

Begüm Gülbeden Babür

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EDUCATION

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 and Someone Else

Advisor: Niall Bolger, PhD

ROBERT COLLEGE, Istanbul, Turkey

2012-2017

High Honors

GPA: 92.0/100

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lab Manager, University of Southern California – Los Angeles, USA

Aug 2021 - present

PIs: Leor Hackel, PhD; Wendy Wood, PhD and Elisa Baek, PhD

- Coordinated an fMRI study questioning how individuals learn to connect with others through social rejection and acceptance and investigated the dissociable roles of outcomes and intentions.
- Preprocessed and analyzed neuroimaging data of 40 subjects and discovered that the brain tracks both learning from outcomes and intentions.
- Devised a 3-part study investigating the relationship between individuals' well-being and their sensitivity to social rejection, using individual difference measures, a reinforcement learning task measuring social learning, and daily diary surveys.
- Co-led and co-designed habit intervention study to reduce screen time on smartphone applications by introducing friction in accessing selected apps. Tracked participants' screen time data for 3 weeks. Discovered that participants overvalue the role of self-control and motivation, while discounting the impact of friction.
- Monitored participants' Twitter scrolling behavior in the lab investigate whether intermittent reward schedules prompt participants with weak scrolling habits to scroll for longer on Twitter.
- Audited a graduate level Introduction to fMRI course; learned fMRI physics, analyses techniques, and experimental design. Certified to independently conduct fMRI scans.
- Supervised research assistants in their projects, organized lab meetings, held journal clubs to read about the current literature, and led programming and statistics workshops for undergraduates.

Research Assistant, Couples Lab, Columbia University – New York, USA

2018 – 2021

PI: Niall Bolger, PhD

- Initiated a senior research thesis examining the moderating role of regulatory fit in self-other decision-making processes with a Bayesian linear probability model.
- Conducted multilevel mediation analysis in R to investigate the underlying mechanism of Social Value Theory. Prepared a poster and presented findings at the SPSP Convention.
- Applied physiological sensors (ECG, Impedance, Blood Pressure) to participants, acquired audiovisual data, measured interoceptive accuracy to measure the effect of shared reality on participants' stress appraisal and performance on difficult tasks.
- Surveyed participants in the field on parents' decision-making for their children and themselves using the delay of gratification paradigm. Performed data entry and cleaning.
- Conducted literature reviews on topics ranging from behavioral feeding interventions to promote healthy eating behaviors in children; surrogate decision-making in peer-peer and parent-child dyads in risky scenarios; the role of regulatory focus on surrogate decision-making.

Research Assistant, Bogazici University – Istanbul, Turkey August 2016
PI: Belma Haznedar, PhD

- Conducted literature reviews on phonological, morphological, and orthographical awareness in children, and psycholinguistics.
- Data entry and analysis of eye-tracking experiments measuring attention in children aged 6-11.

Research Assistant, Koc University – Istanbul, Turkey August 2015
PI: Aylin Kuntay, PhD

- Transcribed and coded video interviews of children to identify nonverbal markers of lying in spontaneous deceptive contexts.
- Conducted literature reviews on the acquisition of lying as a skill in kids and the theory of mind.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

Babur, B., 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.

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

Babur, B., 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

Hollingworth Prize for Outstanding Research in Psychology (Barnard College)	2021
SPSP Diversity Undergraduate Travel Award	2020, 2021, 2023
Tow Special Professional Opportunities Fund Recipient (Barnard College)	2020
Student Life Leadership Development Grant (Barnard College)	2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

Graduated with Psychology Departmental Honors and Distinction (Barnard College)	2021
Psi Chi Honor Society	2020
Schvidler Fellow (Barnard College)	2019
Dean's List (Barnard College)	2018 - 2020

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Technical Skills: JavaScript, MATLAB, SPM, FSLEyes, R, SPSS, SAS, SQL, Qualtrics, Adobe Suite,
Physiology Skills & Tools: fMRI, ECG, IMP, BP, BIOPAC: AcqKnowledge & MP160, EYELINK1000+
Languages: Turkish (Native), French (Intermediate)