Lisel Hintz

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Academic Positions

SOAS University of London
Lecturer, International Relations (2026 – present)
Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies
Assistant Professor, International Relations (2017–2026)
Co-Director, SAIS Media and Politics Initiative (2021–2026)
Barnard College, Columbia University
Visiting Assistant Professor, International Relations (2016–17)
Cornell University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Mario Einaudi Center (2015–16)

Education

George Washington University
Ph.D. Political Science (2015)
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

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

Fight Scenes: Pop Culture as Political Battleground in Autocratizing Turkey and Beyond (under contract with Cambridge University Press, expected 2027).

Turkey's Grand Strategy (monograph with Berk Esen and Tudor, under contract with Oxford University Press, expected 2028).

Journal Articles

2026. "Cooking Shows as Gender Edutainment in Authoritarian Regimes: Recipe for (New) Turkey," *Politics & Gender*, Vol. 22, Issue 1.
*Winner of Best Qualitative Evidence Award from the 2026 APSA QMMR Section
*Awarded Special Recognition from the 2026 APSA MENA Best Article Award Committee

2025. "Film-Making the Nation Great Again: Audiovisualizing History in the Authoritarian Toolkit," *Perspectives on Politics*, published online 10 September (Jonas Bergan Draege).
*Winner of Alexander L. George Award from the 2026 APSA QMMR Section

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 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.

Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Volumes

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

"Variants of Populist Grand Strategy: Second-Tier *Righteous Risers*," with Berk Esen. Presented at International Studies Association conference 2026, in revisions.

"Functional Fault Lines: Authoritarian Practices in Disaster Preparedness and Response," with Ronay Bakan and Sarah Parkinson. Presented at George Washington University's Humanitarian Action workshop 2026, in revisions.

"Rally 'Round the Screen: A Video-Based Analysis of Diversionary Strategies," with Jonas Bergan Draege. Presented at 2025 International Studies Association conference, in revisions.

"Female Drama: TV Serials as Pop Cultural Capital in Online Opposition Discourse." Presented at 2025 British International Studies Association conference, in revisions.

"Producing the Personality Cult: Audiovisual Strategies of Power Consolidation," with Didem Seyis and Jonas Bergan Draege. Presented at 2024 Association for the Study of Nationalities conference in revisions.

Other Academic Publications

2026. "Epic Autocratisation: Turkey's Decade of Coup-Fuelled Transformation," German Institute for Global and Area Studies, No. 4 (with Hakkı Taş).

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. (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. (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

2026. "Seven Pillars of Populist Foreign Policy," *Foreign Policy*, 19 February (with Berk Esen and Tudor Onea).

2025. "We Study Repression in Turkey. Now We See It Here," *The Atlantic*, 29 March (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.

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

*Winner, APSA Sage/CQ Press Award (2026)
*Winner, Best Qualitative Evidence Award, APSA QMMR Section (2026)
*Winner, Alexander L. George Award, 2026 APSA QMMR Section (2026)
*Winner, PSA-PSA International Partnerships Award (2026)
*Awarded Special Recognition, APSA MENA Best Article Award Committee (2026)
*Research Grant from Institute for Humane Studies: Study of Media and Civic Mobilization (2026)
*Endowment Fellow, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (2026)
*Visiting Research Fellow at Sabancı University's Istanbul Policy Center (Summer 2025, 2024, 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 (2019)
*Top 10 book of foreign policy of 2018 by *Foreign Policy, Interrupted* (2018)
*Visiting Research Fellow, Bilkent University in Ankara (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)

Academic Service

***Peer Reviewer:** *American Political Science Review, International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies, Politics & Gender*, *European Journal of International Relations, Security Studies, Perspectives on Politics, PS: Political Science and Politics, 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, Nationalities Papers, 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.

***Executive Committee Member,** APSA Middle East and North Africa Section (2025–present)

***Executive Committee Member**, APSA Interpretative Methodologies & Methods Group (2025–present)

***Founder and Host:** Post-Disaster Online Writing Support Group for MENA Scholars (March 2023–present; 8-10 sessions per week, 183 participants)

***Editor:** Quarterly Research Digest of the APSA IMM Section (2025–present)

***Chair:** Project on Middle East Political Science Virtual Research Workshop Committee (2023–2026)

***Steering Committee Member:** Project on Middle East Political Science (2019–2026)

***Editorial Board Member:** *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2026)

***APSA MENA Mentor:** (2026)

***European Political Science Society Mentor** (2026)

***Chair:** OTSA Graduate Student Best Paper Award Committee (2026)

***Member:** Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration ISA Section Award Committee (2026)

***Advisory Board Member:** Edinburgh University Press Series on Modern Turkey (2025–present)

***Co-Founder and Co-Director:** SAIS Media and Politics Initiative (2021–2026)

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

***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: (2021–2026); International Relations and Global Theory and History Capstones (2019–2022, ~40 students per year); informal advising for Europe and Eurasia Club, Caucasus and Central Asia Society, SAIS Pride (2022–present)

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor: Johns Hopkins University SAIS (2017–2026)
*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

2026. International Studies Association. "Variants of Populist Grand Strategy: Second-Tier *Righteous Risers*," with Berk Esen.

2026. Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey. "Vernacular Counter-Visions: Pop Cultural Capital in Creative Contestation."

2025. American Political Science Association. "Theorizing Populist Grand Strategy," with Berk Esen and Tudor Onea.

2025. British International Studies Association. "Female 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*.

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. 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 Talks

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" (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)
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

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