

BAHAR ZAFER

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EDUCATION

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY *Aug 2021 - Present*
PhD in Political Science
Fields: Methodology and Comparative Politics
Committee: Scott Abramson (chair), Curtis S. Signorino, Tasos Kalandrakis, Sergio Montero

Duke University, Durham, NC *Aug 2018 - May 2020*
MA in Analytical Political Economy
Department of Economics

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey *Sep 2015 - June 2018*
BA in Economics

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey *Sep 2013 - June 2018*
BA in Sociology

Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland *Sep 2015 - Jan 2016*
Erasmus Program

WORKING PAPERS

“Subsidizing the Messenger: How Soft Censorship Shapes Economic News”
- Presented at *Polmeth XLII* (2025, Emory), *MZES-DVPW* (2025, Mannheim) and *9th Workshop on the Economics of Media Bias Workshop* (May 2026, Hertie School, Berlin)

“Do Voters Prefer Women and Young Candidates? Re-evaluating Evidence from Conjoint Experiments” with Scott F. Abramson
- Presented at *Polmeth XL* (2023, Stanford) and *SPSA* (2024, New Orleans)

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Repression, Exit, and Voice in the Newsroom” with Horacio Larreguy

“Divergent News Environments: A Longitudinal Study Leveraging the Common Crawl Corpus”

“Internet Censorship and the Chilling Effect on Sensitive News Coverage”

EXPERIENCE

Member of Organizing Committee at the Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) *May 2022*
Goergen Institute for Data Science, University of Rochester
- An organizer of the summer school; Prepared and delivered a lecture on web scraping with *Selenium*.

Pre-doctorate Researcher in Swiss National Science Foundation Project *July 2020 - June 2021*
Department of Political Science, University of Zurich
- Worked in the project of Kai Gehring, *Threats to the stability of nations? Resources, identities and conflict* [Link]. Analyzed German news about immigrants using NLP tools, mainly *Spacy*.

Master’s Student Research Assistant *Sep 2018 - May 2020*
Department of Economics, Duke University
- Worked in the project of Timur Kuran. Prepared original data sets from historical court documents.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, Matlab (basics)

System: Linux (Command line for cluster computing)

Tools: Hugging Face Transformers, Boto3 (AWS SDK for Python), Scikit-learn, lxml, Wandb.ai, Spacy, PyTorch (intermediate),

Statistic & Typsetting: Stata, EViews, Latex

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025 - 2026 The Democracy Center Graduate Fellowship (\$2,000), University of Rochester

2024 Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award, University of Rochester

2018 Sena Eken Schieber Economics Award, Turkish Philanthropy Funds
(\$40,763 and \$39,459 for the first and second years of the master's program)

2018 Duke Economics Masters Award

2018 Bogazici University Honors Certificate for having graduated from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences with an overall grade point average of 3.44/4.00.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, Department of Political science, University of Rochester
(G: Graduate; U: Undergraduate)

PSCI 238 - Business and Politics (U), Professor: David Primo *Spring 2026*
Course topics: Non-market strategy for business, lobbying, corporate social responsibility

PSCI 505 - Quantitative Methods III (G), Professor: Curtis S. Signorino *Fall 2024*
Course topics: Maximum likelihood, survival analysis, Bayesian inference

PSCI 282/482 - Making Public Policy (U/G), Professor: Sergio Montero *Fall 2024*
Course topics: Pareto concepts, externalities, coordination/commitment games

PSCI 205 - Data Analysis II (U), Professor: Curtis S. Signorino *Spring 2024*
Course topics: Bivariate/multivariate regression, maximum likelihood, experiments & causal inference

PSCI 200 - Data Analysis I (U), Professor: Curtis S. Signorino *Fall 2023*
Course topics: Descriptive statistics, distributions, confidence interval & hypothesis testing