

NORA SUREN, Ph.D.

Assistant Teaching Professor

Department of Communication Studies

College of Arts, Media, and Design, Northeastern University

n.suren@northeastern.edu | norasuren@gmail.com | norasuren.net | (617) 797-9338

RESEARCH AREAS: Media Industry Studies; Creator and Influencer Studies; Platform Governance and Regulation; Artificial Intelligence and Media Industries; Global Media; Feminist Media Studies; Global Digital Media Studies; Digital Authoritarianism; Qualitative Methods.

EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D. Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dissertation: *Navigating Double Oppression Online: How Alternative Content Creators Maintain their Ideological Integrity under Algorithmic Bias and Turkish Authoritarianism*
Committee: Dr. Jonathan Corpus Ong, Dr. Emily West, Dr. T. L. Taylor
- 2019 M.S. Communication, North Carolina State University
Thesis: *An Actor-Network Approach to the Gezi Protests*
Committee: Dr. Adriana de Souza e Silva, Dr. Grant Bollmer, Dr. Steve Wiley
- 2013 B.A. English Language and Literature, Istanbul University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025 – Present Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Communication Studies, College of Arts, Media, and Design, Northeastern University

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 – Present Research Scholar, Mills Institute
- 2026 – Present Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University
- 2025 – Present Affiliated Faculty, Center for Transformative Media, Northeastern University
- 2024 – Present Affiliated Member, Content Creator Scholars Network
- 2024 – 2025 Predoctoral Dissertation Fellow, Women's and Gender Studies and Comparative Media Studies/Writing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Co-advisors: Dr. T. L. Taylor & Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Suren, N. (2026). "Freaks" and raids: A study of networked harassment and misogyny in Turkey's authoritarian landscape. *International Journal of Communication*, 20, 1513–1534.
<https://doi.org/10.65476/phfh7r49>
- Scharrer, E., Ali Durrani, A., & Suren, N. (2025). Remixing gender in advertising: A qualitative study of early adolescents' views of gender targeting in LEGO commercials. *Advertising & Society Quarterly*, 25(4). <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/asr.2024.a949993>
- Suren, N. (2024). "Love from me and my belly": The politics and performance of body positivity on Instagram. *International Journal of Communication*.
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/22250>

Scharrer, E., Ali Durrani, A., **Suren, N.**, Kang, Y., Zhou, Y., & Butterworth, E. (2023). Early adolescents' views of gender on YouTube in the context of a critical media literacy program. *The Communication Review*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10714421.2023.2167911>

Scharrer, E., Kang, Y., Zhou, Y., Ali Durrani, A., **Suren, N.**, & Butterworth, E. (2022). Tough guys and trucks: Early adolescents' critical analysis of masculinity in a TV commercial. *International Journal of Communication*, 16, 20. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/18604>

Book Chapters

Suren, N. (Invited chapter; in development). Alternative creators under authoritarianism: Political precarity, platform governance, and digital resistance in Turkey. In D. Jaramillo-Dent, D. Craig, J. Lin, T. Divon, & C. Goanta (Eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Creator and Influencer Studies*. Routledge.

Yalin, A., **Suren, N.**, & Ong, J. C. (2024). Medical populism, nationalism, and parody: Unmasking digital dissent in Turkey's COVID-19 landscape. In E. Briant & V. Bakir (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of the Influence Industry*. Routledge. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

Suren, N. (2022). "This is the kind of influencer we want to see!" A study of body representation among Instagram influencers. In S. S. LeBlanc & K. M. Hopper (Eds.), *One size does not fit all: Undressing the performance of bodies in popular culture* (pp. 47–66). Lexington Books. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

Suren, N. (2022). An actor-network approach: The role of art in public spaces in the Gezi protests. In V. A. Newsom & L. M. Lengel (Eds.), *Embodied activism: Performative expressions of political and social action* (pp. 151–173). Lexington Books. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

Book Reviews

Suren, N. (2024). Review of *Mediated misogyny: Erasing Black women's and girls' innocence in the public imagination* by Kalima Young. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15295036.2024.2365159>

Suren, N. (2021). Review of *Distributed Blackness: African American cybercultures* by André Brock, Jr. *Lateral*, 10(2). <https://doi.org/10.25158/L10.2.21>

REFEREED ARTICLES IN REVISION, UNDER REVIEW, AND IN PROGRESS

Manuscripts in Revision

Suren, N., & Dori-Hacohen, G. "This isn't a MAGA rally. It's the Emmys": Resources for public elitism at the opening monologues of the entertainment award ceremonies. Revise and resubmit at *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Suren, N. Between policy and precarity: Platform nationalism and creator struggles in Turkey. *Creator and Influencer Studies*.

Suren, N. Digital raids and affective governance: Visibility fatigue and emotional control. *International Journal of Communication*.

Yang, S. E., Fan, Z., & **Suren, N.** Beyond pixels and prose: Evaluating multimodal LLM performance in capturing political stance in Turkish influencer content. *Social Media + Society*.

Manuscripts in Progress

Demirkol Tønnesen, O., **Suren, N.**, & Divon, T. Politicized influencers: Navigating internet cultures, followership pressures, and political voice in the Middle East.

INVITED TALKS

- Suren, N. (2026, April). *“Made in Turkey”: Gendered labor, synthetic selves, and the rise of AI influencers in platform capitalism*. Faculty Research Series, Northeastern University.
- Suren, N. (2025, February). *Social justice and algorithmic precarity: Marginalized voices in Turkey’s creator industry*. Platforms, Algorithms, & Social Justice Workshop, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (workshop organized and hosted by the author).
- Ong, J. C., & Suren, N. (2023, October). *Unveiling narratives: Asian American TikTok creators resisting anti-Black crime stereotypes and cultivating solidarity*. Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School.
- Ong, J. C., & Suren, N. (2022, July). *COVID influencers in global context*. Media Ecosystems Analysis Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- Suren, N. (2026, April). *The algorithm is watching you: How platforms quietly shape what we see*. Binge Thinking, Boston, MA. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Suren, N. (2026, October). *Regenerating voice under duress: Alternative content creators, crisis activism, and digital precarity in Turkey’s 2023 earthquake and elections*. Association of Internet Researchers Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.
- Suren, N. (2026, April). *Digital raids and affective governance: Visibility fatigue and emotional control*. Center on Digital Culture and Society Symposium, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
- Suren, N. (2025, October). *“Freaks” and raids: A study of networked harassment and misogyny in Turkey’s authoritarian landscape*. Association of Internet Researchers Conference, Niterói, Brazil.
- Suren, N. (2025, June). *Between policy and precarity: Platform nationalism and creator struggles in Turkey*. Debating Creator Culture Preconference, International Communication Association, Boulder, CO.
- Suren, N. (2024, November). *“Freaks” and raids: A study of networked harassment and misogyny in Turkey’s authoritarian landscape*. (Re)valuing the Creator Economy Preconference, National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Suren, N. (2024, October). *Unraveling algorithmic bias: A journey through the world of politicized alternative creators*. Association of Internet Researchers Conference, Sheffield, UK.
- Suren, N., & Pyo, J. (2024, October). *“TikTok teach-ins”: Asian American creators promoting Black–Asian solidarity*. Association of Internet Researchers Conference, Sheffield, UK.
- Suren, N. (2023, June). *Navigating double oppression online: How digital content creators maintain their ideological integrity under algorithmic bias and Turkish authoritarianism*. Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor & Social Reproduction Conference.
- Suren, N. (2023). *“Love from me and my belly”: Audience reactions to body positive images on Instagram*. Feminist Scholarship Division, International Communication Association Conference.
- Suren, N. (2021). *“This isn’t a MAGA rally. It’s the Emmys”: Recreating the white masculine elite public sphere at the opening monologues of entertainment award ceremonies*. Language and Social Interaction Division, National Communication Association Conference. **Top Student Paper Award.**

Scharrer, E., **Suren, N.**, Ali Durrani, A., Kang, Y., & Zhou, Y. (2020). *A qualitative study of early adolescents' views of gender expression and representation on YouTube*. 71st Annual International Communication Association Conference (virtual).

Scharrer, E., **Suren, N.**, Ali Durrani, A., Kang, Y., & Zhou, Y. (2020). *A K-12 educator/university partnership: The pros and cons for media literacy education*. Northeast Media Literacy Conference (virtual).

Suren, N. (2020). *The role of art and bodies against authoritarianism: Crossroads of hybrid spaces to constructing counter-hegemony in the Gezi protests*. Activism and Social Justice Division, National Communication Association Conference (virtual).

Suren, N. (2020). *Redefining viewer gaze: The case of Fleabag*. Northeast Popular Culture Association (virtual).

COMMENTARIES

Suren, N. (2025, May). *From co-option to care: Reimagining justice through platforms*. Content Creator Scholars Network Blog. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Suren, N. (2026, July). Invited interview for PR CARNET on digital culture and creator economy research. [\[Electronic Version\]](#)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2026 – 2027	James Buchanan Fellowship for Early Career Scholars, George Mason University
2026	Research Dissemination Grant, Northeastern University
2024 – 2025	Dissertation Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2024	Kelly Quinn Travel Scholarship, Association of Internet Researchers
2024	Suopis Research Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2024	Advancing Community, Democracy, and Dialogue Grant, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2023 – 2024	Co-Insights: Creative Collaborations with Asian American Community Media Fighting Misinformation, National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator Grant
2023	George Keverian Scholarship, Armenian Student Association
2021 – 2022	Social Media Influencers in Contexts of Medical Populism, Media Ecosystems Analysis Group / Gates Foundation
2021	Top Student Paper Award, Language and Social Interaction Division, National Communication Association

REVIEWER

2026 – Present	Creator and Influencer Studies
2024 – Present	Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)
2024 – Present	Mobile Media & Communication
2020 – Present	Social Media + Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Awards

2022 Teaching Commendation, Spring and Fall semesters, Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Assistant Teaching Professor, Northeastern University | Instructor of record, 2025–Present

Spring 2027 Global Influencers (special topics course of own design)
Fall 2026 MSCR1320 Media and Social Change
Fall 2026 COMM2303 Global and Intercultural Communication
Fall 2026 MSCR2325 Global Media
Summer 2026 MSCR2325 Global Media (online)
Summer 2026 COMM1113 Business/Professional Speaking (online)
Spring 2026 MSCR2325 Global Media
Spring 2026 COMM2303 Global and Intercultural Communication
Spring 2026 COMM1113 Business/Professional Speaking
Fall 2025 MSCR2325 Global Media
Fall 2025 COMM2303 Global and Intercultural Communication
Fall 2025 COMM1113 Business/Professional Speaking

University of Massachusetts Amherst | Graduate instructor of record, 2021–2024

Fall 2024 COMM412 Gender and Social Media (competitively selected to teach own 400-level special topics design; prepared and scheduled, released owing to fellowship restrictions)
Summer 2023 COMM375 Writing as Communication (online)
Fall 2022 COMM375 Writing as Communication
Spring 2022 COMM375 Writing as Communication
Summer 2021 COMM118 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication & Culture (online)
Spring 2021 COMM250 Interpersonal Communication & Culture

North Carolina State University | Graduate instructor of record, 2018–2019

Spring 2019 COM110 Introduction to Public Speaking
Fall 2018 COM110 Introduction to Public Speaking

Graduate Teaching Assistant | UMass Amherst and NC State, 2017–2020

Fall 2020 COMM118 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication & Culture; COMM296F Industry–Film Festival (UMass Amherst)
Spring 2020 COMM297SF Sci-Fi Cinema; COMM122 Introduction to Media Industries & Institutions (UMass Amherst)
Fall 2019 COMM231 Film & TV Production Concepts; COMM122 Introduction to Media Industries & Institutions (UMass Amherst)
Spring 2018 COM327 Critical Analysis of Communication Media (NC State)
Fall 2017 COM230 Introduction to Communication Theory (NC State)

Guest Lectures

Fall 2024 “Digital Media Cultures and Subcultures,” WGS.111 Gender and Media, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Spring 2024 “Online Hate and Misogyny,” COMM490STB Creator Cultures and Industries, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Spring 2024 “Social Media Activism,” COMM416 Screen Cultures, University of Massachusetts Amherst

GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2023 – 2024 Misinformation and Narratives of Racial Discord in Asian American Online Communities, with Dr. Jonathan Corpus Ong
Collected, coded, and analyzed TikTok videos by Asian American creators addressing solidarity and combating hate; co-authored a paper presented at the Association of Internet Researchers Conference; supported externally funded projects for the National Science Foundation and the Media Ecosystems Analysis Group / Gates Foundation.

Spring 2023 Co-organized the Asian American Digital Politics workshop, convening global and community partners, scholars, practitioners, and graduate students

SERVICE

2026 School Feasibility Committee, Curriculum and Program Planning, Northeastern University

2026 Richard Katula Academic Achievement and Dale Herbeck Leadership Award Committee, Northeastern University

2026 Faculty Teaching Series Organizer Committee, Northeastern University

2025 – Present Organizer and Moderator, AI Webinar Series, Center for Transformative Media, Northeastern University
• *AI Influencers and the Future of the Creator Economy*. Moderator; panelists Christine Tran, John Wihbey, and Seo Eun Yang. April 15, 2026.
[\[Recording\]](#)

2025 Organizer and Host, Platforms, Algorithms, & Social Justice Workshop, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2023 – 2025 Graduate Fellow, Global Technology for Social Justice Lab (GloTech), University of Massachusetts Amherst

2023 Co-organizer, Asian American Digital Politics Workshop, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2020 – 2021 Secretary, Communication Graduate Student Association, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2020 Media Literacy Program instructor and curriculum designer, Deerfield Elementary School

2019 Co-curator, Student Film Showcase, University of Massachusetts Amherst

2017 – 2019 Member, Communication Graduate Student Association, North Carolina State University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2026 – Present Society for Cinema and Media Studies

2024 – Present Association of Internet Researchers

2020 – Present National Communication Association

2020 – Present International Communication Association

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency, Istanbul, Turkey | 2012–2017

Digital Account Executive & Social Media Specialist

- Managed social media accounts for leading local and global brands, including Ülker, Miller Genuine Draft, and Sunsilk (Unilever).
- Handled year-round projects for Ülker and Unilever brands, attending brief meetings and analyzing client expectations in detail.
- Facilitated design operations and digital projects, and maintained client communication throughout delivery.
- Prepared monthly performance reports tracking key metrics across social media accounts.