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Uğur C. Özküsen, MA

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

Education

University of Pittsburgh 2025-Present
MS/PhD in Social Psychology
Advisor: *Dr. Joel Le Forestier*

New York University 2023-2025
MA in Psychology
Thesis: *When are Conservatives as Tolerant of Refugees as Liberals?*
Advisor: *Dr. Ashwini Ashokkumar*

Özyeğin University 2016-2022
BA in Psychology, Minor in International Relations

Universität Osnabrück 2020
International Student Exchange Program, Cognitive Neuroscience

Positions

Graduate Research Fellow, Harvard University — Cambridge, MA
We-Search Lab | *PI: Dr. Ashwini Ashokkumar* — Aug 2025-Present

Lab Manager (remote), University of Groningen — Groningen, The Netherlands
Koc Social Identities Lab | *PI: Dr. Yasin Koç* — Mar 2022-Sep 2023

Lab Manager, Özyeğin University — Istanbul, Turkey
The CAPABLE Lab | *PI: Dr. Celia K. N. Şen* — Oct 2018-June 2020

Honors, Fellowships, Grants & Awards

2025-2026	Arts & Sciences Fellowship, The University of Pittsburgh	$ 73,800
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	Master's Research Conference, NYU, 2nd place	$ 150
2023-2025	Fulbright Program Foreign Student Grant	$ 100,000
2022	Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival, Özyeğin University, 1st 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 Syrian refugees in Turkey.*

Presentations

Conference Posters

Özküsen, U. C. & Le Forestier, J. M. (February 2027). *Combining multiple psychological interventions to reduce prejudice: A machine learning study*. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Özküsen, U. C. & Le Forestier, J. M. (February 2027). *How do we perceive others' multiple identities: The development of Perceived Identity Integration Scale*. Poster to be presented at the Self & Identity Preconference of the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Özküsen, U. C. & Le Forestier, J. M. (July 2026). *Which identities do people perceive as conflicting?* Poster presented 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 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Chicago, Illinois.

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 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, Colorado.

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 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, Colorado.

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 annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, Colorado.

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. (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, *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*
2026	Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer (co-reviewer with advisor), *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: IRGP*
2026	Conference Submission Reviewer, Society for Personality and Social Psychology Undergraduate and Single Presenter Posters
2026-Present	Co-leader, Psychology Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Community LGBTQ+ Affinity Group, University of Pittsburgh
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

International Society of Political Psychology

International Society for Self and Identity

Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology