

BERKAY KOÇAK

PhD - Political Science



kocak.berkay@yahoo.com



+640224991898



58a Glendevon Place, Vauxhall,
Dunedin, OTA 9013



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- *PhD in political science and public administration specialising in political theory, public policy, and political economy.*
- *Teaching fellow in the Politics Programme University of Otago and in the Department of Political Science & Public Policy at the University of Waikato*
- *Contributed to various projects, publications, and presentations in the different fields of social sciences.*
- *Worked for the Electoral Commission, KiwiRail, and the Ministry of Justice in multiple roles.*

EDUCATION

University of Waikato

Hamilton, NZ • 2024

PhD: Political Science and Public Policy

Middle East Technical University

Ankara, Turkey • 10/2017

Master of Science: Political Science
and Public Administration

Bilkent University

Ankara, Turkey • 06/2015

Bachelor of Science: Political Science
and Public Administration, History

REFEREES

Dr Justine Kingsbury (Chief Supervisor)

Department of Philosophy
The University of Waikato
Hamilton, Waikato

Email: justine.kingsbury@waikato.ac.nz

Mobile: +64273752251

Dr Anthony Richardson (Co-supervisor)

Centre for Tertiary Teaching and
Learning

The University of Waikato
Hamilton, Waikato

Email: anthony.richardson@waikato.ac.nz

Mobile: +640224027099

İdil Kaplan

Principal Adviser, Engagement &
Infrastructure Regulation
Commerce Commission
Wellington City, Wellington

Email: idikaplan@gmail.com

Mobile: +640210363703

COMPETENCY SKILLS

Policy Analysis & Research

I adopt policy as an important goal to contribute to decision-making by gathering information from exhaustive sources directly inside or outside the policy field, analysing various studies, and sharing the findings with the institutional structure and other government agencies. During my PhD research, I got more into the field of public policy in New Zealand, where I had a chance to observe the political, economic, and strategic policy responses of New Zealand to global challenges. My doctoral research on the political and philosophical foundations of universalism, combined with my significant exposure to New Zealand's public policy framework through roles in the New Zealand public sector, equips me with the skills needed for comprehensive policy analysis.

Teamwork & Relationship Management

Throughout my academic and professional journey, I have cultivated strong teamwork and stakeholder relationship management skills that are versatile and valuable across a range of roles and industries. My experiences in academic group work, volunteer service in the local government in Turkey, and fixed-term positions at notable organizations in Aotearoa, including the Electoral Commission, the Ministry of Justice, and KiwiRail, have equipped me to foster collaborative, interactive, and inclusive teamwork while effectively engaging with stakeholders. These roles often required me to work closely with diverse teams and provide vital support to local communities, ensuring that I understand the importance of effective collaboration and relationship-building. These skills, refined through these diverse experiences, empower me to work harmoniously with teams and build positive relationships with stakeholders, facilitating a unified and cooperative approach to achieve common goals.

Kotahitanga & Manaakitanga

During my teaching and tutoring, I have developed strong collaborative relationships with other lecturers, tutors and staff in sharing resources and knowledge on best theory practice, delivery and knowledge. In addition to my academic pursuits, my professional experiences in the public service in New Zealand at organizations such as the Electoral Commission, KiwiRail, and the Ministry of Justice have allowed me to immerse myself in te ao Māori, tikanga, and kawa, while developing a profound understanding of Te Tiriti in the context of public affairs. These experiences have deepened my commitment to Kotahitanga, Manaakitanga, and the principles of Te Tiriti Waitangi, enabling me to work effectively within diverse teams, promote inclusivity, and honor the values of Aotearoa New Zealand in all aspects of my professional life.

Problem Solving & Critical Thinking

During my tenure as a lecturer, I embarked on curriculum enhancements, involving course design through interactive pedagogic formations, to actively cultivate critical thinking and stimulate student engagement. This proactive approach significantly increased student involvement. Recently, I served as a consecutive interpreter for the *Christchurch Masjidain Attack Coronial Inquiry* hearings. In this capacity, I provided invaluable support to the victim families, addressing their legal and daily concerns, facilitating effective communication, and becoming an integral part of the constructive process that the trial endeavours to bring about. Furthermore, my experience as the *Mobile Support Manager* at the Electoral Commission allowed me to further refine my problem-solving skills. During this role, I provided immediate support, regulatory guidance, and crisis management for electoral officers, strengthening my ability to address complex issues.

LANGUAGES

English

Proficient

Turkish

Native

German

Competent

Russian

Introductory

WORK HISTORY

Ministry of Justice & NZTIS - Consecutive Interpreter

Christchurch, Canterbury • 10/2023 - Current

- Provide essential interpretation support to families and interested parties during *Christchurch Masjidain Attack Coronial Inquiry* hearings, with responsibilities adapting daily to meet their dynamic needs and those of counsel.

Electoral Commission - Mobile Support Manager & Electoral Trainer

Dunedin, Otago • 06/2023 - 10/2023

- **Electoral Trainer:** ensure that all electorate field employees are trained in accordance with the requirements of the National Office.
- **Mobile Support:** provide support to Voting Places throughout an electorate during the voting period.

University Of Otago - Teaching Fellow - Politics Programme

Dunedin, Otago • 06/2022 - 03/2023

- Teaching:
POLS310 - Turkey and its Neighbours | Summer School
POLS208 - Democracy: Past, Present, Future | Semester 2

KiwiRail - Administration Assistant

Dunedin, Otago • 05/2021 - 07/2021

- Digitising the archival documents of KiwiRail, documentation of records, registration of archival materials

University Of Waikato - Teaching Fellow - Political Science& Public Policy

Hamilton, Waikato • 10/2019 - 11/2020

- Teaching:
POLS101 - Politics in the Ancient World | 2019
POLS201 - Modern Political Thinkers | 2019 - 2020

PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

Academic

- Koçak, B. (2024). *Kant's Universalism in Historical Context: Repoliticising the Foundations of a Seminal Political Philosophy* (Doctoral Thesis). Faculty of Arts, Law, Psychology and Social Sciences, Political Science and Public Policy, The University of Waikato, Waikato, New Zealand
- Koçak, B. (2021). Alienation and Emancipation in The Work of Karl Marx [Review of the book *Alienation and Emancipation in The Work of Karl Marx* by G. Comninel]. *Progress in Political Economy (PPE)* Sydney.
- Koçak, B. (2017). *Critical Analysis of Marxist Orthodoxies: A Contribution of Social History of Political Theory* (Master of Science). Faculty of Economics, and Administrative Sciences, Political Science and Public Administration, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

Commentary/Analysis

- Koçak, B. (2023, May 30). *Erdogan's triumph is Turkey's crossroads*. Otago Daily Times.
- Koçak, B. (2023, May 17). *Run-off to settle Turkish Destiny*. Otago Daily Times.
- Koçak, B. (2023, May 2). *Crucial poll looming in Turkey*. Otago Daily Times.

Other Projects (Undergraduate)

- Koçak, B., Soner, C., Kobakci, D., & Ata, Y. (2015). *A Crack in the New Right: Neo-Liberalism vs Neo-Conservatism - The Case of Maternity Leave* (Transdisciplinary Senior Project (Bachelor's Dissertation). Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.