

BURCU PINAR ALAKOC

Curriculum Vitae

Last Updated: September 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Committee on International Relations
The University of Chicago
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[Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

- (Full) Instructional Professor, Committee on International Relations, September 2025-present
- Interim Program Coordinator, Committee on International Relations, July 2024-July 2025
- Associate Instructional Professor, Committee on International Relations, September 2021-September 2025

Webster University, St. Louis, MO

- Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of History, Politics and International Relations, 2020-2021
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, Politics and International Relations, 2014-2020
 - Co-Director, Global Master of Arts in International Relations, 2018-2020
 - Director, Residential International Relations, 2017-2018

AFFILIATIONS

University of Chicago

- Faculty Affiliate,
 - Department of Political Science
 - Center for Middle Eastern Studies
 - Kiphart Center for Global Health and Social Development
- Visiting Research Fellow, Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST), 2020-21

Webster University

- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Political Science, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO
- M.A., Political Science, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO
- M.A., Communication Studies, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
 - Funded by Fulbright Scholarship
- B.A., International Relations, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar & *Alanna Johnson. (2025). “[Which Target is the Right Target? The Connection between Terrorists’ Reputation Building and Target Selection](#),” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 37 (6): 796-814.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar & Victor Asal. (2024). “[Law & Order in Counterinsurgency: The Link between Insurgent Group Characteristics and The Use of Domestic Law Enforcement](#),” *Journal of Global Security Studies* 9 (4): ogae029.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar, Alan Zarychta, Gulay Ugur Goksel. (2023). “[Public Attitudes about Integration and Citizenship for Refugees: Evidence from Turkey](#),” *Politics & Policy* 51 (5): 775-799.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar, *Stephanie Werner and *Michael Widmeier. (2023). “[Violent and Nonviolent Strategies of Terrorist Organizations: How do Mixed Strategies Influence Terrorist Recruitment and Lethality?](#)” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 46 (12): 2598-2621.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar, Gulay Ugur Goksel, Alan Zarychta. (2022). “[Political Discourse and Public Attitudes toward Syrian Refugees in Turkey](#),” *Comparative Politics* 54 (3): 547-571.
 - Featured in ISA’s Women’s Caucus (WCIS) Spring 2022 Newsletter
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (2020). “[Femme Fatale: The Lethality of Female Suicide Bombers](#),” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 43 (9): 796-814.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (2019). “[Terror in the Classroom: Teaching Terrorism without Terrorizing](#),” *Journal of Political Science Education* 15 (2): 218-236.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (2017). “[When Suicide Kills: An Empirical Analysis of the Lethality of Suicide Terrorism](#),” *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* 11: 1-15.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (2017). “[Competing to Kill: Terrorist Organizations versus Lone Wolf Terrorists](#),” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 29 (3): 509-532.

Book Chapters

- Victor Asal, Amira Jadoon, Gary Ackerman, and Burcu Pinar Alakoc. (Forthcoming). “What Do We Know about the Organizational Dynamics of Terrorism?” in [What do we know about terrorism?](#) edited by Brian Phillips, Bloomsbury Academic.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar and Emel Ozdora-Aksak. (2022). “[Comparing National versus International Coverage of Terrorism: Framing Analysis of the Reina Nightclub Terrorist Attack](#)” in *Media and Terrorism in the 21st Century*, edited by Ebru Karadogan Ismayil and Elnur Ismayil, IGI Global.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (December 9, 2022). “[Explaining Public Attitudes toward Refugees](#),” *Political Violence at a Glance*.
- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. (August 21, 2015). “[Do Women Make Better Suicide Bombers than Men?](#)” *Hurriyet Daily News*, Op-Ed Contributor.
 - Appeared in POLITICO Europe Edition.

*Student co-author at the time of writing.

CURRENT RESEARCH

- The Doctor May See You Now: Attitudes of Healthcare Workers toward Refugee & Migrant Populations in Turkey (with Alan Zarychta & Emel Ozdora)
- The Terrorist's Hypocrisy: Gendered Claims of Suicide Terrorism (with *Ronald Kan)
- Teaching Terrorism, prepared for *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*
- Organizational Strategies to Enhance the Commitment of Suicide Bombers

GRANTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Research Grants & Awards

- University of Chicago International Institute of Research in Paris Faculty Research Grant, 2026-2027
- University of Chicago Quad Faculty Research Grant, 2025-2026
- University of Chicago Kiphart Center Fund for Research and Innovation in Global Health and Social Development, 2025
- University of Chicago International Institute of Research in Paris Faculty Research Grant, 2024
- University of Chicago Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) Seed Grant, 2022- 2024, "Street-level Bureaucrats, Public Attitudes, and Integration of Syrian Refugees in Turkey"
- University of Chicago Kiphart Center Research and Innovation in Global Health and Social Development Grant, 2022 "Frontline Health Workers and the Integration of Syrian Refugees in Turkey"
- University of Chicago International Institute of Research in Paris Faculty Research Grant, 2022. "Street-level Bureaucrats, Public Attitudes, and Integration of Syrian Refugees in Turkey"
- Webster University, Faculty Research Grant, 2020-21
- The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago, Research and Innovation Grant (with Alan Zarychta and Gulay Ugur Goksel), 2018
- International Studies Association Deborah Gerner Grant for Professional Development, 2018
- Webster University, Faculty Research Grant, 2018-19
- Webster University, Faculty Research Grant, 2015-16
- Honorable Mention, 2012-2013 American Association of University Women - International Fellowships Program
- Fulbright Scholarship for 2005-2007 Academic Years for Master of Arts Degree in Communication Studies to be pursued in the United States of America
- Graduate Training and Research Grant, University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Political Science, Summer 2012

Paper Awards and Nominations

- Nominated for Sophonisba P. Breckinridge Award for the best paper on women and politics at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2011.
- Outstanding Paper Award, "Women Responsible for Peace: The Women in Black Movement," Women's Caucus division of the Central States Communication Association, 2007

Teaching Awards and Fellowships

- Honorable Mention, ISA Deborah Gerner Innovative Teaching Award, International Studies Association, 2026
- Division of the Social Sciences Award for Excellence in MA Advising and Mentoring, University of Chicago, 2025
- Leif J. Global Teaching Fellowship, Webster University Faculty Mobility Award, Vienna (Spring 2017) and Leiden (Summer 2021- cancelled due to COVID)

CONFERENCES, INVITED TALKS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Conference Presentations and Attendance

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026
- IPSA World Congress of Political Science, Seoul, South Korea, 12-16 July, 2025
- The Migration Conference, Mexico City, 3-9 July, 2024
- International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Region Conference, Tokyo, Japan, Summer 2023
- Penn Identity and Conflict Lab (PIC) Workshop on Syrian Refugee Resettlement Challenges in Turkey and the Middle East, University of Pennsylvania, Virtual Presentation, April 29, 2021
- APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, 2019
- Central and East European International Studies Association- International Studies Association (CEEISA-ISA Joint Conference), Summer 2019
- International Studies Association Annual Conference, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2025
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019
- Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2013, 2016, 2017
- International Studies Association - Midwest Annual Conference, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2025, 2026
- International Studies Association - International Conference, Hong Kong, Summer 2017
- Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies, Princeton University, 2015
- Annual Conference on Terrorism and Global Security: Exploring New Centers of Gravity and Clausewitz in Today's Global Security, Washington DC, 2011
- Central States Communication Association Annual Conference, 2007

Invited Talks and Events

- 2025. Center for Middle Eastern Studies - Turkish Circle, University of Chicago, October 28
- 2025. "Political Discourse and Public Attitudes toward Refugees: Evidence from Turkey" Faculty Chalk-Talk, Summer Institute in Social Research Methods (SISRM), University of Chicago, July 7
- 2025. "Terrorism as a National Security Threat: Contemporary Challenges and Debates," Turkish-American Society, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, April 27
- 2025. "What do we know about terrorism?" The University of Iowa, March 31- April 1. Organized by Brian Phillips and Sara Mitchell, [Sponsored by the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Memorial Fund, the Department of Political Science, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa](#)
- 2024. "The Connection between Terrorists' Reputation Building and Target Selection." National Taiwan University, Department of Political Science, 5 March.
- 2023. "The Motivations of Suicide Bombers and Causes of Suicide Terrorism." Society for International Relations, University of Chicago, 9 November.
- 2022. "Political Discourse and Public Attitudes toward Syrian Refugees in Turkey." The University of New Mexico, Department of Political Science, 22 September.
- 2022. University of Chicago Harper Lecture Series (Virtual), "Crisis in Ukraine: The Nuclear Threat" (with Robert Pape, Austin Carson and Paul Poast), University of Chicago, 23 March (Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW91Yf5YBn4&t=722s>)
- 2021. "Threat Perceptions, Integration and Citizenship: The Case of Syrian Refugees in Turkey," Penn Identity and Conflict Lab (PIC), University of Pennsylvania, Virtual Presentation, April 29

- (Cancelled due to COVID-19). “Red Sea Security,” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, Webster University, (Scheduled for 16 March, 2020).
- 2019. “The Turkish Attack and the American Retreat” (with Dr. Warren Rosenblum), Webster University-Civitas partnership, 16 November.
- 2019. “The Middle East: Regional Disorder,” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, Webster University, 15 April.
- 2018. “Turkey: Partner in Crisis,” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, Webster University, 19 March.
- 2017. “Understanding Terrorism,” St. Louis OASIS, 9 May.
- 2017. “Women’s Role in Terrorism and Counterterrorism,” Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in St. Louis, 7 May.
- 2017. “Fatally Attractive Women: The Connection between the Use of Female Suicide Bombers and the Lethality of Suicide Attacks,” Webster Private University in Vienna, 14 February.
- 2016. “The Rise of ISIS” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, Webster University, 21 March.
- 2016. “International Relations and Cross- Cultural Experiences,” Cultural Serve Project at Maryville University, 4 March.
- 2016. “The Rise of ISIS,” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, St. Louis Ethical Society, 3 March.
- 2015. Invited to the Scott Air Force Base to give a talk about “The Motivations of Female Suicide Bombers.”
- 2015. “Syria’s Refugee Crisis,” Great Decisions Speaker Series: World Affairs Council of St. Louis, 23 February.
- 2015. “Reflections on the Violence in France: The Changing Face of Terrorism: From a Weapon of the Weak to a Weapon of All,” Webster University, 14 January.

Media Appearances

- KMOX/CBS Radio, Interview with Megan Lynch on “Awaiting Armageddon: KMOX Series on worst-case scenarios and preparedness,” On air Monday-Friday (February 27- March 3, 2017) at 8:22 a.m. and repeated at 5:22 p.m.
- The 1020 Podcast, Episode 02: Dr. Burcu Pinar Alakoc, Webster University, Vienna, March 2017.
- KMOV News (Channel 4, CBS affiliate), Interview on “Federal Terrorism Charges”, February 9, 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

Graduate Courses

- International Order and Security (Autumn 2021/2022/2023/2024/2025 & Winter 2022/2023)
- Political Violence and Terrorism (Winter 2023, Spring 2024, Winter 2025)
- The Politics of the Middle East (Winter 2024; Winter 2026)
- M.A. Thesis Workshop (year-long, 2021-22/2022-23/2023-24/2024-25/2025-26)

Summer School

- Pathways in World Politics (co-taught with Paul Poast and Robert Gulotty) (July 2023)

Webster University

Undergraduate Courses

- Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2, 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2, 2018; Spring 2019; Fall 2019; Spring 1, 2020)
- Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Spring 2, 2017)
- International Political Economy (Spring 2015)
- International Security (Fall 2015; Cross-listed with graduate and undergraduate students, Fall 2, 2016; Fall 2, 2017; Fall 2, 2018; Fall 1, 2019)
- Terrorism and Political Violence (Spring 2016; Spring 2, 2020)
- Middle East Area Studies: The Politics of the Middle East (Spring 2, 2018; Spring 1, 2020)

Graduate Courses

- Comparative Politics (Fall 1, 2014; Spring 1, 2016; Spring 1, 2018; Spring 1, 2019)
- Introduction to International Relations (Spring 1, 2017 Webster Vienna Private University)
- International Security (Graduate Only: Spring 2, 2015; Cross-listed with graduate and undergraduate students, Fall 2, 2016; Fall 2, 2017; Fall 2, 2018; Fall 1, 2019)
- Middle East Area Studies: The Politics of the Middle East (Cross-listed with undergraduate and graduate students: Spring 2, 2018; Spring 1, 2020)

Online Courses

- Introduction to International Relations (Graduate level, Fall 2, 2017; Spring 1, 2019; Fall 2, 2019)
- The Global Project (Graduate level, Fall 2017- Spring 2018)
- International Relations Capstone Seminar (Graduate level, Fall 1, 2018)

University of Colorado Boulder

Instructor of Record

- War, Peace and Strategic Defense (Spring 2013)
- Problems in International Relations: War and Terrorism (Fall 2012, Summer 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2013)
- Introduction to International Relations (Summer 2011, Fall 2013)
- American Foreign Policy (Spring 2011, Summer 2013)

ADVISING

University of Chicago, Committee on International Relations, Primary Faculty Advisor

- Lelia Busch, "Ready Player 1: Explaining the Phenomenon of Proactive Terrorist Leadership Replacement Through a Game Theoretic Model," M.A. Thesis, Spring 2026, *CIR Honors*.
- Reem Katrib, "Voices from the Frontlines: The Securitizedization of Healthcare Workers in Conflict Settings," M.A. Thesis, Spring 2025, *CIR Honors*.
- Peter Rusafov, "Norms in the Global Refugee Regime: Westphalian Origins & the Exclusion of Stateless People," M.A. Thesis, Spring 2025.
- Enmanuel Acosta Aparicio, "The Dorian Gray Effect: Unveiling Democratic Leaders' Hidden Art of Norm Camouflaging," M.A. Thesis, August 2024.
- Guido Martin Roa Gimenez, "From Homeland to Home: The Complexities of Identity and Belonging among Chicago's Latinx Diaspora," Spring 2024, *CIR Honors*.
- Ava Wagner, "All the Emir's Men: Leadership Decapitation and Strategic Targeting of Mid-Level Terrorist Leaders," M.A. Thesis, June 2023.
- Anastasia Kozitskaia, "Why We Can't Be Friends: Affinities and Disjunctions Between Far-Right Extremism in the United States and Europe," M.A. Thesis, August 2023.
- Alanna Johnson, "Targeting and Reputation Building Among Terror Organizations," M.A. Thesis, August 2022.

Webster University, Department of History, Politics and International Relations, Primary Faculty Advisor

- Stephanie Werner, “Terrorist Strategies to Allure: How the Use of Violent and Non-violent Strategies Influence the Effectiveness of Terrorist Organizations,” M.A. Thesis, May 2019.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Methods Training

- Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Course: Models for Categorical Outcomes Using Stata: Specification, Estimation and Interpretation by J. Scott Long (June 11-15, 2012)

Teaching and Professional Development

- “Teaching With, About, or Without AI in Writing-Intensive Graduate Courses”, CCTL & Academic Technology Services sponsored Discussion, October 2025.
- Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning:
 - *Spring Pedagogy Symposium*, April 2026
 - “The Opposite of Cheating: Academic Integrity in the Age of AI”
 - “Motivating Learning and Mitigating Academic Dishonesty in the Age of AI”
 - *Spring Pedagogy Symposium*, “More Than Words: How to Think About Writing in the Age of AI,” April 2025.
 - *Spring Pedagogy Symposium*, “Feeling Like a Fraud: Imposter Phenomenon, Student Motivation,” & “Student Achievement & Shifting Perspectives: Helping Students Overcome Imposter Phenomenon,” April 2024.
 - *Panel Discussion*, “Teaching in the Age of AI: Initial Pedagogical Reflections,” April 2023.
 - *Panel Discussion*, “Remote Start: Considerations for Winter Quarter,” Winter 2022.
 - *Panel Discussion*, “Reengaging the In-Person Classroom,” Autumn 2021.
- The 16th Annual Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology Conference, Boulder, CO, August 7-8, 2013.
- Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado Boulder, 2007-2012.
- Certificate in College Teaching, University of Colorado Graduate Teacher Program, received in October, 2012.

PROFESSIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- At-large Board Member, ISA Midwest, 2023-2024
 - Chair, Frank J. Klingberg Award Committee

University of Chicago

- Faculty Organizer, CIR Career Trek, Washington D.C., United States
 - April 19-21, 2026 (with Carli Thompson and Kara Hooser)
- Interim Program Coordinator, Committee on International Relations (July 2024 - July 2025)
- Faculty Organizer, CIR Asian International Relations Seminar, Taipei, Taiwan
 - March 5-15, 2023 (with Matthias Staisch and Gigi Yang)
 - March 2-13, 2024 (with Matthias Staisch and Sandy Luk)
 - March 8-19, 2025 (with Kara Hooser and Sandy Luk)
- Hiring Committee, CIR Faculty Search Committee, Autumn 2022 - Winter 2023
- Hiring Committee, Manager of Divisional Student Events SSD, Spring 2025

Webster University

- Co-Director of the Global M.A. Program at Webster University, Fall 2, 2018-2020
- Director of the Residential International Relations Program, Fall 2017- Spring 2018
- Chair, Best Thesis Award Committee, 2017-18
- The Global Citizenship Program, Course Assessment, 2016, 2017, 2018
- The Dean Designee for INTL 6900/Graduate Theses Review, Summer 2017
- Member, Overview Book Committee, 2017-2018
- Lead Instructor, INTL 5000 Online, Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2016- 2020
- Member, Departmental Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2016
- Reviewer, *The Webster International Relations Review: The Graduate Student Working Paper Series (WIRR)*, Editorial Review Board, Spring 2016- 2020
- Faculty Search Committee, Webster University Vienna Campus, Fall 2, 2019-Spring 1, 2020.
- Judge, Gorlok Gala Forensic Tournament, January 25-27, 2020
- Faculty, *Multicultural Studies Committee*, Webster University, Spring 2016- 2020
- Faculty, *Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Committee*, Spring 2019- 2020
- Faculty Fellow, *The Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies*, Fall 2017-2020
- Faculty Advisor, *Sigma Iota Rho, the Honor Society for International Studies*, Webster Charter, Fall 2016- 2020
- Faculty Interview Panelist, *Presidential Scholarship Competition*, February 13, 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

- British Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, International Security, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence, Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression, Perspectives on Terrorism, Journal of Political Science Education, International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice, Journal of Peace Research, PS: Political Science & Politics.

Chair, Discussant & Panelist

- Panelist, “Trump 2.0: Uncertainty and Cross-Strait Relations”, UChicago Alumni Association, 2025, Taipei, Taiwan.
- Discussant, “Emerging Technologies and Spaces” panel, International Studies Association Midwest Conference, 2023, St. Louis, MO.
- Discussant & Chair, “Disinformation and Misinformation” panel, International Studies Association Conference, 2022, Nashville, TN.
- Discussant & Chair, “Terrorism and Counterterrorism” panel, International Studies Association Midwest Conference, 2019, St. Louis, MO.
- Chair, “Explaining Varieties of Terrorism” panel, CEEISA-ISA, 2019, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Program Co-Chair and Section Head, “Undergraduate Research: IR & Comparative,” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2018, Chicago, IL.
- Discussant & Chair, “Peacekeeping and Civil Conflict” panel, International Studies Association Midwest Conference, 2016, St. Louis, MO.
- Panelist, “Challenging Boundaries” panel, Webster University Human Rights Conference: Equality before the Law, 2016, St. Louis, MO.
- Chair, “Gendered War; Gendered Peace” panel, American Political Science Association Conference, 2016, Philadelphia, PA.
- Discussant & Chair, “Terrorism and Its Roots” panel, Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2016, Chicago, IL.

- Discussant & Chair, “Frontiers of Turkish Politics” panel, Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2015, Chicago, IL.

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Qualitative Interviews:

- Turkey, primarily Istanbul, Hatay, Gaziantep, Eskisehir: Summer 2018, December 2018- January 2019
- Turkey, primarily Ankara, and Istanbul, June 2023

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Political Science Association.
- Midwest Political Science Association.
- International Studies Association.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (beginner’s level).
- Data analysis software: STATA and NVivo.
- Course management and survey software: D2L, Blackboard, Qualtrics, and SurveyMonkey.