

# IDLIR LIKA

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Ibn Haldun University  
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## EMPLOYMENT

### Ibn Haldun University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, September 12, 2023 – September 10, 2025

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, September 11, 2025 - present

Director of Center for Conflict Analysis and Peace Studies

### Istanbul Gelişim University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, October 7, 2020 – September 15, 2023

## EDUCATION

### Koç University

**PhD**, Political Science and International Relations, January 2020 (GPA: 4.00)

*Dissertation*: “Nationhood Cleavages and Ethnic Conflict: A Comparative Analysis of Postcommunist Bulgaria, Montenegro, and North Macedonia”

*Committee*: Şener Aktürk (supervisor), Murat Somer, Şuhnaz Yılmaz, Ioannis Grigoriadis, and Hüseyin Alptekin

### Bilkent University

**M.A.** International Relations, July 2015 (GPA: 3.98)

*Thesis*: “The Quest for Security: Soviet Union’s Demands from Turkey, 1945-1946”

*Committee*: Onur İşçi (supervisor), Samuel J. Hirst, Paul Williams

### Middle East Technical University

**B.Sc.** International Relations, June 2013 (Valedictorian, GPA: 3.97)

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

comparative politics; diplomatic history; ethnic conflict; nationalism; regime transitions; qualitative research methods; Southeast European / Balkan politics

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Idlir Lika. 2024. *Dünya Savunma Sanayii Trendleri*. Istanbul: Türkiye Araştırmaları Vakfı Yayınları (co-authored with Hüseyin Alptekin, Halil Kürşad Aslan, Merve Dilek Dağdelen and Merve Şahin)

### Articles in Journals included in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)

1. (2024) “Against the Odds: Explaining Mainstream Montenegrin Parties Domination of Bosniak and Albanian Minority Representation in Postcommunist Montenegro”, *Nationalities Papers*, Vol. 52, No. 6, pp. 1351-1374

<https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2024.81>

2. (2023) “Nationhood cleavages and ethnic conflict: A comparative analysis of postcommunist Bulgaria, Montenegro, and North Macedonia”, *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 347-374

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2021.1980263> (This article was selected as runner-up for the 2021 “Richard Gillespie Mediterranean Prize”)

3. (2022) “Varieties of resilience and side effects of disobedience: Cross-national patterns of survival during the coronavirus pandemic”, *Problems of Post-Communism*, Vol. 69, No. 1, pp. 1-13 (co-authored with Şener Aktürk)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2021.1894405>

4. (2022) “The Puzzle of Turkish Minority Representation, Nationhood Cleavage, and Politics of Recognition in Bulgaria, Greece, and North Macedonia” *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 1-28 (co-authored with Şener Aktürk)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2020.1750269>

### **Book Reviews published in SSCI journals**

1. Harris Mylonas and Maya Tudor (2025): Varieties of Nationalism: Communities, Narratives, Identities, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 3, pp. 665-667

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2302856>

2. Mark R. Beissinger (2023): The Revolutionary City: Urbanization and the Global Transformation of Rebellion, *Democratization*, Vol. 30, No. 7, pp. 1425-1427

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2023.2228729>

3. Krista A. Goff (2022): Nested Nationalism: Making and Unmaking Nations in the Soviet Cucasus, *Nationalities Papers*, Vol. 50, No. 5, pp. 1038-1040

<https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2022.38>

4. Maria Koinova (2022): Diaspora entrepreneurs and contested states, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 13, pp. 2575-2577

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2022.2045031>

5. Ahmet Erdi Öztürk (2023): Religion, identity, and power: Turkey and the Balkans in the twenty-first century, *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 28, No.4, pp. 676-677

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2021.2009251>

### **Book Reviews published in other journals**

1. Ildir Lika (2023): First Nationalism then Identity: On Bosnian Muslims and their Bosniak Identity, *Insight Turkey*, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 288-290

### **Book Chapters**

1. Ildir Lika (2025) “Process tracing the political course, ideology and transformation of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) in postcommunist Montenegro” in Sevba Abdula and Ali Erken (eds.), *Balkan Politics: Political Parties in the Balkans, 1991-2024*, pp. 153-170. Skopje: IDEFE Publications

2. Idir Lika (2024) “Regional reactions to the Arab Uprisings: Evidence from the Balkans” in Şener Aktürk and Tarek Cherkaoui (eds.), *The Arab Spring: Past, Present, and Future*, pp. 317-337. Istanbul: TRT World Research Centre
3. Idir Lika (with Keisuke Wakizaka) (2022) “The modernization in Japan: from feudal system to modern nation-state”, in Yavuz Çilliler & Emre Gündoğdu (eds.) *Comparative Modernization*, pp. 191-206. Ankara: Nobel Yayıncılık

## Policy Report

(2020) “Bulgaristan Türklerinin Kültürel, Ekonomik, ve Siyasi Sorunları, Talepleri, Çözüm Önerileri” (co-authored with Hüseyin Alptekin, Merve Dilek Dağdelen, Viktorya Erdoğu) Istanbul: SETA.

<https://setav.org/assets/uploads/2020/02/R153.pdf>

## Analyses Written for Think Tanks

“Repercussions of the Ukraine War for Kosovo and Regional Stability in the Balkans” *Al Sharq Strategic Research*, 22 August 2022

<https://research.sharqforum.org/2022/08/22/ukraine-war-for-kosovo/>

## Opinion Pieces

“Ukraine war and right-wing populism in Europe”, *Anadolu Agency*, 11 April 2022

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-ukraine-war-and-right-wing-populism-in-europe/2560689>

“Why cultural backlash against Russians is wrong?”, *Anadolu Agency*, 7 March 2022

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-why-cultural-backlash-against-russians-is-wrong/2526384>

“Déjà vu: Assessing the recent political tensions in Montenegro”, *Anadolu Agency*, 17 September 2021

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/opinion-d%C3%A9j%C3%A0-vu-assessing-the-recent-political-tensions-in-montenegro/2367173>

“Early Elections: Where is Kosovo Heading?”, *Politics Today*, 13 February 2021

<https://politicstoday.org/early-elections-where-is-kosovo-heading/>

“February 14 elections and Kosovo’s never-ending problems”, *Anadolu Agency*, 21 January 2021

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/opinion-february-14-elections-and-kosovo-s-never-ending-problems/2117692>

“Bulgarian veto and EU’s growing credibility problem”, *Anadolu Agency*, 11 December 2020

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/opinion-bulgarian-veto-and-eu-s-growing-credibility-problem/2073623#>

“Kosovo-Serbia ‘Agreement’: Lots of noise, little substance”, *Anadolu Agency*, 14 September 2020

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-kosovo-serbia-agreement-lots-of-noise-little-substance/1972892#>

“The collapse of the monolith and the Montenegrin Spring?”, *Anadolu Agency*, 4 September 2020  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-the-collapse-of-the-monolith-and-the-montenegrin-spring/1963118>

“Hard times for breaking former communists’ power monopoly in Montenegro”, *Anadolu Agency*, 20 August 2020  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-hard-times-for-breaking-former-communists-power-monopoly-in-montenegro/1947793>

“Corona elections in North Macedonia produce ambivalent results”, *Anadolu Agency*, 22 July 2020  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-corona-elections-in-north-macedonia-produce-ambivalent-results/1918757>

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

*Albanian* (native), *English* (fluent; PTE Academic score 90/90), *Turkish* (fluent), *Italian* (intermediate), *French* (intermediate), *Arabic* (beginner)

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Ibn Haldun University**

POLS 101 Political Science	Fall 2023
POLS 445 Nationalism and Ethnicity	Spring 2024
POLS 535 Identity, Ethnicity and Nationalism	Spring 2024

### **Istanbul Gelişim University**

POL 101 Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2020; Summer 2021; Fall 2021; Fall 2022
POL 109 Introduction to Political Science	Fall 2022; Spring 2023
POL 207 Diplomatic History I	Fall 2020; Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022
POL 208 Diplomatic History II	Spring 2021; Spring 2022; Spring 2023
POL 433 Ethnicity and Nationalism	Fall 2020; Fall 2021
POL 344 Balkans and Turkey	Spring 2021
POL 450 Current Issues in World Politics	Spring 2021; Spring 2022; Spring 2023

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- February – August 2019 Principal Investigator in YTB (Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities)- funded project “Turkey’s Ethnic Kin Policy in Bulgaria” (135,300 TL ~ 23,000 euros) (with Hüseyin Alptekin at Istanbul Şehir University as co-investigator)
- April 2019 Field Research in Montenegro. Conducted high-level elite interviews in Podgorica and Ulcinj
- February 2019 Field Research in the Republic of North Macedonia. Conducted high-level elite interviews in Skopje and Gostivar
- November 2018 Field Research in the Republic of Bulgaria. Conducted high-level elite interviews  
May - August 2019 in Sofia, Plovdiv, Razgrad, and Kardzhali
- 2016- 2019 Research Assistant for “Regimes of Ethnicity: A Global Database of Ethnic Demography and State Policies on Ethnicity” Şener Aktürk, "Regimes of Ethnicity Data Set, v2015." Online  
<http://home.ku.edu.tr/~sakturk/indexregimesofethnicity.htm> (2015)
- November 2014 Conducted Archival Research in *Prime Ministerial Republican Archives*  
-April 2015 (*BCA*) and *National Library*, Ankara

## METHODOLOGY TRAINING

### Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Sciences

Attended the methodology training course “Case Study Research Methods” offered by Professor Andrew Bennett, Georgetown University, USA (24-28 July 2017, Oslo, Norway)

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Democratic representation without rights: Explaining the democratic deficit in the case of ethnic Turks in postcommunist Bulgaria”, *First Balkan Studies Congress*, Skopje, North Macedonia, September 17-19, 2021

“Nationhood Cleavages and Ethnic Conflict in Postcommunist Countries” *Fourth Annual European Symposium on Turkey*, Stockholm, November 29-December 1, 2018

“Nationhood Cleavages and Ethnic Conflict: A Comparative Analysis of Postcommunist Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Montenegro” *Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Sciences*, Oslo, July 28, 2017

## **INVITED TALKS**

“Democratization, Rule of Law and the Fight against Corruption in the Balkans: Challenges and Opportunities”, *TRT World Research Centre Tea Talks*, 30 April 2024, Istanbul

“Balkans under the Spotlight: Resolving Disputes and Tensions”, *7th TRT World Forum Expert Roundtable*, 9 December 2023, Istanbul

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Erasmus+ KA131 EU Staff Mobility for Teaching, University of Deusto, October 7 – 11, 2024.

*Dissertation Fieldwork Grant*, 2018-2019, Koç University Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities (12 000 TL ~ 2,500 euros)

*The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Graduate Fellowship for International Students*, 2015-2019 (monthly stipend 2800 TL)

*MA Scholarship*, 2013-2015, Bilkent University

*High Honor Student* Ranked Third among the 2401 graduates of the Bachelor’s degree programs at the Middle East Technical University in the 2012-2013 academic year with a cumulative grade point average of 3.97/4.00

*High Honor Student* Ranked First among the 63 graduates of the Bachelor’s degree in the Department of International Relations in the 2012-2013 academic year with a cumulative grade point average of 3.97/4.00 (Middle East Technical University)