

PROF. DR. AŞKIN İNCİ SÖKMEN ALACA

Professor of International Relations | Space Security & Emerging Technologies | Security Studies | Human Space Exploration
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RESEARCH PROFILE

Professor of International Relations with over three decades of experience at the intersection of security studies, space security, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. Research integrates strategic studies with frontier technologies to examine the future of human exploration beyond Earth, alongside deep expertise in climate security, terrorism and counterterrorism, hybrid threats, and transhuman/biotechnology frontiers.

Author of two SETA monographs on military space technologies, contributor to more than 40 book chapters (Cambridge Scholars, Peter Lang, Springer, Nobel, Beta), and regular analyst for Anadolu Agency and Global Defense Journal. Active participant in NATO workshops (Space COE 2025; Multi-Domain Operations, Lisbon 2025; AI Security & Ethics, Geneva 2025). Current research explores the convergence of artificial intelligence, post-silicon computing, space medicine, human exploration, and planetary defense governance for future lunar and Martian missions.

CORE RESEARCH AREAS

- Space Security
- Artificial Intelligence
- Human Space Exploration
- Planetary Defense
- Space Medicine
- Post-Silicon Artificial Intelligence
- Space Governance
- Emerging Technologies
- Orbital Security
- Intelligence Studies
- Terrorism & Counterterrorism
- Hybrid Threats & Climate Security

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Oct 2025 – present Expert / Senior Analyst

Global Defense Information Center

2015 – Sep 2025 Professor, International Relations (English-medium)

Istanbul Arel University, Faculty of Economics & Administrative Sciences

2014 – 2015 Assistant Professor, Political Science & International Relations

Istanbul Gerizim University

2014 Assistant Professor, Political Science & IR (English-medium)

Istanbul Esenyurt University

2013 Assistant Professor, International Relations & Maritime Security

Naval War College (Deniz Harp Okulu), Istanbul

2010 – 2014 Expert Researcher

Beken University Strategic Research & Application Centre

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2006–2012 International Security and Terrorism

Turkish Military Academy (Kara Harp Okulu) — Institute of Defense Sciences

Dissertation: *The Ideological Dimension of the PKK Terrorist Organization*

M.A. 1991–1994 Political Science and International Relations

Bouazizi University — Institute of Social Sciences

Thesis: *Contested Waters of the Middle East*

B.A. 1987–1991 International Relations (English-medium, full scholarship)

Istanbul University, Faculty of Economics

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2021 – 2024 Erasmus Coordinator

Istanbul Arel University

2021 – 2022 Deputy Head of Department, International Relations

Istanbul Arel University

2014 – 2015 Director, Research & Application Centre

Istanbul Gelişim University

Memberships: IPSA (International Political Science Association) · EISA (European International Studies Association) · Black Sea Women in Nuclear Network · TERAM (Terrorism & Radicalization Research Centre) · UİK International Relations Council

BOOKS

Emerging Military Weapon Technologies in Outer Space

Ankara: SETA, 2022. ISBN 978-625-8322-25-5

Dış Uzay Alanında Yeni Askeri Silah Teknolojileri

Ankara: SETA, 2022. ISBN 978-625-8322-13-2

SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS (FROM 40+ TOTAL)

1. Institutional AI Governance in Healthcare.

In Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Foundations and Applications (NexGene Medical Intelligence Textbook). NMI / NexGene AI, 2025.

2. Der Ukraine-Konflikt und die Türkei: Ein dreifacher Drahtseilakt.

(with Bardakçı, M.) In Russische Schockwellen. Springer VS, Wiesbaden, 2025.

3. Asia-Pacific Airspace Geopolitics.

In Changing Global Geopolitics in Asia Pacific (ed. Erol). Akçağ, 2024.

4. The Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific Region.

In Global Maritime Geopolitics (ed. Çomak et al.). Transnational Press London, 2022.

5. Countering Terrorism Ideologically: The Chinese Strategy Case.

In Security Issues in Political Violence & Terrorism (ed. Acar & Deniş). Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021.

6. Multidisciplinary: Neuroscience and Neurotechnology in National Security.

In Security, Technology and New Threats (ed. Darıcılı). Nobel, 2020.

7. US-China Relationship: A New Cold War or Not?

In Global and Regional Powers (ed. Köksoy). Peter Lang, 2019.

8. Using Nano Technologies and Neuroscience in Combating Terrorism.

In Researches on Science and Art in 21st Century. Gece Kitaplığı, 2018.

9. The Separation of the UK from the EU in the Context of Regional and International Security.

In Opportunities and Threats in European Integration (ed. Esen & Şekeroğlu). Peter Lang, 2018.

10. Warlords in Syria.

In Framing Violence: Conflicting Images, Identities and Discourses (ed. Baybars-Hawks). Cambridge Scholars, 2016.

11. Networks and Netwars: The Future of Terror.

In New Media Politics (ed. Baybars-Hawks). Cambridge Scholars, 2015.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Algorithmic Power and the Epistemic Transformation of International Relations in the Age of Generative AI.

(with Balın, S. & Kurt, E. H.) Scientific Culture, Vol. 12(3.1) Special Issue, 2026.

2. Assessing the Effect of AI Anxiety on Turnover Intention: The Mediating Role of Quiet Quitting in Turkish SMEs.

(with Uygungil Erdoğan, S., Şahin, Y. et al.) Behavioral Sciences, 15(3), 1–21, 2025. DOI: 10.3390/bs15030249

3. IAEA and Nuclear Security: An Evolutionary Perspective.

(with Alkış, M. A.) Turkish Journal of Nuclear Sciences, 9(2), 17–22, 2025. DOI: 10.59474/nuclear.2023.63

4. Hybrid Threats and New Conflicts in the International System.

Journal of International Relations & Foreign Policy, 4(2), 27–43, 2016. DOI: 10.15640/jirfp.v4n2a2

5. Eurasian Economic Union's Effect on Global Politics and the World Economic System.

International Relations and Diplomacy, 3(10), 699–714, 2015. DOI: 10.17265/2328-2134/2015.10.004

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PAPERS (FROM 70+ TOTAL)

- 1. Weaponized Orphans: Recruitment and Indoctrination by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.**
12th European Workshops in International Studies (EISA), 2025.
- 2. Weaponization of Genetics: Super Soldiers under a Transhumanist Framework.**
17th EISA Pan-European Conference on International Relations, 2024.
- 3. Space Technology and Space Medicine: Transforming Life on Earth.**
VIII. Mülkiye International Relations Congress, Ankara, 2024.
- 4. New Strategic Military Area: Space Wars.**
International Conference on Emerging Military Technologies, 2024 (Invited Speaker).
- 5. New Technologies in Counterterrorism.**
Workshop Tech Against Terrorism, 2024 (Invited Speaker).
- 6. Global Climate Migration and Its Possible Effects on International Relations.**
Reimagining Global Insecurities in the Age of the Anthropocene, 2023.
- 7. Synthetic Biology: Threats for Defense and National Security.**
2nd International Şişli Science Congress, 2021.
- 8. Proxy War and Terrorism in Afghanistan.**
4th Qatar Strategic Studies Centre Joint Workshop, 2021 (Invited Speaker).
- 9. New Nationalism and Terrorism: White Nationalist Terror vs. Islamic Terrorism.**
25th IPSA World Congress of Political Science, 2020.
- 10. Countering Terrorism in Cities and Artificial Intelligence.**
AI and Social Sciences Conference, Shanghai University, 2019.

NATO & HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

- Sep 2025** UNIDIR Outer Space Security Conference — United Nations, Geneva
- Apr 2025** NATO Space COE Conference 2025 — Toulouse, France
- Mar 2025** Global Conference on AI Security and Ethics 2025 — UN Building, Geneva
- Jan 2025** NATO Science & Technology Multi-Domain Operations Challenge Event — Lisbon, Portugal
- Dec 2024** 9th All Azimuth Workshop: Sphere of Influence in Turkish Foreign Policy — Bilkent University
- Oct 2020** Counter-Terrorism in the Post-Daesh Era — TRT World Forum (Closed Session)
- Oct 2020** Turkish Foreign Policy: Facing Regional and Global Shifts — TRT World Forum (Closed Session)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

- 2026** AI in Healthcare for Health Professionals — NexGene Medical Intelligence (NMI)
- 2026** Quantum Technologies Education for Teachers — Quantum Science Community (TÜBİTAK 1001)
- Dec 2025 – Jan 2026** Digital Leadership in the AI-First Company Era — Noform Akademi
- Nov 2025** Train the Trainers: Multi-Purpose Irradiation Centers — Agricultural and Medical Applications — ROSATOM
- 2025** Indo-Pacific Emerging Leaders Programme — Indo-Pacific Studies Association
- 2025** The Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a Development Agenda — UN System Staff College
- 2025** The Future of Outer Space Security — Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- 2024** Transformative Technologies and Security — Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- 2008** Social and Psychological Aspects of Terrorism — NATO Centre of Excellence Defense Against Terrorism
- 2008** Efficient Crisis Management to Mitigate Terrorist Activities — NATO CoE Defense Against Terrorism
- 2007** Terrorism and The Media — NATO CoE Defense Against Terrorism

SELECTED SPACE RESEARCH PROPOSALS (2026)

Submitted to the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026), Antalya — the world's leading annual congress on astronautics, space exploration, and space policy, which received more than 8,300 abstract submissions from 108 countries.

Post-Silicon AI and Space Mysteries

Investigating how post-silicon computational paradigms could transform astronomical discovery, autonomous scientific reasoning, and future deep-space exploration.

An Integrated Multi-Layer Framework for Planetary Defense Against Near-Earth Objects

Developing an integrated governance and operational framework combining AI, international cooperation, early-warning systems, and emerging technologies for planetary defense.

The SPACE-E Framework

CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Beyond Silicon: Post-Silicon AI and Planetary Defense

Advancing an integrated research programme on post-silicon computational paradigms and their application to autonomous scientific discovery, deep-space exploration, and multi-layer planetary defense frameworks — combining AI-enabled early-warning systems, international cooperation mechanisms, and emerging technology governance.

- Beyond Silicon: Post-Silicon Artificial Intelligence
- AI for Planetary Defense
- Human Space Exploration
- Space Medicine and Autonomous Medical Systems
- United Planetary Security Framework (UPSF)
- Frontier Geopolitics
- Open-Agent Governance Framework (OAGF)

Additional ongoing work:

- Transhumanism and the Creation of Super-Soldiers: Researching Genetically Modified Human Forms for Defense (TÜBİTAK 1002 proposal, PI)
- AI Technology Awareness among Social Science Students (TÜBİTAK 2209-A, Advisor — ongoing)
- Inuit Cultural-Political Anthropology and Central Asian Turkic Identity: Arctic Fieldwork (TÜBİTAK 1001, Advisor)

MEDIA & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (SELECTED)

Regular analyst for Anadolu Agency (10+ analyses on space economy, US-China rivalry, Turkish foreign policy); analyst and invited commentator for TV24, TRT World, and Global Defense magazine (monthly column, 2020–present); featured in Hürriyet, Milliyet, and Derin Tarih. Topics covered include space geopolitics, emerging military technologies, drone warfare, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and AI in international relations.

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native) • English (fluent — primary academic language) • German (reading)

RESEARCH VISION (2026–2035)

Researching the Future of Human Security Beyond Earth

Long-term research agenda explores how artificial intelligence, post-silicon computing, space medicine, planetary defense, and international governance can support sustainable human exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Through interdisciplinary research integrating security studies, emerging technologies, and space sciences, the aim is to contribute to the development of resilient, autonomous, and internationally coordinated systems for the future of human civilization in space.