

**Osman Balkan**  
Curriculum Vitae

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Swarthmore College  
Department of Political Science  
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Swarthmore, PA 19081

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

**SWARTHMORE COLLEGE**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2016 - Present

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies**

Director, Europe Regional Program, 2017 – 2019  
Senior Fellow, 2018 - Present

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, The Huntsman Program for International Studies and Business**

Curriculum Director, 2019 – 2020  
Research and Teaching Fellow, 2021 - 2022

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 2008 – 2009

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**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Ph.D., Political Science (2016), M.A., Political Science (2012)

Dissertation: *Death On The Move: Burial, Repatriation, and the Politics of Belonging Among Muslims in Germany*  
**Honorable Mention, Ernst B. Hass Best Dissertation Award, American Political Science Association**

**REED COLLEGE**

B.A., Political Science, Phi Beta Kappa (2005)  
*Senior Thesis: Islam and Secularism in Turkey and France*

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**RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

Migration, Race and Ethnicity, Citizenship, Identity, Borders, Transnationalism, Islam, Secularism, Necropolitics, Colonialism and Post-Coloniality, Collective Memory, Europe, Middle East, Political Ethnography, Interpretive Methods

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book Projects**

*Dying Abroad: The Political Afterlives of Migration in Europe* (forthcoming with Cambridge University Press)

*Unwanted Bodies: Violence, Sovereignty, and the Politics of Memory* (work in progress)

## Journal Articles

“The Transnational Afterlives of European Muslims.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Vol. 42, No. 1. May 2022 (Forthcoming).

“The Islamic Deathscapes of Germany.” *Project on Middle East Political Science*. Vol. 32 (2018): Pgs. 39 – 43.

“Charlie Hebdo and the Politics of Mourning.” *Contemporary French Civilization*. Vol. 41, No. 2. (2016): Pgs. 253-271.

“Between Civil Society and the State: Bureaucratic Competence and Cultural Mediation Among Muslim Undertakers in Berlin.” *Journal of Intercultural Studies*. Vol. 37, No 2. (2016): Pgs. 147 – 161.

“Burial and Belonging.” *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. Vol. 15, No. 1. (2015): Pgs. 120 – 134.

## Book Chapters

“The Cemetery of Traitors.” In *Turkey’s Necropolitical Laboratory: Democracy, Violence, Resistance*. Ed. Banu Bargu. Edinburgh University Press, 2019: Pgs. 232 – 252.

“Not In My Graveyard: Citizenship, Memory, and Identity in the Wake of the Boston Marathon Bombing.” In *The Democratic Arts of Mourning: Political Theory and Loss*. Eds. David McIvor and Alexander Hirsch. Lexington Press, 2019: Pgs. 83 -101.

“Until Death Do Us Depart: The Necropolitical Work of Turkish Funeral Funds in Germany.” In *Muslims in the UK and Europe*. Ed. Yasir Suleiman. Cambridge University Press, 2015: Pgs. 19 – 28.

## Other Publications

“Death Interrupted: Mourning Across Borders in the Wake of COVID-19.” SSRC *The Immanent Frame*. Sep 2, 2021.

“Bring Out Your Dead: Corpses and the Limits of Sovereign Power in James Martel’s *Unburied Bodies*.” *Theory & Event*. Vol. 22, No. 4. (2019): Pgs. 1125 – 1127.

“Disorder at the Border: Europe’s Migrant Crisis in Comparative Perspective.” (Editor’s Introduction for Symposium) *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*. Vol. 16, No. 1. (2016): Pgs. 118 -120.

Review of *Islam and the Politics of Culture: Memory, Aesthetics, Art*. Eds. Frank Peter et al. *Review of Middle East Studies*. Vol. 49, No. 2. (2015): Pgs. 200 – 202.

Kurtar Tanyilmaz. “The Deep Fracture in the Big Bourgeoisie of Turkey.” In *The Neoliberal Landscape and the Rise of Islamic Capital*. Eds. Neseçan Balkan et al. Berghahn Books, 2014. (Translation: Turkish to English)

“Alcohol.” In *Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States*. Ed. Jocelyn Cesari. Greenwood Press, 2007. Pgs. 48 – 50.

Ülker Gökberk. “Mekan Olarak Geçmiş: Walter Benjamin’in Das Passagen-Werk Çalışmasının İstanbul’un Eski Levanten Semtlerindeki Yankıları.” In *Bellek, Mekan, Imge*. Multilingual Press, 2006. (Translation: English to Turkish)

## AWARDS

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2020	President’s Racial Justice Award, Swarthmore College
2017	Ernst B. Haas Best Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention, American Political Science Association
2016	Best Graduate Student Paper Award, American Anthropological Association
2014	Presidential Leadership Award, University of Pennsylvania
2013	Alvin Z. Rubenstein Memorial Award for Graduate Student Teaching, University of Pennsylvania
2005	Phi Beta Kappa, Reed College

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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2021 – 22	Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Development Grant, Tri-College Faculty Forum
2020 – 21	Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility Engaged Scholarship Grant, Swarthmore College
2019 – 20	Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility Engaged Scholarship Grant, Swarthmore College
2018 – 19	Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Development Grant, Tri-College Faculty Forum
2017 – 18	Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Development Grant, Tri-College Faculty Forum
2015 – 16	SAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2015 – 16	Graduate Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, University of Pennsylvania
2014	Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Research Grant
2014	Penfield Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania,
2013	Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute in European Studies Fellowship, University of Minnesota

## INVITED TALKS (2016 – 2021)

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**University of Coimbra**, Ancient Necropolitics Conference. “Sovereign Power, Necropolitics, and the Limits of the Human.” (Keynote Address, June 2021)

**Harvard University**, Immigration Initiative at Harvard (IIH). “Reimagining Borders: Art, Activism, and the Politics of Commemoration.” (April 2021)

**University of Pennsylvania**, Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies. “How to think (and not think) about Islam and Politics.” (February 2021)

**University of Texas, Austin**, “Bodies Across Borders” (April 2020). Canceled due to COVID-19.

**University of Pennsylvania**, Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies. “Adaptable Authoritarianism: Turkey, Russia, and the European Union in a Shifting Global Order” (November 2019)

**Brown University**, Center for Middle East Studies. “The Political Afterlives of Dead Migrants” (September 2019)

**Columbia University**, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life. “The Biopolitics of Borders: Death, Deterrence, Resistance” (September 2019)

**Boston University**, Institute on Culture, Religion, & World Affairs. “Finding Religion in the Cemetery” (April 2019)

**University of Pennsylvania**, Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy. “Is Immigration Good or Bad for Democracy?” (November 2019)

**Radboud University**, Centrum voor Thanatologie. “Death in the Diaspora” (November 2018)

**Swarthmore College**, “The Jamal Khashoggi Tragedy and Its Implications for the Middle East” (October 2018)

**University of Arizona**, School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies. “Mortuary Practices of Turkish and Kurdish Communities in Germany” (March 2018)

**Pomona College**, Political Science Department. “The Political Afterlives of Terrorism in Europe” (November 2017)

**Haverford College**, Peace Justice and Human Rights Program. “The Right to Have Rites” (November 2017)

**Bryn Mawr College**, Tri-College Political Theory Workshop. “The Cemetery of Traitors” (March 2017)

**University of Copenhagen**, Dept of Political Science. “Charlie Hebdo and the Politics of Mourning” (December 2016)

**Université du Québec à Montréal**, Faculté des Sciences Humaines, “Repatriation, Burial, and the Politics of Belonging among Muslims in Germany,” (November 2016)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2017 – 2021)

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2021	American Political Science Association
2020	American Political Science Association, Middle East Studies Association
2019	American Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association, Middle East Studies Association, Migration, Identity, and Politics in Europe Conference, Philadelphia Europeanists Workshop
2018	American Political Science Association, Council for European Studies, Project on Middle East Political Science “Islam in Europe and the United States” Conference, International Migration, Integration, and Social Cohesion in Europe Conference, Philadelphia Europeanists Workshop
2017	American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Philadelphia Europeanists Workshop

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### American Political Science Association

Summer 2021	Co-Leader, APSA MENA Workshop, <i>Visuality and the Creation of Liminal Spaces of Participation</i>
2021 – 2023	Executive Council Member (elected), Migration and Citizenship Section
2018 – 2020	Executive Council Member (elected), Migration and Citizenship Section
2017 – Present	Co-Founder, Political Ethnography Working Group

### Academic Journals

2017 – Present	Associate Editor, Communications Team, <i>International Political Sociology</i>
2016 – 2019	Associate Editor, Special Features Section, <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i>

Manuscript Reviewer for: *European Journal of International Relations*, *International Political Sociology*, *New Political Science*, *Theory & Event*, *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, *Environment, Space, and Place*, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *Mortality*, *Museum Anthropology*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *Diversité Urbaine*.

## DEPARTMENTAL & CAMPUS SERVICE

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### Advising, Committees, and Mentorship

2020 – 2022	Faculty Advisor / Committee Member, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Swarthmore
2017 – 2019	Lead Faculty Participant, Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary Program, Swarthmore
2016 – Present	Faculty Mentor, Richard Rubin Scholar Mentorship Program, Swarthmore
2016 – Present	Campus Advisor, Critical Languages Scholarship Program, Swarthmore

### Workshops, Events, and Lecture Series

2020 – Present	Co-Organizer, Post-Colonial Working Group, Tri-College Consortium
2019 – 2020	Organizer, Global Mobilities Lecture Series, Swarthmore
2018 – 2019	Organizer, Contending Visions of the Middle East Lecture Series, Swarthmore
2017 – Present	Organizer, Global Ethnographies Workshop, Tri-College Consortium
2017 – 2018	Co-Organizer, Searching For Sanctuary: Borders, Migration, and Human Rights Series
2016 -2017	Organizer, Borders and Migration Faculty Colloquium, Tri-College Consortium
2016 – Present	Organizer, Culture and Identity in Europe Lecture Series, Swarthmore College
2015 – 2016	Coordinator, Penn-Temple European Politics Colloquium, UPenn and Temple U
2014	Organizer, Ruptures, Penn Political Science Graduate Conference
2013 – 2014	Organizer, Political Theory Graduate Workshop, University of Pennsylvania
2012 – 2014	Organizer, Social Theory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania

## PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

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### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Resident Director, Critical Languages Scholarship Turkish Program, Istanbul (2010) and Izmir (2011)  
Selection and Advisory Committee, Critical Languages Scholarship, 2009 – Present

## LANGUAGES

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English (Native), Turkish (Native), French (Intermediate), German (Basic)

## PERSONAL

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Born: Greensboro, NC May 7, 1983. Raised: Clinton, NY and Istanbul, Turkey. Have lived in Ankara, Berlin, Brussels, New York, Portland, Philadelphia, Rennes.

## REFERENCES

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Banu Bargu

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
History of Consciousness Department  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
[bbargu@ucsc.edu](mailto:bbargu@ucsc.edu)

Jeffrey Green

Professor, Department of Political Science  
Director, Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy  
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Ayşe Kaya

Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Swarthmore College  
[akayaor1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:akayaor1@swarthmore.edu)

Carol Nackenoff

Richter Professor of Political Science (retired)  
Department of Political Science  
Swarthmore College  
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Anne Norton

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