

# Selim Yaman

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## EDUCATION

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- 2019– **American University, Washington D.C., US**  
PhD in Political Science  
Fields: Political Methodology & Comparative Politics
- 2016–2017 **SOAS, London, UK**  
Master of Science (M.Sc.), Political Economy of Development
- 2015 **Sciences Po, Paris, France**  
Student Exchange Program, Economics
- 2011–2016 **Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey**  
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Economics

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2023– **Pre-doctoral Fellow, Social Data Science Institute, University of Mannheim**  
Working with Prof. Marc Ratkovic on large language models.
- 2023 **Teaching Assistant, ICPSR at University of Michigan**  
Held regular office hours for Machine Learning course, gave a workshop on NLP in political science using Python, graded assignments.
- 2022 **Visiting Researcher, Harvard University**  
Weekly Applied Stats workshops at IQSS, co-authored projects with other graduate students
- 2020– **Replication Analyst & Editorial Assistant, [Political Analysis](#)**  
Evaluated statistical analyses of submitted manuscripts, and assisted authors in debugging code  
Heavily used bash, remote clusters, Docker, R, and Python to ensure that all code runs smoothly reproduces authors' original results
- 2019– **Research & Teaching Assistant, American University**  
TA for Introduction to Political Science Research (Andrew Flores)  
TA for Institute for Data Science and Big Data (Ryan Moore)  
TA for Advanced Bayesian Statistics Course (Jeff Gill)  
Helped students in understanding machine learning, coding, statistical modeling, debugging; held regular office hours; graded code assignments  
R package development and maintenance ([BaM](#) and [protectR](#))
- 2016–2019 **Data Analyst and TV Producer, TRT World, Istanbul and London**

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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Published	Selim Yaman, Yasir Atalan, and Jeff Gill. “Bridging Prediction and Theory: Introducing the Bayesian Partially-Protected Lasso.” <i>Electoral Studies</i> , 2023. <a href="#">[article]</a> <a href="#">[code]</a>
R&R	Selim Yaman, and Jeff Gill. “Introducing the Bayesian Partially-Protected Elastic Net” <i>Mathematics</i> . <a href="#">[article]</a>
Under Review	Selim Yaman. “Do Politics Stop at the Water’s Edge? Evidence from Twitter Discussions on Afghanistan Withdrawal” <a href="#">[paper]</a> Yasir Atalan, Selim Yaman, and Jeff Gill. “Bayesian Partially-Protected Lasso: Extension and Applications in Political Science” <a href="#">[paper]</a>
Working Papers	Selim Yaman and Mustafa Kocyigit. “Beyond Human Subjects: Large Language Models as Participants in Political Experimentation” <a href="#">[poster]</a> Selim Yaman. “Unveiling the Alliance Effect: How Warlord-Government Relations Shape Local Economies in Conflict Zones” Selim Yaman. “Beyond the Tweets: Leveraging Language Models for Estimating Political Ideology on Twitter” <a href="#">[paper]</a> Ahmet Utku Akbiyik, Muhammed Akkus, and Selim Yaman. “Dams: Infrastructural Investment as a Tool of Development and Peace”

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Methodology	Natural Language Processing, Bayesian Statistics, Regularization Methods
Comparative Politics	Political Violence, Public Opinion

## HONORS & AWARDS

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2023	The Neil and Ann Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship, \$10,000 by American University
2020-2023	Conference Travel Grants, Department of Government, SPA, American University
2022	Travel grant of \$1,000 for/by <a href="#">2022 Collaborative Midterm Survey</a>
2019–	Graduate Merit Award by American University
2016	Honors Certificate by Bogazici University
2015	Erasmus Funding during the exchange program at SciencesPo

## SKILLS

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Programming	R, Python, JAGS, SQL
Tools	Docker, Github, HPC, Unix/Linux, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
Language	English (fluent), Turkish (fluent), Arabic (intermediate)

## CONFERENCES

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- 2024 “Beyond Human Subjects: Large Language Models as Participants in Political Experimentation” at [MENA and Asian PolMeth, NYU Abu Dhabi](#)
- 2023 “Protecting Variables in Bayesian Penalization: Introducing Bayesian Partially-Protected Lasso” at [PolMeth, Stanford](#)
- 2023 “Estimating User Ideology on Twitter via Large Language Models” at [CompText, Glasgow](#)
- 2021 “Which Groups Benefits Most in Civil Wars? A Night-light Approach to Afghan Conflict using GIS” at the [78th MPSA, Online](#)

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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- 2023 Graduate Certificate in Data Science (American University)
- 2022 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods
- 2021 Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences (SICSS) Istanbul
- 2021 Winter Institute in Computational Social Sciences (WICSS) Tuscon
- 2020 Sexual Assault Prevention Certificate Program (American University)
- 2020 College Teaching Preparation Certificate Program (American University)
- 2019 Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (Social Research IRB Certificate)
- 2015 [QASID](#) International Arabic Institute, Amman, Jordan

**REFERENCES** References available upon request:

### **Jeff Gill**

*Distinguished Professor*

Departments of Government, Mathematics & Statistics  
Center for Data Science, Center for Neuroscience and Behavior  
American University

### **Zois Boukouvalas**

*Assistant Professor*

Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
American University

### **Laura Paler**

*Associate Professor*

Department of Government  
School of Public Affairs  
American University