


Political science publications about Turkey

Sebnem Cansun¹ · Engin Arik² 

Received: 9 June 2017 / Published online: 17 February 2018
© Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary 2018

Abstract In this study, we conducted a bibliometric analysis of Thomson Reuters' *Web of Knowledge (WoK): Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI), and Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* focusing on political science publications about Turkey from 1900 to 2016. We found a total of 1280 publications: articles (65.20%) and book reviews (26.33%). Most of the publications were single-authored, were written in English (88.2%) followed by German (9.61%), were cited four times, and gave references to 27 publications on average. The words that frequently appeared in the 2000–2010 period (e.g., *Cypriot, Greek, consolidation, military, armed, Islam*) were related to important aspects of Turkish politics, particularly to Turkey–EU relations. Moreover, the words that frequently appeared in the 2011–2016 period (e.g., *shift, Islamic, religious, party, hegemonic, AKP, CHP*) were mostly related to Turkey's domestic politics and the rule of the governing party, AKP. Based on these findings, we predict that the number of political science publications about Turkey and their impact will continue increasing in the next decade.

Keywords Political science publications · Turkey · Bibliometrics · Web of knowledge · Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) · Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)

✉ Engin Arik
enginarik@enginarik.com

Sebnem Cansun
cansunsebnem@gmail.com

¹ Department of Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Halkali, 34303 Istanbul, Turkey

² Department of English, Purdue University, 500 Oval Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA

Introduction

‘Publish or perish’ and ‘publish and get cited’. These are the two mottos of the current academic world; if the mottos are not followed, researchers cannot find academic jobs, get promotions, perks, and raises, or obtain funding for their research (Lawrence 2002, 2003, 2008; Owens 2013; Reich 2013). Moreover, as editors and reviewers evaluate manuscripts submitted to journals, they can be affected by authors’ publication records (e.g. Stephan et al. 2017). Bibliometrics aims to analyze scientific publications. In this study, we focus on the bibliometrics of political science. We narrow down our research to political science publications about Turkey as indexed in Thomson Reuters’ *Web of Knowledge (WoK): Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)* and *Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)* and ranked in *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*.

We chose political science because little is known about the bibliometrics of this field. We first define political science and then highlight the reasons why we focus on political science publications about Turkey. Politics is about “who gets what, when and how” (Lasswell 1936) and “the process of decision-making (...) and is everywhere” (Munroe 2002 [1983], p. 33). “Political science is the academic subject centering on the relations between governments and other governments, and between governments and peoples” (Ethridge and Handelman 2010 [2008], p. 8). Political science has existed since Ancient Greece. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are perceived as pioneer political thinkers, although politics has only relatively recently emerged as an academic discipline. The first political science department in the USA was established at Columbia University in 1880 (Grigsby 2012, p. 14), whereas in Turkey, the first school teaching “contemporary social and Political Science,” *Mekteb-i Mülkiye*, was founded in 1859 in Istanbul. *Mülkiye* aimed to educate high-level Ottoman bureaucrats. With the founding of the Turkish Republic, it moved to Ankara and became the School of Political Sciences in 1935 (Aybay 1977, pp. 13–15). Political science has close ties to other social sciences, mainly law, history, economy, and sociology. It has several subfields, such as Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy, Political Research Methods, and Political Theory (Grigsby 2012, p. 16). Local politics form a subfield as well, for instance, *American Politics* in the USA and *Turkish Politics* in Turkey. Studying politics makes people observe, understand, and even change the world.

We chose political science publications about Turkey because Turkey carries very unusual characteristics from a political science perspective. Since our focus more on Turkey because of its unique characteristics from a political science perspective, we chose the publications *about* Turkey rather than *from* Turkey, in order to take into consideration all scientific works, prepared not only by the scholars residing in Turkey but also those in other countries. Our rationale was that Turkey was in such a politically significant part of the world that international scholars were also interested in Turkish politics and that academic works *about* Turkey were not produced within this country only. We also chose publications from Turkey because, as the findings will show, almost all of the publications of the Turkish political scientists was about Turkey. Therefore, focusing on the publications about Turkey would provide a broader perspective about this country from a political science point of view and would expand our horizon on bibliometric indicators about a (significant) place rather than a research field.

Here a brief information about Turkey is in order. The Turkish Republic was founded as a secular nation-state from the remnants of the Ottoman Empire in 1923. Situated among Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, and secular but overwhelmingly Muslim, Turkey emerges as a cultural and social bridge between the West and the East. The country is

important not only because of its geostrategic position but also because of its demographic and economic characteristics. According to the CIA World Factbook, the population of Turkey is estimated at 80,274,604 as of 2016. It is the 20th most populated country as well as the 18th largest economy in the world (CIA 2017). It is an active member of the Group of 20 (G-20), which consists of the world's major economic powers. Having adopted “westernization” at its foundation, Turkey has, over time, joined almost all European organizations, for instance, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1948, the Council of Europe in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1952, and the Customs Union with the European Union in 1996. It became an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1963 and an applicant state for the European Union in 1987 (Müftüler-Bac and Stivachtis 2008, p. 2), and started accession negotiations in 2005 (Tocci 2014). Furthermore, Turkey has ties with Muslim countries, and its membership in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) since 1969 could certainly be considered representative of this. Thus, having geographic, political, and economic ties with both the West and the East, as well as being demographically and economically powerful, Turkey has always had an importance in world politics and has always received attention from both Turkish and international scholars. Thus, conducting a bibliometric analysis of political science publications about Turkey can provide important insights about this field and country, help current and future researchers to inform about the bibliometric indicators about this relatively understudied field, which we aim to do in the present study.

Our research questions are the following:

1. What are the bibliometric characteristics of publications from the field of political science about Turkey? For this, we focus on publication dates, categories and research areas, sources, languages, author affiliations, citations, and references as appeared in *SSCI* and *A&HCI* from 1900 to 2016.
2. What is the main focus of those publications? For this, we focus on the abstracts and keywords of those publications.

Previous research

The present study constitutes the first research on the bibliometrics of political science publications about Turkey. Nevertheless, there are other studies on the bibliometrics of political science publications from which we present a few representative ones. One of the pioneer studies (Robey 1979), that investigated whether the highly reputed American political science departments were in fact productive. This study focused on articles from the top 20 departments published by *American Political Science Review*, *Polity*, *Journal of Politics*, *Western Political Quarterly*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *Social Science Quarterly* between 1968 and 1978. It concluded that some southern universities seem to have made great strides in the last 10 years while some Ivy League schools do not seem to be productive at a rate equivalent with their reputations.

Another study (Ballard and Mitchell 1998), which aimed at ranking political science departments, focused on the research published by *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Western Political Quarterly/Political Research Quarterly*, *Polity*, and *Political Science Quarterly* between 1986 and 1996. Considering articles, research notes, and controversies, this study listed the top 50 political science departments.

A relatively recent study (Hix 2004) analyzed 63 main journals and focused on main articles and research notes, excluding editorial comments, book reviews, and short notes. This study aimed at ranking the political science departments to list the Global Top 200 Political Science Departments, 1998–2002. The study included a more variety of journals including journals published in Italy and Germany, which may not be necessarily covered by major indices. As the author acknowledged, there was a clear English-language bias that affected the results. Some others also argued that measuring productivity based on journal publications would not be necessarily sufficient. There is also a need for studies on publications in a book format, for example Samuels (2011) on books listed by Google.

A relatively new studies focused on publications from the Department of Political Science at Mannheim University and the Institute of Political Science at the University of Muenster, which are the two top-ranking political science departments in Germany (Chi 2012, 2015). These studies showed that publications are mostly in German and consist of books, edited books, and book chapters rather than journal articles, and that political scientists in those departments cite *American Journal of Political Science* and *American Political Science Review* the most.

Another line of bibliometric research has focused on political science journals. One of these studies focused on two German political science journals: *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* from 1960 to 2003 and *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* from 1994 to 2003 (Pehl 2012). This study showed that German political science was “mainly non-comparative, non-quantitative, theoretical and inward-oriented” until the 1990s; the situation has changed since then. Also, it is the sub-field of Analysis of Political Systems that dominates the journals (Pehl 2012, pp. 54–60). Another study focused on the French journals *Revue Française de Science Politique* from 1970 to 2004 and *Politix* from 1988 to 2004 (Billordo 2005). This study showed that political sociology and qualitative research dominate both journals and that French Political Science has recently embraced internationalization (Billordo 2005, pp. 180–185). Another study compared the French and British Journals *Revue Française de Science Politique* and *Political Studies*. Yet another study added to this comparison a European journal, *European Journal of Political Research*, within different time periods (Boncourt 2007, 2008). These studies showed that political science has experienced an institutional decentralisation in France and the UK, although France appears relatively more conservative than does the UK. They also highlighted the fact that European studies are on the rise in both countries (Boncourt 2007, p. 283) and that political sociology and institutions are the dominant subfields in the three journals (Boncourt 2008, p. 371).

Finally, there is a study that focused only on the Ph.D. theses of Political Science in Vikram University within the 2009–2012 time period, analyzing information with regard to issues such as the gender of authors, the year of thesis submission, the number of references and chapters in each thesis, and the bibliographical forms (Malik 2016).

Methods

Aiming to contribute to the bibliometrics of social sciences, between April and May 2017 we accessed Thomson Reuters’ SSCI and A&HCI as well as JCR via a research first university library in the USA. We chose these databases because of the following reasons. First, most of the bibliometric studies have been conducted on these databases; therefore, our findings can contribute to the current knowledge. Second, SSCI and later A&HCI is

one of the oldest databases covering academic journals in social sciences, arts, and humanities. Third, Thomson Reuters' databases have a clear advantage over comparable databases such as ProQuest. The former provides more accurate information about the origin of publications (country, author, and institution) than the latter does. Yet, the latter covers more journals than the former does.

In Web of Science, in the advanced research mode, we selected *Turkey* as a topic and *Political Science* as a Web of Science category with a timeline between 1900 and 2016. We exported all available details of political science publications about Turkey to an Excel file on which we coded and analyzed the data. In *JCR*, we selected the latest report published in 2015 and focused only on *Political Science* journals. To analyze Abstracts and Keywords, we used a corpus linguistic tool called AntConc (Anthony 2014). We also used word relation analyses to visualize the data obtained from the abstracts and keywords.

Results

General findings

There were 587,813 publications from the field of Political Science in SSCI and A&HCI published between 1900 and 2016. Of them, 244,293 were book reviews (41.55%) and 235,686 (40%) were articles. The rest included editorial materials, letters, reviews, and notes, among others. The authors of these publications were from (1) the USA (159,529, 27.13%), (2) England (43,446, 7.39%), and (3) Canada (15,517, 2.63%).

In JCR 2015, there were 163 journals. The range of their impact factors was from 4.515 to 0. Of them, *American Journal of Political Science* had the highest impact factor (4.515), followed by *Political Analysis* (3.491) and *Annual Review of Political Science* (3.457). Ninety-eight of 163 (60%) journals had an impact factor below 1.000.

Of the 587,813 political science publications in SSCI and A&HCI, 1280 (0.2%) were about Turkey. We now turn our attention to these publications.

Publication years

There were primarily only a few publications until roughly the 1950s, yet the number of publications increased significantly afterwards not only the number of articles but also other types of documents. For instance, scholars published three times as many in the 1960s as they did in the 1950s. The 2010s was the decade when the number of publications was the highest, with a number equaling roughly ten times the number from the 1950s (Figs. 1, 2). It is not surprising to observe the increase in the number of publications in the last decade because of the expansion of Web of Science starting in 2005. Nevertheless, this increase is beyond the expansion of Web of Science because the total number of publications from the field of political science was 93,021 between 2000 and 2009 and 77,333 between 2010 and 2016, whereas those on Turkey were 304 between 2000 and 2009 and 538 between 2010 and 2016. This finding suggests that scholars have developed more interest in conducting research on political issues with regard to Turkey.

Fig. 1 Number of political science publications about Turkey by decade

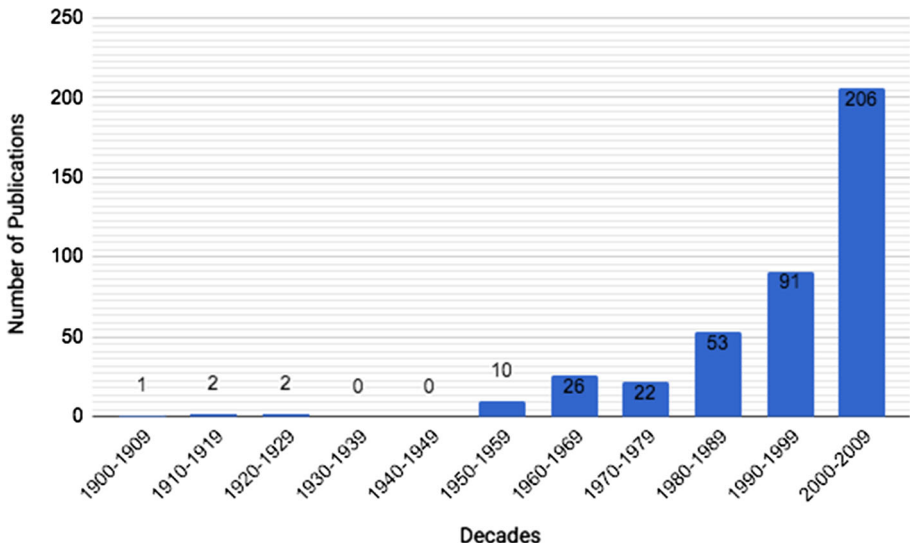
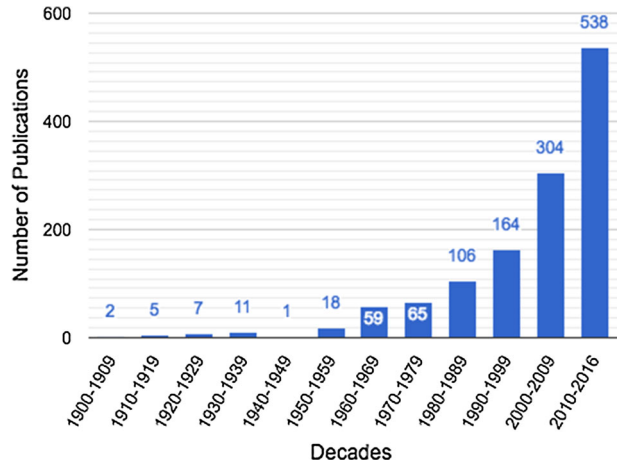


Fig. 2 Number of political science publications about Turkey by decade (articles only)

Document types

The two main types of documents were articles and book reviews; more than half of the publications (65.20%) were articles, whereas book reviews constituted roughly one fourth (26.33%). There were also editorial materials (3.54%), letters (2.00%), proceeding papers (1.46%), and reviews (1.15%) (Table 1). Compared to the trends in political science publications in general, where the number of book reviews exceeded the number of articles, the trends in political science publications about Turkey were reversed because there were more articles than book reviews. This finding suggests that scholars publish original articles about Turkey and that books about political issues with regard to Turkey constitute a relatively lower percentage of those in general.

Table 1 Number of political science publications about Turkey according to document type (duplicates: proceedings papers are also classified as articles)

Document type	Number of publications	Percentage (%)
Article	847	65.20
Book review	342	26.33
Editorial material	46	3.54
Letter	26	2.00
Proceeding paper	19	1.46
Review	15	1.15
Note	1	0.08
Meeting abstract	1	0.08
Discussion	1	0.08
Correction	1	0.08

Research areas

Political science publications are categorized as Government Law in WoK’s research areas. Figure 3 presents the number of political science publications ($n > 10$) according to the WoK research areas. For all the political science publications, publications were categorized as Social Sciences Other Topics followed by International Relations, Social Issues, Public Administration, and Business Economics, whereas in the political science publications about Turkey, they were categorized as International Relations followed by Social Issues, Business Economics, Area Studies, and Public Administration. Therefore, the trends in political science publications about Turkey show a slight difference because they do not prioritize Social Science Other Topics and are more in favor of Area Studies.

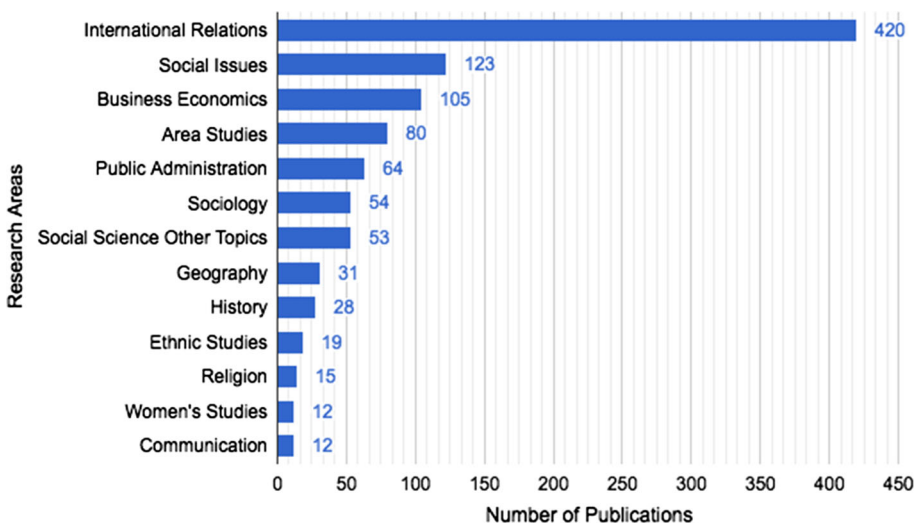


Fig. 3 Number of political science publications about Turkey according to research area ($n > 10$)

Table 2 Journals that publish political science issues about Turkey

Sources	All		Articles only		JCR 2015		
	Number of publications	Percentage	Number of publications	Percentage	5 year impact factor	Impact factor	Ranking
South European Society and Politics	81	6.78	62	7.50	0.967	1.241	51
Internationale Politik	49	4.10	36	4.35	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mediterranean Politics	44	3.69	29	3.50	1.360	0.741	89
Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science	40	3.35	11	1.33	1.928	1.708	30
Political Science Quarterly	37	3.10	11	1.33	0.567	0.366	129
American Political Science Review	37	3.10	4	0.48	6.341	3.444	4
Current History	34	2.85	24	2.90	0.192	0.208	147
Political Studies Review	31	2.60	4	0.48	1.188	0.571	112
Democratization	29	2.43	25	3.02	1.166	1.296	43
Survival	26	2.18	18	2.18	0.455	0.474	121
Nation	25	2.09	14	1.69	0.355	0.496	117
Journal of Peace Research	25	2.09	13	1.57	3.283	2.153	16
JCMS Journal of Common Market Studies	25	2.09	12	1.45	1.772	1.83	26
Government and Opposition	24	2.01	16	1.93	0.919	0.755	85
Aussen Politik	24	2.01	20	2.42	n/a	n/a	n/a
Political Geography	22	1.84	18	2.18	3.020	2.733	7
New Republic	22	1.84	10	1.21	n/a	0.575	111
Osteuropa	21	1.76	13	1.57	0.135	0.268	139
Party Politics	20	1.68	12	1.45	2.082	1.271	46
Journal of Developing Areas	20	1.68	2	0.24	n/a	n/a	n/a

Journals

Political science publications about Turkey appeared in a variety of political science journals, from top journals to low-ranked journals (Table 2). *South European Society and Politics* was the journal with the highest number of publications about Turkey (81), followed by *Internationale Politik* (49), *Mediterranean Politics* (44), *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (40), *Political Science Quarterly* (37), and *American Political Science Review* (37). Among them, *American Political Science Review* had the highest impact factor (3.444), ranked no. 4 in the JCR 2015 Rankings, while *Current History* had the lowest (0.204).

When we focused only on articles and excluded all other types of documents, a rather different picture emerged. The rankings of the top three journals, *South European Society and Politics* (62), *Internationale Politik* (36), and *Mediterranean Politics* (29), remained the same. But they were followed by *Democratization* (25) and *Current History* (24). It appeared that some of journals published book reviews more exclusively than articles about Turkey. These included a highly reputable *American Political Science Review* (4 articles out of 37 publications). Conversely, journals with relatively medium impact factors published articles more exclusively than book reviews about Turkey. These included *Democratization* (25 articles out of 29 publications).

Languages of publications

Political science publications about Turkey were written in six languages while political science publications in general were written in twenty-seven additional languages. Most of the political science publications about Turkey were written in English (1129, 88.2%) followed by German (123, 9.61%), Norwegian (13, 1.01%), French (13, 1.01%), Spanish (1, 0.08%), and Russian (1, 0.08%). We also ran a similar analysis only on articles and found very similar results. The articles about Turkey were written in English (716, 86.6%) followed by German (89, 10.76%), Norwegian (13, 1.57%), French (9, 1.09%), Spanish (1, 0.12%), and Russian (1, 0.12%).

The percentages and orders were very similar in political science publications in general but publications in Norwegian in political science publications in general were not that high or higher than French, Spanish, or Russian. However, publications in Czech were higher than Spanish in political science publications in general.

Authors

These 1280 publications were written by more than 500 authors. The authors of 24 publications (9 articles) were anonymous, which is very surprising because it is contrary to what we expect from scientific publications. Most of the publications were single-authored; on average, there were 1.23 authors per publication (Table 3). The highest number of authors was five in Benoit et al. (2005) and Hobolt et al. (2011).

The authors of political science publications about Turkey were not only from Turkey (e.g. Onis, Carkoglu, Heper) but also from the international academic sphere (e.g. Dodd, Howard, Brown) (Table 4). However, none of the international scholars is contemporary political scientists working on Turkey. For instance, Dodd published from 1960 to 1998, Howard from 1939 to 1978, Brown from 1982 to 1995, von Caucig from 1959 to 1969, and Tachau from 1972 to 1998. When we focused only on articles, we found that some of these

Table 3 Average number of authors by document type

Document type	Number of authors
Article	1.32
Book Review	1.01
Editorial Material	1.26
Letter	1
Proceeding Paper	1.42
Review	1.21
Note	1
Meeting Abstract	2
Discussion	1
Correction	1

Table 4 Authors who frequently publish political science publications about Turkey (note: Franz von Cauçig as F. Voncauçig in Web of Science)

Author	Number of publications	
	All	Articles only
Anonymous	24	9
Z. Onis	14	10
C. H. Dodd	13	1
A. Carkoglu	11	10
M. Heper	8	6
B. Yilmaz	7	7
M. Ugur	7	2
H. N. Howard	7	2
J. Brown	7	6
F. von Cauçig	6	6
G. M. Tezcur	6	3
P. Tank	6	1
F. Tachau	6	1
S. Sayari	6	4
E. Kalaycioglu	6	6
G. Altinors	6	0

authors published more book reviews than articles. For example, Dodd published only 1 article out of 13 publications about Turkey. A similar observation was made about the type of publications by Ugur, Howard, Tank, Tachau, and Altinors.

These results show that scholars residing in Turkey started contributing more to the field of political science than before. Moreover, there might be lesser interest in Turkish politics from international scholars than before. Nevertheless, this does not mean that there is no interest on the political issues about Turkey from an international political science community since there are a plenty of international political scientists still publishing about Turkey. Yet the increase in the number of Turkish scholars is much higher than those of international scholars. The results also showed that some authors publish book reviews exclusively or more book reviews than original articles perhaps to increase their visibility in these databases.

9 articles and 24 publications in total were published anonymously. 5 out of 9 anonymous articles were published in *Department of State Bulletin* in the 1950s and 1960s, and Turkey was treated within the framework of the American Foreign Policy (e.g., cooperation of the United States with several countries including Turkey and the American president's or the atomic experts' visits to several countries including Turkey). The rest of the anonymous articles (4 out of 9) appeared in various journals such as *Political Science Quarterly*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Comparative Strategy and Argument*, from the 1920s to the 1990s. The topics of these articles consisted of the new constitution of Turkey, a forgotten genocide, a NATO Council on the weapons of mass destruction held in Istanbul, and the situation of opposition publishing houses in Turkey, respectively. It is possible that the authors did not associate their names with the materials because of the conventions in academia decades ago. In fact the anonymity of articles has not been present in the last two decades.

Author affiliations

The authors of political science publications about Turkey were from a variety of universities (Fig. 4). Academic members of Ihsan Dogramaci Bilkent University produced most of the publications, followed by members of Koc University, University of London, Sabanci University, and the Middle East Technical University. Most of the authors were affiliated with Turkish universities, followed by American universities. In Turkey, members of relatively new private universities such as Ihsan Dogramaci Bilkent University, Koc University, and Sabanci University published twice as much as members of public universities such as Bogazici University and Istanbul University.

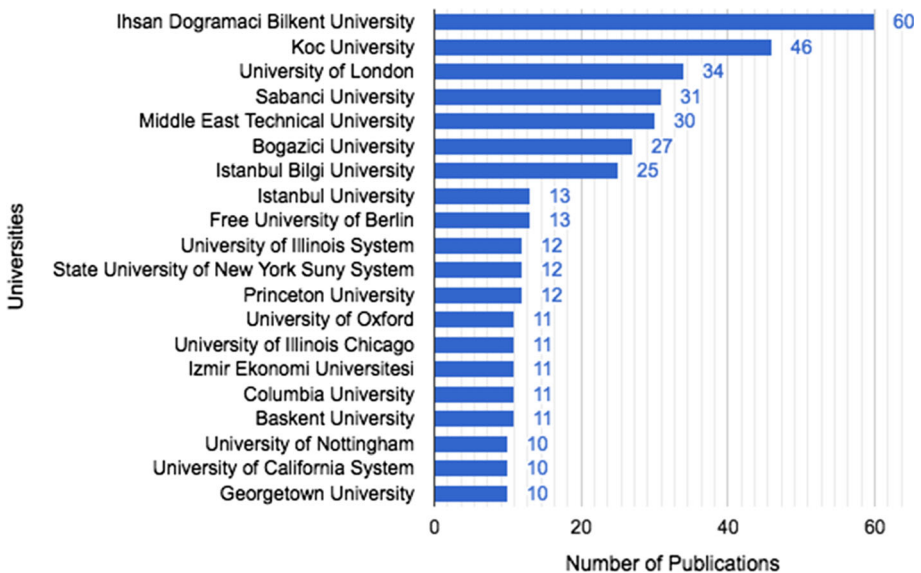


Fig. 4 Affiliation of authors who frequently publish political science publications about Turkey

Citations and references

A political science publication about Turkey was cited 4 times (4.46 on average) and gave references to 27 publications (27.42 on average). Of 1280 publications, 678 (53%) were not cited at all, which included 280 of 829 articles (33.78%). In contrast, 167 of 1280 (13.05%) publications gave no references, which surprisingly included 117 of 829 articles (14.11%) (Table 5). Highly cited publications included Krasner (1984) 380 times, Pape (2003) 328 times, and Ross (2008) 140 times. Interestingly, of these, Krasner (1984) was a book review that reviewed a book written in English. The other two were articles. Publications that gave the most references included two articles: Akturk (2011) 178 times and Lerner (2013) 174 times. These were original articles, not review articles.

Abstracts

A total of 619 publications contained an abstract. These included 592 articles, 18 proceedings papers, 11 editorial materials, 9 reviews, 4 book reviews, and 1 letter. An analysis with AntConc revealed that abstracts contained a total of 93,292 words and 9214 unique word forms. The most frequently used words included *Turkey* (745), *political* (498), *Turkish* (466), *article* (464), and *EU* (399) (Table 6).

To illustrate the relationship among the frequently used words, we also provide a word relation analysis in which the lines between words get wider as the number of co-occurrences increases (Fig. 5). According to this analysis, *Turkey* co-occurred with *political*, *article*, *Greece*, and *case*, and more frequently with *EU*. *EU*, in turn, was associated more frequently with *European* and *membership* as well as *Turkey's*, *accession*, and *Turkish*, whereas *political* co-occurred with *parties*, *economic*, *Turkish*, and *article*. In return, as expected, *article* was associated strongly with *examines* and *argues*. These findings suggest the following most common template in these abstracts: ‘This article examines Turkey–EU membership/accession (in relation to Greece/... case)/Turkish political parties (and economy). This article argues/concludes that...’

Table 5 Number of received citations and references by document type

Document type	Number of received citations	Number of references
Article	5.7	38.38
Book Review	1.44	2.09
Editorial Material	1.09	10.8
Letter	0	1
Proceeding Paper	13.79	49.58
Review	13.29	78.43
Note	0	0
Meeting Abstract	0	0
Discussion	0	1
Correction	0	1

Table 6 The 20 words used most frequently in abstracts

Word	Frequency
Turkey	745
Political	498
Turkish	466
Article	464
EU	399
Policy	257
European	251
Party	240
State	236
Turkey’s	235
Countries	223
Study	191
Analysis	169
Economic	169
Parties	169
Relations	165
Democracy	164
Politics	160
Military	159
New	151

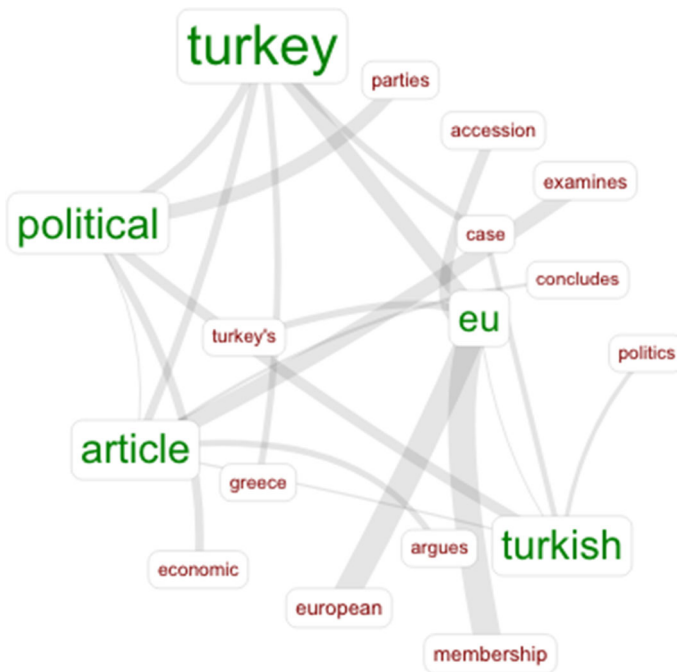


Fig. 5 Word relation illustration for the 5 words used most frequently in abstracts

We also compared the abstracts from publications between 2000–2010 and 2011–2016 to explore differences and trends. To do so, we conducted a log-likelihood analysis. The results are given in Table 7.

We now explain these findings. The words that appeared frequently in the 2000–2010 period, such as *Cypriot*, *Cypriots*, *Greek*, *(democratic) consolidation*, *military*, *armed (forces)*, and *Islam* were related to important aspects of Turkish politics, particularly to Turkey–EU relations. Turkey was officially recognized as a candidate country for the EU at the Helsinki Summit in December 1999, and accession negotiations started in 2005.

Table 7 Differences in the use of words from abstracts between 2000–2010 and 2011–2016 (frequency > 9, $p < .001$)

2000–2010 versus 2011–2016			2011–2016 versus 2000–2010		
Word	Frequency	Keyness	Word	Frequency	Keyness
Military	108	41.067	Citizenship	63	34.699
Expenditure	16	29.273	Eurocepticism	19	19.45
Cypriots	14	25.613	Europeanisation	28	17.626
Terrorist	25	23.823	Religious	115	15.723
Attacks	16	22.69	CHP	15	15.355
Cypriot	22	22.02	We	159	14.61
Greek	23	18.652	Municipalities	13	13.308
Suicide	16	15.769	Officials	13	13.308
Authoritarian	27	14.93	Participation	23	13.265
Eastern	35	14.537	Party	182	13.182
Oil	11	14.264	How	127	12.982
Forces	25	14.096	Neoliberal	12	12.284
Sociology	10	12.617	Ethno	11	11.261
North	13	11.413	Promotion	11	11.261
Mediterranean	16	11.338	CSOs	11	11.261
Income	14	10.639	Protests	11	11.261
Market	28	9.924	Decision	43	10.978
Solution	10	9.529	Shift	16	10.602
Islam	23	8.295	Moderation	37	10.392
Terrorism	23	7.329	Activism	15	9.703
Secularist	10	7.321	Elections	63	9.42
Consolidation	25	7.271	Islamic	50	8.401
Council	11	6.822	Ideological	31	8.234
Debt	11	6.822	Corruption	13	7.933
Markets	11	6.822	Ethnic	42	7.741
Relationships	11	6.822	Autonomy	16	7.48
Armed	17	6.774	Indonesia	16	7.48
			Negotiation	16	7.48
			Hegemonic	19	7.413
			AKP	72	7.084

Meanwhile, in 2004, 73% of Turks were in favor of joining the EU (Cagaptay 2016). Thus, when Turkey was at the beginning of the negotiation process, scholars studied problems that may arise before accession. Cyprus is one of the major problems with respect to Turkey's EU membership because Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish parts since 1974 and peace talks with regard to unification have not been fruitful so far. Greek-Cypriots represent the Republic of Cyprus and, having become EU members in 2004, they can veto Turkish accession. Greeks and Turks also have their problems. They engage in disputes over several issues such as the extent of territorial waters and national airspace, the sovereignty over some Eastern Aegean islands, and the demilitarization of islands. Given that Greece has been an EU member since 1981, these issues must be solved before Turkey's EU membership.

Islam is a recurrent word in abstracts because it is the religion of the majority in the country and because a fundamental question in both Turkey and Europe is whether predominantly Muslim Turkey belongs in Europe. Other issues important with respect to Turkish politics relate to military tutelage and lack of democracy. Turkey has a history of military interventions that put its democracy in a problematic position. Those are factors that initially come to mind in the context of Turkish politics, particularly within Turkey's EU accession process.

Nevertheless, in the 2011–2016 period, we see the use of the word “Euroscepticism”. In 2010, when the EU accession process slowed down, only 38% of Turks supported EU membership. However, developments within the Middle East and Turkey boosted this rate, which reached 53% in 2014 (Cagaptay 2016). The decrease and then increase of the EU support rate indicates that the Turks have decided to not break with the European path. Scholars write about the AKP (the ruling conservative party since 2002) and Euroscepticism because they want to see the extent to which Turkey would fit within the EU and the Middle East frameworks and whether Turkey would go through a major change under AKP rule.

The words that frequently appeared in the 2011–2016 period were *shift (of axis)*, *Islamic*, *religious*, *party*, *hegemonic*, *AKP*, and *CHP*, as well as *Euroscepticism* and *Europeanization*. Those words seem to be related mostly to Turkey's domestic politics and the rule of the AKP. The party tried to be a catch-all party at its foundation. However, because the founding and leading figures have an Islamist background, some scholars, politicians, and journalists have always accused the AKP of having a hidden agenda—that of eventually turning Turkey into an Islamic state. The word's frequency in the 2011–2016 period shows that scholars have perceived the recent developments in Turkey in a particular way: The AKP is perceived to become authoritarian and show Islamic tendencies, whereas the main opposition party, the self-described social-democratic CHP (*Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi*, Republican People's Party), is perceived to be an incompetent main opposition party.

In the post-2005 era, the AKP government embraced a “loose Europeanization or soft Euro-Asianism strategy” (Onis and Yilmaz 2009, pp. 11–13). This was a period when, after having adopted harmonization packages and approved other laws to conform to the EU law, *acquis communautaire*, the Turkish government believed it could never make the EU happy. Thus, scholars started to talk about “a shift of axis” in foreign policy, which was a major change within the Turkish political context. Also, in the last few years, facing the turbulence in the Middle East region, the terror conducted by the separatist PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), and the increasing conflict with the Gülenist Organisation, officially referred to as the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ), the AKP has shown some authoritarian tendencies. Some scholars argue that the AKP government established a hegemony over Turkish society and

that Turkey has fallen under a competitive authoritarian regime (Esen and Gumuscu 2016, pp. 1582–1585). The term “competitive authoritarianism” refers to a hybrid regime showing characteristics of democracy and authoritarianism at the same time (Levitsky and Way 2002). Meanwhile, the CHP is accused of not being a successful main opposition party and not stopping the AKP’s empowerment. However, the AKP’s domination of the political sphere in Turkey leaves little chance of success for opposition parties (Ciddi and Esen 2014, p. 419).

Keywords

Of 1280 publications, 339 had a keyword. The number of keywords per publication was between 1 and 21. These publications included 320 articles, 8 proceedings papers, 6 editorial materials, 3 reviews, a letter, and a book review. Therefore, when available, a publication had an average of 6 keywords (5.60). An analysis with AntConc revealed that keywords had a total of 3021 words and 1064 unique word forms. The most frequently used words in the keywords included *Turkey* (213), *political* (56), *European* (55), *politics* (40), and *EU* (39) (Table 8).

According to the word relation analysis, the most common related keywords were Turkey–EU membership (politics, policies, and EU enlargement) and political parties (and Islam) (Fig. 6).

Table 8 The 20 words used most frequently as keywords

Word	Frequency
Turkey	213
Political	56
European	55
Politics	40
EU	39
Party	38
Policy	38
Union	34
Democracy	27
Parties	27
Relations	25
AKP	24
Islam	24
Public	24
Turkish	23
Democratization	22
Identity	21
Religion	20
Conflict	19
Democratic	18

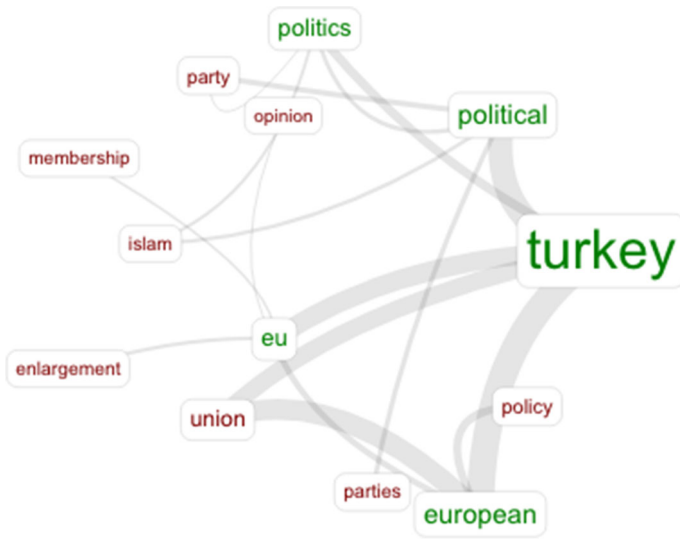


Fig. 6 Word relation illustration for the 5 words used most frequently as keyword

Discussion and conclusion

Our study contributes to both bibliometrics and political science because it constitutes the first research into the bibliometrics of political science publications about Turkey showing the main characteristics of political science publications about Turkey. We limited our research to those items indexed in Thomson Reuters’ *SSCI* and *A&HCI* between 1900 and 2016. We found that there were 1280 publications in total. Most of these publications appeared after the 1950s, with the 2010s being the decade during which the number of publications was the highest. We expect to see the continuation of this increase in the coming years.

We also found that the two main types of documents were articles (65.20%) and book reviews (26.33%). Most of the publications were under the category of International Relations, followed by Social Issues and Economics. *South European Society and Politics* is the journal that had the highest number of publications about Turkey (81), followed by *Internationale Politik* (49) and *Mediterranean Politics* (44). Most of the publications were written in English (88.2%), followed by German (9.61%). Most of them were single-authored; on average, there were 1.23 authors per publication. Interestingly, authors of 24 publications were anonymous. Even more interestingly, 9 of those publications were articles. Onis, Dodd, and Carkoglu were the top authors. Yet, Dodd published mostly book reviews rather than articles. Academic members of Ihsan Dogramaci Bilkent University authored the most, followed by members of Koc University and the University of London. A political science publication was cited 4 times (4.46 on average) and gave references to 27 publications (27.42 on average). The words that frequently appeared during the 2000–2010 period (such as *Cypriot*, *Cypriots*, *Greek*, *consolidation*, *military*, *armed*, *Islam*) were related to important aspects of Turkish politics, particularly to Turkey–EU relations. The words that frequently appeared in the 2011–2016 period (such as *shift*, *Islamic*, *religious*, *party*, *hegemonic*, *AKP*, *CHP*) seemed to be related primarily to Turkey’s domestic politics and the rule of the AKP.

In addition to being the first study of political science publications about Turkey, our study differs from previous bibliometric works on political science that focused on the publications of a particular department (e.g. Chi 2012, 2015), the Ph.D. thesis submitted in a department (Malik 2016), or journals (e.g. Billordo 2005; Boncourt 2007, 2008; Pehl 2012). We focused on publications about a particular country, Turkey, which has very interesting characteristics from a political science perspective. Turkey is a country situated between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. It is secular but overwhelmingly Muslim and has close ties to both the West and the East.

There is a major similarity between our work and previous works as far as one of our results is concerned. Focusing on French and British political science journals, Boncourt argued that the number of articles about Europe varied with the dynamics of the European Economic Community (EEC); for instance, the number of European papers was high when Britain was joining the Community in 1960s and articles about the EU and European countries currently constitute 30% of the contents of both *Revue Française de Science Politique* and *Political Studies* (Boncourt 2007: p. 285). Our work reached a similar conclusion. Turkey applied to the EEC in 1959 and signed the Ankara Treaty, an association agreement, in 1963. The number of political science publications about Turkey increased particularly in the 1960s and most of the significant increases afterwards could be connected to the rapprochement of Turkey–EU.

There are some limitations to the present study, as discussed in similar bibliometric studies elsewhere (Archambault and Larivière 2010). In the present study, we relied on data obtained only from SSCI, A&HCI, and JCR, but there are many other similar databases that may provide different results. For example, we found that there were 1280 publications from a political science perspective about Turkey. We conducted a similar search on *ProQuest: Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* that showed that between 1900 and 2016, there were 23,625 materials, 22,189 of them from scholarly journals. However, only 8521 of them were journal articles. An examination of these articles may paint a different picture of what we have illustrated in the present study.

In the present study, we found that most of the publications (88.2%) were written in English. This might be because of the scope of SSCI and A&HCI, which cover mostly English journals. To examine this, we looked at the results from *ProQuest: Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* using a keyword of *Turkey*. We found that 22,162 of all 23,625 materials (93.8%) were in English. In addition, of the 8521 journal articles, 7346 (86.21%) were in English. While no publication was written in Turkish in SSCI or A&HCI, there were 619 journal articles in Turkish in ProQuest. Nonetheless, this database provided similar results in terms of the use of English as the language of political science publications about Turkey.

Although the bibliometric characteristics of a research field can shed light on the quantity and quality of publications, they are not the only indicators of the quality of the publications (e.g. Hicks et al. 2015). Therefore, our future research will broaden our interest in this topic to examine publications in indices similar to SSCI and A&HCI (such as ProQuest), theses and dissertations, publications written in languages other than English (such as Turkish), and subjective assessments of publications by experts in the field.

References

- Akturk, S. (2011). Regimes of ethnicity: Comparative analysis of Germany, the Soviet Union/Post-Soviet Russia, and Turkey. *World Politics*, 63(1), 115–164.
- Anthony, L. (2014). *AntConc (Version 3.4.3)* [Computer Software]. Tokyo: Waseda University. <http://www.laurenceanthony.net/>.
- Archambault, É., & Larivière, V. (2010). The limits of bibliometrics for the analysis of the social sciences and humanities literature. *World social science report* (pp. 251–254). Paris: UNESCO Publishing.
- Aybay, R. (1977). The role and the position of political science in Turkey. *The Turkish Yearbook of International Relations*, 17, 13–20.
- Ballard, M., & Mitchell, N. J. (1998). The good, the better, and the best in political science. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 31(4), 826–828.
- Benoit, K., Laver, M., Arnold, C., Pennings, P., & Hosli, M. O. (2005). Measuring national delegate positions at the convention on the future of Europe using computerized word scoring. *European Union Politics*, 6(3), 291–313.
- Billordo, L. (2005). Publishing in French political science journals: An inventory of methods and sub-fields. *French Politics*, 3(2), 178–186.
- Boncourt, T. (2007). The evolution of political science in France and Britain: A comparative study of two political science journals. *European Political Science*, 6(3), 276–294.
- Boncourt, T. (2008). Is European Political Science different from European Political Sciences? A comparative study of the European journal of political research, political studies and the Revue Française de Science Politique 1973–2002. *European Political Science*, 7(3), 366–381.
- Cagaptay, S. (2016). Opinion: Is Turkey coming in from the cold in Europe? *CNN*. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/27/opinions/cagaptay-turkey-europe-abandonment/>. Retrieved on June 20, 2017.
- Chi, P. S. (2012). Bibliometric characteristics of political science research in Germany. *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2012 Annual Meeting*, 49(1), 1–6.
- Chi, P. S. (2015). Changing publication and citation patterns in political science in Germany. *Scientometrics*, 105(3), 1833–1848.
- CIA. (2017). The World Factbook—Turkey. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html>. Retrieved on May 17, 2017.
- Ciddi, S., & Esen, B. (2014). Turkey's Republican People's Party: Politics of opposition under a dominant party system. *Turkish Studies*, 15(3), 419–441.
- Esen, B., & Gumuscu, S. (2016). Rising competitive authoritarianism in Turkey. *Third World Quarterly*, 37(9), 1581–1606.
- Ethridge, M. E., & Handelman, H. (2010 [2008]). *Politics in a changing world: A comparative introduction to political science*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.
- Grigsby, E. (2012). *Analyzing politics: An introduction to political science* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning.
- Hicks, D., Wouters, P., Waltman, L., de Rijcke, S., & Rafols, I. (2015). Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics. *Nature*, 520, 429–431.
- Hix, S. (2004). A global ranking of political science departments. *Political Studies Review*, 2, 293–313.
- Hobolt, S. B., Van der Brug, W., De Vreese, C. H., Boomgaarden, H. G., & Hinrichsen, M. C. (2011). Religious intolerance and Euroscepticism. *European Union Politics*, 12(3), 359–379.
- Krasner, S. D. (1984). Revolution from above: Military bureaucrats and development in Japan, Turkey, Egypt, and Peru—Trimberger EK. *Comparative Politics*, 16(2), 223–246.
- Lasswell, H. D. (1936). *Politics: Who gets what, when, how*. New York, NY: Whittlesey House.
- Lawrence, P. A. (2002). Rank injustice. *Nature*, 415, 835–836.
- Lawrence, P. A. (2003). The politics of publication. *Nature*, 422, 259–261.
- Lawrence, P. A. (2008). Lost in publication: How measurement harms science? *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics*, 8, 9–11.
- Lerner, H. (2013). Permissive constitutions, democracy, and religious freedom in India, Indonesia, Israel, and Turkey. *World Politics*, 65(4), 609–655.
- Levitsky, S., & Way, L. A. (2002). The rise of competitive authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy*, 13(2), 51–65.
- Malik, M. (2016). Bibliometric study of political science Ph.D. thesis, Vikram University, Ujjain (M.P.) (2009–2012). *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, 1, 128–138.
- Müftüler-Bac, M., & Stivachtis, Y. A. (Eds.). (2008). *Turkey–European union relations: Dilemmas, opportunities, and constraints*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield-Lexington Books.
- Munroe, T. (2002 [1983]). An introduction to politics: Lectures for first-year students. Kingston: Canoe Press.

- Onis, Z., & Yilmaz, S. (2009). Between Europeanization and Euro-Asianism: Foreign policy activism in Turkey during the AKP Era. *Turkish Studies*, 10(1), 7–24.
- Owens, B. (2013). Research assessments: Judgment day. *Nature*, 502, 288–290.
- Pape, R. A. (2003). The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 97(3), 343–361.
- Pehl, M. (2012). The study of politics in Germany: A bibliometric analysis of subfields and methods. *European Political Science*, 11(1), 54–70.
- Reich, E. S. (2013). Science publishing: The golden club. *Nature*, 502, 291–293.
- Robey, J. S. (1979). Political science departments: Reputations versus productivity. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 12, 202–209.
- Ross, M. L. (2008). Oil, Islam, and women. *American Political Science Review*, 102(1), 107–123.
- Samuels, D. J. (2011). The modal number of citations to political science articles is greater than zero: Accounting for citations in articles and books. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 44(4), 783–794.
- Stephan, P., Veugelers, R., & Wang, J. (2017). Reviewers are blinkered by bibliometrics. *Nature*, 544, 411–412.
- Tocci, N. (2014). *Turkey and the European Union: A journey into the unknown*. Turkey Project Policy Paper No. 5. Washington, DC: Center on the United States and Europe at Brookings.