

BELGIN UNAL

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🌐 belginunal.github.io/

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology (with minor in Quantitative Psychology)	<i>August 2019 - Present</i>
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign M.S. in Cognitive Psychology	<i>August 2019 - May 2022</i>
Bilkent University B.A., Psychology GPA: 3.98/4.00	<i>August 2014 - January 2019</i>
Minor Degree, Political Science GPA: 3.57/4.00	<i>January 2016 - January 2019</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign <i>Human Memory and Cognition Laboratory (Advisor: Aaron Benjamin, Ph.D.)</i>	<i>August 2019 - Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducting independent research on processes of memory and metacognition.	
Research Assistant, Bilkent University <i>Memory and Metacognition Laboratory (Advisor: Miri Besken, Ph.D.)</i>	<i>June 2016 - July 2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research was focused on mechanisms of metacognition. General responsibilities included designing experiments and stimuli, running participants, training research assistants, and data coding.	
Research Assistant Intern, University College Dublin <i>Attention and Memory Laboratory (Advisor: Ciara Greene, Ph.D.)</i>	<i>June 2018 - August 2018</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research was focused on false memory, misinformation effect, and the effects of perceptual load. Responsibilities included creating stimuli, literature review, and data coding.	
Research Assistant Intern, Koc University <i>Timing and Decision-Making Laboratory (Advisor: Fuat Balci, Ph.D.)</i>	<i>July 2017 - September 2017</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Research was focused on time perception and decision making processes of healthy controls and clinical subgroups. Responsibilities included designing an experiment and running participants.	

HONORS AND AWARDS

Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</i>	<i>Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021</i>
Top Scoring Student in the Department of Psychology <i>Bilkent University, Graduation with High Honor</i>	<i>Class of 2019</i>

Comprehensive Scholarship (100%)

August 2014 - January 2019

Awarded all comprehensive scholarship (tuition, monthly stipend, and health insurance for five years funded by Bilkent University).

Erasmus+ Study Mobility Program Grant

June 2018 - August 2018

University College Dublin, Ireland

TUBITAK 2209A / Research Projects Fellowship for Undergraduate Students

Term 2017

Project Title: Episodic Counterfactual Thinking and Memory: The Effects of Thinking “What Might Have Been” on Episodic Memory and Metamemory.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PSYC248 Learning and Memory

Summer 2022

Title: Teaching Assistant, Instructor: Aaron Benjamin

BCOG200 Introduction to Programming for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences with Python

Spring 2022

Title: Teaching Assistant, Instructor: Babu Adhimoolum

PSYC 100 Introduction to Psychology

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

Title: Instructor, Coordinator: Lisa Travis

PSYC 230 Sensation and Perception

Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Title: Teaching Assistant, Instructor: Simona Lleras Buetti & Alejandro Lleras

PSYC 398 Junior Honors Seminar

Spring 2019

Title: Teaching Assistant, Instructor: Frances Wang

PSYC 205 Statistics I & II

Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Title: Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Instructor: Sezer Kadayıfçılar

SKILLS

Data Analysis and Visualization:

R, Python, SPSS, JASP

Experiment Design:

MATLAB, Python, Qualtrics, jsPsych

Language:

Turkish (native proficiency), English (professional working proficiency)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Papers:

- Ünal, B., & Besken, M. (2020). Blessedly forgetful and blissfully unaware: a positivity bias in memory for (re)constructions of imagined past and future events. *Memory*, 28, 888-899.

Presentations:

- Ünal, B. (2022, April). *Improving Contact Tracing with Directed Recall*. Presentation at the Cognitive Brownbag at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.
- Ünal, B. (2020, September). *What is the content of Judgments of Learning? Evidence from a test of exclusion*. Presentation at the Cognitive Brownbag at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

AFFILIATIONS

Psychonomic Society – Graduate Student Member

CERTIFICATES

- Graduate Teacher Certificate - *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*
- Data Visualization - *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Computer Science - via Coursera*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Bilkent University's Social Awareness Projects – Friends Without Barriers

Providing necessary psychological support to mentally disabled individuals