

DR. MELTEM ODABAŞ

May 2024

EMPLOYMENT

Pew Research Center, Washington DC. August 2021 – May 2024.
Computational Social Scientist at Data Labs.

- Collaborated with researchers to integrate survey data and behavioral data to uncover social trends and identify underserved communities.
- Cleaned, merged, and analyzed large-scale datasets (up to 44 million observations) using advanced statistical and computational methods including text analysis and named entity recognition. Ensured data quality and minimized inconsistencies through rigorous analysis.
- Managed research projects, implementing efficient and reproducible pipelines with code reviews for effective collaboration and clear documentation.
- Supervised data collection and analysis teams, and utilized project management tools for task delegation and progress tracking.
- Visualized research findings for impactful presentations through data storytelling. Wrote research reports and blog posts for both technical and non-technical audiences, effectively communicating insights to internal and external stakeholders.

Indiana University, Bloomington IN. July 2019 - August 2021.
Postdoctoral Researcher of Sociology and Computational Social Science.

- Examined a large-scale 10-year longitudinal health claims dataset (318 million observations) to investigate outcomes related to behavioral health, opioid use, COVID-19, and mental health. Utilized advanced methods such as propensity score matching, regressions, and network analysis.
- Collaborated effectively with a diverse team of healthcare professionals, social scientists, and computer scientists for impactful research.
- Successfully supervised graduate students, guiding them in conducting social science research with computational and quantitative methods.
- Leveraged programming languages like R and Python to build efficient research pipelines (with Git for version control). Utilized cloud computing (AWS) for data management and visualization.
- Translated complex analyses into actionable insights for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

University of Arizona, Tucson AZ. July 2012 – May 2019.
Graduate Researcher and teaching Assistant in Sociology.

- Developed expertise in the impact of digital communication on various social issues such as illicit markets, protest movements, and cultural consumption through active participation in multiple research projects.
- Gained proficiency in advanced statistical and computational methods, allowing for the application of high-powered data analytics tools on large datasets.

- Successfully published original, first-authored, and peer-reviewed research papers targeted at academic audiences. Presented research findings at conferences to contribute to the scholarly community's knowledge.
- Designed and delivered diverse courses on research methods and specialized topics. Effectively shared your expertise in computational tools and methods essential for impactful social science research.

Boğaziçi University, Istanbul Turkey. March 2011 – July 2012.
Graduate Teaching Assistant in Economics.

- Led group sessions focused on helping students practice and understand the course material for graduate level microeconomics and game theory courses as well as undergraduate level micro and macroeconomics courses.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Quantitative Methods • Advanced Statistics • Regression Models • Machine Learning • Text Analysis • Network Analysis • Data Collection and Analysis • Data Visualization • Stata • R • Python • SQL • Git • Project Management • Teamwork • Research Writing • Teaching

EDUCATION

PhD	University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ) School of Sociology Committee: Ronald Breiger (Chair), Erin Leahey, Charles Seguin	May 2019
MA	University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ) School of Sociology Committee: Jennifer Earl (Chair), Ronald Breiger, Brian Mayer	May 2014
MA	Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkey) Economics Graduated with High Honor	July 2012
BA	Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkey) Economics Graduated with Honor	June 2010

PUBLICATIONS

(* = equal contributions)

Peer Reviewed Journal Paper Publications

Kai-Cheng Yang, Brian Aronson, **Meltem Odabaş**, Yong-Yeol Ahn, Brea L Perry (2022)
“Comparing measures of centrality in bipartite patient-prescriber networks: A study of drug seeking for opioid analgesics.” *PloS one*, 17(8).

Meltem Odabaş*, Didem Türkoğlu*, Mustafa Yavaş, Doruk Tunaoglu (2022). “Political polarisation on social media: Competing understandings of democracy in Turkey.” *South European Society and Politics*, 27(2).

Meltem Odabaş*, Brea Perry*, Kai-Cheng Yang, Byungkyu Lee, Patrick Kaminski, Brian Aronson, Yong-Yeol Ahn, Carrie B. Oser, Patricia R. Freeman, Jeffrey C. Talbert (2022).

“New means, new measures: Assessing prescription drug seeking indicators over ten years of the opioid epidemic.” *Addictions*, 117(1).

Byungkyu Lee , Kai-Cheng Yang, Patrick Kaminski, Siyun Peng, **Meltem Odabaş**, Sumedha Gupta, Harold D Green, Yong-Yeol Ahn, Brea L Perry (2021) “Substitution of Nonpharmacologic Therapy With Opioid Prescribing for Pain During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *JAMA Network Open*, 4(12).

Didem Türkoğlu, **Meltem Odabaş** (2020) “ ‘Mischievous Uncles’ as Rule Breakers: Intersectional stereotypes and risk perceptions during the coronavirus pandemic in Turkey.” *Social Media + Society*.

Brea Perry L., Kai-Cheng Yang, Patrick Kaminski, **Meltem Odabaş**, Jaehyuk Park, Michelle Martel, Carrie B. Oser Patricia R. Freeman Yong-Yeol Ahn Jeffery Talbert (2019). Co-prescription network reveals social dynamics of opioid doctor shopping. *PloS one*, 14(10).

Meltem Odabaş, Thomas J. Holt, and Ronald L. Breiger (2017). “Markets as Governance Environments for Organizations at the Edge of Illegality: Insights from Social Network Analysis”, *American Behavioral Scientist*, 61(11), 1267-1288

Meltem Odabaş and Heidi Reynolds-Stenson (2017). “Tweeting from Gezi Park: Social Media and Repression Backfire”, *Social Currents*, 5(4), 386-406.

Meltem Odabaş and Fikret Adaman (2014). “Engaging with Social Networks: The Bourdieu-Becker Encounter Revisited”, *Forum for Social Economics*, 47(3-4), 305-321

Book Chapters

Meltem Odabaş, Thomas J. Holt, and Ronald L. Breiger (2017), “Governance in Online Illicit Stolen Data Markets” in Jens Beckert and Matias Dewey (eds.), *The Architecture of Illegal Markets*, Oxford University Press.

Meltem Odabaş (2016) “Shopping Mall, Economics of”, *SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*.

Fikret Adaman and **Meltem Odabaş** (2014) “Furthering the Link between Social Capital and Corruption” In John Davis and Asimina Christoforou (eds.) *Social Capital and Economics: Social Values, Power, and Social Identity*, London: Routledge.

Reports

Galen Stocking, **Meltem Odabaş** (2024), “Most Top-Ranked Podcasts Bring On Guests.” Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2024/02/06/most-top-ranked-podcasts-bring-on-guests/>

Meltem Odabaş (2024), “Redacting identifying information with computational methods in large text data.” Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/decoded/2024/01/12/redacting-identifying-information-with-computational-methods-in-large-text-data/>

Shradha Dinesh, **Meltem Odabaş** (2024), “8 facts about Americans and Twitter as it rebrands to X.” Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/07/26/8-facts-about-americans-and-twitter-as-it-rebrands-to-x/>

Samuel Bestvater, Risa Gelles-Watnick, **Meltem Odabaş**, Monica Anderson, Aaron Smith (2023). “#BlackLivesMatter Turns 10”. Retrieved from <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2023/06/29/blacklivesmatter-turns-10/>

Meltem Odabaş, Carolina Aragão (2023), “School District Mission Statements Highlight a Partisan Divide Over Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in K-12 Education.” Retrieved from

<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2023/04/04/school-district-mission-statements-highlight-a-partisan-divide-over-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-in-k-12-education/>

Meltem Odabaş (2022), “Concern about drug addiction has declined in U.S., even in areas where fatal overdoses have risen the most.” Retrieved from

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/05/31/concern-about-drug-addiction-has-declined-in-u-s-even-in-areas-where-fatal-overdoses-have-risen-the-most/>

Meltem Odabaş (2022), “5 facts about Twitter ‘lurkers’.” Retrieved from

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/03/16/5-facts-about-twitter-lurkers/>

TEACHING

I have ten years of teaching experience and was awarded the Bunis Graduate Student Teaching Instructor Award in 2018 by the School of Sociology at the University of Arizona.

Teaching University of Arizona	Social Networks (Undergraduate) Social Movements and Activism (Undergraduate) Sociology of Education (Undergraduate)
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Teaching Assistantship University of Arizona	Sociology of Happiness (Undergraduate) Sources of Sociological Theory (Undergraduate) Urban Sociology (Undergraduate)
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Teaching Assistantship Boğaziçi University	Microeconomics II (Game Theory) (Graduate) Microeconomics I (Graduate) Advanced Microeconomics (Undergraduate) Microeconomics I (Undergraduate) Macroeconomics I (Undergraduate)
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PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

(* = invited talks)

“Competing Understandings of Democracy in Contemporary Turkey” Virtual Middle Eastern Studies Association (MENA) Annual Conference, October 2020.

“Competing Understandings of Democracy in Contemporary Turkey” Virtual American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 2020.

“New means, new measures: Assessing prescription drug seeking indicators over ten years of the opioid epidemic” Virtual American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 2020.

“New means, new measures: Assessing prescription drug seeking indicators over ten years of the opioid epidemic” Virtual Sunbelt Conference, July 2020.

*“Fit In and Stand Out: How Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.” University of Washington, Biodiversity Institute at The University of Virginia. March 2020.

*“Fit In and Stand Out: How Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.” University of Washington, Arizona State University. February 2020.

*“Fit In and Stand Out: How Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.” George Mason University, November 2019.

- *“Fit In and Stand Out: How Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.”
University of Washington, November 2019.
- “Fit In and Stand Out: How Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, August 2019.
- “Sentiment Analysis in Python”, Methods of Computational Politics, University of Arizona,
April 2019.
- “Does Bridging Cultural Holes Bring Reputation in Online Communities? An Analysis of Music
Communities on Reddit” American Sociological Association Annual Conference,
Philadelphia, August 2018.
- “Does Bridging Cultural Holes Bring Reputation in Online Communities? An Analysis of Music
Communities on Reddit” Sunbelt Conference 2018, Utrecht, June-July 2018.
- “Tweeting from Gezi Park: Social Media and Repression Backfire” (with Heidi Reynolds-
Stenson), Middle Eastern Studies Association (MENA) Annual Conference, Boston,
November 2016.
- “Markets as Governance Environments for Organizations at the Edge of Illegality: Insights from
Social Network Analysis” (with Ronald Breiger), American Sociological Association Annual
Conference, Seattle, August 2016.
- “Tweeting from Gezi Park: Social Media and Repression Backfire” (with Heidi Reynolds-
Stenson), American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, August 2016.
- “Tweeting from Gezi Park: Social Media and Repression Backfire”, Southwest Graduate
Conference in Middle Eastern North African Studies, Tucson, April 2016.
- “Toward an Economic Sociology of Online Hacker Social Communities”, (with Ronald L.
Breiger and Thomas J. Holt) American Sociological Association Annual Conference,
Chicago, August 2015.
- “Toward an Economic Sociology of Online Hacker Social Communities”, Society for the
Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Conference, London, July 2015.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- American Sociological Association, Section in Cultural Sociology** 2019
Graduate Student Travel Award, awarded for the submitted paper “Fit In and Stand Out: How
Diversity in Taste Impacts Evaluation in Online Discussions.”
- University of Arizona, School of Sociology** 2018
Bunis Graduate Student Teaching Award
- University of Arizona** 2012-13 and 2018-19
Graduate Student Fellowship
- TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)** 2010-2012
BIDEB Scholarship (for Graduate Students).
- TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)** 2010-2012
BIDEB Scholarship (for Undergraduate Students who ranked at the top %0.1 in the Central
University Entrance Exam, ÖSS).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer-Reviews for	American Sociological Review; Socio-economic Review; Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety; Mobilization; Social Science Research; Social Currents; International Journal of Comparative Sociology; Review of Social Economy
Section in Cultural Sociology, American Sociological Association	Culture and Contemporary Life (Talk Series), Committee Member (2020-2021)
Postdoctoral Assoc., Indiana University	Postdoctoral Association at Indiana University Bloomington Committee Member (2019-2021)
University of Arizona	Computational Social Science Workshop, Volunteer Organizer (2019)
School of Sociology, University of Arizona	International (Graduate) Student Committee, Member (2016-2019) Graduate Program Recruitment Weekend, Organizer (2014-2016) Graduate Student Committee, Member (2014-2016)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native); English (fluent).