*Updated: February 8, 2021*

**BILGE FIRAT, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of Texas at El Paso

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**EDUCATION**

PhD ’11, Binghamton University, Anthropology

MA ’06, Binghamton University, Anthropology

BSc ’02, Middle East Technical University, Sociology

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2018-… Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of Texas at El Paso

2018-… Faculty Fellow, Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, The University of Texas at El Paso

2016-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of International Studies, Texas A&M University

2016-2018 Faculty Fellow, Energy Institute, Texas A&M University

2015-2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Technical University

2015-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University

2012-2014 Lecturer, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Technical University

2013-2014 Visiting Faculty Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University

2002-2012 Research Associate, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Technical University

2008-2009 Visiting Researcher, Centre de recherche en ethnologie européenne, Université Libre de Bruxelles

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book**

2019 *Diplomacy and Lobbying during Turkey’s Europeanisation: the Private Life of Politics.* Manchester: Manchester University Press, Political and Administrative Ethnography Series.

**Edited Volume**

2014 *Culture, Power, and Policymaking in the New Europe*. Special issue of *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 23(1):1-120.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

2016 Political Documents and Bureaucratic Entrepreneurs: Lobbying the European Parliament during Turkey’s EU Integration. *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 39(2):190-205.

2016 “The Most Eastern of the West, the Most Western of the East”: Energy- Transport Infrastructures and Regional Politics of the Periphery in Turkey. *Economic Anthropology* 3(1):81-93.

2014 Crisis, Power, and Policymaking in the New Europe: Why Should Anthropologists Care? *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 23(1):1-20.

2014 The Accession Pedagogy: Power, Policy, and Politics in Turkey’s Bid for EU Membership. *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 23(1):99-120.

2013 Failed Promises: Economic Integration, Bureaucratic Encounters, and the EU- Turkey Customs Union. *Dialectical Anthropology* 37(1):1-26.

2009 Negotiating Europe/*Avrupa*: Prelude for an Anthropological Approach to Turkish Europeanization and the Cultures of EU lobbying in Brussels. *European Journal of Turkish Studies* 9: Special Issue on EU-Turkey: Sociological Approaches.

**Chapter in Book**

2018 Integrative Currents? Electrifying the Turkey-EU Relations in Times of Blackout. In Szolucha, Anna (ed.), *Energy, Resource Extraction and Society: Impacts and Contested Futures*, pp.177-196. New York: Routledge.

**Other Writings**

2017 Infrastructure as New Life? *Platypus, Committee on the Anthropology of Science, Technology and Computing Blog*

<http://blog.castac.org/2017/07/infrastructure-life/>

2017 Divided by Democracy? Reflections on the Turkish Referendum From the Top. *Association for Political and Legal Anthropology,* Series on Emergency for Turkish Democracy

[https://politicalandlegalanthro.org/2017/04/27/divided- by-democracy-reflections-on-the-turkish-referendum-from-the-top/](https://politicalandlegalanthro.org/2017/04/27/divided-%09by-democracy-reflections-on-the-turkish-referendum-from-the-top/)

2015 White Elephants and Cannibals through the Glass Wall of Policymaking in Euroland: Enlargement, Energy, and Infrastructure. *Reviews & Critical Commentary, Council for European Studies*, September 16 <https://critcom.councilforeuropeanstudies.org/white-elephants-and-cannibals-through-the-glass-wall-of-policymaking-in-euroland-enlargement-energy-and-infrastructure/>

2014 Europeanization alla Turca? A Communicative Engagement Event Towards the Positive Agenda. *The Wenner Gren Blog* [http://blog.wennergren.org/2014/08/engaged-anthropology-grant-bilge-firat/](http://blog.wennergren.org/2014/08/engaged-anthropology-grant-bilge-%09firat/)

**Works in Progress**

*Article:* Geopolitics as an Ethnographic Object, *Geographical Compass* (R&R)

*Article:* Geopolitics, Infrastructure, and Scale-making in the Southern Gas Corridor (prepared for the “Making Megaprojects: The Practices and Politics of Scale- Making” special issue for *Ethnos*, under review)

*Book Chapter*: The New Turkish Infrastructural State (prepared for an edited volume)

*Book Review:* Review of *Sovereignty Suspended* (prepared for *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*)

**HONORS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**External Funding**

2015 Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy Summer School Tuition Support (€500)

2015 Wenner-Gren Foundation & International Society for Ethnology and Folklore Conference Travel Support ($250)

2013-2014 Binghamton University Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities Fellowship

2013 Wenner-Gren Foundation Engaged Anthropology Grant ($5000)

2012 Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey International Scholarly Travel Support ($1500)

2008 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant ($22900)

2002-2006 Council for Higher Education of Turkey Graduate Scholarship ($86000)

**Internal Funding**

2020 The University of Texas at El Paso, University Research Institute Grant ($5000)

2020 The University of Texas at El Paso, College of Liberal Arts, Deans’ Speakers Series for Interdisciplinary Research ($5000)

2018 Texas A&M University, Melbern C. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Faculty Research Fellowship ($5000, declined)

2017 Texas A&M University, College of Liberal Arts, International Travel Support ($1500)

2015 Istanbul Technical University Research Fund, International Scholarly Travel Support ($3000)

2012 Istanbul Technical University Research Fund, International Scholarly Travel Support ($3000)

2009 Binghamton University, Department of Anthropology, Richard T. Antoun Graduate Fellowship ($7500)

**Honors**

2017 Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, 2018-2020 (Texas A&M University nomination)

**RESEARCH**

**Solo Projects**

*Geopolitics, Infrastructure and Expertise in the Southern Gas Corridor* (2019-current)

*Certificate,* Baku Summer Energy School, Caspian Center for Energy and Environment, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, 7/2015

*Cultures of Geopolitical Expertise* (2021-current)

*Energy Transport Infrastructures and Regional Integration around the Bosporus: Material Futures or Political Dreamscapes?* (2013-current)

*The Negotiation of Turkish Europeanization in Brussels* (2005-2013, funded by Wenner-Gren Foundation [2008-2009: Gr.#7783 & 2013: EAG-20])

Research-Related Media Coverage:

Patton, Anna. 2019. “Run-up to Swedish EU presidency: Turkey-EU Blame Game”. *cafebabel.com. The European Magazine*, May 28.

Bray, Nicholas. 2009. “Lobbying in Brussels, the Turkish Case”. Centre for Turkey in Europe. *EU-Turkey Update*. Issue 4/May, pp. 11-12.

**Collaborative Projects**

*Geography of Innovation: An Oral History of Industry in the Southern Tier 1930-1980*, under the auspices of the Center for Technology and Innovation and the Departments of Anthropology & History, Binghamton University (2004-2005)

**DISSEMINATION**

**Paper Presentations and Invited Talks**

2021 An Anthropology of Geopolitics?, Geopolitical Infrastructures I-III, American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 7-11

2021 What Does a Political Anthropologist Do?, Liberal Arts Honors Program Lunchtime Talks with Faculty, The University of Texas at El Paso, February 4

2021 Southern Gas Corridor as a Legal Geographic Experiment, Faculty Participant-Legal Geography Graduate Student Workshop, January 27

2020 The Private Life of Politics in Brussels: A Book Talk, Center for Inter- American and Border Studies, The University of Texas at El Paso, March 11

2019 Infrastructural State and Energy-Transport in the Southern Gas Corridor, “Ethnographies of Megaprojects: Social and Political Worlds of Large-Scale Infrastructures” Symposium*,* Stockholm University, September 12-13

2019 Energy Transport Infrastructures, Interdisciplinary Faculty Colloquium, The University of Texas at El Paso, April 17

2018 Between “Access” and “Accession”: Arts of Lobbying and Diplomacy during Turkey’s Failed EU Membership Bid, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14-18

2018 Quo Vadis, “New Turkey”? Politics, Infrastructure, and Foreign Policy, The University of Texas at El Paso, November 29

2017 Integrative Currents? Electrifying the Turkey-EU Relations in Times of Blackout, Energy Impacts, Authors’ Workshop, University of Bergen, Department of Social Anthropology, December 7-8

2017 Integrative Currents? Electrifying the Turkey-EU Relations in Times of Blackout, European Sociological Association, August 28-31

2017 Integrative Currents? Electrifying Turkey-EU Relations in Times of Blackout, Energy Impacts: People, Responsibilities and the Contested Futures of Energy Developments, University of Bergen, February 28-March 2

2016 Integrative Currents? Electrifying Turkey-EU Relations in Times of Blackout,Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20

2016 Turkey in the EU: Too large, Too Poor, Too Muslim? Departments of Anthropology and International Studies, Texas A&M University, March 30

2015 Carving Turkey: Material Development, Infrastructural Power, and Land Appropriation around Bosporus, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 18-22

2015 Carving Turkey: Material Development, Infrastructural Power, and Land Appropriation around Bosporus, Biennial Conference of the Finnish Anthropological Society, October 21-22

2015 “In Pursuit of the Undying tree”: Power, Capital and Regional Inequality in Southeast Europe, 12th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, June 21-25

2014 Energy and Transport Infrastructures and Peripheral Politics around the Bosphorus, Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting “Energy and Economy”, April 24-26

2014 Energy Infrastructures and the Politics of the Periphery, Council for European Studies Conference, March 14-16

2014 Political Documents and Bureaucratic Entrepreneurs: Lobbying the European Parliament during Turkey’s EU Integration, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University, February 26

2013 Energy Infrastructures and Politics of the Periphery, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 20-24

2013 Infrastructure and Regional Integration around the Bosphorus: Material Futures or Political Dreamscapes?, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University, October 23

2013 Europeanization *alla Turca*? Bridging Communicative Divides across the Bosphorus, European Parliament, September 17

2012 “The Most Eastern of the West, the Most Western of the East”: Rethinking the EU’s Enlargement Policy and Accession Pedagogy Towards Turkey, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14-18

2012 Policy Communities, Symbolic Politics and Lobbying for Turkey’s EU Accession in Brussels, Italian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 13-15

2012 The Accession Pedagogy: Power and Politics in Turkey’s Bid for EU Membership, Crisis & Critique Conference, Sakarya University, April 25-26

2012 Lobbying Common European Interests: The T. File of Steel and Turkey’s Accession Negotiations, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Technical University, February 27

2010 Technification and Politicization in Turkey’s EU Accession, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 17-21

2009 Négocier l’Europe/*Avrupa*: prélude à une approche anthropologique sur l’intégration européenne de la Turquie. Centre de recherches en ethnologie européenne, Université Libre de Bruxelles & Unité de recherche en communication, Université Catholique de Louvain under the auspices of the Graduate School of Social Sciences (EDTSS) of the French Community of Belgium, March 17

2008 Turkish Europeanization, European Integration and the Cultures of EU Lobbying, Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, August 26-30

2005 Lobbying, Trains, and other EU Business: An Anthropological Inquiry into Turkey’s Accession to the European Union, First Annual Conference and Research Workshop of the Binghamton/Cornell Consortium for the Anthropology of Europe, September 10

**Panel Organizations**

2018 Panel organizer, Quo Vadis, “New Turkey”? Panel I: Taking Stock of Ethnographic Knowledge on Health Care, Ecology and Bureaucracy, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Nov 14-18

2018 Panel organizer, Quo Vadis, “New Turkey”? Panel II: Taking Stock of Ethnographic Knowledge on Minorities, Penal Policy, International Politics, and Neonationalism Inside/Out, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Nov 14-18

2016 Panel co-organizer, Power and Integration: the Politics of Energy and Infrastructures in Europe, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20

2016 Panel convener, Café Europa, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20

2015 Panel co-organizer, Olive Futures: Ethnographies of a Delicious Kind, 12th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, June 21-25

2013 Roundtable organizer, Europeanization *alla Turca*? A Communicative Engagement Event, European Parliament, Brussels, September 17 ([blog.wennergren.org/2014/08/engaged-anthropology-grant-bilge-firat/](http://blog.wennergren.org/2014/08/engaged-anthropology-grant-bilge-firat/))

2012 Panel co-organizer, Culture, Power and Policy in the New Europe I: Refocusing the Anthropological Purview on the Politics of Culture, City, Migration and Enlargement, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14-18

2012 Panel co-organizer, Culture, Power and Policy in the New Europe II: Refocusing the Anthropological Purview on the Politics of Gender, Agriculture and Finance, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14-18

**Panels Chaired**

2016 Power and Integration: the Politics of Energy and Infrastructures in Europe, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20

2016 Café Europa, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 16-20

2015 Olive Futures: Ethnographies of a Delicious Kind, 12th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore, June 21-25

2014 Within and Without: Factors Influencing European Policy Making on the Environment, Council for European Studies Conference, March 14-16 (invited)

2012 Prisons and Academia, Prisons and the Society Forums, organized by CISST and Bogazici University, December 19-20 (invited)

2012 Culture, Power and Policy in the New Europe II: Refocusing the Anthropological Purview on the Politics of Gender, Agriculture and Finance, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, November 14-18

**TEACHING**

Courses taught:

*At The University of Texas at El Paso:* Introduction to Cultural Anthropology Undergraduate); Dark Side of Globalization (undergraduate); Urban Anthropology (undergraduate); Ethnographic Methods (undergraduate); Global Experts (advanced undergraduate); Underworlds: Infrastructure and Society (advanced undergraduate); Comparative Regions (graduate)

*At Texas A&M University:* Introduction to International Studies (undergraduate); World of Experts (advanced undergraduate); Urbanism and Modernism (advanced undergraduate); Theories of Globalization (undergraduate/graduate)

*At Binghamton University:* Visual Anthropology (undergraduate, TA); Political Anthropology (undergraduate, TA); Globalization: Tales from the Dark Side (undergraduate); Anthropology of Sex/uality (undergraduate); Underworlds: Social Lives of Infrastructures (advanced undergraduate); Comparative Social Development (advanced undergraduate); The Body (graduate)

*At Istanbul Technical University:* Globalization and International Relations (undergraduate); Issues in World Politics (undergraduate); Energy, Transport and Society (graduate); Science & Technology Policies (graduate)

Student supervision:

*At The University of Texas at El Paso*:

* Chandler F. Franklin (ANTH/CRIM BA’20, SOCI MA/2020-…; graduate advising)
* Gina Y. Castrejon (POLS; UTEP’s 2020-2021 MERITUS award-recipient for the project “The Role of Municipal and Non-State Actors in EL Paso’s Land Management”; undergraduate advising)
* Alberto I. Santos (HIST; UTEP’s 2020-2021 MERITUS award-recipient for the project “The Everyday Hardships of Those on the Front Lines; undergraduate advising);
* Rebeka Isaac (MA’21 in Latin American and Border Studies; MA thesis committee member);
* Mustapha Maikudi (MA’20 in Political Science; MA thesis committee member)

*At Texas A&M University:*

* Jillian H. Ginger Hamilton (International Studies BA’18 with Minor in Arabic; “Expertise in Property Grabbing Crimes in Post-Colonial Uganda” Undergraduate Honors Thesis supervision)

**SERVICE**

**To Profession**

*American Anthropologist* Manuscript Reviewer, 2020

*American Ethnologist* Manuscript Reviewer, 2017, 2018, 2019

*European Journal of Political Research* Manuscript Reviewer, 2019

*Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* Manuscript Reviewer, 2019

*Political and Legal Anthropology Review* Manuscript Reviewer, 2016, 2018

*Qualitative Sociology* Manuscript Reviewer, 2017

*American Anthropological Association’s* *Society for the Anthropology of Europe* Publications & Project Chair; Convener of the Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2015-2017

*National Science Foundation* Panelist & Proposal Reviewer, 2016-2017

*Council for European Studies* Conference Program Reviewer, 2014, 2016

Conference on Materiality, Memory and Cultural Heritage, *Istanbul Technical & Yeditepe Universities*, Conference Program Reviewer, 2011

**To University**

*UTEP:* Dean’s Speaker Series: “Transhemispheric Regional Integration in the Americas”, Co-convener (w/ Gaspare Genna, Department of Political Science, UTEP), 2020

*Texas A&M University*: Melbern C. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Energy Humanities Working Group, Co-convener, 2017-2018

*Istanbul Technical University*: Office of the Rectorate: Performance Evaluation and Post Tenure Review Committee (2015-2016); Graduate School of Social Sciences: Advisory Committee for the MA Program in Science and Technology in Society (2014-2016), Advisory Committee for the PhD Program in Political and Social Thought (2011-2012: principal author of the PhD Program Proposal & 2013 Strategy Report), Advisory Committee for the MA Program in Political Studies (2011-2012: principal author of the 2012 Strategy Report)

**To Department**

*UTEP*: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Colloquium Committee, Member, 2018

*Binghamton University*: Sociology Department, Undergraduate Committee, Member, 2015-2016

**MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association

Society for the Anthropology of Europe

Association for the Anthropology of Policy

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Society for Economic Anthropology

European Association of Social Anthropologists

Energy Anthropology Network

Council of European Studies

Research Network on European Integration and the Global Political Economy

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore

University Association for Contemporary European Studies

American Association of Geographers

**LANGUAGES**

Turkish (mother tongue); English (fully literate, primary working language); German (Sprach Diplom Stufe II); Italian (intermediate, ItalCultura); French (elementary, Alliance Française)