

Cem Mert Dalli

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests are grounded in quantitative social science, with two primary focus areas. One stream delves into historical political development, exploring the long-term dynamics of state formation and institutional change over centuries. The second stream is more contemporary, aiming to make causal inferences about the interplay of poverty, aid, and conflict through the use of machine learning, Earth Observation (EO) data, and other innovative methods. By engaging with both historical and current issues, I hope to contribute to a nuanced understanding of political development while building expertise in applying advanced analytical and AI-driven techniques to complex social questions.

EDUCATION

University of Gothenburg

Master of Science in Applied Data Science

Gothenburg, Sweden

Sept. 2021 – Jan. 2025 (expected)

Thesis: "Causal Machine Learning for Development Aid: Analyzing the Sub-National Impact of Chinese and World Bank Assistance in Africa"

Supervisors: Connor T. Jerzak & Adel Daoud

Note: Graduation delayed due to concurrent full-time employment

Lund University

Master of Science in Political Science: Welfare Policies and Management

Lund, Sweden

Sept. 2017 – Aug. 2019

Thesis: "Exploring Determinants of Welfare State Development in Post-Communist States: A Quantitative Comparative Analysis" (*with Distinction*)

Supervisor: Jan Teorell

Boğaziçi University

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & IR and History (Double Major)

Istanbul, Turkey

Sept. 2012 – June 2017

Magna cum laude, GPA: 3.65/4.00

University of Edinburgh

Exchange Student at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Edinburgh, UK

Spring 2016

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Manager

Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg

February 2020 – Present

Gothenburg, Sweden

- Led data management and cleaning efforts across multiple projects, utilizing Python, R, and Stata for data analysis and visualization, improving the quality and accessibility of datasets for academic and policy research
- Oversaw the annual updates of the QoG Standard, QoG OECD, and QoG Basic Datasets, ensuring the accuracy of codebooks and enhancing visualization tools
- Led the preparation and implementation of the QoG Expert Survey 2020, applying Bayesian models (BAM, IRT) for item response corrections and producing country-level estimates
- Compiled specialized datasets, including the QoG EU Regional Dataset and QoG Environmental Indicators Dataset vspace-2pt
- Managed and maintained QoG data visualization tools and archives, ensuring seamless accessibility for academic and policy communities

Research Assistant

STANCE Project, Lund University

October 2018 – January 2020

Lund, Sweden

- Data Manager and expert coder for the Political Leaders through Time (PLT) project, using R and Python to integrate and analyze historical data on global political leaders since 3000 BCE
- Improved data quality through rigorous cleaning and quality checks for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project

- Contributed to data collection and coding for the Finance Ministers project, ensuring detailed records for analyzing political leadership in finance ministries
- Conducted data cleaning for the 2019 and 2020 updates of the V-Dem dataset, refining its historical components

Research Assistant

June 2018 – Oct. 2018

Department of Political Science, Yale University

Lund, Sweden (remote)

- Freelance expert coder for the AKP Legislators Project by Melis Laebens, collecting data on Turkish MPs elected from Erdoğan's ruling party since 2002

Research Intern

Mar. 2018 – June 2018

STANCE Project, Lund University

Lund, Sweden

- Historical data collection for the project *War and State Capacity in the Long Nineteenth Century*, conducted by Jan Teorell, Agustin Goenaga, and Oriol Sabate
- Collected data for the *Foreign Ministers* project, led by Jan Teorell, Hanna Bäck, and A. von Hagen-Jamar

Research Assistant

July 2017 – Jan. 2018

Department of Political Science, MIT

Lund, Sweden (remote)

- Conducted large-scale data collection for the project *Imams and businessmen: Islamist service provision in Turkey* by Professor Fotini Christia and Tuğba Bozçağa

Research Assistant

June 2017 – Sept. 2017

Department of Political Science, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, Turkey

- Assisted with data collection for Yeşim Arat and Şevket Pamuk's book project *Turkey between Democracy and Authoritarianism*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2019

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2016

Department of Political Science, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, Turkey

- Led weekly discussions in *POLS215: Comparative Politics* under Dr. Tolga Simmazdemir's supervision

Project Assistant

Oct. 2015 – May 2016

The Hrant Dink Foundation

Istanbul, Turkey

- Served as interviewer and administrative assistant for the oral history book project *The Sound of Silence IV: Izmit's Armenians Speak*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- I. "Political Leadership within the Life Cycle of Politics" (with John Gerring and Xin Nong).
- II. "The Size and Shape of States: A Historical Perspective" (with John Gerring, Daniel Smith, and Kyosuke Kikuta).
- III. "Leader Tenure through the Ages: The Growth of Constraints" (with Gerring et al.).
- IV. "Political Leaders through Time: A Historical Dataset" (with Gerring et al.).
- V. "Ideological Mapping of Swedish MPs and Political Alignments in the Swedish Parliament" (with Ugur Ozdemir).

PUBLICATIONS

Articles & Reports

1. "The Quality of Government Expert Survey 2020 (Wave III): Report" (with Nistotskaya et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Working Paper Series 2021:2.

Datasets

15. "The Quality of Government Standard Dataset, version Jan24" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>, doi:10.18157/qogstdjan24
14. "The Quality of Government Basic Dataset, version Jan24" (with Dahlberg et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>, doi:10.18157/qogbasjan24
13. "The Quality of Government OECD Dataset, version Jan24" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, <http://www.qog.pol.gu.se>, doi:10.18157/qogoecdjan24
12. "The Quality of Government Standard Dataset, version Jan23" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogstdjan23
11. "The Quality of Government Basic Dataset, version Jan23" (with Dahlberg et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogbasjan23
10. "The Quality of Government OECD Dataset, version Jan23" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogoecdjan23
9. "The Quality of Government Standard Dataset, version Jan22" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogstdjan22
8. "The Quality of Government Basic Dataset, version Jan22" (with Dahlberg et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogbasjan22
7. "The Quality of Government OECD Dataset, version Jan22" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogoecdjan22
6. "The Quality of Government Environmental Indicators Dataset, version Sep21" (with Marina Povitkina and Natalia Alvarado Pachon). University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute.
5. "The Quality of Government Expert Survey 2020 Dataset: Wave III" (with Nistotskaya et al.). University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute, DOI: 10.18157/qoges2020
4. "The Quality of Government Standard Dataset, version Jan21" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogstdjan21
3. "The Quality of Government Basic Dataset, version Jan21" (with Dahlberg et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogbasjan21
2. "The Quality of Government OECD Dataset, version Jan21" (with Teorell et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, doi:10.18157/qogoecdjan21
1. "The Quality of Government EU Regional Dataset, version Nov20" (with Charron et al.). University of Gothenburg: The QoG Institute, <https://www.gu.se/en/quality-government>, doi:10.18157/qogeuregnov20

Book Reviews

1. "Political Behavior and the Emotional Citizen: Participation and Reaction in Turkey", *Turkish Studies*, vol.19, no.4, 2018, pp. 647-650.

Other Publications

7. "Gıda Örgütlenmeleri ile Söyleşi" [Interview with Alternative Food Networks of Istanbul] (with Ezgi Bilge İşli). *Birikim* 321, January 2016, pp. 80-93.
6. "Taşradan TİP Manzaraları" [The Political Mobilization of Workers Party of Turkey in the Anatolia]. *Birikim* 316-17, September 2015, pp. 133-144.
5. "Bavullardan Kataloglara: Boğaziçi Arşivlerine Doğru" [From Suitcases to Catalogs: Through the Boğaziçi Archives]. *Toplumsal Tarih* 257, May 2015, pp. 10-11.

4. “*Jin* Üzerine Notlar.” [Film Review: Notes on Reha Erdem’s *Jin*] *Birikim* 288, April 2013, pp. 72-75.
3. “Türk Pasaportu: “Hiç Değilse Kalabalık Gelmeyinler.” [Turkish Passport: The Turkish Official Narrative on the Return of Jews from Europe during WW2] (with Doğu Tan Aracı). *Birikim* 273, January 2012, pp. 100-104.
2. “Türkiye Sinemasında Kürt İmgesi: “Dünün Doğulu Taşrahları, Bugünün Ressamları.” [The Image of Kurds in the Cinema of Turkey] *Birikim* 270, October 2011, pp. 87-92.
1. “Hüseyin Karabey ile Söyleşi: Hikayeleri Tersine Çevirmek.” [Interview with Kurdish Director Hüseyin Karabey: Inverting the Narratives] *Birikim* 268-69, August-September 2011, pp. 29-36.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. “*Mobilizing European Turks: Turkey’s Soft-balancing towards the EU*”, presented at SNES Spring Conference 2018, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

6. *Designing Lab Experiments*, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 2022.
5. *Introduction to Geospatial Data Processing*, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, March 2020.
4. *Introduction to Machine Learning for the Social Sciences*, Lund University, Sweden, October 2019.
3. *Experimental Methods for the Social Scientists*, Lund University, Sweden, October 2019.
2. *Introduction to R*, Lund University, Sweden, October 2018.
1. *Introduction to Set-Theoretic Methods and Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)*, Lund University, Sweden, October 2018.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Swedish Institute Scholarship for Master’s Studies 2017 - 2019
Awarded to the top 3% of applicants; covers tuition and living expenses (approximately 60,000 USD).
- High Honors Certificate, Boğaziçi University 2017

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate), Swedish (intermediate), Ottoman Turkish (reading ability)
- **Programming Languages and Software:** Python (NumPy, pandas, SciPy, scikit-learn), R (including Shiny for web applications), STATA, SQL, Git, PyTorch, LaTeX, Bash
- **Cluster Computing:** Experience with High-Performance Computing (HPC) clusters and parallel processing
- **Data Analysis and Visualization:** Proficient in libraries such as seaborn, Matplotlib, Plotly (Python), and Shiny (R) for interactive data visualization

REFERENCES

Jan Teorell

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Stockholm University, Sweden
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Connor Jerzak

Assistant Professor, Department of Government
University of Texas at Austin, USA
Email: connor.jerzak@austin.utexas.edu

John Gerring

Professor, Department of Government
University of Texas at Austin, USA
Email: jgerring@austin.utexas.edu

Fotini Christia

Professor, Department of Political Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Email: cfortini@mit.edu