

FIRUZE SIMAY SEZGIN

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EDUCATION

2016 - 2023: Koç University

PhD in International Relations and Political Science

- Dissertation: *Beyond First Glance: Exploring the Impact of Speed and Size in the Initial Deployments of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*

2013 - 2015: Sabancı University

MA in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

- Thesis: *Speed, Size and Composition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations' Initial Deployments*

2009 - 2013: Sabancı University

BA in Social and Political Sciences

- Writer and member of the editorial board at Sabancı University's magazine, *SuDergi* (September 2012 to January 2014).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sep. 2023 – Present

Bilkent University, Department of International Relations

Postdoctoral Researcher

Project title: "Citizen-Centered Counterterrorism Strategies and Their Effectiveness."
TÜBİTAK 2247-D National Young Researchers Program Scholarship.

Main Duties:

- Project Planning: Developing a comprehensive project plan outlining the project's scope, timeline, and deliverables.
- Team Coordination: Leading a team of researchers (including PhD candidates, MA students, and interns).
- Research Design: Collaborating with the principal investigator to design datasets, surveys, and other necessary studies, ensuring they adhere to scientific methodology and ethical standards.
- Data Collection and Coding: Oversee data collection and data coding processes, ensuring accuracy and reliability of data.
- Reporting: Preparing regular progress reports for TÜBİTAK, which is the main funding agency. Highlighting key milestones, challenges, and solutions in those reports.

Mar. 2021 – Aug. 2023

Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Finance Office

Analyst - Istanbul Finance Center Department

The Istanbul Finance Centre (IFC) is a financial ecosystem responding to dynamic global and regional needs and the needs of the qualified workforce. The mission of the IFC is to contribute to the development of a sustainable financial environment.

Main Duties:

- National and IFC-specific strategy building and project development;
- Ensured smooth functioning of the workflow in the Strategy department;
- Coordinated and performed academic research related to financial markets to contribute to IFC's institutional reputation;
- Prepared reports, summary records, public speeches, and press releases.

Aug. – Oct. 2022 **Voytes Türkiye**

Project-Based Researcher

Conducted research on aerospace and defense industries, and the Turkish entrepreneurship ecosystem for a project of Saha Istanbul.

Jan. – June 2021

Uppsala University, Department of Peace and Conflict Research

Visiting Researcher

Conducted research on UN peacekeeping operations with Professor Lisa Hultman.

Sep. 2016 – June 2021

Koç University, Department of Political Science and International Relations

Research Assistant: Conducted research on the following topics:

- International organizations and conflict (Spring 2021, Spring 2020-Fall 2020, Fall 2019)
- Conducted survey online and in-person to students, and analyzed results for an EU Horizon 2020 project (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- Social network (Spring 2018)
- Economic voting (Spring 2017-Fall 2017)
- International organizations (Fall 2017),
- Institutional trust and social network (Fall 2016)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sep. 2016 – June 2021

Koç University, Department of Political Science and International Relations

Teaching Assistant: Supervised students' final projects, graded assignments, and taught several sessions for the following modules:

- Research Methods in Social Sciences (Spring 2021)
 - Led sessions on survey methods and SPSS
- International Relations Capstone (Spring 2020-Fall 2020)
- Research Methods in Social Sciences (Fall 2018-Fall 2019)
 - Led sessions on survey methods and SPSS
- Institutions and Politics of the European Union (Spring 2018)
- Introduction to Political Science (Spring 2017)
- Challenges Facing Young Democracies (Fall 2016)

Sept. 2013 – Jan. 2015

Sabancı University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Teaching Assistant: Supervised students' final projects and graded assignments for the following modules:

- Culture and Conflict (Fall 2014)
- Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution (Fall 2014)
- Research Methods (Spring 2014)
- Third-Party Roles in Peace Processes (Spring 2014)
- International Negotiation (Fall 2013).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

September 2024 – August 2025 (Planned): TÜBİTAK 2219 International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program for Turkish Citizens (28500 EUR)

June 2024: Travel Grant for ISA 2024 Joint International Conference

September 2023 – Present: TÜBİTAK 2247-D National Young Researchers Program Scholarship for the Postdoctoral Researcher position at the Bilkent University

September 2020 – August 2021: TÜBİTAK 2214-A International Research Fellowship Programme for PhD Students (25000 EUR)

February 2020: ECPR Winter School 2020 Participation Grant (5000 EUR)

September 2016 – June 2023: Koç University Fellowship

March 2017 – July 2021: Koç University Travel Scholarship (EuPRA Conference in March 2017, ISA Conference in March 2019, EuPRA Conference in October 2019, ECPR Winter School in February 2020, IPSA Conference in July 2021)

September 2013 – June 2015: Sabancı University Fellowship

Spring 2012 – Spring 2013: Sabancı University Dean List, High Honor (3 semesters)

Fall 2011: Sabancı University Dean List, Honor

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. 2022. “The European Union’s Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.” *International Peacekeeping*, 29(3): 351-383.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13533312.2022.2084386>

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay, & ÖZDURAK, Caner. 2023. “Are Crypto Assets Connected to Real World Shocks? The Nexus Between Terrorist Attacks, Bitcoin and NFTs.” *Journal of Economic Policy Researches*, 10(1), 113-132. <https://iupress.istanbul.edu.tr/en/journal/jepr/article/are-crypto-assets-connected-to-real-world-shocks-the-nexus-between-terrorist-attacks-bitcoin-and-nfts>

Cited in *The Economist* (Issue November 25th – December 1st, 2023), Article Title: “Inside Hamas’s sprawling financial empire.”

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay, GÜMÜŞSOY, Yunus, & KALIN, Ilker. “Innovative Financing for UN Peacekeeping Operations: An ERC-20/ERC-404 Token Proposal.” Under Review in *The Review of International Organizations*.

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay & KAYA, Sümeyye. “Beyond Borders: Turkey's UN Peacekeeping Contributions as Instruments of Foreign Policy.” Manuscript submitted for an edited book by TÜBA Publications (in the Web of Science Book Citation Index).

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay & KAYA, Sümeyye. “Citizenship and Women Discourses in Public Service Announcements: The Case of Turkey.” Under Review in *Citizenship Studies*.

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay & ÖZDURAK, Caner. *Türkiye Ekonomisinin Yeni Yüzü: Sektörel Analizler ve Öneriler* (English: *The New Face of Turkish Economy: Sectoral Analyses and Recommendations*). Book in Publication by Skala Yayıncılık in Turkish.

KALIN, Ilker, SEZGIN, Firuze Simay, & PEARSON, Frederic. “The Power of Reputation Building: Why Governments Favor Some Terror Groups over Others.” Under Review in *Defence and Peace Economics*.

Working Papers:

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. “UN Peacekeeping Operations’ Initial Deployments and Resolutions Dataset.” Working paper. To be submitted to *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Planned submission date: May 2024.

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. “Decision Making on UN Peacekeeping Operations: A Comparative Case Study of Turkey and Norway.” Working paper. To be submitted to *International Peacekeeping*. Planned submission date: July 2024.

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. “The Elephant in the Room: China’s Role in the UN Peacekeeping Operations.” Working paper. To be submitted to *Chinese Journal of International Politics*. Planned submission date: June 2024.

Books in Progress:

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. *Fast Tracks to Lasting Peace: Unraveling the UN's Initial Peacekeeping Puzzle*. The book proposal will be submitted to *Oxford University Press*. Planned submission date: May 2024.

Work in Progress:

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. “Mission Readiness: A Comprehensive Study of UN Peacekeeping’s First Moves.”

SEZGIN, Firuze Simay. “Global Divide and its Implications on UN Peacekeeping Initial Deployment Strategies.”

BOCSKAY, Zsofia, SEZGIN, Firuze Simay & TOKDEMIR, Efe. “Navigating Loyalties: Exploring the Role of Clientelism in Changing Public Attitudes toward Insurgent Groups.”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Presentation titled “Speed, Size and Composition of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations’ Initial Deployments” (Master’s Thesis), European Peace Research Association Meeting (EuPRA), Norway, September 2015.

Presentation titled “Initial Deployments of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the Divide Between North and South”, German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies/European Peace Research Association Meeting, Germany, March 2017.

Presentation titled “Speed, Size and Composition of the Initial Deployments of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations” (Co-authored with Asst. Prof. Kerim Can Kavaklı), International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Canada, March 2019.

Presentation titled “The European Union’s Role in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations”,

European Peace Research Association Meeting (EuPRA), Italy, October 2019

Eurasian Peace Science Conference (EPSC), Turkey, January 2020

International Political Science Association (IPSA), Online, July 2021

Presentation titled “Speed, Size and Composition of Initial Deployments of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations”, 10th Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Online, January 2022.

Presentation titled “Are the Digital Financial Assets Connected to Real World Shocks? The Nexus Between Terrorist Attacks, Cryptocurrency Markets and NFTs” (Co-authored with Caner Özdurak), Economic Research and Financial Markets Congress, Turkey, May 2022.

Presentation titled “A Betting Game for Peace: Monetizing UN Peacekeeping Operations via Crypto Assets” (Co-authored with Caner Özdurak),

7th the Economic Research and Financial Markets Congress with International Participation (IERFM), Eskişehir, April 2023.

10th Yıldız International Social Sciences Congress, Online, December 2023.

Presentation titled “Beyond First Glance: Exploring the Impact of Speed and Size in the Initial Deployments of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations”, Network of European Peace Scientists (NEPS) 22nd Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, Italy, June 2023.

Presentation titled “Financing UN Peacekeeping Operations with Crypto Assets: A Signaling Game Design”, 12th Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Turkey, January 2024.

Presentation titled “Navigating Loyalties: Exploring the Role of Clientelism in Changing Public Attitudes toward Insurgent Groups” (Co-authored with Zsofia Bocskay and Efe Tokdemir), CEEISA-ISA 2024, Croatia, June 2024.

Presentation titled “Global Divide and its Implications on UN Peacekeeping Initial Deployment Strategies”, CEEISA-ISA 2024, Croatia, June 2024.

CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

February 2020 ECPR Winter School – Bamberg, Germany

Event History and Survival Analysis, Introduction to R (for participants with some prior knowledge in command-line programming).

March 2022 Project Management Principles and Practices Specialization

Initiating and Planning Projects, Budgeting and Scheduling Projects, Managing Project Risks and Challenges, Project Management. UC Irvine, Certificate ID: LPXST34C2FSJ.

January 2023 Career Success Specialization

Effective Problem-Solving and Decision-Making, Essentials of Entrepreneurship: Thinking & Action, Work Smarter, Not Harder: Time Management for Personal & Professional Productivity, Career Success Project, The Art of Negotiation, Finance for Non-Financial Professionals, Project Management: The Basics for Success, Fundamentals of Management, High-Impact Business Writing, Communication in the 21st Century Workplace. UC Irvine, Certificate ID: M8B7HP5VVRWD.

EXTRACURRICULAR TRAININGS LED

2 – 4 May 2014 International Training on Conflict Resolution

3-day training on conflict resolution with a focus on negotiation and mediation. UNICEF, UN Habitat, and the International Youth Leadership Academy supported the international event.

15 October 2014 Simulation Exercise

Conducted a simulation exercise on a conflict for a group of master’s students from Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan.

OTHER INFORMATION

Computer Skills: Atlas TI, Python, R, SPSS, Stata.

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate).

Memberships: Network of European Peace Scientists, Peace Science Society (International), Society for Political Methodology, Women in Conflict Studies, Women in International Security.

Internships: Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Finance Office (June to November 2020), Naviga Yayıncılık (June 2013), SuDergi (September 2012 to January 2014), Spor Hayat (December 2011).

Voluntary Work: UN Women (September to December 2023), International Relations and Diplomacy Club (September 2012 to June 2014), Civic Involvement Project (September 2010 to June 2011).