

ONUR İŞÇİ

Address:

Firuzğa Cami Sokak No: 2B Daire:9
Cihangir Mahallesi, Beyođlu,
İstanbul, TÜRKİYE

Mobile: +90 (533) 524 4469
Email: onur.isci@bogazici.edu.tr
Website: www.onurisci.com
ORCID: 0000-0002-8210-7375

Employment

POSITION	INSTITUTION	DEPARTMENT	TENURE
Associate Professor	Bođaziçi University	Political Science & International Relations	2025-
Associate Professor	Kadir Has University	Political Science & International Relations	2023-2025
Assistant Professor	Bilkent University	International Relations	2014-2023
R. B. Davis Lecturer	Georgetown University	School of Foreign Service	2012-2014

Education

Ph.D. in History (with distinction)	Georgetown University	2014
M.A. in History	Georgetown University	2009
M.A. in History	Miami University	2007
M.A. in International Relations	Bilkent University	2005
B.A. in International Relations	Bilkent University	2002

Books

- Kızıl Yıldız: Sovyetler Birliđi Tarihi*. İstanbul: Kronik Kitap, 2025.
- Turkey and the Soviet Union during World War II: Diplomacy, Discord and International Relations*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2020.

Review by William Hale: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00263206.2022.2117124>

Review by Dilek Barlas: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/new-perspectives-on-turkey/article/abs/onur-isci-turkey-and-the-soviet-union-during-world-war-ii-diplomacy-discord-and-international-relations-london-ib-tauris-2019-xi-241-pages/B8AD6B159E87C934B1496786B9D542A2#>

- Harp yahut İhtilal: Rusya İmparatorluđu'nun Yıkılışı, 1881-1917*. İstanbul: Kronik Kitap, 2019.

Articles in Indexed Journals (SSCI/AHCI)

1. "Let the Black Sea Unite Us: The 1967 Soviet-Turkish Industrial Agreement and Ankara's Cold War Rapprochement with Moscow," *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies* (published online first, November 20th 2024). Co-authored with Samuel J. Hirst and Orhun Bayraktar.
2. "Turkey's Rushed Liberalization: Wartime Neutrality and the Devaluation of 1946," *Turkish Studies*, 25, 4: 625-651. Co-authored with Samuel J. Hirst.
3. "Turkey at a Crossroads: The Soviet Threat and Postwar Realignment," *Diplomatic History*, 47, 4 (September 2023): 621-646.
4. "Smokestacks and Pipelines: Russian-Turkish Relations and the Persistence of Economic Development," *Diplomatic History*, 44, 5 (November 2020): 834-859. Co-authored with Samuel J. Hirst.

Review by Timothy Nunan:

<https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/7723746/h-diplo-article-review-1035-smokestacks-and-pipelines>

5. "The Yardstick of Friendship: Soviet-Turkish Relations and the Montreux Convention of 1936," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, 21, 4 (Fall 2020): 733-762.
6. "The Massigli Affair and its Context: Turkish Foreign Policy after the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact," *Journal of Contemporary History*, 55:2 (2020): 271-296.
7. "Wartime Propaganda and the Legacies of Defeat: Russian and Ottoman Newspapers in the War of 1877-1878," *Russian History*, 41:2 (Spring 2014): 181-196.

Articles in Turkish Journals

1. "Public Perceptions and Hybrid Influences in Russian-Turkish Relations," *Global Strategic Insight*, 3 (October 2024) with Mustafa Aydın and Mitat Çelikpala.
2. "A Precarious Interdependence Between Russia and Turkey: Economic Cooperation, Energy Ties, and Sanctions," *Global Strategic Insight*, 2 (July 2024) with Mustafa Aydın and Mitat Çelikpala.
3. "Triangulating Russia, Turkey and the West: Towards a New Regional Order?" *Global Strategic Insight*, 1 (May 2024) with Mustafa Aydın and Mitat Çelikpala.
4. "Mihail Gorbaçov ve Sovyetler Birliği'nin Çöküşü," *Birikim*, 402 (October 2022): 39-48.
5. "Sovyet Talepleri ve Tarihsel Arkaplanı," *Toplumsal Tarih*, 340 (April 2022): 58-65.

6. "Realpolitiğin Ötesinde: Türk-Sovyet Dostluğunda Stratejik ve İktisadi Sorular," *Toplumsal Tarih*, 313 (January 2020): 54-60.
7. "Rus Tarih Literatüründe 1905 Krizi ve Ekim Devrimi'ne Giden Yol," *Toplumsal Tarih*, 287 (November 2017): 50-58.
8. "Yüzüncü Yılında Ekim Devrimi ve Tarih Yazımının Değişen Mevsimleri," *SBF Dergisi*, 72:4 (2017): 1107-1125.
9. "Monarşi ve Modernite: Çek Milliyetçiliği ve Habsburg İmparatorluğu'nun Son Dönemi," *DTCF Dergisi*, 57:1 (2017): 538-563.
10. "Making Sense of Russian Imperialism: Warfare, Domestic Reform and Absolutism, 1700-1856," *Tarih İncelemeleri Dergisi*, XXX:2 (2016): 445-470.
11. "Cold War Triumphalism and the Reagan Factor," *Perceptions: Journal of International Affairs*, XX:4 (Winter 2015): 97-116.
12. "Objectivity Problem in Historical Studies," and "Collective Memory and the Soviet Cinema of the 1920s," *Interactions*, 16:1 (Spring 2007): 89-98; and 189-193.
13. "American Scholarship on Soviet Nationalism," *Tarih İncelemeleri Dergisi*, XXII:2 (December 2007): 78-93.
14. "Myth Making: The Kornilov Affair in Soviet Historiography," *Tarih İncelemeleri Dergisi*, XXI:2 (December 2006): 119-138.

Book Chapters

1. "Mare Clausum: World War II on the Black Sea," in *The History and Culture of the Black Sea Region*, Kerstin S. Jobst, Stefan Troebst, and Stefan Rohdewald, eds. (Wien: De Gruyter, 2024).
2. "A Precarious Offer: The Dodecanese Islands And Turkish Neutrality In World War II," and "Turkey and the 1957 Syrian Crisis," in *100 Years of Republic of Turkey in 100 Documents* (Leiden: Leiden University Press, October 2023).
3. "Interwar Territoriality and Soviet-Turkish Convergence across the Aras River," in *Borders, Boundaries and Belonging in Post-Ottoman Space in the Interwar Period*, eds. Kate Fleet and Ebru Boyar (Leiden: Brill, 2022).
4. "Başbakanlık ve Milli Şef Döneminde İsmet İnönü'nün Dış Politikası," in *İnönü Kitabı*, Mehmet Alkan, ed. (İstanbul: İBB, 2022).
5. "World History in Metanarratives," in *Tarihin İçinden*, ed. Akif Erdoğan. İstanbul: IQ Kültür & Sanat, 2006.

Op-Eds and Essays

IN ENGLISH

- ◇ *Texas National Security Review* (September 2024): [The Soviet Search for Recognition](#)
- ◇ *War on the Rocks* (May 2023): [Turkey's Elections and Foreign Policy Options.](#)
- ◇ *Duvar English* (November 2019): [Turkey's Balancing Act Between the US and Russia.](#)
- ◇ *Foreign Affairs* (October 2015): [Turkey's Politics of Terrorism.](#)
- ◇ *The National Interest* (April 2014): [Turkey and America: 1957 All Over Again.](#)

IN TURKISH

- ◇ *BirGün* (06 January 2024): [Uluslararası Adalet ve Küresel Güney](#)
- ◇ *BirGün* (01 January 2024): [2024'e Girerken: Gazze Katliamı, Ukrayna Savaşı ve Liberal Uluslararası Sistem](#)

Teaching Experience

2025-Present Boğaziçi University:

- ◇ ATA 557 – History of Imperial Russia

2023-2025 Kadir Has University:: Department of International Relations

- ◇ INT 315 – Turkish Foreign Policy-I
- ◇ INT 319 – Russian Politics and Foreign Policy
- ◇ INT 352 – Turkish Foreign Policy-2
- ◇ INT 541 – Politics and Security in the Black Sea Security

2014-2023 Bilkent University: Department of International Relations

- ◇ IR 439 – Turkish Foreign Policy
- ◇ IR 571 – Russia and Turkey since World War I
- ◇ IR 578 – History of the Cold War
- ◇ IR 236 – 20th Century World Politics
- ◇ IR 625 – Advanced Diplomatic History
- ◇ IR 205 – Diplomatic History

2012-2014 Georgetown University: History Department

- ◇ HIST 362 – The Cold War in the Middle East
- ◇ HIST 283 – Aspects of American Cold War Diplomacy
- ◇ HIST 160-161 – Middle East History I & II
- ◇ HIST 105-106 – World History I & II

Awards and Grants

- ◇ **2025-** TÜBİTAK 1001: "Türkiye-Rusya İlişkilerinde Tarihsel Dinamikler ve İktisadi İş Birliği."
- ◇ **2015-2017** TÜBİTAK 2232: "Türk-Rus İlişkilerinde Bir Dönüm Noktası Olarak 1877-78 Osmanlı-Rus Savaşı ve Berlin Kongresi."
- ◇ **2014** Distinction Award for a Ph.D. Dissertation: Georgetown University.
- ◇ **2011** Young Scholar Award for 2011: Cosmos Club of Washington D.C.
- ◇ **2012-2014** Royden B. Davis Fellowship: Georgetown University.
- ◇ **2007-2012** 5 Year Teaching Assistant Fellowship & Full Scholarship: Georgetown University.
- ◇ **2005-2007** 2 Year Teaching Assistant Fellowship & Full Scholarship: Miami University.
- ◇ **1998-2002** High Honors List (consecutive semesters): Bilkent University.

Conference Organizations (Selected List)

- 2019-2025** Russian Studies Symposia
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/collection/global-middle-east-seminar-series>
- Spring 2024** Russia and Turkey in Global Context Seminar Series
Global Academy & Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Istanbul
- 2020-2023** Global Middle East Seminar Series
The Wilson Center, Washington D.C.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/collection/global-middle-east-seminar-series>
- March 2021** Moskova Antlaşmasının 100. Yıldönümünde Türkiye-Rusya İlişkileri
Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi, Ankara
<https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/moskovaantlasmasi100yilipaneli.html>
- October 2019** The Cold War in the Middle East – New Sources
Bilkent Center for Russian Studies, Ankara
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/wilson-center-bilkent-university-workshop-new-middle-east-sources>
- May 2019** Russia and Turkey – Lessons from the Past Century
Bilkent Center for Russian Studies, Ankara
http://crs.bilkent.edu.tr/russia_turkey/
- Spring 2019** Vangelis Kechriotis Perşembe Konuşmaları: Türkiye Kurulurken Sovyet Rusya
İstanbul Tarih Vakfı
<https://www.tarihvakfi.org.tr/etkinlik/realpolitigin-otesinde-turk-sovyet-dostlugunda-stratejik-ve-iktisadi-sorular/104>

Conference Papers (Selected List)

- November 2025** Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
Washington D.C., United States
Paper Title: The Future of BRICS+
- July 2025** Skilliter Center for Ottoman Studies: Ottomans and Diplomacy Workshop
Cambridge University, United Kingdom
Paper Title: "Four Istanbuls: Russian Visions Across the Bosphorus, 1863–1933"
- November 2024** Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
Boston, United States
Paper Title: Textbooks and Narratives in Russian and Ukrainian History
- January 2024** Johns Hopkins University, SAIS
Washington D.C., United States
Paper Title: [Domestic Constraints, Diplomatic Consequences: Turkey's Foreign Policy in Historical and Contemporary Perspective](#)
- January 2024** Columbia University, Harriman Institute
New York, United States
Paper Title: [Rethinking Cold War History: Turkey and the Soviet Union](#)
- November 2023** Boğaziçi University, ATA Seminar Series
İstanbul, Turkey
Paper Title: [Ukrayna Savaşı'nın Tarihsel Kökenleri ve Rus Jeopolitik Tahayyülünde Donbas](#)
- November 2021** Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
New Orleans, United States
Paper Title: Beyond Binarism: Russia in Eurasia
- October 2020** Skilliter Center for Ottoman Studies
Cambridge University, United Kingdom
Paper Title: [Turkish Diplomacy and the 1936 Convention](#)
- September 2020** The Wilson Center
Washington DC, United States
Paper Title: [International History Declassified: Russia and the Cold War in the Turkish Archives](#)
- March 2020** LUCIS Center Book Talk
Leiden University, The Netherlands
[Paper Title: Turkey and the Soviet Union in the 20th Century](#)
- February 2020** Vienna Conference on the Black Sea
University of Wien, Austria
Paper Title: Black Sea Security, 1945-Present

November 2019	European Commission on Foreign Relations Berlin, Germany Turkey and Syria since the Arab Spring
November 2019	Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) San Francisco, United States Paper Title: Russian Grand Strategy from the Tsars to Putin
November 2019	European Union Delegation Ambassadors Luncheon Keynote Speech Ankara, Turkey Russian-Turkish Relations since the Arab Spring
September 2018	Skilliter Center Conference on Middle Eastern Mobilities Cambridge University, United Kingdom Paper Title: Convergence, Territoriality and the Russian-Turkish Border
April 2017	The Harriman Institute Black Sea Symposium Columbia University, New York, United States Paper Title: Turkish-Soviet Friendship and the Post-War International Order
November 2015	Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies Philadelphia, United States Paper Title: Feeding Ankara's Fear: Nazi Orchestration of Turkey's Russophobia
February 2015	International Studies Association New Orleans, United States Paper Title: The Origins of Russian and Turkish Public Spheres

Advising

Supervised Ph.D. Dissertations

- ◇ Ali Oğuz Diriöz, "Exogenous Shocks and Governing Energy Security," Bilkent University, 2017.
- ◇ Başar Baysal, "Constructing Security in Colombia: The Case of FARC," Bilkent University, 2016.

Supervised M.A. Theses

- ◇ Alba Alonso Peyre, "Green Colonialism: Europe's Energy Transition and its Implications for Africa," Kadir Has University, 2024.
- ◇ Nurzhan Tustikbay, "Kazakh Nationalism in the Late Soviet Period," Bilkent University, 2021.
- ◇ Oğul Hasan Özel, "Cyprus Dispute in Cold War Context," Bilkent University, 2021.
- ◇ Orhun Bayraktar, "Capitalizing on the Cold War: Turkey, Greece and the Cyprus Problem," Bilkent University, 2018.
- ◇ Çağla Kılıç, "American Missionaries in Maraş on the Eve of the Great War," Bilkent University, 2017.
- ◇ İdir Lika, "The Quest for Security: Stalin's Demands from Turkey," Bilkent University, 2015.

Professional Affiliations

- ◇ İstanbul Tarih Vakfı, Member of the Board of Trustees.
- ◇ ISA (International Studies Association).
- ◇ MESA (Middle East Studies Association).
- ◇ ASEEEES (Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies).

Languages

- ◇ Turkish (native)
- ◇ English (near-native)
- ◇ Russian (advanced)
- ◇ German (read)

Academic References

- ◇ Prof. Catherine Evtuhov (Columbia University)
Email: ce2308@columbia.edu
Phone: +1 (212) 854-2420
- ◇ Prof. Michael Reynolds (Princeton University)
Email: mar123@princeton.edu
Phone: +1 (609) 933-0510