

Simge Altınok

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ResearchGate: [\[link\]](#)

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I. RESEARCH TOPICS:

- Numerical Cognition, Mathematics Anxiety, Mental Number Line, Learning, Time Perception, Reward System, Functional Neuroimaging, Functional Connectivity, Diffusion Tensor Imaging.

II. SKILLS:

- MRI scanning, fMRI data analysis with SPM and MarsBaR, PPI analysis, MRICron, Resting-state data analysis with CONN, DTI analysis with FSL, Psychtoolbox, SPSS, JASP.

III. EDUCATION:

(2019 – 2025) **Ankara University Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Graduate Program**

PhD Ankara, Turkey

(2014 - 2017) **Dokuz Eylül University Clinical Neuroscience**

Master's Degree İzmir, Turkey

(2010 - 2014) **Hacettepe University Department of Psychology**

Bachelor's Degree Ankara, Turkey

IV. PUBLICATIONS:

Articles Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. **Altınok, S., & Çiçek, M.** (2026). From Numerical Perception to Mathematics Anxiety: Insights from Neuroimaging Evidence. *Journal of Ankara University Faculty of Medicine*, 79(1), 118-129.
2. **Altınok, S., Üstün, S., Aktaş, K., Apaydın, N., & Çiçek, M.** (2025). Mathematics Anxiety Selectively Modulates Attentional and Memory-Related Neural Mechanisms During Numerical Cognition. *bioRxiv*.
3. **Altınok, S., Vatansever, G., Apaydın, N., Üstün, S., Kale, E. H., Çelikağ, İ., Devrimci-Özgüven, H., Baskak, B., & Çiçek, M.** (2023). Reward Processing Alters the Time Perception Networks in Patients with Major Depressive Disorder. *Timing & Time Perception*, 11(1-4), 301-321.
4. **Altınok, S., Vatansever, G., Üstün, S., Kale, E. H., & Çiçek, M.** (2022). Protocol to examine the neural basis of symbolic and non-symbolic quantity processing in human brain with fMRI. *STAR Protocols*, 3(4):101673.

Abstracts Presented and Published in International Congresses

1. Alptekin, K., **Altınok, S.**, Ulas, H., Degirmencioglu, B. & Akded, B. (2018). Relation Between Early-Onset Psychosis and Formal Thought Disorder In Schizophrenia. Poster Presentation. The 6th Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference, Florence, Italy.
2. Vatansever, G., **Altınok, S.**, Apaydın, N., Üstün, S., Kale, E. H., Çelikağ, İ., Devrimci-Özgüven, H., Baskak, B., & Çiçek, M. (2023). Timing Performance is Impaired in The Presence of Reward via the Cortico-Striatal-Thalamic Network in Major Depressive Disorder. Poster Presentation. FENS Regional Meeting, Algarve, Portugal.
3. **Altınok, S.**, Aktaş, K., Üstün, S., Apaydın, N., & Çiçek, M. (2024). Distinct neural mechanisms in mental number line and arithmetic operations are not affected by mathematics anxiety. Poster Presentation. 4-7 September, FEPS-SECF Congress, Granada, Spain.

4. **Altınok, S.**, Aktaş, K., Üstün, S., Apaydın, N., & Çiçek, M. (2024). The relationship between mathematics anxiety and the neural mechanisms underlying different levels of numerical processing. Oral Presentation. 19-21 September, 2nd International Congress On Math Learning Difficulties, Ankara, Türkiye.
5. **Altınok, S.**, Vatansever, G., Üstün, S., Çetinkaya, F., Gümüş-Akay, G., & Çiçek, M. (2024). The psychophysiological response to psychosocial stress is correlated with the structural integrity of the amygdala and putamen. Poster Presentation. 5-9 October, SFN Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA.

Abstracts Presented and Published in National Congresses

1. **Altınok S**, Apaydın N, Üstün S, Kale EH, Çelikağ İ, Özgüven HD, Baskak B, & Çiçek M. (2020). The association between neural correlates of time perception and reward anticipation in patients with major depressive disorder. Poster Presentation. 6-9 November, 18th National Neuroscience Congress, Ankara, Türkiye.
2. **Altınok S**, Üstün S, Aktaş K, Apaydın N, & Çiçek M. (2025). The effect of maths anxiety and implementation of training on brain activity during numerical tasks. Oral Presentation. 11-13 September, 2nd National Neuroimaging Congress, Ankara, Türkiye.

V. RESEARCH PROJECTS

- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye – TÜBİTAK 1001 project titled “The Effect of Social Stress on Time Perception: An Epigenetic and Brain Imaging Study” – Project Scholar (1.3.2023 – 1.9.2023)
- Health Institutes of Türkiye (TUSEB) – TUSEB Project titled “The effect of maths anxiety and implementation of training on brain activity during numerical tasks” – Project Scholar (1.9.2023 – 28.04.2025)
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye – TÜBİTAK 1001 project titled “Evaluation of the common mechanisms of space, time, and number perceptions from the perspective of the theory of magnitude and the metric error monitoring: A neuroimaging and neuromodulation study” – Project Scholar (25.06.2025 – 15.12.2025)

- Ankara University Scientific Research Projects Coordination Office (BAP) – Project titled “Parkinson Hastalığında Diffüzyon Tensor Görüntüleme ile Beyin Mikroyapısal Değişikliklerinin İncelenmesi” – Researcher (23.06.2025 – Present)

VI. AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Council of Higher Education (Turkey) 100/2000 PhD Scholarship, 4-year scholarship awarded within the scope of the Human Brain and Neuroscience study field, 2019 – 2023.

VII. TRAINING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

Training Experiences

- Lecturer, “Psychophysiological Interaction and Demonstration with SPM12,” included in the course “*SPM Course: Basic fMRI and Connectivity Analyses*,” 20th National Neuroscience Congress, Istanbul, 2022.
- Lecturer, “How Can Neuroscience Help Us Understand Mathematics Anxiety?” presented as part of the TÜBİTAK 4005 Project “*Reflection of Neuroscience Findings in the Mathematics Classroom Environment*,” organized by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Sakarya, 2024.
- Instructor, “Human Neuroimaging and fMRI Lab: Functional MRI Applications in Cognitive Neuroscience,” COST Action CA20104 Training School, Ankara, 2024.
- Lecturer, “Fundamentals of fMRI Data Analysis,” included in the course “*Task-Based fMRI*,” 2nd National Neuroimaging Congress, Ankara, 2025.
- Lecturer, “Task-Based fMRI Essentials,” 1st International Neuronal Energy Dynamics Congress, Ankara, 2025.

Teaching Experiences

- Lecturer for DTI analysis sessions in the course *Connectivity Analysis in Brain Imaging*, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience PhD Program, Ankara University (2023–2025).
- Lecturer, *Physiological Foundations of Behavior* (taught in English/Turkish), Department of Psychology, Başkent University (Spring 2025).
- Lecturer, *Psychology of Learning* (taught in English), Department of Psychology, Atılım University (Spring 2026).

- Lecturer, *Physiological Psychology* (taught in English), Department of Psychology, Ankara Bilim University (Spring 2026).

Conference Organization Experiences

- Member of the organizing committee at the *National Neuroimaging Congress and the 2nd German-Turkish Joint Human Neuroscience Symposium* held in Ankara between 7-9 September 2023.