

Anna Maria Beylunioğlu Atlı, Ph.D.

Political Scientist • Food Studies Scholar

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PROFILE

Political scientist (Ph.D., European University Institute) with professional culinary training. Her research spans freedom of religion, religion–state relations and ethno-religious minorities in Turkey, and the politics of food: gastro-nationalism, gastrodplomacy, food and identity, and culinary heritage. She teaches at Koç University and MEF University and brings food studies to wider audiences through workshops, public talks and writing.

EDUCATION

2011–2017	Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
2006–2009	M.A. in International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul
2001–2006	B.A. in Political Science and International Relations (Minor in Economics), Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul
2017–2018	Professional Culinary Arts Program (Chef Training), Culinary Arts Academy (MSA), Istanbul

CURRENT POSITIONS

2022–present	Adjunct Instructor, Koç University, Istanbul
2019–present	Adjunct Instructor, MEF University, Istanbul
2021–present	Co-founder and Co-editor, Nehna (nehna.org)
2025–present	Advisory Board Member, Hrant Dink Foundation
2017–present	Independent researcher, food writer and culinary consultant

Previous Positions

2021–2024	Adjunct Instructor, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul
2011–2017	Researcher, European University Institute, Florence
2006–2011	Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bahçeşehir University

COURSES TAUGHT

Koç University: Food, Politics and Society (recognized with the Koç University Sustainability Code, 2026); Encounters with Globalization; BOSP250: Exploring Contemporary Türkiye (joint program with Stanford University, co-taught with Altay Atlı)

MEF University: Food, Politics and Society; Religion, Politics and Society

Bahçeşehir University: GastroPolitics; Introduction to Politics and Society; Theories of International Relations

UCEAP (University of California Education Abroad Program): Food, Identity and Citizenship: A Mediterranean Perspective, Istanbul module (Fall 2025)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria. Forthcoming. “Recipes of Resilience: Sustaining Cultural Memory in Diaspora through Antiochian Culinary Heritage after the Earthquake.” Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria. 2025. “From Belonging to Resistance: The Role of Food in Post-Earthquake Antakya.” In *Commensality and Cultural Heritage: Bringing the Foodways of the Middle East and Its Diasporas to the*

Table, edited by Heather J. Sharkey and Karène Sanchez Summerer, 49–52. Groningen: University of Groningen Press.

- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria, and José Rafael Medeiros Coelho, eds. 2025. *Deprem Sonrası Antakya: Tanıklıklar, Miras ve Gelecek* [Antakya after the Earthquake: Testimonies, Heritage, and the Future]. Istanbul: İstos.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria. 2024. “Eastern Orthodox Christians and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Religion in Turkey*, edited by Philip Dorroll. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria. 2024. “Gastrodiplomasi Gastro-milliyetçi Olmayı Gerektirir mi? Türkiye’deki Uygulamaların Eleştirel Bir Analizi” [Does Gastrodiplomacy Require Gastro-nationalism?]. *İstanbul Planlama Ajansı Dergisi*.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria, and Özgür Kaymak. 2021. “The Perception of Minorities toward the Turkish State: The Case of Ethno-religious Communities.” *Poligrafi* 26: 5–29.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria, and Özgür Kaymak. 2020. *Kısmet Tabii: İstanbul’un Rum, Yahudi ve Ermeni Topluluklarında Karma Evlilikler* [Mixed Marriages in Istanbul’s Greek, Jewish and Armenian Communities]. Istanbul: İstos.
- Beylunioğlu, Anna Maria. 2017. “Recasting the Parameters of Freedom of Religion in Turkey: Non-Muslims and the AKP.” In *Authoritarian Politics in Turkey*, edited by Bahar Başer and Ahmet Erdi Öztürk. London: I.B. Tauris.

A full list of publications, including essays and public writing, is available in the full CV.

SELECTED TALKS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2026	“Introduction to Turkish Culture,” lecture for visiting students from Kobe University, Koç University
2025–2026	Public talk series on food, society and politics, Chamber of Chemical Engineers (Kimya Mühendisleri Odası), Istanbul
2025	“Religious Freedom and Its Discontents,” Center for Muslim–Christian Studies, University of Oxford
2025	“Cultural Heritage and Food Studies in Antakya,” Winter School on Commensality and Cultural Heritage, University of Groningen
2024	Two lecture sessions on minority policies in Republican Turkey, Minority Rights Academy, Hrant Dink Foundation
2024	“Is It Possible to Preserve the Cultural Heritage in Antakya?” IFEA, Istanbul
2022–2023	Eight-week public workshops on food, politics and society, Yesayan Salonu, Istanbul

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native); English (fluent); Italian (intermediate); Greek (beginner)