

FATIH EROL, PH.D.

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Research social scientist with 10+ years designing, fielding, and validating instruments that capture what people actually think and do. Expert in survey methodology, experimental and quasi-experimental design, causal inference, and psychometric validation, with end-to-end ownership from sampling and data collection through reproducible modeling and stakeholder-ready findings. Track record of building research infrastructure (panels, labs, subject pools, digital-trace and physiological pipelines) and of telling decision-makers what the data can and cannot support. A fast learner and collaborative team member who pairs a strong conceptual grasp of the underlying problem with analytical, reproducible, and digestible solutions. Comfortable across survey/UX research, decision science, and model-validation/risk settings.

CORE CAPABILITIES

- **Measurement & Survey Methodology:** Scale development and validation; reliability, factor structure, and measurement invariance; survey, conjoint, ranking, and implicit (IAT) instrument design; sampling (including probability panels and respondent-driven sampling), weighting, and poststratification (MRP).
- **Causal Inference & Modeling:** Surveys, survey and lab experiments, causal mediation, regression discontinuity, multilevel models, structural equation modeling, and random-intercept cross-lagged panels.
- **Model Validation & Risk:** Psychometric validation of human and synthetic (LLM-generated) survey data; stress-testing reliability and invariance to catch cross-group comparisons that look authoritative but mislead; clear communication of assumptions, uncertainty, and limits.
- **Data Engineering & Reproducibility:** Reproducible analysis pipelines in R and Python; built and maintained lab data infrastructure, online panels, subject pools, and digital-trace (survey para-data) and physiological data collection (electrodermal activity, fMRI).
- **Communication & Stakeholders:** Translate technical findings for non-expert audiences; 6 internationally peer-reviewed publications and a book under contract; peer reviewer for 12 journals; editorial board member.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, USA 07/2025 – Present

- Design and field survey experiments in political psychology (including a novel **accordion conjoint** design measuring information search and correcting selective-attention bias).
- Secured \$24,068 in internal and external research funding.
- Teach political psychology, applied public opinion and political behavior and decision-making.
- Launching an independent research stream on **synthetic sampling** (LLMs as stand-ins for human survey respondents), testing whether model-generated responses reproduce the reliability, factor structure, and measurement invariance of real samples, and where and for whom they fail.

Research Social Scientist & Lab Manager, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA 09/2023 – 07/2025

- Designed, collected, and analyzed observational and experimental studies for faculty and students: **complex Qualtrics builds** (choice-based conjoint, implicit association tests) plus **physiological measures** (electrodermal activity, fMRI).
- Managed the department subject pool and **survey and experimental operations** (SONA Systems, IRB scholarly reviewership); standardized reproducible analysis workflows.
- Assistance in building an interactive **R Shiny** data dashboard for the **Arizona Voter Project**.

Assistant Professor, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey 11/2022 – 07/2025

- **Tenure-track faculty appointment** combining an independent research agenda with graduate and undergraduate teaching (On leave 09/2023–07/2025 for the Arizona role).
- **Co-founded a behavioral-science research lab** on a competitive internal grant, integrating survey experiments with wearable physiological measurement (heart-rate variability, sleep).

Insights Executive, Twentify (market research firm), Istanbul, Turkey 04/2022 – 07/2022

- Delivered **consumer insights** and **market research analysis** for domestic and international business clients in a commercial research environment.

Predocctoral Research Fellow, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois, USA **10/2019 – 06/2020**

- **Dissertation fellow** funded by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), in a political psychology lab; designed and ran survey experiments on attitudes under threat.

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D., Political Science & International Relations , Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey | 2020 |
| M.A., International Relations , Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey | 2015 |
| B.A., Political Science & International Relations , Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey | 2013 |

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages & Tools:** R, Stata, Python, JavaScript; Git/GitHub, Docker, L^AT_EX.
- **Survey & Data Collection:** Face-to-face and online modes (CloudResearch, Dynata, Forthright Access, Prolific, PureSpectrum); Qualtrics; SONA Systems; conjoint experiment, implicit measures, digital-trace and physiological data.
- **Methods:** Survey design & validation, sampling, weighting & poststratification; causal mediation, regression discontinuity, multilevel models, SEM, measurement invariance, longitudinal/RI-CLPM; text-as-data.
- **Geospatial:** ArcGIS, QGIS.
- **Languages:** Turkish (native), English (fluent).

SELECTED RESEARCH & WRITING

- **Erol, F., Micatka, N. K., & Ksiazkiewicz, A. (2026).** Waking up to politics: How sleep quality relates to political participation. *Political Psychology*. DOI: [10.1111/pops.70124](https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.70124)
- **Erol, F., Ecevit, Y. A., & Kocapınar, G. (2024).** Polarization congruence and satisfaction with democracy: A multinational investigation. *Electoral Studies*. DOI: [10.1016/j.electstud.2024.102796](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2024.102796)
- **Erol, F. (2023).** Threats and the conservative shift in public opinion: Comparative causal mediation analyses from Turkey. *Southeast European & Black Sea Studies*. DOI: [10.1080/14683857.2023.2189541](https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2023.2189541)
- **Ksiazkiewicz, A., & Erol, F. (2022).** Too tired to vote: A multinational comparison of election turnout with sleep preferences and behaviors. *Electoral Studies*. DOI: [10.1016/j.electstud.2022.102491](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2022.102491)
- **Ksiazkiewicz, A., & Erol, F. (2022).** Linking sleep, political ideology, and religious observance: A multi-national comparison. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. DOI: [10.1093/ijpor/edac020](https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edac020)
- **Erol, F. (2022).** Terrorism mortality salience manipulation: A causal mediation analysis. *Terrorism and Political Violence*. DOI: [10.1080/09546553.2022.2060081](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2022.2060081)
- **Ksiazkiewicz, A., & Erol, F. (under contract).** *Sleepy Citizenship: The Biopolitics of Rest in American Democracy*. Oxford University Press.

SELECTED FUNDING & SERVICE

- **Funding:** \$40K+ in competitive research funding, incl. a Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Predocctoral Fellowship (\$14,400), Institute for Humane Studies grants (\$2,500, \$2,568), a U-Idaho Data Access Grant (\$4,100), a U-Idaho seed grant \$15,000, an APSA Spring 2026 Centennial Center research grant (\$2,400).
- **Editorial & Review:** Editorial Board, *Political Psychology*; Governing Council, Association for *Politics and the Life Sciences* (2025–2028). Peer reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Political Psychology*, *Electoral Studies*, *Politics and the Life Sciences*, *Psychological Methods*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Migration*, *PLoS ONE*, *Frontiers in Political Science*, and *International Criminology*.