

Curriculum Vitae

Sinan Erensu

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2016 **University of Minnesota**, Twin Cities, Minnesota
Department of Sociology | Minor in Development Studies and Social Change
Dissertation Title: *Fragile Energy: Power, Nature & Politics of Infrastructure in the
“New Turkey”*
Advisor: Michael Goldman
- M.Phil. 2006 **University of Cambridge**, Cambridge, UK
Department of Sociology
Dissertation Title: *Neoliberal Elements in the Transformation of Islamism in Turkey:
Changing Conceptions of Social Justice*
- B.A. 2005 **Sabancı University**, Istanbul, Turkey
Social and Political Sciences

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Boğaziçi University
(2020 -) **Sociology Department**
Assistant Professor
- Mercator-IPC Fellow
(2019 - 2020) **Istanbul Policy Center – Stiftung Mercator Initiative**
Research Fellow
Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey
- Post-Doc (2016-2018) **Northwestern University**, Evanston, Illinois
Buffett Institute of Global Studies
Department of Sociology | Keyman Modern Turkish Studies

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Environmental Sociology, Urban Sociology, Infrastructures, Political Ecology/Economy,
Development Studies, Ethnography, Climate Change.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes:

Sudan Sebepler: Türkiye’de Neoliberal Su-Enerji Politikaları ve Direnişler [Watery Reasons: Neoliberal Politics of Hydro-Energy and Resistance in Turkey] Istanbul: İletişim. (2016). (co-edited with E. Evren and C. Aksu).

İsyanın ve Umudun Döp Dalgası: Günümüz Türkiye’si’nden Politik Ekoloji Tartışmaları, [Deep Currents of Uprising and Hope: Political Ecology Debates from Contemporary Turkey] Ankara: Tekin. (2016). (co-edited with E. Turhan, F. Özlüer, and A. C. Gündoğan).

Journal Articles:

Forthcoming

“Kaçak and Amnesty: Politics of Unlicensed Construction and the Making of Urban Economy in Istanbul”, *Cultural Economy*, January 2023. (SSCI).

Published:

“From the Occupied Parks to the Gardens of the Nation: Politics and Aesthetics of Urban Greenery in the Post-Gezi Istanbul”, *Social Text*. 40(1). (2022). (with B. İne & Y. A. Adanalı). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1215/01642472-9495146> (ESCI).

“The Contradictions of Turkey’s Rush for Energy”, *Middle East Report*. 288. (2018)

“Powering Neoliberalization: Energy and Politics in the Making of a New Turkey”, *Energy Research and Social Science*, 41: 148-157. (2018) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.04.037> (SSCI).

“Dialectics of Reform and Repression: Unpacking Turkey’s Authoritarian Turn”, *the Review of Middle Eastern Studies*, 52(1): 16-28. (2018) (co-authored with A. Alemdaroğlu) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2018.8> (SSCI).

“The Work of a Few Trees: Gezi, Politics, and Space” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 41(1) 2017. (co-authored with O. Karaman). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12387> (SSCI).

“Mağdur-muktedirden Paralel Cadıya: Komplo Teorilerini ve Güncel Siyaseti Antropolojinin Koridorlarında Aramak” [From the Able-Victim to The Parallel Witch: Investigating Conspiracy Theories and Contemporary Turkish Politics in the Corridors of Anthropology], *Teorik Bakış*, 5, 2014. (co-authored with M. Altun).

“Turkey in the Eye of the Beholder: Tracking Perceptions on Turkey through Political Cartoons” *Kontur*, 10, 2005.

Book Chapters:

Forthcoming

“Urbanization in Turkey”, In Alpaslan Özerdem and Erdi Öztürk (eds.) *A Companion to Modern Turkey's Centennial*, Edinburgh University Press. (Jan 2023).

Published:

“Neoliberal Economics in Turkey”, In Güneş Murat Tezcür (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Turkish Politics*, Oxford University Press. January 2022. (with Yahya Madra).
DOI: [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190064891.013.17](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190064891.013.17).

“Turkey’s Hydropower Renaissance: Nature, Neoliberalism and Development in the Cracks of Infrastructure” In F. Adaman et al. (eds.) *Neoliberal Modernization and Economic Growth in Turkey*, London: I.B. Tauris. 2017. DOI: [10.5040/9781350987326.ch-005](https://doi.org/10.5040/9781350987326.ch-005).

“Beklenmedik Bir Emek-Çevre Koalisyonu: Murgul’un Kısa İsyanı” [An Unexpected Labor-Environment Coalition: The Brief Uprising of Murgul] In D. Yıldırım and E. Haspolat (eds.) *Karadeniz’i Anlamak*, [Understanding Turkey’s Black Sea] Istanbul: Ayrıntı. 2016.

“Gezi’nin İlhamını Yerelde aramak: Karedeniz ve Çevre Mücadeleleri” [Searching for Gezi’s Inspiration at the Local] In D. Yıldırım and E. Haspolat (eds.) *Karadeniz’i Anlamak*, [Understanding Turkey’s Black Sea] Istanbul: Ayrıntı. 2016.

“Neoliberalleşmenin Doğası, Doğanın Neoliberalleşmesi: Su-Enerji Rabitası Üzerinden Neoliberalizm ve Müphemlikleri” [Neoliberalization and its Obscurities through the Water-Energy Nexus] In S. Erensü et al. (eds.) *Sudan Sebepler: Türkiye’de Neoliberal Su-Enerji Politikaları ve Direnişler* [Watery Reasons: Neoliberal Hydro-Energy Politics and Resistance in Turkey] Istanbul: İletişim. 2016.

“Giriş: Serin Sular Daim Engine Akar” [Intro] (co-authored with C. Aksu and E. Erdem), In S. Erensü et al (eds.) *Sudan Sebepler: Türkiye’de Neoliberal Su-Enerji Politikaları ve Direnişler* [Reasons of Water: Neoliberal Hydro-Energy Politics and Resistance in Turkey] Istanbul: İletişim. 2016.

“Türkiye’de Doğanın Neoliberalleşmesi ve Bu Sürece Karşı Mücadeleler” [Neoliberalization of Nature in Turkey and Opposition], In A. Çoban (ed.) *Yerel Yönetim, Kent ve Ekoloji*, [Local Governance, City and Ecology] Istanbul: Imge. 2015 (co-authored with A. Çoban and F. Özlüer).

"Laughter and the Political Landscape" in D. Hartmann and C. Uggen (eds.) *The Social Side of Politics*. New York. Norton. 2014. (co-authored with S. Lageson and K. Green).

“Abundance and Scarcity Amidst the Crisis of ‘Modern Water’: The Changing Water-Energy Nexus in Turkey” In L. Harris, C. Sneddon and J. Goldin (eds.) *Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Water Governance: Scarcity, Privatization and Participation*, New York: Routledge, 2013.
DOI: [10.4324/9780203076361](https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203076361)

Policy Papers:

“İklim Politikalarında Biden Etkisi: İnkâr Çağının Sonu mu?” *İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi Politika Notu*. 2021. (With Ümit Şahin)

“Covid-19 Pandemisini İklim Krizi ile Beraber Okumak” *İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi Politika Notu*. 2020. (With Ümit Şahin)

Web-based Publications:

“Derenin Derdi: HES Karşıtı Mücadelenin İmkan ve Sınırları” [Problem of the Creek: Limits and Possibilities of the anti-Hydropower Plant Struggles], *Toplum ve Hekim*, 32(3) 2017. URL. <http://www.belgelik.dr.tr/ToplumHekim/browserecord.php?action=browse&-recid=2769>

“The Light Bulb and the Oak Tree: Politics of Space Meets the Ballot Box” *Jadaliyya*, 2015. URL. http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/22015/the-light-bulb-and-the-oak-tree_politics-of-space-

“Social Scientists Studying Social Movements”, *the Society Pages*, 2012 URL. <https://thesocietypages.org/roundtables/social-movements/> (co-authored with S. Lageson and K. Green).

“The Revolution Will not be Globalized?” *the Society Pages*, 2012, URL. <https://thesocietypages.org/roundtables/global-uprising/> (co-authored with S. Lageson, K. Green, and S. Suh).

Other Publications:

“This is Amerika! Birleşik Devletler’de İrkçılık ve Minneapolis Baharı” 2020. co-authored with E. Kalaycıoğlu, B. İne, M. Altun, C. Yılmaz & Y. Karakaya. *Ayrıntı Dergi*, 35.

“Yeşilin Yolu Vesilesiyle... Bir Siyaset Yapma Biçimi Olarak Altyapı” 2015. *Ayrıntı Dergi*, 12.

“Wire Goes to College”, *Contexts*, 10(12), 2011. (co-authored with S. Lageson and K. Green).

op-eds appeared on *Post-Express*, *Evensel*, *Bia-net*, *3-Ekoloji*, and *Kollektif Eko-Sosyalist Dergi*.

PERSONAL AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- | | |
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| 2021 | Collaborating Researcher, European Research Council H2020 Starting Grant
Title: The Urban Revolution and the Political, Action No: 680219
Host Institution: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris. |
| 2021 | Wenner-Gren Workshop Grant (with Dr. Emrah Yıldız, Northwestern University)
Kaçak: Fugitive Forms of Bureaucracy and Economy in Modern Turkey |
| 2019 | Mercator – IPC Fellowship
Stiftung Mercator – Istanbul Policy Center Initiative. |

- 2016 Engaged Scholarship Award
Sociology Department, University of Minnesota.
- 2014 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.
Graduate School, University of Minnesota
- 2013 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.
Wenner-Gren Foundation
- 2013 Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and Life Sciences.
University of Minnesota
- 2013 Anna Welsh Bright Memorial Award for Dissertation Research Completion.
Sociology Department, University of Minnesota
- 2012 Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change Dissertation Grant.
University of Minnesota
- 2009 Graduate Research Partnership Program Grant.
University of Minnesota
- 2008 MacArthur Scholar, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change.
University of Minnesota
- 2005 European Commission Jean Monnet Fellowship for Masters Studies
Cambridge University
- 2000 Undergraduate Achievement Fellowship (tuition waiver + stipend for five years)
Sabancı University

INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

“Faces of Spatial Justice in Turkey: From Environmental Struggles to Academic Freedoms”
Turkey: From Inside Out,
Cornell University, 19 October 2021.

“Encountering the Climate Crisis: The Good Sense, the Common Sense, and the Ugly Sense”
Uncanny Mirror: Human and the Climate Change
Humboldt University, Berlin, 12 October 2021.

“Cultivating Tomatoes, Growing Resistance: Struggle over the Historic Bostans of Istanbul”
Cities of Globalization Conference, Department of Middle East Studies
University of Southern California, 26 March 2019.

“Powered by Rumor: Energy Politics and Conspiracy in the Making of a New Turkey”
Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment Seminar Series
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 18 March 2019.

“Urgency / Emergency: A Political Ecological Reading of Turkey’s Authoritarian Turn”
Political Ecologies Working Group Lecture Series
University of Illinois at Chicago, 4 April 2017.

“Türkiye’de Mekansal Dönüşüm ve Kırsal Yeniden Düşünmek” [Spatial Transformation and Rethinking Rurality in Turkey]

ISTAG Talks

Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, 25 April 2014.

“What’s sociology got to do with Dams?”

Sociology Wednesday Talks

Bilgi University, Istanbul, 27 November 2013.

CAMPUS TALKS

“Powered by Rumor: Energy Politics and Conspiracy Theories in the Making of a New Turkey”

Department of Sociology Colloquium

Northwestern University, Evanston, 3 March 2018.

“Building in Urgency: Infrastructures and Law in Authoritarian Turkey”

The Buffett Institute Faculty & Fellows Colloquium

Northwestern University, Evanston, 3 February 2017.

“Neoliberal Subject at Work: Call Center Industry in Turkey”

Sociology Workshop Series,

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, 5 May 2010.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences Organized:

“Climate Responsive Cities: Unpacking Water and Energy”

Istanbul Policy Center, May 21-22, 2021.

“Law and Politics in Turkey: Reform, Emergency, and Authoritarianism”

Northwestern University, 26-28 October 2017.

Panels Organized:

“Where is the Middle East? Connections, Translations, Convergences”

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting

New Orleans, 10-14 April 2018. (co-organized with T. Hammond, and A. İkizoğlu)

“Authority in Concrete: State, Space, and Infrastructures in Turkey”

Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. *Washington DC, 18-21 November 2017.*

“Political Ecologies of the Levant: Ruination, Contestation and Re-imagination of Socio-Ecological Landscapes in the Greater Middle East”

International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE)

Stockholm, 20-23 March 2016. (co-organized with E. Turhan and B. Akbulut)

Papers Presented:

“Kaçak and Amnesty: Politics of Unlicensed Construction and the Making of Istanbul.”
Kaçak: Forms of Informality and Commodity in Modern Turkey.
Northwestern University, 14 November 2020

“Infrastructure rules: On Turkey’s infrastructures-led regime of urgency”
Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. *Washington DC, 18-21 November 2017*

“Energizing Legality: Energy Infrastructures, Law and Temporality in The Making of an Authoritarian Turkey”
American Sociology Association, *Annual Meeting, Montreal, 12-15 August 2017.*

“Trouble with the Garden: Infrastructural Politics of Dispossession in the Turkish Countryside”
Politics of Dispossession and Commodification: New Perspectives on Rural Turkey.
Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, 14-15 June 2017.

“We Can’t Cancel Projects, But We Postpone Them!” Temporal Politics of Infrastructural Disputes” Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting
San Francisco, March 29 – April 2, 2016.

“The Rise and Fall of Turkish Energy and the Fragility of Infrastructural Politics”
Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting
Chicago, April 21-15, 2015.

“Commoning and the Emergence of the Political: Ecological Activism in Turkey”
World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) 2014,
Middle East Technical University, Ankara, August 18-22, 2014.

“Dispossession of the Commons or Commoning the Dispossession”
Workshop on Dispossession and Collective Action: Neoliberal Restructurings of the Rural in Egypt, Morocco and Turkey.
Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, Oct 25-26, 2013.

“Sınıf, Mekan ve Müşterekler: HES ve Termik Karşıtı Hareketin İmkan ve Sınırlarını Tartışmak” [Class, Space, and Commons: Discussing the limits of anti-small hydro movement]
TMOBB 9th Energy Symposium, Ankara, December 12-14, 2013.

“Renewing the Urban, Taming the Nature: The Urban-Rural Transformation in Turkey”
American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting. Chicago, Nov 20-24, 2013.

“Defending Rural Commons at the Age of Planetary Urbanism”
Workshop on Conflicts over Commons
Bosphorus University, Istanbul, August 11-13, 2013.

“Accumulation by Greening: Small Hydropower Plant Developments (SHPs) in Turkey”
Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting

New York City, February 27, 2012.

“Contesting Green Energy: Small Hydro Plant Development in Turkey”
University of Kentucky, Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference
Lexington, February, February 18-19, 2011.

“Neoliberal Transformation of Islamism: Changing Conceptions of Social Justice”
CRESC, Re-Thinking Cultural Economy Conference
University of Manchester, Manchester, September 12, 2007.

Discussant:

“Political Ecology as Practice: A Regional Approach to the Anthropocene”
University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Humanities, November 1-4, 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

Boğaziçi University, Sociology Department

Environment and Society – SOC360 (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
Social Movements – SOC453 (Fall 2020; Fall 2021)
Urban Sociology – SOC224 (Spring 2021; Spring 2022)
Power and Inequality – SOC324 (Spring 2021; Spring 2022)

Northwestern University, Department of Sociology

Powers That Be: Energy, Politics and Society (Spring 2018).
Global Commons, Dispossession, Resistance (Winter 2017).

Koc University, Department of Sociology

Closing the Great Divide: Nature and Society (Summer 2014).

Teaching Administration / Instruction:

Center for Spatial Justice (Summer 2017 - 2019) | *Koc University* (Summer 2015 - 2016)

International Graduate Summer School

Urban Political Ecology on the Road: City’s Nature, Nature’s City Through Istanbul

Teaching Assistant:

University of Minnesota, Institute for Global Studies

Global Modernity, Nation-State, and Capital (Spring 2016).
Knowledge, Power & Representation in Global Studies (Fall 2015).
Global Institutions of Power (Spring 2011).

University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology

Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2008, Fall 2013).
Sociology of Law (Spring 2009).
Globalize This!: Globalization Through Sociology (Fall 2010).
Food, Culture and Society (Spring 2012).
Social Theory (Fall 2011).

Sabancı University, Social and Political Sciences

Law and Ethics (Fall 2006 – Spring 2008).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer

Antipode, Political Geography, Urban Anthropology, Socialism Nature Capitalism
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, New Perspectives on Turkey

Editorial

Graduate Editorial Board – *the Society Pages* (September 2011 – August 2012).
Graduate Editorial Board – *Context Magazine* (August 2010 – September 2011).

Administrative

Member, Faculty Administrative Board, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Boğaziçi University.
Senior Year Advisor, Sociology Department, Boğaziçi University.

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native), English (Advance)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
American Association of Geographers (AAG)
Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)