



**Dr. Defne Gönenc**

Researcher and Teaching Fellow

Yaşar University, Centre for Mediterranean Studies

I am an academic working on global environmental politics and political economy of developing countries with a focus on the Mediterranean (particularly Greece and Turkey) and India. I speak Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (B2) and learn Greek (low intermediate).

37-39, Ağaçlıklı Yol, Bornova 35100, İzmir, Türkiye  
[defne.gonenc@yasar.edu.tr](mailto:defne.gonenc@yasar.edu.tr) & [defne.gonenc@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:defne.gonenc@graduateinstitute.ch)

Mobile: +905336365500

Office: +902325707475

Website: <https://www.defnegonenc.org/>

---

**Academic Positions**

**Center for Mediterranean Studies, Yaşar University, Turkey**

Researcher and Teaching Fellow, 2019-onward

**The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Switzerland**

Researcher, 2018-2019

Teaching and Research Assistant, 2014-2018

---

**Education**

**Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018**

PhD, Political Science and International Relations, minor in International Law

Grade: Summa Cum Laude

**University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England, 2012**  
MPhil, International Relations, Wolfson College

**Sciences PO Paris, Paris, France, 2009**  
Erasmus Exchange

**Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey, 2010**  
BSc, International Relations, minor in International Economics  
Graduation as the top degree student in the department of International Relations among 60 students;  
top degree student in the faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences among 361 students;  
second-best degree student in the university among 2232 students

**60<sup>th</sup> Year Anatolian High School, Izmir, Turkey, 2005**  
Graduation as the top degree student

## **Publications**

---

### **Academic Articles**

- Co-Editor of the Special Issue “Asian Powers in the Eastern Mediterranean” to be submitted to *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* (Together with Prof. Emre İşeri and Prof. Qingan Huang).
- Gönenç, Defne (2021). Litigation as a Strategy for Environmental Movements Questioned: An Examination of Bergama and Artvin- Cerattepe Struggles. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*. Online first. doi: 10.1080/19448953.2021.2006004
- Gönenç, Defne (2021). Conceptualizing Norm Fusion Through Environmental Rights. *Environmental Politics*, 30 (3): 442-461.
- Gönenç, Defne, and Günseli Durmaz (2020). The Politics of Neoliberal Transformation on the Periphery: A Critical Comparison of Greece and Turkey. *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, 20 (4): 617-640.
- Gönenç, Defne, Dario Piselli, and Yixian Sun (2020). The Global Economic System and Access and Allocation. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 20 (2): 223-238.
- Gönenç, Defne (2019). Türkiye’de Sivil Toplum ve Çevre Politikası (Civil Society and Environmental Politics in Turkey). *Mimarlık*, 409, 33-36.
- Gönenç, Defne (2019). Litigation Process of the Social Movements as a Driver of Norm Transformation? *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 32 (1), 43-60.
- Gönenç, Defne, and Alper Almaz (2018). Bir Süreç Olarak Hoşnutsuzların Çevreciliği: Hindistan’dan Sardar Sarovar Barajı Örneği (Environmentalism of the Malcontent as a Process: The Example of Sardar Sarovar Dam from India). *Alternatif Politika*, 10 (2), 156-180.
- Gönenç Defne, and Aysegul Kibaroglu (2017). İklim Güvenliği Kavramının Türkiye İklim Politikasındaki Yeri (The Concept of Climate Security in Turkey’s Climate Policies). *Alternatif Politika*. December 2017, Special Issue on Climate Change and Energy, 1-26.

### **Book Reviews**

- Gönenç, Defne (2021). Review: China & the USA: Globalisation and the Decline of American Supremacy by Vassilis Fouskas, Shampa Roy-Mukherjee, Qingan Huang and Ejike Udeogu. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 26 (3), 607 -608.
- Gönenç, Defne (2020). Review: Transforming Socio-Natures in Turkey: Landscapes, State and Environmental Movement by Onur İnal and Ethemcan Turhan. *Mediterranean Politics*. Online first, doi: 10.1080/13629395.2020.1859059

- Gönenç, Defne (2017). Review: Climate Justice: Vulnerability and Protection by Henry Shue. *Journal of Human Rights and Environment*, 8 (1), 168-171.
- Gönenç, Defne (2016). Review: A Liberal Actor in a Realist World. The European Union Regulatory State and the Global Political Economy of Energy by Andreas Goldthau and Nick Sitter. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 68 (9), 1611- 1612.

### Book Chapters

- Aydın, Bengü ve Defne Gönenç (2021). Çevresel Bir Sorun Olarak Kirlilik (Pollution as an Environmental Problem). In Zerrin Savaşan and Hakan Ünay. *Uluslararası Çevre Hukuku ve Politikaları* (International Environmental Law and Politics). Ankara: Yetkin Yayıncılık. 399-432.
- Gönenç, Defne (2021). Çevresel Adalet (Environmental Justice). In Zerrin Savaşan, Çağlar Söker and Fırat Harun Yılmaz (eds.). *Çevre Hukuku ve Politikaları: Kavramlar, Teoriler ve Tartışmalar* (Environmental Law and Politics: Concepts, Theories and Debates). Ankara: Seçkin Yayıncılık. 83-107.

### Book (non-academic)

- Gönenç, Defne ve Mete Gönenç (2019). *Çevre ve İktisat Politikası Gibi Bir Şey* (Something Like Environmental and Economic Policy). İstanbul: İkinci Adam Yayınevi.

### Other Articles (non-academic)

- Weekly contributor at GAZE-TEMİZ (2016-2018). All articles can be found: <http://gaze-temiz.com/Mobil/YazarDetay.aspx?KayitID=145>
- Ak, İrem and Defne Gönenç (2021). Ege Bölgesi'nin Çevreci Sivil Toplumu: Gündem ve Sorunlar. *Yeniden Akdeniz: Ekoloji*, 105-108. <https://www.izmeda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ekoloji-s02-WEB-SPREAD.pdf>
- Gönenç, Defne (2019). Hindistan: İklim Adaletinde Yeni Dünya Lideri Mi? (India: The New World Leader of Climate Justice?) Uluslararası İlişkiler Analiz Portalı. <http://uianaliz.org/haber/54/17/hindistan-iklim-siyasetinde-yeni-dunya-lideri-mi?fbclid=IwAR0R21dzkw1WULH0tC20eJBGnzDm0p9ce3LLmnsqpvfIDtVihOO92jYr88c>
- Gönenç, Defne (2019). How Can We Use Blockchain for an Eco-Socialist Transformation. ENTITLE. <https://entitleblog.org/2019/07/25/how-can-we-use-blockchain-for-an-eco-socialist-transformation/>
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). À quand la fin du mercure? The Conversation. [https://theconversation.com/a-quand-la-fin-du-mercure-84806?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=facebookbutton](https://theconversation.com/a-quand-la-fin-du-mercure-84806?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton)
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). Flood Narmada Valley with Anti-Dam Resistance. New Internationalist. <https://newint.org/web-exclusive-2017/08/03-narmada-valley-dam-resistance>
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). Artvin'in Kendisi Altın (Artvin is Gold Itself). Yeşil Gazete. <https://yesilgazete.org/blog/2017/07/02/artvinin-kendisi-altin-defne-gonenc/>
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). İklim Değişikliği Adaletin Sınırlarını Zorluyor (Climate Change is Forcing the Limits of Justice). Yeşil Gazete. <https://yesilgazete.org/blog/2017/04/26/iklim-degisikligi-adaletin-sinirlarini-zorluyor-defne-gonenc/>
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). The Sardar Sarovar Dam: Drowning out citizens but who benefits? SouthAsia@LSE. London. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2017/02/13/the-sardar-sarovar-dam-drowning-out-citizens-but-who-benefits/>
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). Serbest Ticareti İstemiyoruz (We do not Want Free Trade). Cumhuriyet. 24 Ocak. [http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/koseyazisi/664775/Serbest\\_ticareti\\_istemiyoruz.html](http://www.cumhuriyet.com.tr/koseyazisi/664775/Serbest_ticareti_istemiyoruz.html)
- Gönenç, Defne (2017). Hava Kirliliği Tehdidi (The Air Pollution Treat). ATAUM E-

- Bulten, Year 9, Issue 100, pp.9, Ankara. <http://ataum.ankara.edu.tr/ebulten/9.htm>
- Gönenç, Defne (2016). Turkey's largest environmental legal case. openDemocracy. United Kingdom. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/defne-gonenc/turkey-s-largest-environmental-legal-case>
- Gönenç, Defne (2016). The Turkey-EU Refugee Deal and How to Really Solve "The Problem". openDemocracy. United Kingdom. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/defne-gonenc/turkey-eu-deal-for-refugee-crisis-and-how-to-really-solve-problem>
- Gönenç, Defne (2016). Should Human Rights be included in the New Climate Agreement?, Vol. V, Issue 3, pp.19-24, Centre for Policy and Research on Turkey (ResearchTurkey), London, Research Turkey.
- Gönenç, Defne (2015). The lesson from the Greek crisis should be that economics exists for the good of society, not for its own sake. LSE Blog, 12 August 2015. <http://bit.ly/1IGFs5L>
- Gönenç, Defne (2013). Kaya Gazı AB'yi İkiye Böldü (Shale Gas has divided the EU into two), ATAUM E-Bulten, Year 6, Issue. 61, pp.4, <http://www.ataum.ankara.edu.tr/ebulten/4.htm>
- Gönenç, Defne (2013). Avrupa Destekli Madene Kırgız Tepkisi (Kirghiz Reaction to the Mine Subsidized by Europe), ATAUM E- Bulten, Year 5, Issue. 57, pp.17 <http://www.ataum.ankara.edu.tr/ebulten/17.htm>

---

## Teaching Activities

### Teaching Fellow, Department of Science Culture, Yaşar University, 2021-2022

"Environment and Development" open to all Yaşar University students

### Teaching Assistant, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, 2015-2018

"Development and Sustainability"

"Political Ecology"

"Issues in Water Management"

"Gendering Sustainability"

"Biodiversité: entre science et politique"

"Political Science and International Affairs"

---

## Research Projects

- Co-coordinator, "Turkey, Asia, and the EU in a Changing World Order", conducted by Yaşar University Center of Mediterranean Studies in cooperation with Guangdong University and East London University, financed by Centre for Turkey Studies (German Foreign Ministry), 2022
- Researcher, "Development and Effectiveness of the Environmental Civil Society in the Aegean Region", led by Assist. Dr. Özge Can, financed by Yaşar University, 2020-2021
- Researcher, "Transparency: Qualities and Technologies of Global Gemstone Trading", led by Assist. Dr. Filipe Calvao, financed by Swiss National Science Foundation, 2018-2019

---

## Prizes, Awards, Fellowships

Full Scholarship by Seoul National University Human Rights Centre to participate in Winter Course on Human Rights and Asia, Seoul, 2014

First holder of IHEID Alumni Scholarship, Geneva, 2013

European Commission Jean Monnet Scholarship towards university fees and living expenses, Cambridge, 2010-2011

Full Scholarship by the State Department of the U.S. for Study of the US Institute for Student Leaders, Rochester, 2008

*Obtained But Not Participated:*

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Doctoral Mobility Scholarship, 2017-2018

Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, 6-months exchange fellowship, 2017

Albert Gallatin Fellowship in International Affairs, 2017-2018

University of Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholarship towards University fee, 2010-2011

## **Academic Conferences**

---

- Co-Organizer and participant of Asian Powers in the Eastern Mediterranean Conference, organized by Center for Mediterranean Studies Yaşar University, STAMP University of East London, and International Business School of Guangdong University of Finance & Economics (**Izmir, 2021**)
- ATINER – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies (**Athens, 2021**)
- Political Science Association Annual International Conference (**Belfast, 2021**)
- ATINER - 15th Annual International Conference on Global Studies (**Athens, 2020**)
- Organizer and participant of 1st Biannual Conference on Mediterranean Studies: Renewable Energy and the Environment (**Izmir, 2020**)
- 2nd NEHT International Workshop Environmental Histories of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey (**Ankara, 2019**)
- 11th European International Studies Association Conference (EISA) (**Barcelona, 2017**)
- Swiss Political Science Association Conference (**St. Gallen, 2017**)
- 5th Degrowth Conference (Budapest, 2016)
- 7th Uluslararası İlişkiler Konferansı (UIK) (**İzmir, 2016**)
- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Graduate Student Conference (**Innsbruck, 2014**)

## **Non-Academic Employment**

---

### **European Investment Bank, Luxembourg, 2012-2013**

Climate Change Trainee at the Projects Department, Division of Social and Environment Affairs

### **Agricultural Climatization & Technical Research CO., Ankara, 2012**

Assistant to CEO

### **General Consulate of Turkey, Marseille, 2009**

Intern

### **Cumhuriyet Newspaper, Izmir, 2008**

Intern

### **Aegean Free Zone, Izmir, 2007**

Intern at Promotion and Public Relations Department

## **Institutional Responsibilities**

---

### **Co-founder, IHEID-CERN Salsa Club**

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, 2014

**Member of the Executive Board of Cambridge International Studies Association**

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, 2010-2011

**Under Secretary General**

Model United Nations Turkey, Ankara, 2009-2010

**Member of the Executive Board of METU Foreign Policy & International Relations Club**

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, 2007-2008

**Director General**

EUROsimA, European Union Simulation Conference, Ankara, 2007-2008

---

**Other Activities**

Salsa teacher at Biotech Campus, Geneva, 2019

SOAS, University of London, Master Certificate in Applied Environmental Economics, 2016

Visiting Research Fellow at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi, 2015

European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Winter and Summer School participant, Introduction to NVivo, Content Analysis, and Methods of Modern Causal Analysis based on Observational Data, Bamberg

Project Cycle Management Training at Republic of Turkey Ministry for European Union Affairs, Ankara

---

**IT Skills**

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), STATA, SPSS

---

**Hobbies**

Dancing (Salsa, cha cha, bachata), playing piano, theatre, reading, animals, eating good food, swimming