

# Sümeyra Bengisu AKKURT

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## EDUCATION

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- Kadir Has University**, Istanbul, Turkey. **August 2022**  
**M.A., Psychology**, Department of Psychology.  
**GPA: 3.75/4.00**
- Istanbul Sehir University**, Istanbul, Turkey. **June 2019**  
**B.A., Psychology**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.  
**GPA: 3.69/4.00**
- Minor, Turkish Language, and Literature**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. **June 2019**  
**GPA: 3.96/4.00**
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## PUBLICATIONS

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- Akkurt, B.**, Çoymak, A., Koç, Y. (2022). Re-constructing the meaning of aid through the communities during COVID 19: The psychological responses in between the responsibilities of the welfare state, benevolent aid plans, and the politicisation of communities in Turkey. In E. O'Dwyer & L. S. Souza (Eds.), *Submission Guidance for Psychosocial Perspectives on Community Responses to Covid-19: Networks of Trust and Social Change Contributors*. Routledge.
- Alper, S., Yelbuz, B. E., **Akkurt, B.**, & Yilmaz, O. (2022, August 16). The positive association of education with the trust in science and scientists is weaker in highly corrupt countries. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/3h8fj>
- Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, Aksu, A., Dogan, Z., Sengul, D., & Anderson, J. (2022). Missing the good old days or connecting to the globe: Investigating outgroup attitudes through collective nostalgia and global identification. In S. H. Raman & H. Cakal (Eds.), *Examining Complex Intergroup Relations: Through the Lens of Turkey* (pp. 106-124). Routledge.
- Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, Kizik, B., Bey, H., Barkema, W., Kocak, O. E., & Anderson, J. (in prep). Importance of social identities promoting humanitarian action in the case of Syrian refugees.
- Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, & Spears, R. (in prep). Muslim or feminist? Predictors, functions, and meanings of feminist-Muslim identity.
- Koc., Y. Kranenborg, B., Dogan, Z., **Akkurt, B.**, Aksu, A. (under review). "My family supports me to take action against the injustice": Importance of family support in predicting collective action.
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## CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

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- Akkurt, B.**, Koç, Y., & Spears, R. (2023, July). Muslim or Feminist? Muslim-Feminist Identity Integration and Collective Action Intentions. Accepted to the *EASP 2021 General Meeting*, Krakow, Poland.
- Akkurt, B.** (2022, September). Multiple conflicting identities of stigmatized and disadvantaged groups. *Youth in Europe: Offenburg Talks #5*, Offenburg, Germany.
- Akkurt, B.**, Koç, Y., & Spears, R. (2019, December). Muslim or Feminist? Muslim-Feminist Identity Integration and Collective Action Intentions. Paper presented at the 3. *Social Psychology Congress*, Kadir Has University, İstanbul.
- Akkurt, B.**, Koc, Y., Kizik, B., & Anderson, J. (2019, July). "Whatever you give is yours, not the one that is left": Importance of social identities promoting humanitarian action. Paper presentation at the *Annual Meeting of International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)*, Lisbon, Portugal.
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Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, & Spears, R. (2019, July). Muslim-Feminist identity integration: How is it possible? Paper presentation at the *Annual Meeting of International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)*, Lisbon, Portugal.

Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, & Spears, R. (2019, June). Muslim-Feminist identity integration: How is it possible? Paper presentation at the Tajfel Symposium, Warsaw, Poland.

Koc, Y., **Akkurt, B.**, & Spears, R. (2018, December). Muslim-Feminist identity integration: How is it possible? Paper presentation at the *Pacific Meeting on the Psychology of Social Change*, Santiago, Chile.

**Akkurt, B.**, & Koc, Y., & Spears, R. (2018, November). Muslim-Feminist identity integration in Turkey. Poster presentation at the *20th National Congress of Psychology*, Ankara, Turkey.

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## AWARDS & GRANTS

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- TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) 1001-Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program, Part-time Graduate Research Assistant Scholarship, Kadir Has University (2021-2022).
  - TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) 1001-Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program, Full-time Graduate Research Assistant Scholarship, Kadir Has University (2020).
  - High Honor Certificate, Bachelor of Arts in the Department of Psychology at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul Sehir University (2019).
  - Full tuition scholarship, Kadir Has University (2019- 2022).
  - Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeships grant, Istanbul Sehir University (2019).
  - Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeships grant, Istanbul Sehir University (2018).
  - Full tuition and accommodation scholarships, Istanbul Sehir University (2014- 2019).
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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Abdullah Gül University**, Kayseri, Turkey.

Sept 2020 – Present

**Graduate Research Assistant (Full-time)**, Department of Social Psychology.

Head of Department: Ahmet Çoymak, Ph.D.

- Assisting professors and departments with a wide range of administrative tasks.
  - Conducting research, analyzing the data, and reporting the findings.
  - Organizing undergraduate events and mediating between the undergraduate students and the faculty.
  - Conducting departmental meetings and recording the meeting agenda.
  - Assuming the role of teaching assistant, assisting with teaching material, and assisting their professor with grading exams and papers.
  - Preparing, maintaining, and updating website and social media materials.
  - Assisting with the management of ceremonies and campus events.
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## RESEARCH & TRAINEESHIP EXPERIENCES

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**Kadir Has University**, Istanbul, Turkey.

July-Dec 2020

**TÜBİTAK Graduate Research Assistant**, Communication & Relationship Research Lab (CoRe Lab).

Principal Investigator: Mehmet Harma, Ph.D.

*The CoRe research group is engaged in the scientific study of emotion, emotion regulation, and relationship processes, the development of romantic relationships, interpersonal emotion regulation, adult attachment, health behavior, and moral decisions.*

- Prepared the measurement tools to be used in the "Investigation of Psycho-Social Effects of COVID-19 Global Outbreak from Network Analysis Perspective" project with pilot studies.
  - Tailored user-friendly question batteries and collected data for the main study.
  - Translated and adapted the relevant scales to Turkish and Covid-19 related context, e.g. COVID-19 disgust sensitivity scale.
  - Analyzed the data through network analysis method and reported the results.
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**Kadir Has University**, Istanbul, Turkey.

Jan 2019 - Present

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Moral Intuitions Lab (the MINT Lab).

Principal Investigator: Onurcan Yılmaz, Assoc. Prof.

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*The MINT Lab studies the intersection between morality, politics, religion, and decision making. A cognitive science perspective is applied to study the influences of intuitive and reflective decision-making processes on belief systems.*

- Conducting a pre-registered master's thesis project with an experimental design on how do COVID-19 related threat types influence belief in conspiracy theories and trust in science, conducting literature review, developing manipulation scripts, collecting data, analyzing results via *SPSS* and *jamovi*, and writing the paper.
- Leading an experimental research project on anti-Syrian refugee prejudice in Turkey measured via implicit evaluations, specifically through conjunction fallacy, conducting literature review, tailoring the research design, and collecting data.
- Working as a part-time research assistant in the TÜBİTAK granted project named "How to Encourage Collaboration in Resource Scarcity? The Regulatory Role of Intuitive/Analytical Thinking", developing and adapting scales, preparing the pre-registration form, collecting data, contributing to the creation of the "Ethics Dictionary as Collaboration", making statistical analyzes, interpreting and inditing results, as well as writing periodic project reports.
- Attending weekly lab meetings, where we engage in and contribute to presentations on each project ran in the lab, as well as the reading group, where we read and discuss about the key topics in psychology.

**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**, Leuven, Belgium.

**July - Sept 2019**

**Erasmus+ Trainee**, Center for Social and Cultural Psychology.

Principal Investigators: Colette Van Laar Ph.D. & Batja Mesquita Ph.D.

*The center is dedicated to studying how people interact, how they think and feel about one another and the world, both as individuals and as groups via a wide range of research methods and contexts, varying from controlled laboratory experiments to real-life research.*

- Conducted literature reviews on experience sampling (daily-dairy) method and Social Identity Theory for the studies of a Ph.D. candidate at Colette Van Laar's *Stigma and Self-Regulation Lab*.
- Coded and entered qualitative data for research on interpersonal emotion regulation in romantic relationships to investigate cultural differences and similarities across Belgian and Japanese heterosexual couples at Batja Mesquita's *Culture and Emotion Lab*.
- Trained in the classification of interpersonal emotion regulation strategies as well as coding and analyzing qualitative data with thematic analysis in consideration of existing literature on interpersonal emotion regulation studies.

**University of Groningen (RUG)**, Groningen, Netherland.

**July - Sept 2018**

**Erasmus+ Trainee**, Koc Social Identities Lab.

Principal Investigator: Yasin Koc, PhD.

*Studies in this laboratory focus on which social psychological factors determine human behavior, and how these factors can be influenced.*

- Assisted the lab on two-step online experimental research on identity integration of Muslim-feminist women in Turkey, and one qualitative research on intergroup helping behaviors toward Syrian refugees in Turkey.
- Conducted a literature search for articles/chapters/books related to the projects, transcribed and coded qualitative data, entered quantitative data into a statistical software package, and recruited participants for research studies.
- Served as an experimenter for research studies; gained experience in research design; conducted analyses of data using descriptive and simple inferential statistics with *SPSS*.
- Prepared and presented a poster of research findings at 20th National Congress of Psychology, November 15-17, 2018, Ankara, Turkey.

**Istanbul Sehir University**, Istanbul, Turkey.

**May 2018 - June 2019**

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Cognitive Psychology Lab.

Principal Investigator: Reyhan Bilge, Ph.D.

*ŞEHİR Cognitive Psychology Lab is primarily interested in the daily use of spatial information and memories, more specifically the formation of false memories by using experimental methods.*

- Assisted a graduate student's project on "Teaching resistance to persuasion towards deceptive advertisements."
- Recruited participants, administered assessments, scheduled participants, and collaborated with other undergraduate research assistants.
- Run participants through tasks and used E-Prime to run online experiments.
- Transcribed qualitative data for a graduate student's research project.
- Coordinated a research project on "collective memory" conducted in collaboration with Boğaziçi University and supervising undergraduate research assistants.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCES

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- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Feb-June 2022**  
**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Essential Topics in Psychology.  
Supervisor: Mehmet Akif Güzel, PhD.
- Proctoring exams and assisting in the preparation of exam materials.
  - Corresponding with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Sept-March 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Psychology of Conflict and Violence.  
Supervisor: Ahmet Çoymak, PhD.
- Proctoring exams, providing feedback on homework assignments, and facilitating classroom discussions.
  - Assisting the professor with leading assessing classroom wide progress against weekly, monthly, and quarterly goals.
  - Corresponding with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
  - Keeping the class attendance, and attending lectures given by the instructor.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Sept-March 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Introduction to Social Science.  
Supervisor: Evren Mehmet Dinçer, PhD.
- Corresponding with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
  - Attending lectures given by the instructor, maintaining a clean, safe and comfortable classroom environment.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Sept-March 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Orientation to University Life and Scientific World.  
Supervisor: Bilge Yalçındağ, PhD.
- Providing feedback on homework assignments and assisting in gradings.
  - Communicating with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems and assisting them with navigating the course.
  - Attending lectures given by the instructor.
  - Giving a short talk during a class hour, aiming to share experiences with students on Erasmus+ opportunities in the undergraduate period.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Jan-Aug 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, AGU Global Courses, Immigration, and Population.  
Supervisor: Bilge Yalçındağ, PhD.
- Proctored exams, provided instructional guidance and feedback on assignments, and moderated the discussion groups.
  - Assisted the professor with lesson preparation by getting materials ready and setting up equipment, as well as gradings.
  - Corresponded with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
  - Recorded the class attendance, and attended lectures given by the instructor.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey** **Jan-Aug 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, AGU Global Courses, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.  
Supervisor: Mehmet Akif Güzel, PhD.
- Proctored exams, provided instructional guidance and feedback on assignments, and moderated the discussion groups.
  - Assisted the professor with lesson preparation by getting materials ready and setting up equipment.
  - Corresponded with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems, providing
  - Recorded the class attendance, and attended lectures given by the instructor.
- Ihsan International School, Istanbul, Turkey.** **Oct-Dec 2020**  
**Teacher (Part-time)**, Ihsan International High School.  
Academic Coordinator: Muharrem Koz
- Taught "Introduction to Psychology" and "Career Development" courses on a weekly basis in English.
  - Prepared weekly course plans, annual plans, exams, assignments, and various course materials.
  - Recorded daily attendance, proctoring and grading exams, and providing feedback on homework assignments.
  - Actively used several teaching platforms such as Connect by McGraw Hill, MyLab by Pearson, and Google Classroom.
- Abdullah Gül University, Kayseri, Turkey.** **Sept 2020 - Feb 2021**  
**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, Psychology of Everyday Life.  
Supervisor: Ahmet Çoymak, PhD.
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- Proctored exams and provided feedback on homework assignments and facilitated classroom discussions.
  - Assisted the professor with lesson preparation by getting materials ready and setting up equipment.
  - Corresponded with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
  - Recorded the class attendance.

**Abdullah Gül University**, Kayseri, Turkey.

**Sept 2020 - Feb 2021**

**Teaching Assistant**, AGU Global Courses, Food and Health.

Supervisor: Kevser Kahraman, PhD.

- Evaluated and graded examinations, assignments, or papers, and recorded grades.
- Proctored exams and provided feedback on homework assignments and facilitated classroom discussions.
- Corresponded with students on Canvas or related inter-campus communication systems.
- Informed students of the procedures for completing and submitting classwork, such as lab reports.

**Kadir Has University**, Istanbul, Turkey.

**Sept 2019 - Present**

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology.

Supervisor: Aslı Çarkoğlu, PhD.

- Informing students of the procedures for completing and submitting class work, such as lab reports.
- Proctoring and grading exams and notifying instructors of any problems with assignments.
- Assisting the departmental members with projects or research.

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## ADDITIONAL TRAININGS & VOLUNTEERING

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**Erasmus+ Youth Exchange Program: Learn and Teach**

**7-16 March 2022**

Diyarbakır ÇEVKA, İstanbul, Turkey.

*The program was a 10-day informal training that aims to enable 50 young participants from 5 different countries to gain awareness about environmentalism, sustainability, environmental pollution, and recycling, and to take initiatives to protect the environment.*

- Received training on environmental pollution and environmental protection with various informal training methods.
- Preparing and implementing a one-hour training for high school students by making use of the informal education methods acquired during the project.

**Gender School by GenderEx (Gender for Excellence in Research)**

**27-31 October 2021**

*It is a project designed to build networks and exchange knowledge on the integration of the Sex and Gender Dimension in Research Content (SGDRC), between the Gender and Women's Studies Research Center at Kadir Has University, Turkey, and three internationally leading partners in this area: the University of Lund, University of Genoa, and Technological University Dublin.*

- Attended presentations, keynotes, discussions, and workshops during the Gender School.
- Developed an experimental research proposal on the issue that women are expected to have greater caregiving responsibilities than men.
- Peer-reviewed the research proposal of another participant in the Gender School.

**Havle Women Association (Havle Kadın Derneği)**, Istanbul, Turkey.

**November 2019 - Present**

*It is an association established to identify and compete against the obstacles that women face in their everyday life, especially those who define themselves as Muslims.*

- Taking part as a volunteer in activities such as conferences, talks, and workshops.
- Attending as a presenter at the Muslim-Feminists Conference by *Havle Women Association* in November 2019, with a talk on Muslim-Feminist identity integration.

**Erasmus+ Training Course: Get Transnational Get Solidarity**

**1- 6 July 2019**

Spanish National Agency, Madrid, Spain.

*The main aim of this training was to develop the participant's competencies to develop "solidarity projects" within European Solidarity Corps (ESC) and, Transnational Youth Initiatives (TYI) in the frame of ERASMUS + Programme.*

- Trained in developing specific proposals for future European youth projects: Transnational Youth Initiatives in the frame of Erasmus+ and Solidarity Projects in ESC.
- Gained experience in communication, teamwork, project management in international activities and networking.

**International Student Festival in Trondheim (ISFIT) 2019**, Trondheim, Norway.

**7-17 February 2019**

*ISFIT is arranged every other year with over 450 students from all over the world, and each festival has a theme related to social and political topics with international relevance. The theme of 2019's festival was "Migration: The Global Puzzle."*

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- Participated in the “Forced Migration” workshop group during the festival; shared and discussed to explore various aspects of migration and how it affects our lives and communities with a group of people from different countries.
  - Attended the cultural program of the festival such as seminars, debates, and art exhibitions concerning the topic of migration.

**Hayat Health and Social Services Foundation (Hayat Vakfı), Istanbul, Turkey.**

**March - June 2019**

*The mission of the foundation is to provide long-term and systematic psycho-social support for children with disadvantaged backgrounds to support their overall wellbeing, and academic achievements.*

- Worked as a volunteer for the ÇSS project which aims to support the overall well-being of children who have been working as street vendors or who are from the high-risk group. Mentored primary and secondary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, assisted their school studies and assignments while getting contact with their families.
- Organized social events, workshops, and activities for the students.

**Certificate Program in Geriatric Psychology and Stress Management,**

**2018**

Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

*The course aimed to provide current information to the participants in the fields of geriatric psychology and conflict and stress management in the elderly.*

- Attended online courses on “Geriatric Psychology”, “Conflict and Stress Management in the Elderly I”, and “Conflict and Stress Management in the Elderly II” for one semester and succeeded in the final examination for each course.

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### AFFILIATIONS

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**International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Member.**

**2019**

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Computer Skills:** SPSS, jamovi, Mplus, MS Office, Qualtrics.

**Languages:** Native in Turkish, Fluent in English (IELTS 8.0 Band).

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### REFERENCES

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Yasin Koç, Ph.D.  
University of Groningen  
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Kadir Has University  
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