

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., ..., **Ozkusen, U. C.**, ..., et al. (2024). Social support and help-seeking worldwide. *Current Psychology*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-024-05764-5>
- Ozkusen, U. C.**, Ozdemir, F., Swann Jr, W., Ashokkumar, A. (In prep). *Beyond left and right: attitudes toward Syrian refugees in Turkey's political landscape*. <https://osf.io/wuxf5/overview>

Presentations

Conference Posters

Ozkusen, U. C., Ozdemir, 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.

Ozkusen, U. C., Ozdemir, 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.

Ozkusen, U. C., Ozdemir, 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

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

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

Ozkusen, 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 (Online).

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

Service

2025-Present	Member, Psychology Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Community LGBTQ+ Affinity Group
2025-Present	Graduate Mentor, The Psychology Partnership for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Program, 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
2018	Peer Advisor, Özyeğin University

2017-2019 Tutor, The Unit for Students with Disability, Özyeğin University
2017-2022 Co-founder, LGBTIQ+ Club, Özyeğin University

Professional Affiliations

The Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Psi Chi the International Honor Society in Psychology