

CURRICULUM VITAE
Dr. BURCU ÜNLÜTABAK
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

15/06/2020 – **Assistant Professor**

present Nuh Naci Yazgan University, Department of Psychology (Kayseri, Turkey)

19/09/2019 – **Instructor**

23/02/2021 Boğaziçi University, Department of Early Childhood Education (Istanbul, Turkey)

10/04/2018 – **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

15/09/2019 Johns Hopkins University, Science of Learning Institute and Department of Cognitive Science (Baltimore, MD, the United States)

15/09/2012 – **Research and Teaching Assistant**

01/05/2016 Lehigh University, The Department of Psychology (Bethlehem, PA, the United States)

EDUCATION

18/08/2012 – **Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology**

21/01/2018 *Lehigh University*, Bethlehem, PA, the United States

Dissertation: *“Is the curious child universal? On examining the frequency and types of questions asked by middle-class and low-income Turkish preschoolers.”*

Committee: Drs. Ageliki Nicolopoulou (Advisor), Amanda Brandone, Christopher Burke, & Ayhan Aksu-Koç.

18/09/2008 – **M.A. in Developmental Psychology**

21/06/2012 *Boğaziçi University*, Istanbul, Turkey

M.A. Thesis: *“On the developmental relations between preschool children’s theory of mind skills and their ability to track referents in narrative discourse.”*

Advisor: Dr. Ayhan Aksu-Koç

16/09/2004 – **B.A. in English Language and Literature**

27/06/2008 *Boğaziçi University*, Istanbul, Turkey

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

I specialize in children’s language and communicative development, spatial thinking, narrative skills, their understanding of other people’s mental world (i.e. theory of mind), and their learning from others. Specifically, I explore (1) how young children learn from more knowledgeable others around them (i.e. parents, teachers) through social and conversational exchanges, (2) the role of family and cultural factors in children’s social and cognitive development, and (3) how specific types of teaching practices facilitate foundational spatial skills for STEM success.

PUBLICATIONS

Aktan-Erciyes, A., Ünlütabak, B., Zengin, F.B., (2021). Effects of second language acquisition on character introductions in 5- and 7-year-old children’s frog story narratives: The case of Turkish-English bilinguals and Turkish monolinguals to appear in *First Language*.

Ronfard, S., **Ünlütak, B.**, Bazhydai, M., Nicolopoulou, A., Harris, P. (2020) Belarussian and Turkish preschoolers accept and do not empirically verify an adult's counter-intuitive claim, *International Journal of Behavioral Development*. (Citations: 2)

Ünlütak, B., Nicolopoulou, A., & Aksu-Koç, A. (2019). Questions asked by Turkish preschoolers from middle-SES and low-SES families. *Cognitive Development*, 52, 100802. (Citations: 3)

Manuscripts under review & in preparation

Ünlütak, B., Aktan-Erciyes, A., Yılmaz, D., Kandemir, S., Göksun, T. (under review) Parental input During Book Reading and Toddlers' Elicited and Spontaneous Communicative Interactions, *Applied Developmental Psychology*

Ünlütak, B., Velioglu, I. (under review) Examining Children's Questions and Parents' Responses about COVID-19 Pandemic in Turkey, *Current Psychology*

Ünlütak, B., Nicolopoulou, A., Aksu-Koç, A. (in preparation). Narrative Styles of Turkish Mothers during A Shared Bookreading Activity: A Middle-SES and Low-SES Comparison

Ünlütak, B., Nicolopoulou, A., Aksu-Koç, A. (in preparation). Mother-Child Conversations and Preschoolers' Possibility Judgments and Explanations about Improbable and Impossible Events in Turkish Cultural Context.

Book Chapters

Nicolopoulou, A., **Ünlütak, B.** (2017). Storybooks as privileged context for understanding theory of mind concepts? *Social environment and cognition in language development: Studies in honor of Ayhan Aksu-Koç*, 21, 151. (Citations: 2)

Conference Proceedings

Ünlütak, B. & Aksu-Koç, A. (2015) Developmental relations between reference to characters in narratives and theory of mind. In Zeyrek, D., Sağın-Şimşek, Ç. Atas, U., and Rehbein, R. (Eds.) *Ankara Papers in Turkish and Turkic Linguistics*. Harrassowitz Verlag, Weisbaden.

PRESENTATIONS

Ünlütak, B. Nicolopoulou, A., Aksu-Koç, A. (2021, April). Narrative Styles of Turkish Mothers during A Shared Bookreading Activity: A Middle-SES and Low-SES Comparison. Paper presented at the Virtual Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD).

Ünlütak, B. Nicolopoulou, A., Aksu-Koç, A. (2021, January). Narrative Styles of Turkish Mothers during A Shared Bookreading Activity: A Middle-SES and Low-SES Comparison. Paper presented at the virtual Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development (BCCCD21)

Ünlütak, B. Nicolopoulou, A., Aksu-Koç, A. (2019, March). *Questions asked by Turkish Mothers and Preschoolers from Middle-class and Low-income Backgrounds during a Storybook Reading Activity at Home*. Poster submitted to biennial Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Fisher, K., Gagnier, K., **Ünlütak, B.**, & Holochwost, S. (2019, March). *Bridging the Translation Gap: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Infusing Spatial Thinking into 3rd Grade Science*. In K. Gagnier & K. Fisher

(Chairs), Exploring new translational science approaches to incorporate spatial thinking into elementary science. Exchange symposium presentation submitted to biennial Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Ünlütak, B. Nicolopoulou, A. (2017, October). *Is the Curious Child Universal? Examining the Frequency and Types of Questions Asked by Turkish Preschoolers from Middle-class and Low-income Families.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Portland, Oregon.

Ünlütak, B. Nicolopoulou, A. (2017, October). *The Examination of Turkish Preschoolers' Possibility Judgments and Explanations about Extraordinary Events.* Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Portland, Oregon.

Ronfard, S., **Ünlütak, B.** Nicolopoulou, A., Harris, P.L. (2017, October). Preschoolers do not test counter-intuitive claims: Evidence from Turkey. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society (CDS), Portland, Oregon.

Nicolopoulou, A., **Ünlütak, B.**, Ronfard, S., Lindley, C. (2017, April) Comparing children's grasp of false belief in standard tasks and picture book stories. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin, Texas.

Nicolopoulou, A., Hindman, A., Sawyer, B., **Ünlütak, B.** (2016, July). Examination of factors that promote early childhood narrative and vocabulary skills. Poster presented at Twenty-Third Annual Meeting Society for the Scientific Study of Reading (SSSR), Porto, Portugal.

Ünlütak, B. & Nicolopoulou, (2015, March). A. The role of inference-making abilities and verbal memory in narrative comprehension during preschool years. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Ünlütak, B. & Nicolopoulou, (2014, May) A. Narrative listening comprehension in relation to inference-making abilities and short-term memory in preschool years. Paper presented at the 44rd Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society (JPS), San Francisco, California.

Ünlütak, B., Spearot, L., Nicolopoulou, A., Hough, L. (2014, July). Books as meaningful contexts for understanding theory of mind concepts. Poster presented at the 13th International Congress for the Study of Child Language (IASCL), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Ünlütak, B., Aksu-Koç, A. & Nicolopoulou, (2013, June). A. Developmental relations between Turkish preschool children's theory of mind skills and their ability to track character references in narrative discourse. Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society (JPS), Chicago, Illinois.

Ünlütak, B. & Aksu-Koç, A. (2013, April). Developmental relations between reference to characters in narrative discourse and theory of mind skills. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Seattle, Washington, (April 18-21, 2013).

Ünlütak, B. & Aksu-Koç, A. (2012, September). Developmental relations between reference to characters in narratives and theory of mind. Paper presented at the 16th International Conference on Turkish Linguistics, Ankara, Turkey.

Ünlütak, B. & Aksu-Koç, A. (2012, April). Okul öncesi çocukların anlatılarındaki kişi gönderimlerinin dinleyici açısından anlaşılabilirliği ile işlem belleği ve zihin kuramı arasındaki gelişimsel ilişki. Paper presented at the National Congress of Psychology, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Gagnier, K. M., Holochwost, S. J., & Fisher, K. R., **Ünlütak, B.** (2019). Formative Evaluation of the Science of Teaching and School Leadership Academy Year 3. Technical Report produced by the Science of Learning Institute for the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

01/11/2020- **Examining children's questions and parents' responses**

Present **about the COVID-19 pandemic in Turkey**

Funding: Nuh Naci Yazgan University Scientific Research Projects (BAP) Support

Role: Principal Investigator

10/04/2018 – **A Spatially-enhanced Elementary Curriculum and Teacher Supports**

15/09/2019 **to Improve Science Success**

Funding: Institute of Educational Sciences (IES)

Role: Post-doctoral research fellow

Principal Investigators: Dr. Kelly Fisher and Dr. Kristin Gagnier from Science of Learning

Institute at Johns Hopkins University

01/05/2015 – **Using National Datasets to Answer Questions about Early Childhood Development**

01/08/2015 **Funding: Lehigh University Summer Research Project**

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Principal Investigators: Dr. Ageliki Nicolopoulou, Dr. Amanda Brandone from Psychology

Department and Dr. Patricia Manz and Dr. Brook Sawyer from College of Education at Lehigh University.

01/09/2013 – **Read, Play, and Promote (RIPPLE) Project**

01/08/ 2014 **Funding: Institute of Educational Sciences (IES)**

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Principal Investigators: Dr. Ageliki Nicolopoulou from Lehigh University, Dr. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek from Temple University, Dr. Roberta Golinkoff from University of Delaware and Dr. David

Dickinson from Vanderbilt University

01/11/2011 – **Istanbul Twin Study**

01/06/2012 Funding: The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

Role: Part-time Research Assistant

Principal Investigator: Dr. Nihan Ketrez from Istanbul Bilgi University

01/11/2008 – **The development of spontaneous gesture systems in deaf children in four cultures**

01/08/2009 **Funding: National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Role: Part-time Research Assistant

Principle Investigator: Dr. Aslı Özyürek from Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics and Dr. Susan Goldin Meadow from the University of Chicago

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020 Early Career Travel Award, International Society of Behavioral Development (ISSBD)

2017 Lehigh University Doctoral Travel Grant for Global Opportunities

2016-17 Lehigh University Strohl Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2015 Lehigh University Mountaintop Summer Research Fellowship

2012 The Turkish Fulbright Commission - Fulbright Opportunity Funds Program

2008-10 Turkey Higher Education Scholarship

2008 Ranked 2nd English Language and Literature Department at Boğaziçi University
2006-08 Boğaziçi University Achievement Scholarship
2004-08 Mehmet Zorlu Foundation Scholarship
2004 Ranked 125th in Nationwide University Entrance Exam among 1.7 million students, Turkey

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

- 2021, June-July **Creative Science Writing Workshop**
Dalian University of Technology, China.
Role: Instructor
- 2019, September **Teaching Academy Certificate of Completion**
Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning & Johns Hopkins University.
Role: Training Fellow
- 2019, July **Science of Teaching and School Leadership Academy**
(Audience: K-12 educators and school leaders).
Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning and Johns Hopkins University.
Role: Coordinator
- 2018, July **“Seeing Science in Action.” Science of Teaching and School Leadership Academy**
(Audience: K-12 educators and school leaders).
Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning and Johns Hopkins University.
Baltimore, MD.
Role: Coordinator.
- 2018, September **“Playing with Space” Teacher Professional Development Workshop - Trainer Focus Group**
(Audience: Head Start teachers). Baltimore, MD, USA.
Role: Training Fellow.

SUPERVISING AND MENTORING

- İlayda Velioglu, M.A. in Developmental Psychology, Kadir Has University, Istanbul Turkey (01/11/2020-present)
Topic: Children’s questions and parents’ responses about the Covid-19 pandemic in Turkey.
- Yağmur Leba, B.A. in Early Childhood Education, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (01/01/2020 – present)
Topic: Online dialogic book reading activities for children from low-SES backgrounds
- İdil Türkecul, B.A. in Turkish Language and Literature, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (01/01/2020 – present)
Topic: Maternal narrative styles in Turkish cultural context
- Berk Tuzcu, B.A. in Electrical Engineering and Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey (01/07/2020 – present)
Topic: Parent-child explanatory talk during mealtime conversations
- Kiley Mckee, B.A. in Cognitive Science, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (15/04/2018-15/09/2019)
Topic: Developing a spatially-enhanced 3rd-grade science curriculum

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board

2019 *Journal of Childhood, Education & Society*

Ad-hoc Peer Review Service

2018 *Cognitive Development*

2017 *Eastern Psychological Association*

OTHER WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Writer and editor at Boğaziçi Magazine, Boğaziçi University Alumni Association (BUMED), Istanbul, 2010-2012

Translator, Hurriyet Daily News, Istanbul, 2008-2012

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (pre-intermediate better in reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Cognitive Development Society

Jean Piaget Society

International Congress for the Study of Child Language

Society of Research in Child Development

International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020-2021 Life-Span Development (PSYC 206), Koç University

2019-2020 Theories of Child Development I & II (PRED 103 & 104), Boğaziçi University

2020 Language and Literacy Development in Early Years (PRED 214), Boğaziçi University

2020 Psychological and Social Processes in Language Development (PSYC 350), Koç University

2019 Research Methods in Child and Family Studies (PRED 411), Boğaziçi University

2019 Advanced Research Methods and Data Analysis (Graduate Level) (PSYC 501), Kadir Has University

2017 Child Development (PSYC 107), Lehigh University

REFERENCES

Tilbe Göksun, Ph.D.: Associate Professor of Psychology, Koç University (tgöksun@ku.edu.tr)

Aslı Erciyes, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor of Psychology, Kadir Has University (asli.erciyes@khas.edu.tr)

Ageliki Nicolopoulou, Ph.D.; Professor of Psychology, Lehigh University(agn3@lehigh.edu)

Ayhan Aksu-Koç, Ph.D.; Professor of Psychology, Boğaziçi University (koc@boun.edu.tr)

Amanda Brandone, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Psychology, Lehigh University (acb210@lehigh.edu)

Christopher Burke, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Psychology, Lehigh University (tb208@lehigh.edu)