cham. [Link] [Chapter]

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Beyond All Boundaries: Domestic Political Determinants of Maximalist Claims [Article] (*under review*)

When Does ISDS Go Too Far? Arbitration Claim Sensitivity and Reduction of Foreign Investor Protection in International Investment Agreements (with Leopoldo Biffi and Thomas Schultz) [Article] (*under review*)

Maritime Boundary Making – Introducing a New Dataset (with Pat O'Brien) [Article]

They Have Gone Too Far This Time: Understanding Perceptions of Maximalism and Foreign Policy Preferences [Article]

International Courts and Complexity over Time (with Ezgi Yildiz) [Chapter]

International Courts and Selective Restraint in Times of Backlash (with Ezgi Yildiz) [Article]

Comparative Public Trust in Courts (with Michal Ovádek)

DATASETS

“Maritime Boundary-Making Dataset” & “National Maritime Boundary Acts Dataset”

“Continental Shelf Delimitation Preferences Dataset” (with Ezgi Yildiz) [\[Harvard Dataverse\]](#)

POLICY ARTICLES

Jun 2020	What a judicial solution to disputes in the eastern Mediterranean might look like. <i>LSE Blog</i> . Autumn 2020 (with Moritz Neubert). [Link]
Apr 2019	Getting Freedom of Navigation Operations Right in the South China Sea. <i>National Interest</i> . 10 April 2019 (with Binn Cho). [Link]
Feb 2017	Arms Race in the South China Sea: What Threshold? <i>Global Challenges</i> nº 1. February 2017. [Link]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

Jan 2025 – Mar 2025	Department of Political and Science Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, “Metodologia Quantitativa I” (4 ECTS)
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Apr 2024 – Jun 2024	Faculty of Law, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, “Instruments matemàtics i informàtics” (4 ECTS)
<i>Graduate</i>	
Sep 2021 – Aug 2022	Interdisciplinary programmes, Geneva Graduate Institute, “Introduction to Digital Social Science Research” (6 ECTS) (with Ezgi Yildiz, Fall 2021)
Sep 2019 – Aug 2022	Department of International Relations/Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute, “Statistics for International Relations Research I” (6 ECTS) (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
<i>Short workshops</i>	
May 2025, Apr 2026	Social Science Methods for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies (coordinated by the Faculty of Law at Copenhagen University, Central European University, Budapest, and Geneva Graduate Institute), Module taught: “Statistics”
Nov 2023	Social Science Methods for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies (coordinated by the Faculty of Law at Copenhagen University, European University Institute, Florence, and Geneva Graduate Institute), Modules taught: “Statistics”, “Advanced Statistics”
Oct 2022 – Dec 2022	Co-coordinator & Course Instructor, European Society of International Law, “Social Science Methods Workshop for International Lawyers”, Modules taught: “Fundamentals of Social Science Research” (with Ezgi Yildiz), “Introduction to R” (with Joshua Fjelstul and Chanya Punyakumpol), “Basic Quantitative Methods”
Apr 2022 – May 2022	Co-coordinator & Course Instructor, Geneva Graduate Institute, “Social Science Methods Workshop for International Lawyers”, Modules: “Fundamentals of Social Science Research” (with Chanya Punyakumpol and Ezgi Yildiz), “Introduction to R” (with Joshua Fjelstul and Chanya Punyakumpol), “Basic Quantitative Methods”
<i>Teaching assistantship</i>	
Sep 2014 – Aug 2018	Teaching assistant, Department of International Relations/Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute - Classes: “Introduction to Social Networks” (Spring 2017, Spring 2018), “Comparative Politics” (Spring 2017, Spring 2018), “Statistics for International Relations Research I” (Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2017), “Arab-Israeli Relations: Conflict and Peace-Making” (Spring 2016), “International Political Economy” (Spring 2016), “Doctoral Seminar in International Relations/Political Science” (Spring 2015)

THESIS SUPERVISION

Master in International Relations/Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute (x1)

INVITED LECTURES

Jan 2025	“Anàlisi i presentació de resultats” for the course entitled <i>Avaluació de polítiques socials i polítiques de prevenció</i> , Department of Social and Political Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
May 2020	“Quantitative Methods in International Law” for the course entitled <i>Research Design and Methodology</i> , Department of International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute
April 2020	“Survival Analysis” for the course entitled <i>Statistics for International Relations Research II</i> , Department of IR/PS, Geneva Graduate Institute
Nov 2019	“Survival Analysis” for the course entitled <i>Political Relations in Time</i> , Department of IR/PS, Geneva Graduate Institute
Apr 2018	“Historical Institutionalism” for the course entitled <i>Comparative Politics</i> , Department of IR/PS, Geneva Graduate Institute

Apr 2018 “Quadratic Assignment Procedure (QAP)” for the course entitled *Social Networks Theories and Methods*, Department of IR/PS, Geneva Graduate Institute

PRIZES & AWARDS

Mar 2025 Best Article on International and Social Science Award for “The Defocalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation” (co-authored with Ezgi Yildiz), Interest Group on International Law and Social Science, American Society of International Law

June 2023 Travel Grant to present at the APSA Annual Meeting (Sep 2023), American Political Science Association (400 USD)

June 2023 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, European Commission (181152 EUR)

July 2022 Travel Grant to present at the APSA Annual Meeting (Sep 2022), American Political Science Association (200 USD)

Nov 2021 Grant to cover living expenses during stay at Danish Research Council’s Center of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts), (Sep 2022 – Feb 2023) (3900 EUR)

Jan 2021 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Mar 2022), Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (1000 CHF)

Nov 2019 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Mar 2020), Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (1000 CHF) (renounced due to COVID)

Oct 2018 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Mar 2019), International Studies Association (ISA) (570 USD)

May 2018 Doc.Mobility fellowship (Sep 2018 – Aug 2019), Swiss National Science Foundation (61058 CHF)

Dec 2017 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Apr 2018), Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (1000 CHF)

May 2017 Travel Grant to attend the London International Boundary Conference (Jun 2017), Department of International Relations, Geneva Graduate Institute (500 CHF)

Feb 2017 Postgraduate Conference Bursary to present at BISA Annual Conference (Jun 2017), British International Studies Association (BISA) (300 GBP)

Dec 2015 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Mar 2016), Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (1000 CHF)

Oct 2015 Travel Grant to present at the ISA Annual Convention (Mar 2016), International Studies Association (ISA) (500 USD)

Jul 2013 Full Scholarship for Graduate Studies (for the 2013-14 Academic Year), Geneva Graduate Institute (18000 CHF)

May 2010 Scholarship to attend the School of Modern Greek (Summer 2010), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (500 EUR)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Sep 2026 European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, Kraków, Poland (*upcoming*)

Sep 2026 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting , Boston, MA, USA (*upcoming*)

Jun 2026 European Political Science Society Annual Conference, Belfast, UK (*upcoming*)

Jun 2026 British International Studies Association Annual Conference, Brighton, UK (*upcoming*)

Jun 2025 European Political Science Association Annual Convention, Madrid, Spain

Mar 2025	International Studies Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, USA
Jan 2025	Political Economy of International Organization Annual Conference, Harvard, MA, USA
Jan 2025	Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress, Geneva, Switzerland
Sep 2024	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting , Philadelphia, NJ, USA
Jul 2024	XVII Congreso de la Asociación Española de Ciencia Política y de la Administración, Burgos, Spain
Jan 2024	Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Ankara, Turkey
Sep 2023	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Feb 2023	Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress, Basel, Switzerland
Sep 2022	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Aug 2022	European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, Innsbruck, Austria
Mar 2022	International Studies Association Annual Convention, Nashville, TN, USA (<i>virtual panel</i>)
Dec 2021	TRICI-Law Conference on <i>The Interpretation of Customary International Law: Methods, Interpretative Choices and the Role of Coherence</i> , The Hague, The Netherlands (<i>held online</i>)
Apr 2021	Behavioral Approaches in International Law (<i>online</i>)
Apr 2021	International Studies Association Annual Convention (<i>online</i>)
Mar 2020	International Studies Association Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, USA (<i>cancelled</i>)
Apr 2019	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, USA
Mar 2019	International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada
Nov 2018	Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Apr 2018	International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, USA
Jun 2017	British International Studies Association Annual Conference, Brighton, UK
Jun 2016	European Political Science Association Annual Convention, Brussels, Belgium
Mar 2016	International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, USA

INVITED/IN-HOUSE TALKS

June 2026	Comparative Public Trust in Courts (with Michal Ovádek), Comparative, Political Economy and Behaviour (CPEB), University College London (<i>upcoming</i>)
May 2026	They Have Gone Too Far This Time: Understanding Perceptions of Maximalism and Foreign Policy Preferences, Conflict & Change, University College London
Apr 2026	International Courts and Selective Restraint in Times of Backlash, International Human Rights Early Career Forum, University College London
Feb 2026	Beyond All Boundaries: Domestic Political Institutions and Maximalist Claims in World Politics, Security Studies Programme Speaker Series, University College London
May 2025	Understanding Perceptions of Maximalism and Foreign Policy Preferences, Institutions and Political Actors Seminar, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Mar 2024	They Have Gone Too Far This Time, Institutions and Political Actors Seminar, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Dec 2023	The Defocalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation Practices (with Ezgi Yildiz), Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
May 2023	Global Complexity in and across Time, Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland
Dec 2022	Haifa Research Center for Maritime Policy & Strategy, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel
Oct 2022	Can States Shape Courts' Interpretative Preferences? Evidence from the European Court of Human Rights, Change and Resilience in International Law, Bogis-Bossey (with Ezgi Yildiz)
Oct 2022	Taking it to Court: Uncovering Patterns in Judicialized Dispute Settlement, The Danish Research Council's Center of Excellence for International Courts (iCourts), University of Copenhagen
Sep 2022	Creation of Complexity by Focal Institutions Over Time, Global Complexity in and Across Time Workshop, Université de Montréal (with Ezgi Yildiz)
Nov 2021	The De-focalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation Practices, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Geneva
Dec 2020	Does International Law Help Eradicate Domestic Violence? Assessing the Impact of International Legal Instruments on Domestic Policies, Gender Seminar Series, Gender Center, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland (with Ezgi Yildiz)
Nov 2020	New Applications of the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) Data (<i>online</i>)
Nov 2019	Next Stages of the Issue Correlates of War (ICOW) Data Project, Manhattan, KS, USA
Jan 2018	Estimating Power's Influence on Networks (EPION) Symposium, Geneva, Switzerland

REVIEW & EDITING EXPERIENCE

<i>Reviewed for</i>	<i>American Political Science Review, Foreign Policy Analysis, Global Perspectives, International Interactions, Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>
<i>Contributing editor for</i>	<i>Journal of Public and International Affairs</i> (Dec 2015 – Apr 2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Studies Association, American Political Science Association, Asociación Española de Ciencia Política y de la Administración, European Political Science Society

TRAINING

Sep 2025	<i>From Text Embeddings to LLMs: Advanced Text Analysis with Python</i> , GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim
Apr 2025	<i>Advanced Geospatial Data Processing for Social Scientists</i> , GESIS Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Online
Feb 2025	<i>Aprenentatge Basat en Problemes</i> , CLIK - Center for Learning Innovation and Knowledge, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
Dec 2024	<i>Dissenya el Pla d'Aprenentatge de la teva assignatura</i> , CLIK - Center for Learning Innovation and Knowledge, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
Oct 2024	<i>Summer Institute in Computational Social Science</i> , Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona
Feb 2024	<i>Research Ethics and Personal Data Protection</i> , Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona
Mar 2022	<i>Career Course on Articulating Your Teaching Philosophy</i> , ISA 2022, Nashville
Oct 2021	<i>Applied Data Science: Machine Learning</i> , École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
Aug 2020	<i>Teaching and Learning Strategies at a Distance</i> , Geneva Graduate Institute

Oct 2019	<i>Introduction to programming and data science with Python</i> , Geneva Graduate Institute
Aug 2019	<i>Linear Algebra</i> , <i>Introduction to Machine Learning</i> , and <i>Introduction to Deep Learning</i> at the Institute of Computational & Mathematical Engineering (ICME) Fundamentals of Data Science Summer Workshops, Stanford University
May 2019	<i>Visualizing and Exploring Network Data with Cytoscape</i> , Stanford University
Oct 2018	<i>Introduction to ArcGIS</i> , <i>Data Wrangling in R with tidyverse</i> , <i>From Locality to Lat Long: Geocoding Strategies for Research Data</i> & <i>Hand-on Intro to Data Cleaning with OpenRefine</i> , Stanford University
Jun 2017	<i>Science and Application of Continental Shelf Delimitation</i> , and <i>Technical Aspects of Maritime Baselines, Limits and Boundaries</i> , King's College London
Feb 2017	<i>Writing Workshop for Teaching Assistants</i> , Geneva Graduate Institute
Mar 2016	<i>Career Course on Simulations and Games in International Relations</i> , ISA 2016, Atlanta
Dec 2015	<i>Teaching Skills Workshop for Teaching Assistants</i> , Geneva Graduate Institute
Nov 2015	<i>Introduction to LaTeX</i> , University of Neuchâtel
Jun 2015	<i>Interdisciplinarity and Global Governance</i> , Global Studies Institute, University of Geneva

SERVICE

Mar 2024 – Present	Member of the Editorial Committee of Marine Regions
Jul 2021 – Dec 2022	Responsible for the setup of a social science methods sequence for international lawyers, Department of International Law, the Graduate Institute, Geneva & European Society of International Law Interest Group on Social Sciences and International Law (with Ezgi Yildiz)
Jun 2021 – Mar 2022	Part of the team responsible for the conception and development of the Geneva Graduate Institute's Tech Hub
Apr 2016 – Feb 2017	Member of the student committee for hiring a professor of Humanitarian Studies, Geneva Graduate Institute and Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action
Sep 2015 – Aug 2016	Teaching assistants' representative, Department of International Relations/Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute
Sep 2015 – Aug 2016	Head Teaching Assistant & Coordinator of the Political Science Colloquium Series, Department of International Relations/Political Science, Geneva Graduate Institute
Mar 2014 – Aug 2015	Vice-President of the Graduate Institute Student Association, Geneva Graduate Institute

IT SKILLS

Proficient in	LaTeX, Python, R, Stata
Experience with	ArcGIS, QGIS, Cytoscape, NVivo, OpenRefine, Palladio

LANGUAGES

Fluent	English, French, Turkish (native)
Advanced	Catalan (C2, 2025), Spanish (C1, 2023), Modern Greek (T2 [C2], 2011)
Upper intermediate	Italian

REFERENCES

Cédric Dupont	Paul Huth
Professor of International Relations/Political Science Geneva Graduate Institute cedric.dupont@graduateinstitute.ch	Professor of Government and Politics University of Maryland phuth@umd.edu

Kenneth Schultz

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