

I am applying to the Department of Sociology at Koç University in order to pursue a Ph.D. degree. I would like to investigate the dynamics of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. I argue that \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ characterize the existing rule in \_\_\_\_\_, and consequently form a relatively strong political consolidation.

\_\_\_\_\_ emerged after 2010 have shaken the ground of political regimes of many countries in the \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is one and notable example among the \_\_\_\_\_ countries in which there have been episodes of \_\_\_\_\_. Despite the \_\_\_\_\_ in the last decade, \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_ Party have succeeded maintaining its rule and preserving the relations with its grassroots. I argue that this was enabled through \_\_\_\_\_.

The essential tenets of neoliberalism on a global scale were meant to withdrawal of the state from social and economic realms and reorient itself to foster market oriented growth models. After coming to the power in \_\_\_\_\_ P's overall policies nonetheless, departs from the ideal expectations of the neoliberal impositions. The party has \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Alongside these advancements, \_\_\_\_\_ P has made regulations in \_\_\_\_\_, utilized the legal field pragmatically to carry out \_\_\_\_\_, kept the \_\_\_\_\_ process in track and orchestrated a \_\_\_\_\_. These developments that the \_\_\_\_\_ P has accomplished so far in the context of contentious and fragile neoliberal regime inform us about the party's performance in macro-economic level. Yet these explanations could not assist to introduce a full-fledged perspective to understand how the \_\_\_\_\_ P garners consent from its grassroots.

What really allows \_\_\_\_\_ P to strengthen the relations with its grassroots over the years, is its capacity of \_\_\_\_\_.

P integrate these local actors into its political center, contain their demands by giving certain concessions and utilize their abilities for more encompassing and effective rule. In this regard, I argue that the analysis of the operations of this political body in the urban context, would help us to figure out the dynamics of political consolidation more thoroughly. Such an analysis requires focusing on the social and institutional pillars that the party has been relying itself upon. The major actors in a specific urban scale are municipalities, non-governmental organizations and business circles whose strong engagement with the political party pave the way for the \_\_\_\_\_ P to maintain its rule along the years.

The tripartite relation among certain segments of the business world, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations delineates the foundational pillars of a governing model which has led to an exceptional social and political support to a governing political party in the history of \_\_\_\_\_ and even of the \_\_\_\_\_ region. In this context, I aim to investigate the relations among these actors by conducting fieldwork (in-depth interviews and participant observation) in the industrial provincial center of \_\_\_\_\_.

My research in the existing literature and the preliminary field work that I have conducted in \_\_\_\_\_ show that the challenging task for such a project would be to locate the each actor's distinct role in this urban setting. How do these entities—business organizations, the municipality and civil society organizations, particularly \_\_\_\_\_ NGOs— support and complement each other's actions? How is it possible for these actors to reinforce each other's capacities? What are the potential and actual interests of each actor in this process? Through what means does this complex set of relations among the actors are channeled for an orderly operating model? How does the \_\_\_\_\_ P penetrate into the operations of these actors in the city? How do the activities of each actor strengthen the rule of the governing party? How does the civil society strengthen the political reach of the \_\_\_\_\_ P? Lastly, what can be learned from these relations for understanding the current rise of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_? In order to answer these questions,

this research project seeks to examine the nature of the relations among the four sets of actors, and to identify the each actor's contribution to the process of political consolidation.

The potential scholarly contributions of the findings of this research would be as follows: The protracted effects of the \_\_\_\_\_ have been deepening in \_\_\_\_\_, and leading to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and (a novel type of) \_\_\_\_\_ processes within the confines of neoliberalism. This research project aims to contribute to this theoretical discussion by emphasizing the articulation of actors' interests, reveal their economic and political contribution on an urban scale to decipher the dynamics of this current transformation. The P has introduced a form of governance that assigns highly politicized roles to third parties such as the civil society. By introducing a more holistic approach, the findings of the research would discover the missing links among these actors make sense of their very political role that they have been playing and ultimately portray the peculiarities of a neoliberal governance The reinterpretation of politics, social and political agents by focusing on the mechanisms of alliance-making among these groups would present a dynamic understanding of the current political situation that the country has been experiencing.

Before deciding on this research subject as for Ph.D. study, I built up a research question as of my first MA thesis subject. I have visited \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, and spent in total 2 months in the city for an explanatory field research, I have done over \_\_\_\_\_ in-depth interviews with different representatives of the social actors mentioned above. Nonetheless, I could not draw my findings out a viable hypotheses and finalize my thesis. The scope of my research included different social, political and economic actors that their analysis necessitates using a vast body of existing literature. I needed to treat their role individually and bring together in a setting that requires to generate a broad eclectic theoretical perspective for acquiring a meaningful sociological output. After spending \_\_\_\_\_ years with this project, I was convinced that such a research design and necessary field research exceed the limits of an MA study.

Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, I was involved in another research project. It focused on the mechanisms of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. I participated over the half of the interviews with respondents, shared the main responsibility to coordinate the field research and finalize the report. Thanks to my thesis advisor Professor \_\_\_\_\_'s strong persuasion, I finally gave up my preliminary research topic and determined to complete the MA thesis with using the findings of this project. In the early months of \_\_\_\_\_ however, \_\_\_\_\_ had to cope with serious health problems and stayed about \_\_\_\_\_ months at the hospital. I was occupied with taking care of \_\_\_\_\_ during the recovery period that took almost one year of time. Due to these reasons, I extraordinarily had to extend the completion period of my MA thesis.

My research interests would require a strong methodological and theoretical training in political, cultural, and economic sociology. I believe that the Ph.D. program of the Sociology Department at the Koç University will allow me to equip the required disciplinary objectives for carrying out the research project. I would especially like to work with professors \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Professor \_\_\_\_\_'s wide ranging studies and expertise on the state and social policy would help me develop my knowledge in these fields. I would benefit from, Professor \_\_\_\_\_'s knowledge on the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ contexts and his studies on social policies and methodological expertise in developing the required research skills. I hope that you give full consideration to my application to your Ph.D. program