

MS. CIGDEM V. SIRIN

Contact Information

Department of Political Science
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Status: U.S. Permanent Resident

Academic Record

Ph.D., Texas A&M University, expected May 2009
Committee: Nehemia Geva (Chair), Ahmer Tarar, Alex Pacek, Matthew Hoddie,
and Arnold Vedlitz
Dissertation: *Public Support for Military Interventions across Levels of Political
Sophistication and Intervention Phases*
B.A., Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2003

Areas of Research Interest

Foreign policy decision making
Militarized conflicts
Ethnic conflict and conflict resolution
Political psychology
Experimental methods

Teaching Interests

International relations, including foreign policy decision making
Ethnic conflict and conflict resolution
Comparative politics
Political psychology
Research methods, particularly experimentation

Publications

“Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Intergroup Conflicts and Their Resolution,”
with Nehemia Geva. In *Intergroup Conflicts and Their Resolution: Social
Psychological Perspective*, edited by Daniel Bar-Tal. Psychology Press, Frontiers
of Psychology Series (forthcoming).
“Interest in Politics,” and “Marital Status and Voting Behavior.” Entries in
Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior, edited by

Kenneth F. Warren. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (2008).

Revise and Resubmit

“Scarcity-Induced Civil War: Examining the Interaction of Environmental Scarcity with 'Ethnic' Population Pressures.” Under “revise and resubmit” at *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.

Manuscripts Under Review

“Cohesive, Not Diversionary: The Source of Domestic Instability and Utility of the External Use of Force.” Under review.

“A Duet of Identities: European Identity alongside Nationality in the Postcommunist World.” Under review.

“Political Sophistication and Negative Emotions in Ethnic Conflicts: an Experimental Analysis,” with Nehemia Geva. Under review.

“A Dangerous Cocktail: The Interactive Effects of Environmental Scarcity, Proportional Representation, and Minority Size on the Outbreak of Civil War,” with Zowie Hay. Under review.

Works in Progress

“Diffusion of Genocide Responsibility: The Bystander Effect in Interventions to Ethnic Conflict.”

“Constraint versus Control: Variations in Autocracies and Casualties,” with Michael T. Koch.

“Reactions to International Terror: Thematic Relevance of Negative Affect,” with Nehemia Geva.

“Internal vs. External Attribution: How Presidential Framing Decisions Influence Issue-Specific Approval,” with José D. Villalobos.

“Examining the Potential Influence of Live Information Processing on Public Opinion and Policymaking,” with José D. Villalobos.

Research Experience

Research assistant to Nehemia Geva, professor of political science, Texas A&M University, Fall 2005-Spring 2008. Responsibilities include: data collection and research, as well as assisting with and co-directing experimental and computerized process-tracing projects.

Research assistant to Michael T. Koch, professor of political science, Texas A&M University, Fall 2007-Spring 2008.

Research assistant to Robert Harmel, professor of political science, Texas A&M University, Fall 2004-Fall 2006. Responsibilities include: data collection and research, as well as coding for the Party Change Project (co-directed by Robert Harmel and Kenneth Janda, see <http://janda.org/ICPP/ICPP1990/index.htm>).

Research assistant to Alex Pacek, professor of political science, Texas A&M University, Fall 2004-Summer 2005.

Certified Researcher, Texas A&M University, Institutional Review Board.

Participant, Workshop on Grant Writing: “How to Write Proposals and Win Research Funding: Strategies for Starting Your Career as a Researcher,” October 2006, Texas A&M University.

Participant, Workshop on Social Choice, T. Clifton Morgan, Winter Institute of Foreign Policy Decision Making, January 2005, Texas A&M University.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, POLS 312: Ethnic Conflict, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University (beginning Fall 2008). See syllabus:

http://people.tamu.edu/~cigdemsirin/POLS_312_Cigdem_Sirin.pdf

Guest Lectures

POLS 209: Introduction to Political Science Research, “Tests for Association,” November 2006, Texas A&M University.

POLS 209: Introduction to Political Science Research, “Research Examples,” December 2006, Texas A&M University.

Other Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Academy, Teaching Certificate, Texas A&M University, April 2008.

Graduate Workshop on Writing Syllabi, “Writing Syllabi that Engage and Motivate Students,” Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University, August 7, 2007.

Graduate Workshop on Teaching, “Alternatives to Lecture: Using Simulations and Other Techniques in the Classroom,” Michael T. Koch, Texas A&M University, March 30, 2007.

Conference Papers

“Internal vs. External Attribution: How Presidential Framing Decisions Influence Issue-Specific Approval,” with José D. Villalobos, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, to be presented in August 2008.

“Public Support for Military Interventions across Levels of Political Sophistication and Phases of Intervention: A Statistical Analysis,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, to be presented in August 2008.

“Public Support for Military Interventions across Levels of Political Sophistication and Phases of Intervention: A Formal Model,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2008.

“Constraint versus Control: Variations in Autocracies and Casualties,” with Michael T. Koch, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2008.

“Reactions to International Terror: Thematic Relevance of Negative Affect,” with Nehemia Geva, Annual Meeting of International Studies Association, San Francisco, April 2008.

- “The Effects of Proportional Representation and Minority Size on Scarcity-induced Domestic Conflict,” with Zowie Hay, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 2007.
- “The Impact and Thematic Relevance of Negative Emotions on Foreign Policy Preferences Concerning Terror,” with Nehemia Geva and Keren Sharvit, Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Portland, July 2007.
- “Is it Diversion or Cohesion? The Utility of the External Use of Force and the Source of Domestic Instability,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2007.
- “Political Sophistication and Negative Emotions in Ethnic Conflicts: an Experimental Analysis,” Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Barcelona, Spain, July 2006.
- “Detours to Ethnic Conflict: The Diversionary Effect of Domestic Socio-Political Unrest,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2006.
- “A Duet of Identities: European Identity alongside Nationality in the Postcommunist World,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2006.

Other Conference Activities

- Discussant, Panel on Conflict in Comparative Perspective, Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Portland, July 2007.
- Participant, Roundtable on Increasing the Use of Experimental Methodology in Political Science Research, Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, January 2007.

Invited Talks

- “EU’s Close Encounters with Turkey: Fact versus Fiction” in Panel: “Europe in Turkey, Turkey in Europe?” Sponsored by European Union Center of Excellence and Department of European and Classical Languages and Cultures, Texas A&M University, October 2005.

Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

- College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Dissertation Research Award, Texas A&M University, 2007
- Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, 2007
- Graduate Assistantship, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University, 2004-2008
- Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, 2006

Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association

International Society of Political Psychology

Professional and Departmental Service

Graduate Student Representative, Search Committee in International Relations,
Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University, 2007-2009
Fellow, Graduate Teaching Academy, Texas A&M University, 2007-2008

Computer Skills

Microsoft office programs: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook (Certified)
Statistical analysis programs: STATA, SPSS, and StatView
Webpage design: Dreamweaver – Essentials, CSS, Forms and Assets
Certificate of Completion, “Creating Your Personal Webpage,” Center for
Employee Education, Texas A&M University, June 2008

Language Skills

English – high proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing
Turkish – high proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing
Spanish – intermediate-level skills in speaking, reading, and writing
French – intermediate-level skills in speaking, reading, and writing
German – basic skills in speaking, reading, and writing

References

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Professor Ahmer Tarar
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Dissertation Summary:

Public Support for Military Interventions Across Levels of Political Sophistication and Intervention Phases

In the field of international relations, scholars widely acknowledge that democratic political leaders seek public support for their policy endeavors, particularly when conducting costly policies as in the case of military interventions. As such, a deeper understanding of the factors that affect public support for military interventions is crucial to explaining more definitively the determinants of foreign policy decisions regarding military interventions. However, most studies in this area of research examine the public as an undifferentiated mass that reacts in a uniform manner to changes in the course of an intervention (see Berinsky 2007). Furthermore, scholars often overlook the potentially varying dynamics of public support across different phases of a military intervention. Given these shortcomings in the literature, the objective of this dissertation is to examine the formation of public support as a function of political sophistication levels and intervention stages.

This dissertation is important in both methodological and theoretical terms. Methodologically, the major contribution of my dissertation to the literature is the adoption of a multi-method approach that is almost non-existent in this line of research. By bringing together formal modeling, experimentation, and comprehensive statistical analyses supplemented by qualitative knowledge, I expect to attain more robust empirical results and a more refined theory. Theoretically, the study challenges the dominant mode of research on military interventions in which public opinion is treated as a homogenous mass. Specifically, I aim to explore how major conventional factors related to public support for military interventions—such as casualty rates, the intervention objective (realpolitik issues versus humanitarian reasons), and the type of intervention—play different roles and/or weigh differently in their impact on the opinions of politically sophisticated versus less sophisticated individuals across stages of an intervention.