

Meryem Şeyda Özcan

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Virginia Tech
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Education

2019 –
February 2025
(Expected)

Integrated Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology

Koç University, Istanbul, Türkiye

(100% English Instruction - QS Ranking: 431)

Ph.D. thesis topic: The role of technology on cognitive development

(Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yasemin Kisbu)

2012 – 2017

B.A in Psychology

Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye

(100% English Instruction - QS Ranking: 502)

Undergraduate thesis: Do educational apps enhance learning in cardinality and number magnitude comparison abilities?

(Advisor: Dr. Hande Ilgaz)

Positions and Affiliations

January 2024 –
Present

Visiting Scholar at Virginia Tech

Department of Human Development and Family Science

(Advisor: Dr. Koeun Choi)

February –
June 2022

Visiting Scholar at Georgia Southern University

National Science Foundation supported research (NSF #2027948): Project GAME:
Developing and piloting a game design-based computer science curriculum

(Advisor: Prof. Dr. Mete Akcaoglu)

Teaching Experience

Spring 2023

Part-time Lecturer at Koç University

PSYC 206: Life Span Development (Fully English - Hybrid)

Summer 2022

Part-time Lecturer at Koç University

PSYC 206: Life Span Development (Fully English - Online)

2017 – 2024 **Teaching Assistant at Koç University**

- PSYC 206: Life Span Development
- PSYC 201: Scientific Methods in Behavioral and Social Sciences
- PSYC 301: Research Methods in Psychology
- PSYC 302: Psychological Testing and Measurement
- PSYC 501: Research Methods I (Graduate level)
- PSYC 502: Research Methods II (Graduate level)

Research Experience

2024 – Present **Lab Member at Cognitive Developmental Science (CoDeS) Lab, Virginia Tech** <http://kchoi.org/>

2017 – Present **Lab Member at Independent Evaluation Laboratory (IEL), Koç University**
www.evalresearchlab.com

2015 – 2017 **Lab Member at Bilkent Development (Bil-Ge), Bilkent University**
<http://web2.bilkent.edu.tr/bilge/>

2015 – 2016 **Child Development Lab, Middle East Technical University**
<http://cdlab2.psy.metu.edu.tr>

Research Interests

- Media and child development
- Designing and using technology to support development and education
- Cognitive development
- Executive functions
- Programming education / Computational thinking

Statistical Analysis Programs

- SPSS (advanced)
- MPLUS (advanced)
- R (intermediate)

Analysis Methods

- Structural Equation Modelling
- Latent Profile Analysis
- Meta-analysis
- Experimental data analysis
- Qualitative data analysis (content analysis, focus group)

Awards, Funding, and Other Supports

- 2024
 - Cognitive Development Society 2024 Diversity Travel Award (\$750)
 - TÜBİTAK 2214 - International PhD Research Scholarship (\$22,800)
- 2023
 - TÜBİTAK 2250 - Performance-Based Scholarship for PhD Students (\$2400/yr; 2023-2024)
 - TÜBİTAK 2247 - National Outstanding Researchers Program Doctoral Bursary
 - Best Poster Award at the II. International Adolescence and Youth Research Congress
- 2020
 - TÜBİTAK 1003 - Priority Areas R&D Projects Support Program Doctoral Bursary
- 2017
 - Koç University Graduate School Scholarship
 - TÜBİTAK 2211 - National Ph.D. Student Scholarship
- 2016
 - TÜBİTAK 2209 - Scholarship for Undergraduate Senior Thesis (\$300)
- 2012
 - Bilkent University Comprehensive Scholarship: based on entrance exam score (\$14,500)

Publications

1. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Kisbu, Y. (in press). Exposure to interactive media, but at low levels, is associated with better executive functioning in children: A meta-analysis. *Media Psychology*.
2. Oksuz, I., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Dost-Gözkın, A., & Kisbu, Y. (in press). Health risk behaviors of adolescents in Europe: A latent profile analysis of HBSC data from 43 countries. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
3. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Goksun, T., & Kisbu Sakarya, Y. (2024). The impact of learning to code on higher-order executive functions: A systematic review of the literature. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15391523.2024.2381231>
4. Kisbu, Y., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Kuşcul, G. H., Bozok, M., Kaya, M., & Fişek, G. (2023). Fathering styles in a traditional culture and its association with marital relationship: A latent profile analysis with a nationally representative sample. *Family Process*, 00, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12948>
5. Akcaoglu, M., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Hodges, C. B. (2023). Exploring the relationship among motivational constructs and preservice teachers' use of computational thinking in classrooms. *Computers in the Schools*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07380569.2023.2172987>
6. Akcaoglu, M., **Ozcan, M. Ş.**, & Dogan, S. (2023). What keeps teachers engaged during professional development? The role of interest development. *Education Sciences*, 13, 188. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci13020188>
7. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Çetinkaya, E., Goksun, T., & Kisbu Sakarya, Y. (2021). Does learning to code influence cognitive skills of elementary school children? Findings from a randomized experiment. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 91, 1434-1455. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjep.12429>

Manuscripts under review

1. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Akcaoglu, M. (under review). Development and validation of the multidimensional interest development survey (MIS): An interest survey measuring phases and components. *Instructional Science*.
2. Sabuncuoglu, A., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Kisbu, Y., & Sezgin, M. (under review). Developing an open-source middle school programming environment and its curriculum for an affordable education. *British Journal of Educational Technology*.
3. Rajadhyaksha, U., Aycan, Z., Rantanen, J., Feldt, T., Cinli, D., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Baskurt, A. B. (under review). Work-family interface during COVID-19: Gender and gender role ideology perspectives. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

1. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Lee, Y., & Choi, K. (in preparation). The associations between problematic media use and executive functions in middle childhood: A cross-lagged panel model.
2. Beers, C., Yu, S., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Smith, C. L., & Choi, K. (in preparation). Understanding media guilt among mothers of young children.
3. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Choi, K. (in preparation). The role of digital media on young children's executive functions: Testing potential moderating and mediating effects.

Conference Presentations

1. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, & Kisbu, Y. (2024, March 21-23). *Exposure to interactive media, but at low levels, is associated with better executive functioning in children: A meta-analysis* [Poster presentation]. Cognitive Developmental Society Biennial Conference 2024, Pasadena, CA.
2. Oksuz, I., **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Sunmaz, N., & Kisbu, Y. (2023, September 6-8). *Health risk behaviors among European adolescents: A latent profile analysis* [Conference presentation abstract]. II. International Adolescence and Youth Research Congress, Kapadokya, Türkiye. https://www.egad2023.org/downloads/kongre_ozet_kitabi.pdf
3. Turunç, G., & **Özcan, M. Ş.** (2023, September 6-8). *Bullying and adolescent well-being: Insights from Bronfenbrenner's bioecological systems theory* [Paper presentation abstract]. II. International Adolescence and Youth Research Congress, Kapadokya, Türkiye. https://www.egad2023.org/downloads/kongre_ozet_kitabi.pdf
4. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Turunç, G., Çetinkaya, E., & Kisbu, Y. (2022, September 8-9). *Cognitive functions and academic skills in children living under conflict: Investigation of mediation mechanisms using UNICEF MICS Palestine data*. [Poster presentation] Third Development Symposium in Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye.
5. **Özcan, M. Ş.**, Çetinkaya, E., Goksun, T., & Kisbu Sakarya, Y. (2021, April 7-9). *Does learning to code improve cognitive skills of elementary school children?* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting (SRCD), virtual.

6. **Zayim, M. Ş., & Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (2019, March 21-23). *Fathering styles in Turkey: A latent profile analysis based on a representative sample*. [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting (SRCD), Baltimore, MD.