

OYA SERBEST

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EDUCATION

2022-Present	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA, CA , United States PhD in Psychological and Brain Sciences <i>Division:</i> Developmental and Evolutionary Psychology <i>Advisor:</i> Dr. Zoe Liberman <i>Expected Graduation:</i> August 2027
2020-2023	BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY , Istanbul, Turkey MA in Psychological Sciences with a focus on Developmental Psychology <i>Advisor:</i> Dr. Gaye Soley <i>GPA:</i> 4.00/4.00
Sept. 2015-June 2020	BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY , Istanbul, Turkey BA in Psychology with high honors <i>GPA:</i> 3.92/4.00 <i>Awards:</i> Valedictorian in the Psychology Department, Top 3 rd in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Apr. 2019-July 2019	FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN , Berlin, Germany Erasmus program for one semester
Sept. 2010-May 2015	CAGALOGLU HIGH SCHOOL , Istanbul Turkey <i>GPA:</i> 92/100, Top 6 th in class Top 4 th high school in Turkey, recognized as German International School (Deutsche Auslandsschule)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (PHD)

Sept. 2022-Present	SOCIAL COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, UC SANTA BARBARA Graduate Research Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Principal Investigator:</i> Dr. Zoe Liberman Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of belief-based judgmentsThe impact of diversity exposure on social categorization (Funded by National Science Foundation, PI: Dr. Zoe Liberman)
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PUBLICATIONS

- * *Indicates student author.* Payir, A., Soley, G., **Serbest, O.***, Corriveau, K. H., & Harris, P. L. (2024). Religious polarization and the justification of belief in invisible scientific versus religious entities. *Child Development, 95*(5), 1723–1738. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14118>
- ¹ *Indicates co-authorship.* Kurupınar, M.*¹, **Serbest, O.***¹, Yılmaz, D.*¹, & Soley, G. (2024). Children's expectations about the stability of others' knowledge and preference states. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 240*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jecp.2023.105834>
- Öner, G. *, Oğuz, N. *, Çetin, Ö. *, Ersönmez, S. *, Karan, P. *, Kurupınar, M. *, **Serbest, O.*** & Soley, G. (2021). Online developmental research: Observations from moderated studies. *Boğaziçi University Journal of Education, 38*(1).

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED

- Serbest, O.*** & Soley, G. (under review). Religiosity matters: Developmental insights into biases against religious and non-religious groups.
- Serbest, O.***, Soley, G., & Liberman, Z. (under review). Robust anti-atheist bias in childhood: Cross-cultural evidence from Turkey and the United States.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Davoodi, T., Soley, G., **Serbest, O.***, & ... Finding comfort in scientific and religious messages.
- Serbest, O.***, Tompkins, R.*, & Liberman, Z. Exploring the exposure effect in social categorization.
- Serbest, O.***, ... & Liberman, Z. Children associate norm adherence with religiosity.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Research Methods (Lab Instructor: Fall 2022, Winter 2023)

Laboratory in Advanced Research Methods (Lab Instructor: Winter 2024, Spring 2024)
Close Relationships (Teaching Assistant: Spring 2023)
Evolution and Cognition (Teaching Assistant: Fall 2024)
Psychology of Conspiracy (Teaching Assistant: Winter 2025)
Laboratory in Developmental Psychology (Lab Instructor: Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

MENTORSHIP

Lily Weiss (2025-2026 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentee)
Emily Yau (2024-2025 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentee, awarded the UCSB Morgan Award for Academic Excellence)
Amelia Moore (2023-2024 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentee)
Lily Turkstra (2024-2025 Graduate Student Mentee in Teaching Assistant Advisory Program of UCSB PBS Department)
Celine Tsoi (2023-2024 Graduate Student Mentee in Teaching Assistant Advisory Program of UCSB PBS Department)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025	Conference Travel Grant, UC Santa Barbara
2024	Conference Travel Grant, UC Santa Barbara
2023	Conference Travel Grant, UC Santa Barbara
2020-2022	National MSc/MA Scholarship Program 2210/A, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
2020	Top 3 rd in the Arts & Sciences Faculty, Boğaziçi University
2020	Valedictorian, Psychology Department, Boğaziçi University
2020	High Honors, Boğaziçi University
2018	Boğaziçi University/Freie Universitaet Berlin Erasmus Fellowship

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Serbest, O.*, Yau, E.*, Liberman, Z. (2026, April). Cues of prosocial behavior reduce children's anti-atheist bias. Poster to be presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Serbest, O.*, Moore, A.*, Soley, G., & Liberman, Z. (2025, June). No God, no norms: Anti-atheist bias in early childhood. Talk given at the conference of the Human Behavior & Evolution Society, Atlantic City, NJ.

Serbest, O.* Moore, A.*, Soley, G., & Liberman, Z. (2025, May). Children use others' religiosity to predict their normative behaviors. Talk given at the Southern California Meeting on Investigations in Developmental Science, San Diego, CA.

Serbest, O.*, Moore, A., Soley, G., & Liberman, Z. (2025, May). Children use religious belief to determine who will follow and break norms. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, MN.

Serbest, O.*, Liberman, Z., & Soley, G. (2024, March). A cross-cultural comparison of the role of background religiosity in children's normative expectations from religious groups. Talk given at the preconference of "Developing Belief Network" at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Pasadena, CA.

Serbest, O.*, Liberman, Z., & Soley, G. (2024, March). Children expect atheists to be more likely to violate moral and conventional norms. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Pasadena, CA.

Serbest, O.*, Soley, G. (2023, June). Children's changing expectations from religious groups. Poster accepted at the annual meeting of the Jean Piaget Society, Madrid, Spain (declined).

Serbest, O.*, Payir, A., Soley, G., Harris, P. L., Corriveau, K. (2023, March). Children's judgments about what can really happen: Findings from Turkey. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Salt Lake City, UT.

Serbest, O.*, Payir, A., Soley, G., Harris, P. L., Corriveau, K. (April, 2022). *Religiosity, valuation of science, and belief in scientific phenomena in Turkey*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference, Madison, WI, USA.

Kurupınar, M*, **Serbest, O.***, Yilmaz, D.*, & Soley, G. (January, 2022). *Does familiarity matter in children's attributions of stability to others' knowledge and preference states?* Poster presented at the Budapest CEU Conference on Cognitive Development, Budapest, Hungary, virtual meeting.

Serbest, O.*, Yılmaz, D.*, Kurupınar, M.*, & Soley, G. (April, 2021). *Children's expectations about the stability of others' knowledge and preference states*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research in Child Development, virtual meeting.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (MASTERS & UNDERGRADUATE)

- Nov. 2017-Sept. 2022
Aug. 2021-Sept. 2022
- BABY & CHILD DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY**
Lab Manager & Graduate Research Assistant
- *Principal Investigator:* Dr. Gaye Soley
- Graduate Projects**
- The role of religious exposure in children's conceptualization of the invisible and the impossible - Turkey, the US, China, and Iran (Funded by John Templeton Foundation, co-PIs: Drs. Kathleen Corriveau, Paul L. Harris)
 - From reality to representation: Exploring the role of anxiety as a moderator in the development of beliefs about supernatural powers (Funded by John Templeton Foundation, co-PIs: Drs. Kathleen Corriveau, Telli Davoodi)
- Undergraduate Projects**
- ManyBabies Project on infant-directed speech
 - Child studies on children's perception of social groups (e.g., language, race, cultural knowledge)
- Sept. 2019-July 2020
- FAMILY & CHILD RESEARCH LABORATORY, BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY**
Undergraduate Research Assistant
- *Principal investigator:* Dr. Feyza Corapci
 - *Project:* Home Visitation Based Family Guidance Program – Istanbul95 Project on enhancing parenting skills of low-SES families with 1-3-year-old children (Funded by Bernard van Leer Foundation, PI: Feyza Çorapçı)
- July 2019-Aug. 2019
- PARENTAL ETHNOTHEORIES IN TURKEY PROJECT, BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY**
Undergraduate Research Assistant
- *Principal investigator:* Dr. Serra Muderrisoglu
 - *Project:* Socio-cultural and psychological antecedents and consequences of child-rearing styles across generations and developmental stages in Turkey (Funded by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey – “TUBITAK”, co-PI: Dr. Serra Müderrisoglu)
- July 2019-Aug. 2019
- COMPARATIVE DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY, FREIE UNIVERSITÄT**
Undergraduate Research Assistant
- *Principal investigators:* Drs. Katja Liebal and Manuela Ersson-Lembeck
- Projects**
- Eye-tracking study about emotion perception based on facial cues which is a collaboration of Freie Universität Berlin, Max Planck Institute, and University of Amsterdam
 - Investigation of evolutionary aspects of parenting styles in primates
- Oct. 2018-Dec. 2018
- SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY, BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY**
Undergraduate Research Assistant
- *Principal investigator:* Dr. Nur Soylu Yalcinkaya
 - *Project:* Gender differences and fragile masculinity in STEM

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

- Feb. 2020-Aug. 2020
- GUZEL GUNLER HEALTH SERVICES & YDY EDUCATION RESEARCH CONSULTING, ISTANBUL, TURKEY**
Clinical & Developmental & Neurodevelopmental Psychology Intern
- Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Yankı Yazgan
 - *Responsibilities:* Emphasis on neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., ASD and ADHD) and practice on assessment tools (e.g., CBCL, SRS, Conner's, SNAP etc.)
- Sept. 2019-Dec. 2019
- TOHUM AUTISM FOUNDATION, ISTANBUL, TURKEY**
Special Education Intern
- *Responsibilities:* Assistance during the implementation of the Princeton Child Development Institute (PCDI) model of special education on children with autism between 2-6 ages

- Jan. 2019-Mar. 2019 **AKADEMIK PSYCHIATRY & PSYCHOTHERAPY CENTER, ISTANBUL, TURKEY**
Clinical Psychology Intern
- Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Kemal Arıkan
 - *Responsibilities:* Practice on EEG, TMS and d-TMS for affective disorders
- Jan. 2019-Mar. 2019 **MOTHER & CHILD EDUCATION FOUNDATION (AÇEV), ISTANBUL, TURKEY**
NGO & Applied Psychology Intern
- *Responsibilities:* Qualitative analysis, project report assistance on National Mother Support Project and National Father Support Project targeting low-SES families

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 2015 – 2023 **BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER SPORTS CLUB**
CMAS 2* Professional Scuba Diver
- 2015 – 2018 **MUZİST ART AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION**
Piano Instructor, Early Childhood Music Education Instructor
- 2016-2017 **BOGAZICI UNIVERSITY MUSIC CLUB**
Piano Instructor
- 2016-2017 **PIANO RECITAL, ATCL (ASSOCIATE OF TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON)**
Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance (Teaching License in Music Education)
- 2014 **CAGALOĞLU HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL**
Head-organizer

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

- 2017-2018 **“GIVE A VOICE WITH MUSIC” PROJECT**
- Gave piano concerts at fundraising events organized as part of this social responsibility project which aims to deliver musical instruments to disadvantaged public schools in different regions of Turkey. Rewarded by JCI in 2016 (“Corporate Social Responsibility Award”).
- 2013-2014 **“THE ENVIRONMENT BUILDS BRIDGES” PROJECT**
- Collaboration between German and Turkish Federal Environmental Foundation on critical aspects of ongoing construction projects in Istanbul.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), German (Advanced, Deutsches Sprachdiplom II), Spanish (Beginner), Bulgarian (Beginner)
- Computer Skills: Microsoft Office, R, SPSS, JSON, Lookit, Jamovi, Audacity, Tobii Eye-Tracking, Qualtrics
- Interests: Art History, Piano, Dancing, Sculpture, Diving, Skiing, Tennis