

Begüm Gülbeden Babürbabur@usc.edu**EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles, USA Aug 2023 – *exp.* 2028
 PhD in Social Psychology
 Advisor: Elisa Baek, PhD

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles, USA Aug 2025
 Master of Science in Social Psychology

Thesis: Do Lonely Individuals Process the World Idiosyncratically?: A Replication Study

BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York, USA May 2021
 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Minor in Statistics GPA: 3.88/4.00
Magna Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: Influence of Motivational Fit on the Choices Made for the Self & Someone Else
 Advisor: Niall Bolger, PhD

PUBLICATIONS

Babür, B.G., Leong, Y.C., Pan, C.X., & Hackel, L.M. (2024). Neural responses to social rejection reflect dissociable learning about relational value and reward. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(49), e240002212. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2400022121>.

Ma de Sousa, A. Q., Schwyck, M. E., Furtado Fernandes, L., Ford, E., **Babür, B. G.**, Lu, C., Zimmerman, J. C., Yu, H., Burns, S. M., & Baek, E. C. (2025). Loneliness is associated with unstable and distorted emotion transition predictions. *Communications Psychology*, 3(1), 132.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Babür, B.G. & Baek, E.C. (2024). Neuroscience of social connection and subjective well-being. In J. Maddux (Ed.), *Subjective Well-Being: A Social Psychological Perspective* (2nd ed., pp. 61-77), Routledge.

INVITED TALKS

- 2026** Aug. Invited Symposium Speaker. “Learning who values us: A computational model of social belief updating” at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Neuroscience (Montreal, Canada)
- 2025** Oct. Invited Speaker. “Individual Differences in Navigating Social Interactions: Evidence from the Brain, Behavior, and Language” at Dartmouth College, Social Computation Representation And Prediction Lab Meeting (virtual)
- Mar. Invited Speaker. “Introduction to Social Neuroscience” at the USC Undergraduate Social Psychology Course
- Feb. Invited Speaker. “Neural and Linguistic Markers of Loneliness” at USC Brain and Cognitive Sciences Admitted Students Day
- Feb. Invited Speaker. “Learning from Social Rejection and Acceptance” at University of California San Diego, Impression in Action Lab Meeting (virtual)
- 2024** Nov. Invited Speaker. “Learning from Social Rejection and Acceptance” at USC

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Babür, B.G., Lu, C., Zimmerman, J. C., & Baek, E.C. (2026) How loneliness relates to emotion perception: Divergence in mental state inferences. Presented at the Social & Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS) in San Diego, CA.

Babür, B.G., Leong, Y. C., & Hackel, L. M. (2026) Rewarding social outcomes shape learning from acceptance and rejection. Presented at the Society for Affective Science (SAS) in Pittsburgh, PA.

Babür, B.G. & Baek, E.C. (2026) Loneliness in everyday language: Evidence from daily diary studies. Presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in Chicago, IL.

Babür, B.G. & Baek, E.C. (2025) How loneliness manifests in everyday language: A daily diary study. Presented at SANS in Chicago, IL.

Babür, B.G., Leong, Y.C., & Hackel, L.M. (2025) A computational account of individual differences in learning from social rejection and acceptance. Presented at SANS in Chicago, IL.

Babür, B.G., Lu, C., Zimmerman, J.C., & Baek, E.C. (2025) Is loneliness linked with idiosyncratic neural processing and language use? Results from a replication study. Presented at SPSP in Denver, CO.

Babür, B.G., Harris, K., Rahmati, E., Tsaprazlis, E., & Zong, M. (2024) Detecting reciprocity in conversations using LLMs and participant perceptions. Presented at Text as Data Poster Session at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA.

Babür, B.G., Pan, C.X., Leong, Y.C., & Hackel, L.M. (2024). Neural responses to social rejection reflect dissociable learning about relational value and reward. Presented at Society for Neuroeconomics (SNE) in Cascais, Portugal.

Babür, B.G., Lu, C., Zimmerman, J.C., & Baek, E.C. (2024) Idiosyncratic neural responses in lonely individuals: A cross-community investigation. Presented at SANS in Toronto, Canada.

Babür, B.G. & Baek, E.C. (2024) More Friends, More Loneliness? Qualities for a Fulfilling Social Life. Presented at SPSP in San Diego, CA.

Babür, B.G., Pan, C.X., Leong, Y.C., & Hackel, L. (2023) Learning from Social Acceptance: Distinct Roles for Reward Learning and Theory of Mind. Presented at SPSP in Atlanta, GA.

Babür, B.G., Goldring, M., & Bolger, N. (2021). Influence of Motivational Fit on Choices for the Self and Someone Else. Honors Thesis Presented at the Barnard College Thesis Defense.

Babür, B.G., Goldring, M., & Bolger, N. (2021). Influence of Motivational Fit on Choices for the Self and Someone Else. Poster presented at SPSP Virtual Convention.

Babür, B.G., Yeoh, K.D., Alvarez, S., Goldring, M., & Bolger, N. (2020). Explaining Differences in Decisions for the Self and Someone Else: Social Value Theory as an Explanatory Mechanism. Poster presented at SPSP 2020 in New Orleans, LA.

AWARDS

USC Psychology Department Doctoral Research Grant (\$3000)	2026
Graduate Student Government Professional Development Fund (\$500)	2025, 2026
Dornsife Ph.D. Academy Research Fund (\$500)	2025, 2026
USC Psychology Department Doctoral Research Grant (\$2000)	2025
USC Center for Computational Language Sciences Seed Funding (\$3000)	2024
USC Department Travel Award (\$1250)	2024, 2025, 2026
SPSP Diversity Graduate Travel Award	2024

08/03/2026

Hollingworth Prize for Outstanding Research in Psychology (Barnard College)

2021

SPSP Diversity Undergraduate Travel Award

2020, 2021, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Shared Reality Virtual Mini Conference	Feb, 2024, 2025
USC jsPsych Programming Workshop	July, 2022
Columbia Daily Diary and Multilevel Modeling Workshop	November, 2020
NYU Virtual Research Internship Program	August 10 – 14, 2020
Stanford Social Neuroscience Lab Professional Development Workshop Series	August, 2020
Harvard Human Flourishing Program: Meaning of Life Conference	April 19-20, 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Ad-Hoc Reviewing: Communications Psychology

Professional Development Chair, Graduate Students' Association in Psychology May 2026 – *present*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for USC Undergraduate Classes in Psychology	
Introduction to Psychology	Fall 2023, Fall 2025
Non-Experimental Research Methods	Spring 2024
Music, Mind, and the Brain	Spring 2026
Statistics	Fall 2026

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Psychology Departmental Honors and Distinction (Barnard College)	2021
Psi Chi Honor Society	2020-2021

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Technical Skills: R, PsychoPy, SPSS, MATLAB, SPM, Qualtrics, Adobe Suite

Neuroimaging & Physiology: fMRI, ECG, IMP, BP

Languages: Turkish (Native), French (Intermediate – DELF B2)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Social & Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS); Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)
Society for Neuroeconomics (SNE); Society for Social Neuroscience (S4SN);
Society for Affective Science (SAS)

POPULAR PRESS & MEDIA COVERAGE

The Academic Minute (September 30, 2025), Student Spotlight University of Southern California
Dornsife Week: "Your Brain Learns From Rejection" <https://academicminute.org/begum-g-babur-university-of-southern-california-dornsife-your-brain-learns-from-rejection/>

The Conversation (June 9, 2025), "Your brain learns from rejection – here's how it becomes your compass for connection" <https://theconversation.com/your-brain-learns-from-rejection-heres-how-it-becomes-your-compass-for-connection-249124>

- Republished at USC Dornsife News (June 10, 2025)
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/your-brain-learns-from-rejection-heres-how-it-becomes-your-compass-for-connection/>

USC Today (December 6, 2024), "What social rejection teaches your brain"
<https://today.usc.edu/what-social-rejection-teaches-your-brain/>