

DENİZ CİL, PHD

Government and Politics Department &
Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM)
University of Maryland, College Park
2117D Chincoteague Hall, College Park, MD 20742
Email: dcil (at) umd (dot) edu

POSITIONS

August 2023 – Present

Assistant Research Professor, Government and Politics Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

January 2018 – August 2023

Post-doctoral Scholar, Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM)
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

January 2018 – December 2018

Statistical Analyst, Adverse Regime Change, Internal Conflict, and State and Non-state Mass Killing, USAID
Alert List

January 2017 – December 2017

Post-doctoral Scholar, Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM)
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
“Aiding Resilience? The Impact of Foreign Assistance on the Dynamics of Intrastate Armed Conflict” Project

September 2015 – September 2016

Research Fellow, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
“Intentional Targeting of Cultural Heritage during Armed Conflict” Project

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park

PhD, in Political Science, Government and Politics, 2016

Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

MA in Eurasian – Atlantic Security Studies, International Relations Department, 2010

Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

BA in International Relations, International Relations Department, 2008

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- **Cil, Deniz**, Hanne Fjelde, Lisa Hultman, Nils W. Metternich, and Desirée Nilsson. 2025. “Spreading the Light? Peacekeepers and Local Economic Development.” *British Journal of Political Science* 55: e25.
 - Winner of NEPS Medal 2026 for the best publication in Peace Science published by a NEPS member in the previous year
- Aronson, Jacob, **Deniz Cil**, Paul K Huth, and Brian I. Daniels. 2025. “Attacks on History: The Causes of Cultural Heritage Damage during Armed Conflict.” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*. 31 (2): 189-208.

- **Cil, Deniz**, Hayden F. Bassett, Jacob Aronson, Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, William Welsh, Katharyn Hanson, Corine Wegener, and Brian I. Daniels. 2025. “Detecting Damage to Cultural Heritage during Armed Conflict Using the Case of Ukraine.” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 31 (2): 177-188.
- Aronson, Jacob, **Deniz Cil**, Hayden Bassett, Katharyn Hanson, Corine Wegener, and Brian I. Daniels. 2024. “Identification of Deliberate Building Targeting During Ukraine War: Evidence from Donetsk Oblast.” *Tearline*, January.
- Dworschak, Christoph, and **Deniz Cil**. 2022. “Force Structure and Local Peacekeeping Effectiveness: Micro-Level Evidence on UN Troop Composition.” *International Studies Quarterly* 66 (4): sqac072.
- Prorok, Alyssa K, and **Deniz Cil**. 2022. “Cheap Talk or Costly Commitment? Leader Statements and the Implementation of Civil War Peace Agreements.” *Journal of Peace Research* 59 (3): 409–24.
- **Cil, Deniz**, and Alyssa K. Prorok. 2020. “Selling Out or Standing Firm? Explaining the Design of Civil War Peace Agreements.” *International Studies Quarterly* 64 (2): 329–42.
- **Cil, Deniz**, Hanne Fjelde, Lisa Hultman, and Desirée Nilsson. 2020. “Mapping Blue Helmets: Introducing the Geocoded Peacekeeping Operations (Geo-PKO) Dataset.” *Journal of Peace Research* 57 (2): 360–70.

WORKS UNDER REVIEW or IN PROGRESS

- “Carrot or Stick? Development Aid and Implementation of Peace Agreements by Recipient Governments” with Paul Huth
- “Remote Sensing Cultural Heritage Damage in Wartime: Evaluating the Predictive Power of FIRMS in Ukraine and Sudan” with Jacob Aronson, Hayden Bassett, Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, Abigail Maher, William Welsh, Katharyn Hanson, and Brian I. Daniels.
- “Looting in the Fog of War: Territorial Control and Cultural Heritage Looting in Ukraine” with Jacob Aronson, Katharyn Hanson, Eva Meharry, and Brian I. Daniels.
- “Better peacekeepers, but no protection? Ground-level troop quality in United Nations peace operations” with Christoph Dworschak
- “Stay or Leave: Rebel Incentives to Implement Peace Agreements following Civil Wars” with Paul Huth
- “Local Ownership of Aid: Aid in Conflict Zones and Civilian Support” with Jacob Aronson
- “Who is Keeping the Peace? Local Peacekeeping Unit Composition and Effectiveness”

OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Bassett, Hayden, Jacob Aronson, **Deniz Cil**, et al. 2026. Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites in Ukraine: 24 February 2022 to 30 November 2025. Report. *Museum Conservation Institute*. <https://doi.org/10.25573/data.32025594.v1>
- Hanson, Katharyn, Kaitlyn Fitzgerald, J. Eva Meharry, Valentyna Yefimova, **Deniz Cil** et al. 2026. Rapid Site Report: Damage to the Sergei Prokofiev Museum in Sontsivka, Ukraine. Report. *Museum Conservation Institute*. <https://doi.org/10.25573/data.30246196.v1>
- Bassett, Hayden, Jacob Aronson, **Deniz Cil**, Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, Katharyn Hanson, Colleen Carroll, et al. 2024. Potential Damage to Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Sites. Report Coverage: 24 February 2022 to 30 April 2024. *The Smithsonian Institution*. Report. <https://doi.org/10.25573/data.25901701.v1>
- Bassett, Hayden, Jacob Aronson, **Deniz Cil**, Madeleine Gunter-Bassett, Katharyn Hanson, Nara Narimanova, et al. 2023. Potential Damage to Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Sites. Report Coverage: 24 February 2022 to 31 July 2023. *The Smithsonian Institution*. Report. <https://doi.org/10.25573/data.24638742.v1>
- Aronson, Jacob, **Deniz Cil**, Andrew Marx, Forrest Pound. 2022. “Population Displacement and Return in Ukraine”, *Conflict Observatory*

- **Cil, Deniz** and Paul Huth. 2019. “Carrot or Stick? Development Aid and Implementation of Peace Agreements by Recipient Governments”, *Owl in the Olive Tree*
- **Cil, Deniz** and Paul Huth, October 2018. Patterns and Trends in Armed Conflict, Technical Brief, USAID
- **Cil, Deniz.** 2017. “Multilateral Peacekeeping Operations Active in 2015,” *Peace and Conflict 2017*; edited by David A. Backer, Ravi Bhavnani and Paul K. Huth.
- **Cil, Deniz.** 2016. “United Nations Peacekeeping Missions Active in 2014,” *Peace and Conflict 2016*; edited by David A. Backer, Ravi Bhavnani and Paul K. Huth.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS and INVITED TALKS

- “Attacks on History: The Causes of Cultural Heritage Damage during Armed Conflict.”, with Jacob Aronson, Paul K Huth, and Brian I. Daniels, International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 2024
- “Civilian Decision Making, Displacement, and Return: Evidence from Ukraine”, with Jacob Aronson, Michael Kelly, Andrew Marx, and Forrest Pound, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, September 2023
- “Mapping the Peace: Using Geospatial Data to Advance Research on Peacekeeping and Displacement” Leipzig University, September 2022
- “Better peacekeepers, but no protection? Ground-level troop quality in United Nations peace operations”, with Christoph Dworschak, International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, March 2022.
- “Where to go, when to return? The impact of UN peacekeeping deployments on internal displacement and return” with Jacob Aronson, Paul Huth, and James Walsh,” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, March 2022.
- “Who is Keeping the Peace? Local Peacekeeping Unit Composition and Effectiveness” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, March 2019.
- “Implementation of Peace Agreements following Civil Wars and Post-Conflict Outcomes”, ViEWS brownbag seminar, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, August 2018
- “Aid, Conflict Recurrence, and Durable Peace” with Paul Huth, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 2017
- “Revisiting the Sustainable Settlement of Civil Wars: Leaders and the Implementation of Settlement Agreements,” with Alyssa Prorok, International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 2017.
- “Local Ownership of Aid: Aid in Conflict Zones and Civilian Support,” with Jacob Aronson, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 2016.
- “When Deadlock Brings Peace: The Impact of Negotiation Length on Post-Agreement Implementation,” Journeys in World Politics Workshop University of Iowa, March 31-April 2, 2016
- “The Implementation of Peace Agreements and the Duration of Peace,” paper presented in Research Paper Seminar, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden October 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS/GRANTS

- Smithsonian Institution, Repressed Cultures (2025)
- Smithsonian Institution, Monitoring the use of Cultural Heritage in Russian Influence Activities (2024)
- US Department of State and Smithsonian Institution, Conflict Observatory Program (2022-2023)
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (2014-2015)
- Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Strategy Fellowship (2015)
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Graduate Studies Fellowship for Master’s Students (2008-2010)

- Bilkent University Graduate Studies Fellowship (2008-2010)
- Bilkent University Undergraduate Scholarship (2003-2008)
- International Studies Association Travel Grant (2011, 2015, 2016, 2019)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Introduction to War and Armed Conflict in World Politics (GVPT 604), Fall 2020-2025, University of Maryland
- Introduction to International Institutions and International Law (GVPT 606), Spring 2021-2026, University of Maryland
- Seminar in International Political Organizations (GVPT 803), Fall 2021-2025, University of Maryland
- Topics on International Security; Research Design and Analysis in International Relations (GVPT 879), Spring 2022-2026, University of Maryland
- Research Methodologies in IR, UMD Office of International and Executive Programs (OIEP) and Jilin University (JLU) International Summer Workshops, Summer 2019
- Why Fight? Causes, Conduct and Termination of Civil Wars (GVPT 359), Summer 2015, University of Maryland

DATASET PROJECTS

Implementation of Peace Agreements Dataset (IPAD)

This dataset builds on the UCDP Peace Agreement Dataset and includes all final agreements, regardless of comprehensiveness or inclusiveness. It records the implementation of 167 agreements (68 final, 84 process, and 15 follow-up agreements) corresponding to 80 distinct, dyadic peace processes from 1989 to 2014 at two levels. The process level data includes information on the implementation of each provision, as well as the start and end dates of each peace process. The event level data records each implementation event and the implementer throughout a given peace process. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Smith Richardson Foundation (SRF).

Geocoded Peacekeeping Operations (Geo-PKO) with Hanne Fjelde, Lisa Hultman, and Desirée Nilsson, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

This dataset includes information on sub-national peacekeeping deployments for all UN missions from 1994 to 2022. It records peacekeeping deployments at the local level, including data on deployment sizes and their variations over time, as well as details on mission headquarters locations, types of peacekeepers deployed, and the troop-contributing countries assigned to each location.

ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL/SOFTWARE TRAINING

- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University, Summer 2015 (Accepted through open pool application, 10% acceptance rate)
- University of Maryland Libraries, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Workshops (Intro to GIS, Data Management and Spatial Analysis) – ArcGIS Desktop 10.1, Spring 2014
- Software/Computer Programming: R, Stata

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

- Managing Editor, Journal of Conflict Resolution, University of Maryland (2011-2015)
- Women in Conflict Studies Member (since 2013)
- American Political Science Association Member (since 2010)
Member of Conflict Processes Section (since 2014)

- International Studies Association Member (since 2010)
Member of Scientific Study of International Processes (since 2014)
Member of Women's Caucus (since 2016)
- Referee: American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, World Politics, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, International Interactions, Conflict Management and Peace Science
- Other work experience: International Relations and EU Department, Union of Turkish Bars Association, Ankara, Turkey (2007-2008), Directorate of National Program, Secretariat General for EU Affairs, Ankara, Turkey (2007)