

Uğur C. Özküsen, MA

PhD Student | University of Pittsburgh | ugur.ozkusen@pitt.edu | he/him

Education

University of Pittsburgh MS/PhD in Social Psychology Advisor: <i>Dr. Joel Le Forestier</i>	2025-Present
New York University M.A. in Psychology Thesis: <i>When are Conservatives as Tolerant of Refugees as Liberals?</i> Advisor: <i>Dr. Ashwini Ashokkumar</i>	2023-2025
Özyeğin University B.A. in Psychology, Minor in International Relations	2016-2022
Universität Osnabrück International Student Exchange Program, Cognitive Neuroscience	2020

Positions

Graduate Student Fellow , Harvard University We-Search Lab <i>PI: Dr. Ashwini Ashokkumar</i>	Cambridge, MA Aug 2025-Present
Lab Manager (remote) , University of Groningen Koc Social Identities Lab <i>PI: Dr. Yasin Koç</i>	Groningen, The Netherlands Mar 2022-Sep 2023
Lab Manager , Özyeğin University The CAPABLE Lab <i>PI: Dr. Celia K. N. Şen</i>	Istanbul, Turkey Oct 2018-June 2020

Honors, Fellowships, Grants & Awards

2025-2026	Arts & Sciences Fellowship, The University of Pittsburgh	\$ 73,801
2025	Graduate Research Grant, Psi Chi	\$ 1,500
2025	Graduate Conference Travel Award, Psi Chi	\$ 1,500
2024	Graduate Registration Stipend, Society for Personality and Social Psychology	\$ 500
2024	Master-Mentorship Award for Master's Thesis, NYU (awarded, declined)	\$ 1,000
2024	Masters Research Conference, NYU, 2 nd place	\$ 150
2023-2025	Fulbright Program Foreign Student Grant	\$ 100,000
2022	Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival, Özyeğin University, 1 st place	\$ 100
2021	Erasmus+ Traineeship Grant (awarded, declined)	\$ 1,830
2020	Erasmus+ Study Mobility (awarded, declined)	\$ 1,330
2019	Undergraduate Research Grant, The Study of the U.S. Institutes Program	\$ 1,000
2016-2022	Full Tuition Scholarship, Özyeğin University	\$ 105,000

Publications

Szkody, E., ..., **Özküsen, U. C.**, ..., et al. (2024). Social support and help-seeking worldwide. *Current Psychology*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-024-05764-5>

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (In prep). *Beyond left and right: Support for*

Presentations

Conference Posters

Özküsen, U. C., Le Forestier, J. M. (July, 2026). *Which identities do people perceive as conflicting?* **Poster accepted** at the Bi-annual Social Identity Meeting, Canterbury, UK.

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (February, 2026). *Beyond left and right: Support for Syrian refugees in Turkey.* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Chicago, IL.

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (February, 2025). *When are conservatives as tolerant of refugees as liberals?* Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Denver, CO.

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (February, 2025). *When are conservatives as tolerant of refugees as liberals?* Poster presented at the Group Processes and Intergroup Relations preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Denver, CO.

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (February, 2025). *When are conservatives as tolerant of refugees as liberals?* Poster presented at the Political Psychology preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology convention, Denver, CO.

Other Posters

Özküsen, U. C. (March, 2026). *Who truly welcomes refugees?* Poster presented at the Arts and Sciences Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh.

Özküsen, U. C., Özdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (May, 2024). *When are conservatives as tolerant of refugees as liberals?* The Annual NYU Psychology Master's Research Conference, New York University.

Özküsen, U. C. (April, 2024). *Fostering intergroup contact in schools: Reducing prejudice toward marginalized groups.* GSAS Threesis Academic Challenge, New York University.

Özküsen, U. C. (June, 2022). *Gay-male identity integration, implicit association test, and the moderation effect of gay-male identity integration.* Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival, Özyeğin University.

Teaching Experiences

Recitation Instructor, New York University

PSYCH-UA.30, Personality Psychology: *Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025*

Writing for Public Audiences

Positive Interactions on Social Media Might Help Reduce Prejudice

[2025](#)

Character & Context, SPSP

Supervision and Mentorship

Undergraduate Thesis Committees

2026-2027 John Myers

Mentorship

2026 Graduate Mentor, SPSP Diversity and Climate Committee's Diversity Undergraduate Mentoring Event

2025-2026 Graduate Mentor, The Psychology Partnership for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Program, University of Pittsburgh

2018 Peer Advisor, Özyeğin University

Service

2026 Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer (co-reviewer with advisor), *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: IRGP*

2025-Present Co-organizer, Psychology Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Community LGBTQ+ Affinity Group

2023-2024 Co-president, Social Psychology Club, New York University

2021- 2022 President & Charter member, Psi Chi Özyeğin University Chapter

2020 Cultural Ambassador, The Study of the U.S. Institutes Program

2019 The Global Student Leader, The Study of the U.S. Institutes Program, Bard College

2017-2019 Tutor, The Unit for Students with Disabilities, Özyeğin University

2017-2022 Co-founder, LGBTIQ+ Club, Özyeğin University

Professional Affiliations

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Psi Chi the International Honor Society in Psychology