

# Diren Kocakuşak

Curriculum Vitae

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## Education

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- Ph.D. Degree**                      **Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey** (September 2016 - present)  
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy  
**GPA:** 3.96/4.00  
**Dissertation:** Understanding Individuals' Decisions to Install Photovoltaic Solar Panels. Supervisor: Prof. Clinton J. Andrews.
- Master's Degree**                      **Middle East Technical University** (September 2013 - February 2016)  
Graduate School of Social Sciences  
Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments  
**GPA:** 3.94/4.00  
**Thesis:** *Combating Climate Change: Critical Evaluation of Climate Change Action Plans on Urban Scale*, February 2016. Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Osman Balaban.
- Exchange Program (Erasmus LLP)**                      **The University of Manchester** (September 2011 - February 2012)  
School of Environment and Development  
Planning and Landscape  
**Exchange student during the fall semester**
- Bachelor's Degree**                      **Middle East Technical University** (September 2008 - June 2013)  
Faculty of Architecture  
Department of City and Regional Planning  
**GPA:** 3.25/4.00

## Research Areas

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Environmental Politics and Policy, Climate Change Planning, Climate Change Policy-making, Climate Resilience, Renewable Energy, Solar Energy, Urban Sustainability, Climate Change Engagement and Communication, Environmental Economics, Low-carbon Development, Environmental Decision-making, Visual Communication.

## Work Experiences

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### **Rutgers University - Instructor / Teaching Assistant** (September 2017 - present)

As an instructor and teaching assistant, some of my responsibilities are giving lectures, creating teaching materials, designing hands-on activities, preparing weekly assignments, leading lab sessions, grading, coordinating the instructional team, holding office hours, and responding to students' e-mails.

### **Rutgers University - Research Assistant** (June 2019 - August 2019)

I assisted Planetary Health and Urbanization Task Force in their research on the impacts of the Port of New York and New Jersey on the environment and human health. I wrote a report on environmental justice impacts of port activities on surrounding communities. Finally, I served as a liaison for the development of the multi-objective decision-making model.

### **United Nations - Intern** (June 2018 - August 2018)

I completed an internship at Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the Department of Social Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters. I contributed to the bi-annual report "UN E-Government Survey 2018" by reviewing chapters, preparing social media packages, and designing infographics. I also assisted in research of their publication "Digital Government, Smart Cities and Sustainable Development."

### **Rutgers University - Research Assistant** (June 2017 - August 2017)

I carried out research under the supervision of Prof. Michael R. Greenberg about locating noxious facilities and environmental health impacts. The main objective of the research was to gain adequate information from international (Non-US) cases by finding related examples of plants and facilities.

**Utopic Works - Founder, Lead Designer (August 2013 - August 2016)**

Utopic Works is a freelance organization focusing on visual communication, digital design, and branding. As being the founder of this initiative, I participated more than 20 projects and provided a wide variety of services, such as; graphic design, branding development, social media consultancy, content management, and promotion strategy.

**Çankaya Municipality - Intern (June 2012 - July 2012)**

I had an internship with Çankaya Municipality (Ankara), which is the most populated district municipality in Turkey. I participated in inventory research for villages and took an active role in communicating with local leaders, data gathering, database generation, and presenting results to the mayor.

**Publications** +Peer-reviewed Publications

**Kocakusak, D.** (Under Review). Energy Consumption Patterns of U.S. Households.

**Kocakusak, D.** (Under Review). Critical Evaluation of Climate Change Action Plans at Urban Scale: The Case of Gaziantep.

Reports

**Kocakusak, D.** & Greenberg M.R. (2019). The Impacts of Ports and Environmental Justice: A Literature Review. Report prepared for the Planetary Health and Urbanization Task Force, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Conference Papers and Presentations

**Kocakusak, D.** (Forthcoming). Diffusion of Photovoltaic Solar Panels in Residential Buildings. *The 2020 ACSP Annual Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

**Kocakusak, D.** (Forthcoming). Diffusion of Photovoltaic Solar Panels in Residential Buildings. *Twelfth Annual Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Urban Studies, Urban Planning, and Public Policy*. New Brunswick, United States.

**Kocakusak, D.** (2019). Energy Consumption Patterns of U.S. Households. *The CompSust Doctoral Consortium on Computational Sustainability 2019*. Pittsburgh, United States.

**Kocakusak, D.** (2019). Understanding the Energy Consumption of U.S. Households. *Eleventh Annual Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference in Urban Studies, Urban Planning, and Public Policy*. New Brunswick, United States.

**Kocakusak, D.** (2016). İklim Değişikliği Eylem Planlaması: Gaziantep Örneği. *Sürdürülebilir Şehircilik Kongresi ve Sergisi 1: Kuramdan Pratiğe Sürdürülebilirlik*. Eskişehir, Turkey.

**Kocakusak, D.** (2014). The Incorporation of Neo-Liberalism into Environmental Policies: Comparison of Urban and Rural Areas. *Urban Policy Planning and Local Governments Conference II*. (pp. 153-158). Ankara, Turkey.

**Kocakusak, D.** & Nalcaçkar Z.Z. (2013). A Critical Approach towards the Concept of Urbanized Crime. *The World Society of Ekistics (WSE) 2013 Meeting: The cities, security and poverty*. (pp. 119-129). Ankara, Turkey.

**Academic Honors & Scholarships** +**Full-time Teaching Assistantship Award (September 2018 - present)**

Full tuition remission, fee waiver, health benefits, and salary package was granted as a part of the full time teaching assistantship award.

**Value:** \$196,476

**Laurence M. Downes Graduate Award in Energy and Environmental Policy (January 2020)**

An annual award to support graduate students with a sincere focus on energy policy, environmental planning and policy, and sustainability.

**Value:** \$5,000

**CompSust - 2019 Travel and Accommodation Award (October 2019)**

Travel, accommodation, and registration expenses are covered by organizing committee for the The CompSust Doctoral Consortium on Computational Sustainability 2019.

**Value:** \$1,000

**Graduate Scholarship (September 2018 - May 2019)**

An annual award to support graduate students at Bloustein School, as recommended by the Doctoral Program.

**Value:** \$10,000

**Fulbright Scholarship (September 2016 - May 2018)**

I have been granted the Fulbright Scholarship, which covers university fees and stipend, in order to continue my Ph.D. studies in the United States.

**Value:** \$100,000

**Rutgers Excellence Fulbright Tuition Match (September 2016 - May 2018)**

Full tuition waiver during academic year and a health benefits package at the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

**Value:** \$59,840

**Fulbright Climatic Impacts Seminar Travel and Accommodation Award (May 2017)**

Travel and accommodation expenses are covered by funds provided and authorized by the U.S. Department of State.

**Value:** \$500

**Honor Student (June 2013)**

Middle East Technical University, Bachelor of City Planning Degree.

**Lifelong Learning Programme Erasmus Scholarship (September 2011 - January 2012)**

I have been granted a 5-month scholarship to study Planning and Landscape at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

**Value:** \$4,250

**Other Academic Honors:**

Middle East Technical University, High Honor Certificate (2013 Spring)

Middle East Technical University, Honor Certificate (2012 Fall)

Middle East Technical University, Honor Certificate (2010 Spring)

Middle East Technical University, Honor Certificate (2009 Fall)

## Teaching Experiences +

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**Introduction to GIS for Planning & Public Policy**

I am the instructor and teaching assistant of a graduate-level Geographic Information Systems (GIS) course that is designed to teach the foundations of GIS and how it is applied in urban planning and other related disciplines. In this course, basic training on Esri ArcGIS Desktop software was provided as well as other mapping products, such as QGIS, Google Maps, ArcGIS Online, and data management software, such as Microsoft Access and Microsoft Excel.

**2020 Fall:** 1 section, 23 students (Instructor)

**2020 Spring:** 1 section, 14 students (Instructor)

**2019 Fall:** 1 section, 19 students (Instructor)

**2019 Spring:** 2 sections, 36 students

**2018 Fall:** 2 sections, 39 students

**Basic Quantitative Methods Boot Camp**

I worked as a teaching assistant for an intensive course in statistics for incoming master students of Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at the end of the summer. I led lab sessions on STATA to teach students how to import, organize, clean, and manipulate data as well as carry out descriptive and inferential statistics.

**2018 Summer:** 1 section, 27 students

### Research Methods

I led lab sessions for the Research Methods class, which is a core course of the undergraduate curriculum. It is an introductory social science research course that includes the development of original and online data sources, coding, appropriate selection of statistical methods for analysis, and professional presentation of results. This course is offered as face-to-face, online, and hybrid sessions.

**2018 Spring:** 3 sections, 74 students

**2017 Fall:** 3 sections, 86 students

### Guest Lectures:

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Introduction to Planning, Policy and Health (2018 Fall): **Renewable Energy and Climate Change**

Transportation and the Environment (2017 Fall): **Climate Resilience**

### Computer Skills

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**Geographic Information System Programs (ArcGIS Desktop, ArcGIS Pro, QGIS) - Full Competency**

**Quantitative & Qualitative Data Analysis Programs (R, SPSS, Stata, Nvivo) - Full Competency**

**Data Visualization (Tableau, Power BI) - Full Competency**

**Adobe Programs (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign) - Full Competency**

**Microsoft Office Programs (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) - Full Competency**

**Web Programming (HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, PHP) - Full Competency**

**Web Management Systems (WordPress, Joomla, Drupal, Magento) - Full Competency**

**Computer-Aided Design Programs (AutoCAD) - Adequate Competency**

**3D Modeling Programs (3ds Max, SketchUp) - Adequate Competency**

### Languages

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**Turkish - Native Language**

**English - Fluent (TOEFL iBT Score 105/120)**

### Memberships & Clubs

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**University Brand Ambassador - Efes Pilsen Hayatı Doldur Youth Club (September 2010 - August 2011)**

**Executive Member - METU Radio Club (June 2010 - June 2011)**

**Member - METU Radio Club (September 2008 - June 2013)**