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Ali Ünlü

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EDUCATION

2009 *Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs, (Ph.D.)* Chair: Thomas Wan, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, USA

2006 *Master of Science (M.S.)* Administration of Criminal Justice, School of Justice Studies, Roger Williams University, Bristol Rhode Island, USA

2000 *Baccalaureate of Arts (BA)* School of Security Sciences, Turkish National Police Academy, Ankara, Türkiye

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist

School of Education and Human Development

University of Virginia, USA

08/2024 - Present

- Conducted design and analysis of DL, NLP, and ML methodologies for complex datasets in mental health and youth prevention research
- Served in the PIT-CREW lab (Preventive Interventions Team: Collaborative Research on Engagement and Wellbeing)
- Team member of integrative data analysis (IDA) for the Coping Power Projects
- Composed grant proposals and gave consultancy on ML, NLP, DL, and other data-intensive research domains
- Enhance the research capacity of UVA Precision Health Initiative

Visiting Researcher
10/2024 –

Senior Researcher
05/2019 – 09/2024

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) Finland

- Data Analyst: Applied traditional statistics, AI, machine learning, and deep learning for data model development, focusing on survey and structured data.
- Consultant and Advisor to CUBE: Utilize public policy analysis and data science background to provide strategic advice in Cultural, Behavioral, and Media Insights Centre (CUBE)
- Social Media Researcher: Apply NLP for social media data analysis, focusing on societal issues like drug policy, misinformation, political trust, and hate speech.
- Qualitative Researcher: Conduct thematic analysis, qualitative interviews, and foresight research to evaluate future trends.
- Policy Analyst: Evaluate interventions for substance abuse and youth violence, using data-driven approaches to inform policy decisions.

Visiting Researcher
Aalto University
Espoo Finland
05/2022 – 12/2024

- Mentoring undergraduate and master's students.
- Collaborating on the DiME Project: "Liquid Forms of AI-infused Disinformation: Improving Information Resilience in the Finnish News Ecosystem."
- Leading the Aalto research team in analyzing social media data as part of the "Reconstructing Crisis Narratives for Trustworthy Communication and Cooperative Agency Project.

Policy Analyst, National Expert and Unit Head

Ministry of Interior, Türkiye (2009 – 2016)

- Served as a policy and data analyst, preparing key sections in the annual national report.
- Directed the Istanbul Governor Office's Drug Prevention Unit as Head.
- Served as a spokesperson for public institutions on drug-related issues.
- Successfully represented the EMCDDA in Istanbul, effectively engaging with European counterparts, and fostering collaboration on several initiatives.
- Created the national data collection system for retail and wholesale drug prices.
- Spearheaded the design and data collection of youth surveys involving over 50,000 participants.
- Designed and implemented community outreach programs in Istanbul, effectively engaging diverse communities and addressing their local needs.
- Analyst on refugee deployment and border protection on Turkish-Syrian border

Research Assistant & Associate
2005 – 2009

- *August 2008 – Jun 200. 9 | University of Central Florida, Orlando Florida USA*
- *September 2007 - June 2008 | Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orange County, Orlando, FL, USA*
- *August 2006 – Jun 2007. | University of Central Florida, Orlando Florida USA*
- *August 2005 – Jun 2006. | Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI, USA*

Lieutenant & Captain
2000-2005

- Istanbul Narcotics Division
- Liaison officers of international drug trafficking unit.
- Developing struggling strategies against international drug trafficking

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Criminal Justice Courses

- Theories of Crime (Libya Police Academy & Turkish Police Academy)
- Community Policing (Libya Police Academy)

Public Administration and Public Health Courses

- Introduction to Public Administration (Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey)
- Leadership and Management (Palestine Police Academy)
- Drug Policy (Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey)

RESEARCH FUNDING & GRANTS & PROJECTS

2024-2024 **In Search of Information Well-Being: Democracy, Participation and Well-Being in the Information Society**

- SITRA (The Finnish Innovation Fund) funded project that is conducted at the THL.
- I employ a multidisciplinary approach to thoroughly investigate the concept of information well-being in the contexts of democracy, civic participation, and media engagement. By utilizing advanced AI methodologies, I gather diverse data sources to explore how both individuals and communities perceive and define well-being.

2022-2024 **Aggression and Threat Rhetoric Targeting Muslims and the LGBTQ+ Community on Social Media in Finland**

- Principal Investigator, funded by the Nordic Research Council for Criminology
- The project aims to identify and analyze of far-right groups on social media platforms, particularly focusing on Muslim and the LGBTQ+ communities in Finland.

- The research also investigates the relationships between social media posts, mass media news, socio-economic indicators and actual hate crimes.

2022-2024 **Reconstructing Crisis Narratives for Trustworthy Communication and Cooperative Agency**

- Funded by Academy of Finland
- I studied misinformation, vaccine hesitancy, political trust and the influence of bots on social media discussions related to Finland's vaccination program.
- I analyzed the network structures and communities consisting of bots, anti-vaccination groups, misinformation spreaders, and the impact of government institutions.

2022-2024 **Strengthening Preparedness of Drug Information Systems And Drug Policy Capacities To Respond To Emerging Drug Trends and Challenges (Drug-Prep)**

- EU-funded project (JUST-DRUGS-AG) in collaboration with six European countries
- I developed a virtual environment for project outcomes and future training activities.
- I conducted foresight research for Finland, including horizon scanning, trend analysis, expert panels and future scenario building exercises.

2020-2021 **The Challenges of Establishing Drug Consumption Rooms in Helsinki and an Evidence-Based Policy Design**

- Research Principal Investigator, funded by the KONE Foundation
- I did qualitative research based on intersectoral interviews.
- I analyzed the policy environment, policy processes, and problematization of DCRs.

2013-2014 **Crisis Management, Trust, and Legitimacy in Extreme Events: Immigrant Flows**

- Research Principal Investigator, funded by the District Governor of Suruc, Turkey
- I conducted semi-structured, in-depth interviews with Syrian refugees, government officials, and service providers.

2010-2011 **Wholesale and Street-Level Drug Price Data Across Turkey**

- Project Coordinator, assigned by the General Directorate of Security, the Department of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crimes, Turkish National Police
- Creator of a national "Retail and Wholesale Drug Price" data collection system for Turkey
- The project results have been utilized for reporting to agencies, including the Turkish National Police, the EU Drug Agency (EMCDDA), and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

2009-2014 **Community Outreach Project: "Hedef Sensin - You Are The Target"**

- Project Head, funded by Istanbul Development Agency, Municipality of Metropolitan Istanbul, and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce
- I developed and implemented more than 20 subcomponents of the project in Istanbul, two of them received the best practices awards from the European Drug Agency (EMCDDA).

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Reviewer For Research Articles In Journals

- Journal of International Drug Policy
- Crime and Delinquency
- Journal of Drug Issues
- Contemporary Drug Policy
- Drugs Habits and Social Policy
- PlosOne
- Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs
- Addictive Behavior
- Social Media & Society
- Information, Communication & Society
- International Migration
- Prevention Science
- Education Research
- Human Science
- Social Science Studies
- The Journal of Security Studies

LANGUAGES

- **Turkish:** Native
- **English:** Professional Working Proficiency
- **Finnish:** Limited working proficiency (YKI certified)
- **Arabic:** Elementary proficiency (International University of Africa, Khartoum, Sudan)

COMPUTER LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE

- SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
- NVivo – Qualitative Data Analysis Software
- AMOS - Analysis of Moment Structures
- Mplus - Statistical modeling program.
- STATA (basics) - General-purpose statistical software package
- Python
- R Programing
- SQL
- HTML (basics)
- PHP (basics)

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. Unlu, A., Lac, T., Sawhney, N., and Tammi, T. (2024) Unveiling the Veiled Threat: The Impact of Bots on COVID-19 Health Communication. *Social Science Computer Review. (SSCI Indexed)* https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393241275641
2. Prajapati, P., H., Unlu, A., and Pumariega, A. (2024) Suicidality and substance abuse in Turkish youth. *Academia Mental Health and Well-Being.* 1. https://doi.org/10.20935/MHealthWellB6228
3. Unlu, A, Lac, T., and Kotonen, T (2024) Mapping the terrain of hate: identifying and analyzing online communities and political parties engaged in hate speech against Muslims and LGBTQ+ communities. *International Journal of Data Science and Analytics.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s41060-024-00571-4 .
4. Prajapati, P.., Rahmani, M., Unlu, A., and Pumariega, A. (2024) Risk Factors Associated with Conduct Disorder Traits Among High School Participants in Turkey. *Academia Mental Health and Well-Being.* 1. https://doi.org/10.20935/MHealthWellB6222
5. Unlu, A., Kotonen, T. (2024). Online polarization and identity politics: An analysis of Facebook discourse on Muslim and LGBTQ+ communities in Finland. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 47, 199–231. (SSCI indexed) https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9477.12270
6. Unlu, A., Lac, T., Sawhney, N., Sivelä, J., and Tammi, T. (2024) Tracing the Dynamics of Misinformation and Vaccine Stance in Finland amid COVID-19. *Information, Communication & Society* (SSCI Indexed) https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2024.2331756
7. Unlu, A., Lac, T., Sawhney, N., Sivelä, J., and Tammi, T. (2024) Long-term assessment of social amplification of risk during COVID-19: challenges to public health agencies amid misinformation and vaccine stance. *Computational Social Science.* 7, 809–836 https://doi.org/10.1007/s42001-024-00257-8

8. Unlu, A, Viskari, I., Rönkä, S., and Tuukka, T. (2024). Developing Strategic Foresight for Drug Policy: Trends, Scenarios and Implications. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*. (SSCI indexed) https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2024.2331574
9. Unlu, A., Prajapati, P., Rahmani, M., and Pumariega, A. (2024) A Comparative Associations between Substances Used with Depression and Anxiety in a Sample of High School Students in Turkey. *Adolescent Psychiatry. 14(2)* https://dx.doi.org/10.2174/0122106766257259240229070230
10. Unlu, A., Truong, S., Sawhney, N., & Tammi, T. (2024). Setting the misinformation agenda: Modeling COVID-19 narratives in Twitter communities. *New Media & Society,* 0(0). https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241232079 (SSI and SSCI indexed)
11. Prajapati, P., Unlu, A., and Pumariega, A. (2024) Comparative Association of Substance Use, Psychosocial Factors, and Suicidal Ideation in Turkish Youth*, Adolescent Psychiatry. 14(1) 32-41* https://dx.doi.org/10.2174/0122106766257273240122105336
12. Hupli, A., Unlu, A., Jylkkä, J. and Oksanen, A. (2024), Sociodemographic differences and experienced effects of young adults who use cannabis mainly for self-medication versus recreationally in Finland, *Drugs, Habits and Social Policy*, Vol. 25 No. 1, pp. 19-36. https://doi.org/10.1108/DHS-05-2023-0017
13. Unlu, A., Lac, T., Tammi, T., and Lohiniva, A.L. (2023) Exploring Political Mistrust in Pandemic Risk Communication: A Mixed-Method Study Using Social Media Data Analysis. *Journal of Medical Internet Research – DOI: 10.2196/50199* https://www.jmir.org/2023/1/e50199/
14. Unlu, A., Hakkarainen, P., Karjalainen, K., Subasi, A. (2023). Risk Prediction Model for Cannabis Use with Artificial Intelligence Approach. *Journal of Substance Use.* https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2023.2242961
15. Unlu, A., Hupli, A (2023). Twitter activity surrounding the Finnish Green Party's Cannabis Legalisation Proposal: A mixed-methods analysis. *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.* 40(6):625-645 https://doi.org/10.1177/14550725231171022 (SSCI indexed)
16. Unlu, A.; Yilmaz, K. (2022) Online terrorism studies: Analysis of the literature. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism. DOI:* http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2022.2122108 (SSCI indexed)
17. Rahmani, M., Prajapati, P., Dalkilic, A., Burakgazi, H., Unlu, A., Pumariega, A. (2022) Anomie, Loneliness, and Psychopathology: Results from the Study of Youth in Istanbul. *World Social Psychiatry.* 4(2), 121-131
18. Burakgazi, H., Prajapati, P.R., Dalkilic, A., Unlu, A., E., Rahmani, M., Pumariega, A. (2022) Impact of Rural- Urban Immigration on Substance Use in a Sample of Turkish Youth. *World Social Psychiatry.* 4(2), 132-138
19. Unlu, A., Tammi, T., Hakkarainen, P. (2022) The stakeholders' problematization of drug consumption rooms: A case study of policy initiative in Helsinki. *Journal of Drug Issues.* 53(2), 262-279. *DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/00220426221093609* (SSCI indexed)
20. Unlu, A.; Gurer, C. (2022) Crime and violence studies on immigration field: Interactions between disciplines and emerging concepts. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies.* 9(1), 185-205. DOI: 10.29333/ejecs/1021
21. Unlu, A., Tammi, T., Hakkarainen, P. (2022). Policy windows for Drug Consumption Rooms in Finland. *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.* 39(3), 205-224. https://doi.org/10.1177/14550725211069287 (SSCI indexed)
22. Unlu, A., Demiroz, F., Tammi, T., Hakkarainen, P. (2021). The Complexity of Drug Consumption Room Policy and Progress in Finland. *Contemporary Drug Problems.* 48(2), 151-167. DOI: 10.1177/00914509211002542
23. Unlu, A., Ekici, N., Taşğın, S., Entzimger, P. (2021). An Empirical Test of Age-Graded Informal Social Control Theory: New Correlates of Youth Deviance. *Journal of Crime and Delinquency.* 67(2), 179-211 https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128720968493 - (SSCI indexed)
24. Sahin, I and Unlu, A (2020) The Effect of Muslim Religiosity on Youth Delinquency. *Criminal Justice Review.* 46(3), 361-381 - DOI: 10.1177/0734016820966038
25. Unlu, A., Tammi, T., Hakkarainen, P (2020). Drug Decriminalization Policy. Literature Review: Models, Implementation and Outcomes. Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Report 9/2020. Helsinki, Finland. ISBN 978-952-343-506-3 (printed); ISBN 978-952-343-504-9 (online publication)
26. Demiroz, F. and Unlu, A. (2018), The Role of Government Legitimacy and Trust in Managing Refugee Crises: The Case of Kobani. *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*, 9: 332-356. doi:10.1002/rhc3.12143
27. Unlu, A. and Aksu, G (2018). A Contemporary Evaluation of Turkish Drug-Control *Policy. Drugs: Education, Prevention & Policy* 25(2), 138-147 - https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2016.1216946 (SSCI indexed)

28. Ünlü, A and Şahin, İ (2016) Religiosity and Youth Substance Use in a Muslim Context. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*. 15(3), 287-309 - https://doi.org/10.1080/15332640.2015.1033664 (SSCI indexed)
29. Unlu, A and Sahin, I. (2015) The impact of mediating factors on youth social capital and substance use. *International Journal of Public Policy*, 11(1-3), 110-127 DOI: 10.1504/IJPP.2015.068848
30. Pumariega, A. J., Burakgazi, H., Unlu, A., Prajapati, P., Dalkilic, A. (2014) Substance Abuse: Risk Factors for Turkish Youth. Klinik Psikofarmakoloji Bülteni, Cilt: 24, Sayı: 1, s.5-14 / *Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 24 (1), 5-14 - https://doi.org/10.5455/bcp.20140317061538 (SCI-E indexed)
31. Unlu, A., Sahin, İ., Wan, T. T. H. (2014) Three dimensions of youth social capital and their impacts on substance use. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 23(4), 230-241. https://doi.org/10.1080/1067828X.2013.786934 (SSCI indexed)
32. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2014) Substance Use Among High School Students in Istanbul and Effect of Demographic Factors (Turkish). Literatür Sempozyum (*Literature Symposium*), 1 (2), 2-11
33. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2014) Evaluation of Prevalence of Substance Use, Risk and Protective Factors Between 2008 And 2010 in Bağcılar, Istanbul (Turkish). *Anadolu Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*. 14 (3), 127-140 https://doi.org/10.18037/ausbd.70545
34. Ekici, B. & Ünlü, A (2013) Increased Drug Trafficking from Iran: Ankara's Challenges. *Middle East Quarterly*. 20, 41-48
35. Ünlü, A., Evcin, U., Yılmaz, H. B. & Dalkılıç, A. (2013) The Prevalence of Crime and Violence in Istanbul Public High Schools: Comparison of School Types (Turkish). Anadolu Psikiyatri Dergisi (*Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry*), 14 (2),152-160 - DOI: 10.5455/apd.34494 - (SCI-E indexed)
36. Ünlü, A., Evcin, U., Dalkilic, A. and Pumariega, Andres J. (2013) Substance Use Prevalence according to Public High School Types in Istanbul. *Addictive Disorders & Their Treatment*. 13(2), 75-86 DOI: 10.1097/ADT.0b013e31829111b6
37. Dalkilic, H. Yilmaz, A. Unlu, U. Evcin, P. Prajapati, A. J. Pumariega (2013) Risk Factors for Suicidal Ideation among High School Students in Istanbul. *Adolescent Psychiatry*. 3(1), 102-113 DOI: 10.2174/2210676611303010018
38. Unlu, A., and Demir, O (2012) Does Drug Addiction Make a Difference on Drug Dealing? A Cross-Sectional Study in Istanbul, Turkey. *International Journal of Human Sciences*. 9(2),162-1652
39. Unlu, A., Matusitz, J., Breen, G. M., & Martin, L. (2012). The impact of 9/11 on information policy in the United States: A current perspective on homeland security and emergency management. *Journal of Applied Security Research*. 7(3), 320-340 https://doi.org/10.1080/19361610.2012.686095
40. Unlu, A and Ekici, B (2012) The extent to which demographic characteristics determine international drug couriers' profiles: a cross-sectional study in Istanbul. *Trends in Organized Crime*. 15(4), 296-312 https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-012-9152-6 - (SSCI indexed)
41. Ünlü, A., and Kaptı, A. (2012) Failed alternative development programs: an implementation analysis of coca supply–reduction programs in Bolivia. *International Journal of Public Policy*. 8(1/3), 160-179 -https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPP.2012.045880
42. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2011). The Impact of Socioeconomic and Ecological Factors on Street Drug Dealers: A Cross-Sectional Study from Istanbul (Turkish). Polis Bilimleri Dergisi (*Turkish Journal of Police Studies*). 13(3), 81-108.
43. Şahin, B and Ünlü, A. (2011) Governance Implications in Turkish Criminal Justice System. *Turkish Journal of Police Studies* (Polis Bilimleri Dergisi). 13(2), 29-48
44. Yıldız, S. ve Ünlü, A. (2011) Organizational Change in the Turkish National Police within the Context of Institutional Theory (Turkish). Yönetim Bilimleri Dergisi (*Journal of Administrative Science*) – Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi . 9(1), 217-237
45. Unlu, A., Yıldız, S., Sahin, İ. (2010) Interaction between the Cause of Delinquency and the Sources of Social Capital. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Development*. 5(2), 43-74
46. Winton, M., Unlu, A. (2010) A New Approach to Understanding the Abu Ghraib Prison Torture Scandal. *International Journal of Public Policy*. 6 (3/4), 359-368 https://doi.org/10.1504/IJPP.2010.035135
47. Unlu, A., Kapucu, N., Sahin, B. (2010). Disaster and Crisis Management in Turkey: A Need for a Unified Crisis Management System – *Disaster Prevention and Management*. 19 (2), 155 – 174 - https://doi.org/10.1108/09653561011037977 (SSCI indexed)
48. Unlu, A., Kapucu, N. (2009) Interorganizational Response Networks in Fight against Crime by Police Agencies in the United States. – *Turkish Journal of Police Studies*. Vol 11(1), 47-72
49. Sahin, B., Kapucu, N., Unlu, A. (2008) Perspectives on Crisis Management in European Union Countries: United Kingdom, Spain, and Germany. – *European Journal of Economic and Political Studies*. 1(1), 19-45

50. Winton, M., Unlu, A. (2008) Micro–macro dimensions of the Bosnian genocides: The circumplex model and violentization theory – *Aggression and Violent Behavior.* 13(1), 45-59 - https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2007.09.001 (SSCI indexed)

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Unlu, A., Hakkarainen, P., Karjalainen, K., Tammi, T., and Subasi, A. (2024.). Enhancing predictive analytics in public health: A methodological exploration of feature selection techniques in social science research. In P. Ordóñez de Pablos, M. N. Almunawar, & M. Anshari (Eds.), Digital healthcare, digital transformation and citizen empowerment in Asia-Pacific and Europe for a healthier society. Elsevier. (*in production*)
2. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2014) The Relationship between Substance Use and Violent Assaults (Turkish). Editörs: Darcan, E. ve Irmak, F. *Şiddet Suçları, Yaklaşımlar Ve Trendler [Violent Crimes, Approaches and Trends].* Adalet Yayınevi, Ankara, sf 3-35
3. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2013) Substance use problem and prevention strategies in Turkey and in the world from socio-ecological model. Drug Research Symposium Final Report (Turkish). Güneydoğum Derneği / Atılım Üniversitesi; Ankara: 18-24
4. Ulvi Kün, S. Oğuzhan Tuzcu ve Ali Ünlü (2013) Art of Human Recognition and Communication (Turkish). Editors: Muammer Bucak, Murat Dağlar, Ercan Doğan ve Fatih Harcamncı. *Güvenlik Sektöründe Operasyonel Yöneticilik [Operational Management in the Security Industry],* Polis Akademisi Yayınları, Ankara, 177-208
5. Ünlü, A., Akgül, A. (2012) Interorganizational Networks in Criminal Justice Information Systems: An Evaluation of Information Systems in Turkish Ministries of Justice and Interior (Turkish). Editor: Hikmet Kavruk. *Kuram ve Yöntem Açısından Türkiye'de Kamu Yönetimi [Theory and Method of Public Administration in Turkey].* Türkiye ve Ortadoğu Amme İdaresi Enstitüsü (TODAİE), Ankara, 207-226
6. Ünlü, A. ve Evcin, U. (2011) Reflections of drug types on drug couriers' profile and prevention policies (Turkish). Editors: Oğuzhan Ömer Demir ve Murat Sever. *Örgütlü Suçlar ve Yeni Trendler [Organized Crime and New Trends].* Polis Akademisi Yayınları: Ankara, 3-28
7. Kapucu, Naim, Ali Unlu & Bahadir Sahin. (2009). Collaborative Crisis Management: Comparative Perspectives on Crisis Management in the European Countries, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, and Turkey in S. Ekici et al. (ed.) *Together against Terrorism: Building Terrorism Resistant Communities.* (NATO Science for Peace and Security Series E: Human and Societal Dynamics Volume 55). IOS Press. Pp. 123-141.