

Shelby Varol

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University Address: Florida State University
College of Social Work
296 Champions Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Education

2024-present **Ph.D.: Social Work**
Florida State University

- Legacy Fellow

2017-2018 **Master of Social Work**
University of Alabama
GPA: 4.0

Focus on international social work, trauma-informed care, neurological effects of trauma, & human trafficking

- Graduated summa cum laude
- School of Social Work Dean's Scholars Award recipient
- Phi Alpha Honor Society member
- Washington Program Endowed Scholarship recipient
- Loraine Bedsole Tunstall Endowed Scholarship in Social Work recipient
- Lola Louise Bealle Endowed Scholarship recipient

2013-2016 **Bachelor of Social Work**
University of Alabama
GPA: 4.0

- Graduated summa cum laude
- Honors College graduate
- International Peer Advisory Committee member
- University of Alabama Critical Languages Turkish Student of the Year

- Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society member
- Presidential Scholarship recipient
- Honors College Bernice Strickland Kittrell Endowed Scholarship recipient
- Jeff Coleman Scholarship recipient

Continuing Education

2020 **School of Human Rights Graduate**

I received a certificate of completion from the School of Human Rights, an institution founded by human rights advocates and academics in Turkey. I completed all of my courses in Turkish, including "Discrimination Discourses in the Media," "The Course of Human Rights Movements in Turkey," and "Community Movements, Activism, and New Media," fostering a deep understanding of the school's commitment to championing human rights in academia and beyond.

2019 **Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language**

Work History

2024-present **Graduate Research Assistant** *Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL*

Working with Dr. Gashaye Tefera on research focused on immigration and refugees.

2021-2024 **Digital Marketing Specialist & Project Manager** *NBT Digital Agency, Miami, FL*

Project manager of global brands, using digital channels and digital advocacy to create thought leadership content and ensure sustainable growth

2019-2022 **University Instructor** *University of Hacettepe, Ankara, Turkey*

Taught English as a Second Language, contributed to curriculum development, and directed extracurricular activities for first-year university students

2018-2019

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grantee

Fulbright Association, Ankara, Turkey

Chosen as 1 of 8 to represent the U.S. State Department in Turkish classrooms to strengthen American-Turkish relations and represented the U.S. in international conferences in Turkey and Ukraine

2018

Aftercare Team Field Placement

International Justice Mission, Washington, D.C.

Developed 1st global Trauma-Informed Training for service providers, presented global minimum standards of criminal justice systems, and supported the Aftercare team in victim assessment for 15 field offices across the globe

2016-2017

Community Case Manager

West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Tuscaloosa, AL

Assessed clients' vocational, medical, social, psychological, and educational needs at intake, while providing comprehensive case management and community outreach events that led to sustainable employment

Volunteer Experiences

2020

The Right to Choice: Female Student Empowerment Workshop

- Led a multi-day workshop, in collaboration with Turkish women empowerment NGO, Women's Self-Defence Academy, and with the support of EU grants, educating female students starting university all across Turkey about their right to choice in all aspects of life, as well as how to defend their rights

2017-2018

University of Alabama School of Social Work Policy Fly-In

Washington, D.C.

- Visited U.S. Congress members and advocated for bills that promote social justice
- Created policy fact sheets and led training sessions on social advocacy for BSW and MSW students

2016-2017

Turkish Student Association Public Relations

- Hosted and organized events in order to celebrate and promote knowledge of Turkish culture

- Built cultural bridges between American and Turkish students through campus and community events

2015-2017 University of Alabama International Peer Advisory Council

- Organized university orientations for incoming international students
- Processed international paperwork and connected international students to university resources

2014 American Corner English Tutor in Kazakhstan

- Organized daily English as a Second Language courses to students of all ages
- Taught English using creative mechanisms, such as games, role playing, and topical conversation groups

Honors and Awards

- Fulbright ETA Grantee
- School of Social Work Dean's Scholars Award recipient
- Phi Alpha Honor Society member
- Washington Program Endowed Scholarship recipient
- Loraine Bedsole Tunstall Endowed Scholarship in Social Work recipient
- Lola Louise Bealle Endowed Scholarship recipient
- Honors College graduate
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Fellowship(s)

- Legacy Fellow, Florida State University College of Social Work (2024)

Research and Evaluation Experiences

2023-present International Social Work Research Team

Contributing author on international research team focused on refugees, intimate partner violence, and immigration

2020-2021 Trafficking in Persons: Guidance Manual

Contributed to the development of a trauma-informed guidance manual on human trafficking indicators, identification and protection of victims of human trafficking, mechanisms of protection and referral, and case management and interview techniques in collaboration with UNDP trafficking in persons experts

2018 International Justice Mission Research Projects

Led research and development efforts to enhance trauma-informed practices and care standards for survivors of violence. Updated the Assessment of Survivor Outcomes Guidance Manual and the Trauma-Informed Care Manual, integrating global data to improve accessibility and quality. Conducted a comprehensive study to establish minimum care standards across 17 international offices, focusing on criminal justice, social work, and psychological ethics. Trained stakeholders, including the British Red Cross, on these updated tools and standards.

Teaching Experiences

2019-2022 University English Instructor
Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

- Contributed to curriculum development for first-year university students
- Taught Listening/Speaking, Reading/Vocabulary, and Grammar English as a Second Language
- Directed extra-curricular activities including Skit Competition, Speaking Club, Debate Tournament, and Newspaper Club

Conference Presentations

2016

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference

University of Alabama

“Assessing the Impact: A Longitudinal Analysis of USDA and DHHS Nutrition Guidelines on Health, Obesity, Diabetes, and Hunger from 2008 to 2015”

Languages

English	Fluent
Turkish	Fluent