

# Gizem Kaftan

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## EDUCATION

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- Boston University, Boston, MA** July 2025  
Ph.D. in Political Science (GPA:3.84)  
*Interests: Quantitative Methods, Data Science, Statistical Analysis*  
*Committee: Vivien A. Schmidt, Kaija Schilde, Taylor C. Boas*  
**Relevant Coursework:** Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Linear Models, Generalized Linear Models, Political Analysis, Computational Linguistics, Probability, Survey Methods, Quantitative Methods I, Qualitative Methods
- Northeastern University, Boston, MA** May 2019  
M.A. in International Affairs (GPA:3.82)  
*Global Impact Scholarship*  
**Relevant Coursework:** Microeconomic Theory, Political Economy, International Economic Development, Statistical Analysis
- Koç University, Istanbul, TR** August 2017  
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations & Bachelor of Arts Sociology (GPA: 3.69)  
*Magna Cum Laude, Vehbi Koç Scholar*  
**Relevant Coursework:** Finite Mathematics, Calculus, Financial Accounting, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Calculus, Social Network Analysis, Introduction to Financial Management

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- Boston University, Boston, MA** August 2020-May 2023  
*Data Research Analyst & Research Consultant*
  - Analyzed large datasets to measure the effect of Middle Eastern wars on ethnic fragmentation.
  - Recommended and applied new data analysis methods such as survival and generalized linear models.
  - Created a data set using NATO and European Union defense databases to estimate the size of the aftermarket services for military weapons.
- Boston University Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs, Boston, MA** June-August 2021  
*Data Science & Analytics Intern*
  - Analyzed a novel data set using SPSS on a new educational program implemented in 2017 to evaluate the program's performance.
  - Created presentations related to the new educational program using Power BI, Tableau, and Microsoft PowerPoint.
  - Designed graphics using the Qualtrics Survey Software and wrote new survey questions to measure student satisfaction with the new educational program.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- University of Warsaw, Warsaw, PL** February-July 2023  
*Visiting Researcher*
  - Interviewed 30 Polish politicians at different levels of government to evaluate their opinions about the European Union.
  - Analyzed the interview data using R, NVivo, and Quanteda to create word frequency tables.
- Northeastern University, Boston, MA** November 2018-May 2019  
*Graduate Research Assistant & Project Manager*
  - Conducted qualitative coding of the interview transcripts and wrote short memos about the interview content using NVivo.
  - Managed and arranged coding and research team meetings to improve communication.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Boston University, Boston, MA** September 2020-Present  
*Instructor & Graduate Teaching Assistant*
  - Guided students on course material by holding weekly office hours and review sessions before exams.
  - Covered graduate-level coding-based lab sessions to improve students' understanding of R.
  - Graded and proofread homework, projects, and exams for undergraduate and graduate level courses.
  - Created response paper prompts and exam questions for Introduction to Comparative Politics class aimed at first-year students.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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- Boston University Director of Graduate Studies Liaison, Boston, MA** September 2023-Present  
*Advanced Graduate Student Representative*
  - Represented the advanced Ph.D. student interests by conducting opinion surveys and setting up monthly meetings with the Director of Graduate Studies.
- Boston University Graduate Student Organization, Boston, MA** August 2019-Present  
*Department Representative*
  - Represented the student interests in my department by attending monthly meetings and guaranteed grant funding to graduate students.
- Boston University, Boston, MA** August 2019-May 2024  
*Graduate Student Speaker Series Co-Organizer*
  - Invited speakers and arranged the speaker series meeting for graduate students in the political science department.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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- Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, Boston, MA** April 2018  
*Kid Convention Volunteer*
  - Led a button-making workshop for kids and encouraged them to make buttons about topics they feel passionate about.

## SKILLS

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**Quantitative:** Classical Statistics, Natural Language Processing, Social Network Analysis, Optimization, Regressions  
**Data Processing, Statistical Analysis & Presentation:** Stata, Python 3, R, SPSS, Microsoft Office Suite,  $\LaTeX$   
**Additional Methodological Training:** Advanced Network Analysis II, Introduction to Python, and Data Science and Text Analysis (completed at Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan)  
**Languages:** Turkish (Native), French, Polish, German (Basic)