

ARJOLA BALILAJ

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. August 2020

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Dissertation (defended): Social Constructions and Narratives:
An Analysis of U.S. Refugee Policy from 1980-2018

M. A. January 2013

Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey

B. S. July 2011

Bachelor of Science in International Relations

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Some courses completed at *Mari Curie- Sklodowska University*,
Lublin, Poland

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, January 2021-Present

Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama, USA

Graduate Assistant, August 2014- August- 2020

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, USA

Project Research Manager, January 2013- August 2014

Farplas Holding, Istanbul, Turkey

Graduate Assistant, September 2011- January 2013

Sabanci University, Istanbul Turkey

RESEARCH

Graduate Research Assistant, Summer 2017- Present, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Alka Sapat (Co-PI) for the National Science Foundation funded project: CRISP TYPE 2: Probabilistic Resilience Assessment of Interdependent Infrastructure. Some of my duties included:

- Participating in the biweekly meeting organized by the project directors to plan and report progress.
- Participating in the Tabletop Exercise organized as a data gathering workshop in the Governor's Hurricane Conference in May 2018.
- Assisting in coding the qualitative data from the above-mentioned exercise using the Nvivo software.
- Assisting in editing and formatting references and citations for different publications resulting from the project.

Graduate Research Assistant, Spring 2016- Spring 2017, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Gao Liu. During this time, I assisted Dr. Liu on various research projects related to the nonprofit sector in the US and internationally. Some of my duties included:

- Researching, reviewing, and organizing literature on theories of growth in the nonprofit sector.
- Identifying and collecting financial nonprofit data from GuideStar.
- Identifying and collecting international social development data from the World Bank to use in international nonprofit sector growth research.

Graduate Research Assistant, Fall- 2014- Summer 2015, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Under the supervision of Dr. Ali Farazmand, assisted in the following projects:

- Revising the editorial board and process for the International Journal of Public Administration
- Coordinating with different authors and preparing the edited book “Global Cases in Best and Worst Practice in Crises and Emergency Management” for publication. The book was published by CRC Press in 2016.
- Putting together the themes and structure for the project “Global Encyclopedia for Public Administration” published by Springer in 2018.
- Revising and updating the MPA manual and brochure.

Graduate Research Assistant, Spring 2012- Fall 2012, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey

Under the supervision of Dr. Ayse Celik Betul assisted in the following projects:

- Collecting, transcribing, and coding interview data for the project “Gender Representation in the Turkish Parliament”
- Organizing the “Interdisciplinary and Comparative Approaches to Ethnic Conflict: An International Symposium” conference. The conference took place in Istanbul in May of 2012.

Research Assistant, Summer 2012, Sabanci University, Istanbul Turkey

Under the supervision of Dr. Terry Murphy participated in the research project titled “Reflections on Justice and Human Security in Post- war Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The project was funded by the Rotary Club Turkey and Sabanci University. Some of my duties included:

- Conduct field research in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Interview different actors who had witnessed the conflict and had been involved in the post-conflict reconstruction phase.
- Write reports on the different daily activities and workshops.
- Present the findings of the project to the Rotary Club and Sabanci University with the purpose of raising funds for possible social projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

PUBLICATIONS

Sapat, A., Mitsova, D., Balilaj, A., & Esnard, A-M. (2021). *Policy mandates and organizational compliance: A spatial analysis of the factors affecting the adoption and implementation of emergency power plans by nursing homes*. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 13(1), 64-93.

Sapat, A., Balilaj, A. & Esnard, A. M. (2020). Social constructions of disaster survivors and displaced populations: Implications for policy design. In S. Kuo, J. T. Marshall, & R. M. Rowberry (Eds.). *The Cambridge handbook of disaster law: Risk, recovery, and redevelopment*. (Forthcoming Cambridge 2022).

Balilaj, A. (2016). Ethics and international affairs: Extent and Limits, 2nd ed. [Review of book by J. M. Coicaud & D. Warner]. *Public Integrity* 18 (2), 229-232.

Farazmand, A. and Balilaj, A. (2015). Does Asia have a unique theory of public administration for all seasons? An exploratory essay. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, 37 (3), 143-160.

WORKING PAPERS

Balilaj, A. (2020). *The Refugee Act of 1980: The origins of the annual consultation process and its consequences*. Working Paper. To be submitted to the Journal of Policy History

Balilaj, A. (2020). *Aliens? They are already here! The militarization of the US- Mexico border and the construction of the dangerous "otherness"*. Working Paper. To be submitted to Public Voices.

Balilaj, A. (2020). *Deserving victims or fraudulent villains? The changes in the constructions of refugees in the US policy narratives*. Working Paper. Accepted for presentation at the 2020 MPSA Annual Conference, Chicago.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Balilaj, A. The Covid- 19 Response and Policy Inequity: The Case of Resettled Refugees. Presented at the American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL, 17-22 March 2022.

Balilaj, A. *Social Constructions and Narratives in the US Refugee Policy: An Analysis of the Annual Refugee Ceilings Determination Process 1980-2017*. Presented at 77th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 4-7 April 2019.

Balilaj, A. *Who is the Enemy? Competing Narratives of Iran, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United States in the Syrian Conflict*. Presented at the British International Studies Association's Narrating Russian and Eurasian Security Workshop, London, 18-19 June 2018.

Balilaj, A. *Social Construction of Refugees: An analysis of U.S. Refugee Policy from 1980-2017*. Presented at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Birmingham, AL, 20-23 September 2018.

Balilaj, A. *The Refugee Act of 1980: A narrative policy framework*. Presented at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 4-7 October 2017.

Balilaj, A. *Establishing good governance in post- conflict societies: From peace agreements to government institutions*. Presented at the Annual Ph.D. Colloquium organized by the Association of Doctoral Students in Public Administration at FAU, Boca Raton, FL, 14 April 2016.

Balilaj, A. *Exploring the place of organizational development in the process of privatization in post- communist countries: The case of Albania*. Presented at the Annual Ph.D. Colloquium organized by the Association of Doctoral Students in Public Administration at FAU, Boca Raton, FL, 13 April 2015.

Balilaj, A. *Mediation as a conflict resolution tool in the Cyprus Peace Talks: Simulation*. Simulation exercise conducted at the Istanbul Conference on Mediation: Enhancing Peace through Mediation, Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 February 2012.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama

- Diversity in the Workplace, PA 546, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2021 (online)
- The Analysis of Policy, PA 501-01, Spring 2021 (online), Fall 2021 (hybrid)
- Research Methods for Public Administration, PA502-01, Spring 2021 & Spring 2022 (online), Fall 2021(hybrid)
- Comparative Politics, PSC 431, Spring 2021 (hybrid), Spring 2022 (online)
- Introduction to Public Policy, PSC 310, Fall 2021 & Spring 2022 (hybrid)

Instructor, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

- Public Budgeting and Finance, PAD 4223, Summer 2020 (Co-instructor with Dr. Clifford McCue)
- Public Management and Administration, PAD 3003-02, Fall 2019
- Public Management and Administration, PAD 3003, Summer 2019 (online)
- Program Evaluation in Public Management, PAD 4320, Fall 2017
- Program Evaluation in Public Management, PAD 4320, Fall 2016
- Organization Communications and Administrative Behavior, PAD 3104, Fall 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida

Public Budgeting and Finance, PAD 4223, Spring 2019 (undergraduate, online)

- Assisted in the teaching of the course online during Spring 2019.
- Graded student test and discussion assignments to measure knowledge acquisition.

Public Budgeting and Finance, PAD 4223, Fall 2018 (undergraduate, online)

- Assisted in the design of the Public Budgeting and Finance course as an online course in compliance with Quality Matters standards to be offered during Spring 2019.
- Assisted in the creation of the course Blueprint.
- Assisted in the collection of course reading materials in compliance with course objectives.

- Assisted in the creation of course assignments in compliance with course objectives.
- Participated in the weekly meetings in cooperation with the Center for E-learning.

Introduction to Public Safety Administration, PAD 3820, Fall 2018 (undergraduate, online)

- Assisted in grading different course assignments and providing feedback to facilitate student understanding of the material.

Quantitative Inquiry for Public Managers, PAD 4702, Summer 2017 (undergraduate, online)

- Assisted in importing the course to Canvas from Blackboard.
- Assisted in grading different course assignments.
- Mentored students on SPSS

Research Methods for Public Management, PAD 4704, Spring, 2016 (undergraduate, online)

- Assisted in importing the course to Canvas from Blackboard.
- Assisted in grading different course assignments.

Labor Relations in Government, PAD 6427, Spring 2015 (graduate)

- Participate in lectures to assist the main instructor.
- Evaluated student papers.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey

Political Psychology, POLS 403, Fall 2011 (undergraduate)

- Assisted with creating and delivering course lectures, delivered in a lecture hall.
- Created and graded student tests and assignments.

SERVICE

Dean Selection Student Committee, College for Design and Social Inquiry, 2017.

Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award Student Interview Committee, Florida Atlantic University, 2015.

Faculty Hiring Student Interview Committee, Sabanci University, 2012.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Graduate Assistant Award, Florida Atlantic University, August 2014- Present.

Inducted as Member, Public Administration Honors Society Pi Alpha Alpha, 2017.

Adriana Castellano Memorial Scholarship, Florida Atlantic University, 2016.

E- certification for Designer/Facilitator Training Workshop, Florida Atlantic University, 2015.

Seminar for International Teaching Assistants Certificate, Florida Atlantic University, 2014.

Graduate Assistant Award, Sabanci University, 2011-2013.

Rotary Club Istanbul Field Research Scholarship, Istanbul, Turkey, 2012.

Dialogue Facilitation Workshop Certificate, Sabanci University, 2012.

The Baltic Sea Region Culture, Politics, and Economy Certificate, Mari Curie- Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland, 2011.

Erasmus Exchange Program Scholarship, Middle East Technical Univeristy, Ankara, Turkey, 2010.

Introduction to Polish Society, Culture, and Language Certificate, Lublin, Poland, 2010.

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

General Software: MS Office, Skype for Business, WebEx.

Research Software: SPSS, STATA, Qualtrics, Nvivo.

Online Teaching Platforms: Blackboard, Canvas.

LANGUAGES

Albanian: Native

English: Read, Write, Speak (Advanced)

Turkish: Read, Write, Speak (Advanced)

Italian: Read, Write, Speak (Advanced)