

# Lisel Hintz

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## Academic Positions

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### **Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies**

**Assistant Professor**, International Relations (2017–present)

**Co-Director**, SAIS Media and Politics Initiative (2021–present)

### **Barnard College, Columbia University**

**Visiting Assistant Professor**, International Relations (2016–17)

### **Cornell University**

**Postdoctoral Fellow**, Mario Einaudi Center (2015–16; supervisor: Peter Katzenstein)

## Education

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### **George Washington University**

**Ph.D.** Department of Political Science (2015)

Dissertation: *Fighting for Us, Inside and Out: National Identity Contestation and Foreign Policy in Turkey*

Committee: Marc Lynch (supervisor), Martha Finnemore, Henry Hale, Nathan Brown, ` Sultan Tepe

### **University of Kent (Brussels School of International Studies)**

**M.A.** International Relations (with Distinction, 2003)

### **Northwestern University**

**B.A.** German Language (Magna cum laude, 1999)

## Books and Book Projects

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*Populism and Grand Strategy: Turkey as Righteous Riser* with Berk Esen and Tudor Onea. Under contract with Oxford University Press (monograph, expected 2028).

*Fight Scenes: Pop Culture as Political Battleground in Autocratizing Turkey and Beyond*. Under contract with Cambridge University Press (manuscript due August 2025; 82,000 words completed).

**2018.** *Identity Politics Inside Out: National Identity Contestation and Foreign Policy in Turkey* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018).

\*Selected by Foreign Policy Interrupted as one of the top foreign policy books of 2018

\*Short-listed for Best Book Published in 2018 or 2019 by APSA MENA Politics Section

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

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**Forthcoming.** “Filmmaking the Nation Great Again: Audio-visualizing History in the Authoritarian Toolkit,” *Perspectives on Politics*, accepted 9 July 2025 (Jonas Bergan Draege).

**2025.** “Cooking Shows as Gender Edutainment in Authoritarian Regimes: Recipe for (New) Turkey,” *Politics & Gender*, published online 4 July 2025.

**2024.** “Permissive Prejudice in Localized Authoritarian Consolidation: Evidence from Turkey’s Municipalities,” *Democratization*, Vol. 31, No. 8, (with Harun Ercan).

**2024.** “Academic Solidarity in the Wake of Disaster: Blueprint for an Online Writing Group,” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 57, No. 3.

- 2022.** “Symbolic Amplification and Suboptimal Weapons Procurement: Explaining Turkey’s S-400 Program,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 5 (with David E. Banks).
- 2021.** “The Empire’s Opposition Strikes Back: Popular Culture as Creative Resistance Tool under Turkey’s AKP,” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 1, 2021.  
\*Awarded Honorable Mention for Best Article in 2020 or 2021, APSA MENA Politics Section
- 2021.** “Subversive Celebrations: Holidays as Sites of Minority Identity Contestation in Repressive Regimes,” *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (with Allison Quatrini).
- 2019.** “Rethinking Turkey’s ‘Rapprochements’: Trouble with Germany and Beyond,” *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, Vol. 61, No. 3.
- 2019.** “No One Lost Turkey: Erdoğan’s Foreign Policy Quest for Agency in Russia and Beyond,” *Texas National Security Review*, Vol. 2, No. 4.
- 2017.** “Review: The New Turkey and Its Discontents” (Simon Waldman and Emre Çalışkan, Oxford University Press, 2017), *International Journal of Turkish Studies*, Vol. 23, Nos. 1-2, 2017.
- 2016.** “‘Take It Outside!’ National Identity Contestation in the Foreign Policy Arena,” *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 22, No. 2.

#### **Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

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- 2023.** “A Different ‘Turkish Model’: Exemplifying De-Democratization in the AKP Era,” in Archon Fung, David Moss, and Arne Westad (eds) *When Democracy Breaks* (Oxford University Press).
- 2022.** “The Politics of Identity and Sectarianism,” in Marc Lynch, Jillian Schwedler, and Sean Yom (eds) *The Political Science of the Middle East: Theory and Research since the Arab Uprisings* (Oxford University Press, with Bassel Salloukh et al).
- 2020.** “Turkey’s Foreign Policy in the Middle East: An Identity Perspective,” in Güneş Murat Tezcür (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Turkish Politics* (Oxford University Press), pp. 563-584.

#### **Works in Progress**

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- “Rally ‘Round the Screen: Analyzing Foreign Threat Production(s),” with Jonas Bergan Draege. Presented at ISA and BISA 2025, in revisions.
- “Female Drama: TV Serials as Pop Cultural Capital in Online Opposition Discourse,” presented at Gender Politics of MENA workshop in April 2025 and BISA in June 2025, in revisions.
- “Producing the Personality Cult: A Multi-Modal Analysis of Regime-Disseminated Videos in AKP Turkey,” with Didem Seyis and Jonas Bergan Draege. Presented at ASN 2024, in revisions.
- “Boomer Fails: Explaining Missteps in Political Elites’ Youth Outreach,” with Kenan Behzat Sharpe. Presented at ISA NE 2021, in revisions.

#### **Other Academic Publications**

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- 2023.** “AKP Foreign Policy for Wider Audiences: Spotlighting Puzzles and Voices from the Region,” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 6, No. 1.
- 2022.** “Rethinking Local Governance and Contention: A Subnational Democracy and Authoritarianism Lens in MENA Studies,” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 5, No. 1. (co-author with Noora Lori).  
\*Article introduces a six-article symposium I co-edited

**2021.** “COVID and MENA Political Science: Impacts on Research and Region,” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 4, No. 1. (co-author with Nermin Allam, Justin Gengler, and Noora Lori).

\*Article introduces a five-article symposium I co-edited

**2020.** “Domestic Politics in Turkey’s Foreign Policy,” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 3, No. 1.

\*Article introduces a five-article symposium I edited

**2019.** “Flipping the Scripts: Pop Culture as Alternative Subject and Data Source in MENA Politics,” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No. 1.

**2016.** “Opportunity Missed: Identity Alignment and Turkey’s Kurdish Question,” *Project on Middle East Political Science Studies*, Vol. 22.

**2016.** “Adding Insult to Injury: Vilification as Counter-Mobilization in Turkey’s Gezi Protests,” *Project on Middle East Political Science Studies*, Vol. 20.

### **Publications for the Public Square**

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**2025.** “We Study Repression in Turkey. Now We See It Here,” *The Atlantic*, 29 March (co-author with Howard Eissenstat and Nick Danforth).

**2022.** “Explaining Turkey’s Foreign Policy Moves in the Context of Russia’s War Against Ukraine,” German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), CATS Network, 7 July.

**2022.** “A Turkish Pop Video Went Viral. Is It Just a Catchy Song – Or an Anthem for the Opposition?” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 23 February (with Kenan Behzat Sharpe).

**2021.** “Assessment of Turkey’s Offer to Secure Kabul Airport,” German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), CATS Network, 26 August.

**2019.** “Here’s How Pop Culture Woke Up Turkey’s Disillusioned Opposition on Friday,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 10 September.

**2019.** “Challenges to Religious Freedom among Religious Minorities in Turkey,” Report for United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, Congressional Hearing 27 June.

**2018.** “Turkey’s Emerging Role in the Middle East,” *Middle East Policy*, 4 June 2018.

**2018.** “How a Hashtag and Memes Are Uniting Turkey’s Opposition,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 11 May.

**2018.** “Why Recep Erdogan Is Calling Turkish Students Terrorists,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 12 April.

**2017.** “A Series of Misperceptions: The Kurdish Referendum and Its Fallout,” *International Peace Institute* (Global Observatory), 19 December (with student Katie Klain).

**2017.** “Hitting Erdogan Where It Hurts, Not Where It Helps,” *War on the Rocks*, 3 November (with Blaise Misztal).

**2017.** “Words as Weapons in Turkey’s Foreign Policy,” Bipartisan Policy Center report, 12 October.

**2017.** “Global Support for Turkey Thrown into Further Question,” *International Peace Institute* (Global Observatory), 24 May (with student Asya Sağnak).

**2017.** “Turkey’s President Erdogan Has Gone to Extremes to Win Sunday’s Referendum. Here’s Why,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 14 April (with student Melina Dunham).

2017. “Burden or Boon? Turkey’s Tactical Treatment of the Syrian Refugee Crisis,” *Refugees Adrift Series* (Washington, DC: Middle East Institute, 2017) (with student Caroline Feehan).

2016. “Turkey’s Post-Putsch Purge,” *The Boston Globe*, 28 July 2016.

2016. “The Dark Side of the Mobilization that Stopped Turkey’s Coup,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 21 July.

2016. “What’s Next for Fractured Turkey?” *International Peace Institute’s* Global Observatory, 21 July.

2016. “The Real Refugee Crisis Is in the Middle East, Not Europe,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 14 May (with Rawan Arar and Kelsey Norman).

2015. “The Heinous Consequences of Turkey’s Polarization,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 15 October.

2014. “‘No Opposition, No Democracy’ in Turkey’s Elections,” *The Washington Post* (The Monkey Cage political science blog), 3 April.

2013. “The Might of the Pen(guin) in Turkey’s Protests,” *Foreign Policy*, 10 June.  
\*chosen by *Foreign Policy* as one of the best 2013 articles on the Middle East

2013. “Us v. Them, Over and Over Again? National Identity Contestation in Turkey’s Stalled EU Bid,” *Turkish Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 12, No. 1.

2012. “Reading Turkish Politics from a Soap Opera,” *Foreign Policy*, 7 December.

### Academic Service

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**\*Peer Reviewer:** *American Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Comparative Politics*, *Politics & Gender*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Government and Opposition*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Mediterranean Politics*, *Global Media and Communication*, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Asian Studies Review*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Turkish Studies*, *Political Studies Review*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Foreign Policy*; Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Routledge.

**\*Founder and Host:** Post-Disaster Online Writing Support Group for MENA Scholars (March 2023–present; 8-10 sessions per week, 143 participants)

**\*Founder and Host:** SAIS PhD Online Working Group (September 2023–present; 13 participants)

**\*Co-Director:** SAIS Media and Politics Initiative (2021–present)

**\*Executive Committee Member,** APSA Interpretative Methodologies and Methods Section (2025)

**\*Program Chair:** APSA Interpretative Methodologies and Methods Section (2023–2024)

**\*Chair:** Project on Middle East Political Science Virtual Research Workshop Committee (2023–present)

**\*Steering Committee Member:** Project on Middle East Political Science (2019–present)

**\*Discussant:** Gender in MENA Politics Workshop (2020–present)

**\*Editorial Board Member:** APSA MENA Politics Newsletter (Spring 2019–Fall 2023); APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter (Fall 2018–Fall 2021)

**\*Committee Member:** APSA MENA Research Development Group (2020–2023)

**\*Faculty Adviser:** PhD students; SAIS Student MENA Club: (Summer 2021–present); International Relations and Global Theory and History Capstones (Fall 2019–Fall 2022, ~40 students per year); informal advising for Europe and Eurasia Club, Caucasus and Central Asia Society, SAIS Pride (Fall 2022–present)

### **Awards, Grants, and Fellowships**

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- \*Visiting Research Fellow at Sabancı University's Istanbul Policy Center (Summer 2025, 2024, and 2023)
- \*SNF Agora Institute Faculty Grant for Diversity in Media and Democracy Events (2023)
- \*Anderson Fellow at SAIS Europe in Bologna (Spring and Fall 2023)
- \*Honorable Mention for Best Article in 2020 or 2021 by the APSA MENA Politics section (2022)
- \*Visiting Research Fellow at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul (Summer 2022)
- \*SAIS Innovation Fund Grant, awarded to set up SAIS Media and Politics Initiative (AY 2021–22)
- \*SAIS Excellence in Teaching in Regional Studies Award (AY 2019–20)
- \*US-Turkey Select Security Fellow, Middle East Technical University in Ankara (Winter 2019)
- \*Top 10 book of foreign policy of 2018 by *Foreign Policy, Interrupted* (2018)
- \*Visiting Research Fellow, Bilkent University in Ankara (Summer 2017)
- \*Cornell University's Mario Einaudi Center Postdoctoral Fellowship (AY 2015–16)
- \*Dissertation Grant, American Consortium on European Union Studies (2014)
- \*Dissertation Writing Grant, Institute of Turkish Studies (2014–15)
- \*Travel and Research Grant, Project on Middle East Political Science (2014)
- \*International Studies Association Travel Grant (2014)
- \*Doctoral Fellow, Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (2010–14)
- \*Visiting Research Fellow, Bilkent University in Ankara (2012–2013 and Summer 2014)
- \*Two Hoffman Full-Semester Dissertation Fellowships (Fall 2012, Spring 2013)
- \*Two U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarships (Ankara 2012, Bursa 2011)
- \*Critical Language Scholarship Alumni Development Grant (2012)
- \*Fieldwork Grant, Institute of Middle East Studies (2010)
- \*Davis and Isham Language Study Fellowship (2010)
- \*Selective Excellence Graduate Teaching Assistantship, GWU (2008–2013)

### **Teaching Experience**

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**Assistant Professor:** Johns Hopkins University SAIS (2017–present)

- \*Subnational Diplomacy (M.A. level)
- \*Psychology and Decision-Making in Foreign Policy (M.A. level)
- \*Conflicts and Cultures in Contemporary Turkey (M.A. level)
- \*Politics of Protest in Europe and Eurasia (M.A. level)
- \*Comparative Politics (M.A. level)
- \*Reading European Politics through Pop Culture (M.A. level)

**Visiting Assistant Professor:** Barnard College, Columbia University (2016–17)

- \*Psychology and Decision-Making in Foreign Policy (B.A. level)
- \*Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (B.A. level)
- \*Social Movements across Space and Time (B.A. level)
- \*Problems in International Politics: International Security (B.A. level)
- \*Political Violence and Terrorism (B.A. level)

**Postdoctoral Lecturer:** Cornell University (Spring 2016)

- \*Turkey and the Middle East (B.A. level)
- \*Ottoman History and Imperial Legacies (B.A. level)

**Teaching Assistant:** George Washington University (2008–13)

- \*Introduction to Comparative Politics (B.A. level; 4 semesters)
- \*International Relations Theory (M.A. level; 3 semesters)
- \*The Middle East: An International Affairs Survey (B.A. level)

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

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**2025. British International Studies Association.** "Election Drama: TV Serials as Pop Cultural Capital in Online Opposition Discourse."

**2025. International Studies Association.** "Rally 'Round the Screen: Foreign Threat Producing in Regime Videos," with Jonas Bergan Draege.

**2024. American Political Science Association.** "Filmmaking Turkey Great Again: Audiovisualizing History in the Authoritarian Toolkit," with Jonas Bergan Draege.

**2024. Association for the Study of Nationalities.** "Producing the Personality Cult: A Multi-Modal Analysis," with Didem Seyis and Jonas Draege.

**2023. International Studies Association.** "Recipe for (New) Turkey: Cooking Shows as Gender Edutainment in Authoritarian Regimes."

**2022. American Political Science Association.** "Insult, Injury, and Ingroup Activation: Aesthetics of Vilification in Counter-Mobilization."

**2022. International Studies Association.** "Epic Battles: Dramas of Empire in the Struggle for Sunni Hegemony in the Middle East."

**2021. Middle East Studies Association.** "Local Politics of Authoritarian Consolidation: Evidence from Turkey's Municipalities."

**2021. International Studies Association NE.** "Boomer Fails: Explaining Failure in Political Elites' Youth Outreach," with Kenan Sharpe.

**2021. American Political Science Association.** "Local Politics of Authoritarian Consolidation: Evidence from Turkey's Municipalities," with Harun Ercan.

**2021. International Studies Association.** "Minority Report: Locating Mechanisms of De-Democratization in Turkey's Kurdish Municipalities," with Harun Ercan.

**2020. Middle East Studies Association.** "The Empire's Opposition Strikes Back: Pop Culture as Creative Resistance Tool under Turkey's AKP."

**2020. American Political Science Association.** "Symbolic Props in Political Narratives: Multivocal Signaling and Turkey's S-400 and IMF Debates," with David E. Banks.

**2019. University of Warwick MENA Politics and Pop Culture.** "Fight Scenes: Reading State-Society Struggles through Pop Culture in Turkey."

**2019. Association for the Study of Nationalities.** Featured Book Roundtable on *Identity Politics Inside Out: National Identity Contestation and Foreign Policy in Turkey*; panelist on "Patterns of Repression in Turkey" panel.

**2019. International Studies Association.** "Fight Scenes: Reading State-Society Struggles through Pop Culture in Turkey."

**2018. Middle East Studies Association.** "Red Lines in Domestic and Foreign Policy: The Identity Politics of Turkey's Nationalist Action Party."

- 2018. American Political Science Association.** “(Red) Lines at the Polls: Theorizing the Limits of Far-Right Parties’ Outreach and Appeal.”
- 2018. DC Area Comparative Politics Workshop.** “Bread, Circus, and Subversion: A Framework for Reading Politics through Pop Culture.”
- 2017. Middle East Studies Association.** “Pride, Prejudice, and Presidency: A Social Identity Approach to Turkey’s Kurdish Question.”
- 2017. International Studies Association.** “NIMBYism and the Psychology of EU Migration Deterrence.”
- 2016. Middle East Studies Association.** “Beyond Sticks and Stones: Humor and Insult in Protest Escalation Dynamics.”
- 2016. American Political Science Association.** “It’s MY Party! Holidays as Sites of Minority Contestation in Repressive Regimes” (with Allison Quatrini).
- 2016. University of Oxford’s Middle East Centre.** “Adding Insult to Injury: Vilification as Counter-Mobilization Strategy in Turkey’s Gezi Protests.”
- 2016. International Studies Association.** “Leader of the Pack? Identity Politics in the Foreign Policy Trajectories of Regional Powers.”
- 2015. International Studies Association.** “An EU Path to Ottoman Islamism: Theorizing the Identity-Foreign Policy Link under Turkey’s AKP.”
- 2014. American Political Science Association.** “Take It Outside! National Identity Contestation in Foreign Policy.”
- 2014. International Studies Association.** “Who We Are in What We Do: Identity and Place in Turkey’s Foreign Policy.”
- 2011. Midwest Political Science Association.** “Us v. Them, Over and Over Again? National Identity Contestation in Turkey’s EU Stalemate.”
- 2010. International Studies Association.** “Sovereignty (Partially) Constructed: Who’s Responsible Now? Kosovo in Theory and Practice.”

#### **Selected Invited Academic Talks**

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- Sabancı University, Istanbul Policy Center.** “Film-making Turkey Great Again: Findings from a New Dataset on AKP Audiovisual Strategies (Summer 2025)
- Cornell University.** “Politics of Rhetoric in Counter-Mobilization Strategies” (Spring 2025)
- University of Pennsylvania.** “Turkey’s Pop Culture Battlegrounds: Entertainment Media in Authoritarian Consolidation and Resistance (Fall 2024)
- Grinnell College.** “Epic Battles: Imperial Themed Dramas in Turkish-Arab Disputes (Fall 2024)
- Sabancı University, Istanbul Policy Center.** “Fight Scenes: Pop Culture as Asymmetric Battleground in Turkey” (Summer 2024)
- European University Institute.** “A Media Lens on Authoritarianism: Projecting Power at Home and Abroad” (Fall 2023)
- Boston University.** “Fight Scenes: The Politics of Pop Culture” (Spring 2022)
- Colorado State University.** “Studying Politics through Pop Culture” (Fall 2021)
- Harvard University (Center for European Studies).** “Tensions in Turkey EU Relations” (Spring 2021)
- Harvard University (Center for Middle East Studies).** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Fall 2020)
- Sabancı University (Zoom).** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Fall 2020)
- Stockholm University (Zoom).** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Spring 2020)
- Middle East Technical University (Ankara).** “US-Turkey Tensions in the Contemporary Era” (Fall 2019)
- Syracuse University.** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Spring 2019)

**George Washington University.** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Spring 2019)  
**University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.** “Erdoğan’s Turkey in the Balkans” (Spring 2019)  
**Georgetown University.** “Identity Politics Inside Out” (Spring 2019)  
**Columbia University.** Keynote speech at “Turkey Today” graduate student conference (Spring 2019)  
**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.** “Future of Democracy in Turkey” (Spring 2018)  
**Georgetown University.** “Migration in the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey” (Spring 2017)  
**Barnard College.** “Democratic Backsliding and Foreign Policy Crises in Turkey” (Spring 2017)  
**Columbia University.** “Post-referendum: The Future of Turkey’s Kurdish Question” (Spring 2017)  
**Cornell University.** “Kurds in Turkey: Case Study of Democracy under Threat” (Spring 2017)  
**Oxford University.** “Cultural Contestation in the Middle East: A Turkey Perspective” (Spring 2017)  
**Cornell University.** “Refugees, IDPs and Asylum Seekers in Long-Term Global Crises” (Spring 2016)  
**Cornell University.** “Turkey-PKK-ISIS Relations” (Fall 2015)

### **Languages**

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Turkish (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced), German (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)