

## ERCENUR ÜNAL

Nişantepe Mahallesi Orman Sokak 34794 Çekmeköy, Istanbul, Turkey

[Ercenur.Unal@ozyegin.edu.tr](mailto:Ercenur.Unal@ozyegin.edu.tr) • [labs.ozyegin.edu.tr/gelisim](http://labs.ozyegin.edu.tr/gelisim)

### EMPLOYMENT

---

- 2018- Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2016-2018 Postdoctoral Researcher  
Centre for Language Studies, Radboud University & Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands (Advisor: Aslı Özyürek)

### EDUCATION

---

- 2016 Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
(Advisor: Anna Papafragou)
- 2011 M.A., Developmental Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey  
(Advisor: Aylin C. Küntay)
- 2009 B.A., Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

- 2011-2016 NSF-funded Graduate Research Assistant  
Language and Cognition Lab, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
- 2007-2011 Research Assistant  
Language and Communication Development Lab, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

### HONORS AND AWARDS

---

- 2015-2016 Graduate Fellowship, University of Delaware Office of Graduate and Professional Education
- 2015 Dissertation Award, University of Delaware Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
- 2015, 2013 Professional Development Award, University of Delaware
- 2014 Finalist, Best Poster Award, 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language
- 2012 Paula Menyuk Travel Award, Boston University Conference on Language Development (merit-based)
- 2011 Excellence in Graduate Studies Award, Koç University Graduate School of Social Science and Humanities
- 2009-2011 Vehbi Koç Full Scholarship, Koç University
- 2009 Vehbi Koç Scholar, Koç University
- 2005-2008 Dean's Honor Roll, Koç University (earned six times)

## PUBLICATIONS

---

(\* denotes undergraduate or graduate student under my supervision)

### Peer reviewed journal articles

- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2020). Relations between language and cognition: Evidentiality and the sources of knowledge. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, 12, 112-135. doi:10.1111/tops.12355
- Ünal, E., Ji, Y. & Papafragou, A. (2019). From event representation to linguistic meaning. *Topics in Cognitive Science*, Special issue on event-predictive cognition. doi:10.1111/tops.12475
- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2019). How children identify events from visual experience. *Language, Learning and Development*, 15, 138-156. doi:10.1080/15475441.2018.1544075
- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2016). Interactions between language and mental representations. *Language Learning*, 66, 554-580. doi:10.1111/lang.12188.
- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2016). Production-comprehension asymmetries and the acquisition of evidential morphology. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 89, 179-199. doi:10.1016/j.jml.2015.12.001.
- Ünal, E., Pinto, A., Bungler, A. & Papafragou, A. (2016). Monitoring sources of event memories: A cross-linguistic investigation. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 87, 157-176. doi:10.1016/j.jml.2015.10.009.

### Book chapters and conference proceedings

- ter Bekke, M.,\* Özyürek, A., & Ünal, E. (2019). *Speaking but not gesturing predicts motion event memory within and across languages*. In A.K. Goel, C.M. Seifert, & C. Freksa (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society*, (pp.2940-2946). Montreal, QB: Cognitive Science Society.
- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2018). The relation between language and mental state reasoning. In J. Proust & M. Frontier (Eds.), *Metacognitive diversity: An interdisciplinary approach*, (pp.153-169). United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.
- Ünal, E., & Papafragou, A. (2018). Evidentials, information sources and cognition. In A. Aikhenvald (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of evidentiality*, (pp.175-184). Oxford: United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.
- Ünal, E. & Papafragou, A. (2013). Linguistic and conceptual representations of inference as a knowledge source. In S. Baiz, N. Goldman, & R. Hawkes (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 37th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, (pp.433-443). Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

### Papers under review

- Ünal, E., Richards, C., Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. Representing Agents, Patients, Goals and Instruments in causative events: A cross-linguistic investigation of early language and cognition

### Papers in preparation

- Ünal, E., Wilson, F., Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. The internal structure of events: Event roles in language and perception.

Ünal, E., Manhardt, F., & Özyürek, A. Thinking for speaking and gesturing: Visual attention to event components is guided by language-specific event encoding in speech and gesture.

ter Bekke, M.,\* Özyürek, A., & Ünal, E. Speaking but not gesturing predicts motion event memory within and across languages.

Gökbalkan, C.\* & Ünal, E. The nature and extent of relations among mental state language, Theory of Mind and social skills.

## INVITED TALKS

---

Ünal, E. (2019). *Sources of knowledge in language and thought*. Department of Psychology, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey, November 14.

Ünal, E. (2019). *Acquisition of evidentiality*. Joint conference of the sections Developmental and Educational Psychology (paEpy), Leipzig, Germany, September 9-12.

Ünal, E. (2019). *Evidentiality in language and cognition*. Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, July 17.

Ünal, E. (2019). *Evidentiality in language and thought*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cognitive Neuroscience Day. Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul, Turkey, April 7.

Ünal, E. (2017). *Information sources in language and cognition*, Department of Psychology, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey, June 21.

Ünal, E. (2017). *Thinking and talking about evidence: Developmental and cross-linguistic perspectives*, Lunch Talk Series, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, January 27.

Ünal, E. (2015). *Representing evidence in language and cognition: Developmental and cross-linguistic perspectives*, Department of Psychology, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 25.

Ünal, E. (2014). *Homologies between language and event cognition*. Language and Communication Development Lab, Department of Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 23.

Ünal, E. (2013). *Perception and inference as knowledge sources: Developmental and cross-linguistic studies*. Language and Cognition Seminar, Department of Psychology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, November 5.

Ünal, E. (2012). *Developmental and cross-linguistic approaches to the study of inference as a source of knowledge*. Annual Food for Thought Event, Department of Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 27.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

Karadöller, D.Z.,\* Ünal, E., Sümer, B., & Özyürek, A. (2019). Producing informative descriptions of Left-Right relations: Differences between children and adults in using speech and gesture. In D. Z. Karadöller & E. Ünal (Chairs), Role of gestures in facilitating language acquisition and cognitive development. Paper presented at the 15th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA.

- Gökbalkan, C.\* & Ünal, E (2020). The Links Between Mental State Language and Theory of Mind in Middle Childhood. Paper presented at the 15th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ünal, E., & Özyürek, A. (2019). *Visual attention is guided by language-specific encoding of events not only in speech but also in gesture*. Paper presented at the Workshop on Crosslinguistic Perspectives on Processing and Learning, Zurich, Switzerland.
- Karadöller, D.Z.,\* Ünal, E., Sümer, B., Özer, D., Göksun, T., & Özyürek, A. (2019). *Children but not adults use both speech and gesture to produce informative expressions of Left-Right relations*. Paper presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA
- Gökbalkan, C.\* & Ünal, E. (2019). *Zihin kuramı ve sosyal bereriler arasındaki ilişkiler*. Paper presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Developmental Psychology Symposium, İzmir, Turkey. (in Turkish)
- ter Bekke, M.,\* Özyürek, A., & Ünal, E. (2019). *Speaking but not gesturing predicts motion event memory within and across languages*. Poster presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Cognitive Science Society, Montreal, Canada.
- Ünal, E., & Özyürek, A. (2019). *The relation between visual event apprehension and multimodal event descriptions*. In E. Ünal & M. Flecken (Chairs), *Universality and diversity in event cognition*. Paper presented at the International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France.
- ter Bekke, M.,\* Ünal, E., & Özyürek, A. (2019). *Speaking but not gesturing predicts motion event memory within and across languages*. Poster presentation at the International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France.
- ter Bekke, M.,\* Ünal, E., & Özyürek, A. (2018). *Does production of speech and co-speech gesture predict motion event memory?* Poster presented at the Synapsium meeting, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- ter Bekke, M.,\* Ünal, E., Karadöller, D.Z.,\* & Özyürek, A. (2017). *Cross-linguistic effects of speech and gesture production on memory of motion events*. Poster presented at the Workshop on Event Representations in Brain, Language and Development, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
- Ünal, E., Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. (2017). *How children map event participants onto language*. In E. Ünal (Chair), *Encoding events in language and cognition*. Paper presented at the 14th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Lyon, France.
- Ünal, E., Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. (2016). *Event role identification in language and cognition*. Poster presented at the Workshop on Events in Language and Cognition, Gainesville, FL.
- Ünal, E. & Papafragou, A. (2015). *The relation between evidentiality and source monitoring*. Poster presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.
- Ünal, E., Wilson, F., Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. (2015). *Relationship between linguistic and conceptual event roles: A cross-linguistic investigation*. Poster presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Cognitive Development Society, Columbus, OH.

- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2015). *Conceptual factors in the acquisition of evidentiality*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research on Child Development, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2014). *Production-comprehension asymmetries in language acquisition: The case of evidential morphology*. Paper presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.
- Wilson, F., **Ünal, E.**, Trueswell, J., & Papafragou, A. (2014). *Homologies between language and event cognition: Evidence from event role prominence*. Paper presented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2014). *Acquisition of evidential morphology in Turkish: A production-comprehension asymmetry*. Paper presented at the International Workshop on Children's Acquisition and Processing of Head-final Languages, Cambridge, MA.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2014). *Acquisition of evidentiality*. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2013). *Perception and inference as sources of knowledge in oneself and others*. Poster presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Cognitive Development Society, Memphis, TN.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2013). *Children's evaluation of inference as a source of knowledge in themselves and others*. Poster presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.
- Ünal, E.**, Pinto, A.,\* Bunker, A., & Papafragou, A. (2013). *Monitoring sources of event memories: Does native language play a role?* Poster presented at 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Association for Psychological Science, Washington, D.C.
- Ünal, E.** & Papafragou, A. (2012). *Linguistic and conceptual representations of inference as a knowledge source*. Paper presented at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston, MA.
- Ünal, E.** & Küntay, A.C. (2011). *The effect of ecological factors and linguistic skills on event memory*. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Montreal, Canada.
- Semizer, Y., Candan, A., **Ünal, E.**, Naigles, L. R., & Küntay, A. C. (2011) *Do Turkish learners employ the accusative case in finding the agent?* Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Montreal, Canada.
- Ünal, E.**, Küntay, A.C., & Sandıkçı, Y.\* (2011). *Effects of visual and verbal factors on memory binding*. Poster presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Ünal, E.** & Küntay, A.C. (2011). *Effects of linguistic cues on memory binding in preschool children*. Poster presented at the Biennial Meeting of Society for Research on Child Development, Montreal, Canada.
- Ünal, E.** & Küntay, A.C. (2010). *The role of linguistic factors on the development of autobiographical memories*. Paper presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Graduate Students in Psychology Conference, Ankara, Turkey. (in Turkish)

Ünal, E. & Küntay, A.C. (2010). *The role of social and linguistic factors on the emergence of autobiographical memories*. Poster presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> National Psychology Conference, Mersin, Turkey. (in Turkish)

Ünal, E. & Küntay, A.C. (2009). *Language development and autobiographical memory*. Poster presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graduate Students in Psychology Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. (in Turkish)

Candan, A., Özdamar, Ö., Ünal, E., & Küntay, A.C. (2008). *The effect of word order on sentence perception in 24- to 39-month-old Turkish learners*. Poster presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> National Psychology Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. (in Turkish)

### **Mentored student presentations at local conferences**

Balcıoğlu, E., Hazır B.M., & Ağırbaşı, M., (2019). A cross-linguistic research of speech, gesture and memory. Paper presented at the Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival, Istanbul, Turkey.

Baturlar, Ö. (2018). *A cross-linguistic investigation of event conceptualization*. Paper presented at the Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival, Istanbul, Turkey. – recipient of the best paper presentation award

Maher, T. (2016). *The relation between language and source monitoring*, Poster presented at the University of Delaware Undergraduate Poster day, Newark, DE.

Katz, S. (2015). *Children's use of inference and perception as knowledge sources in self and others*. Poster presented at the University of Delaware Undergraduate Poster day, Newark, DE.

Dillon, V. (2015). *Mapping thematic roles on event roles*. Poster presented at the University of Delaware Undergraduate Poster day, Newark, DE.

## **MEETING ORGANIZATION**

---

### **Symposia and workshops**

2020 Role of gestures in facilitating language acquisition and cognitive development, co-organizer for symposium at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Philadelphia, PA.

2019 Universality and diversity in event cognition, organizer and chair for the symposium at the International Convention of Psychological Science, Paris, France.

2017 Event Representations in Brain, Language, and Development (two-day workshop at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, co-organized with Monique Flecken and Aslı Özyürek)

2017 Encoding Events in Language and Cognition, organizer and chair for symposium at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Lyon, France.

### **Seminar (non-credit)**

2017 Events in Language and Cognition reading group, bi-weekly meetings for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty (co-organized with Monique Flecken)

2017 Multimodal Language and Cognition meetings, coordinator for weekly talks from sign language and gesture researchers

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### Primary Instructor

#### *Özyeğin University*

Research Methods, graduate level (Fall 2019)

Cognitive Development (Fall 2018, Fall 2019)

Research Methods and Inferential Statistics (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

Cognitive Development, graduate seminar (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020)

Introduction to Research Methods (Fall 2018)

#### *University of Delaware*

Research Methods (Summer 2015)

### Teaching Assistant

Research Methods (University of Delaware, Spring 2015)

Cognition (University of Delaware, Fall 2014)

Measurement and Statistics (University of Delaware, Spring 2013)

Psychology of Language (University of Delaware, Fall 2012)

Research Design and Inferential Statistics (Koç University, Fall 2010) — independently taught weekly statistics lab sessions

Issues in Psychology (Koç University, Spring 2010, Spring 2011)

Human Memory (Koç University, Fall 2009)

### Guest lectures

“Acquisition of evidentiality”, Syntax-semantics interface graduate seminar (2017), Radboud University

“Evidentiality in language and cognition”, Language and thought graduate seminar (2016), Radboud University

“Dependent subjects t-tests”, Introduction to statistics for psychology (2015), Boğaziçi University

Seven lectures on “Experimental designs”, Research methods (2015), University of Delaware

“What is language?”, Cognition (2014), University of Delaware

“Evidentiality in language and cognition”, Psycholinguistics graduate seminar (2014), University of Delaware

“Interactions between language and color”, Language and thought graduate seminar (2013), Koç University

“Causal inference and experimental designs”, Research methods (2010), Koç University

### Pedagogical training

University of Delaware Teaching Practicum program (2013)

Koç University Office of Teaching and Learning Teaching Assistant workshop (2010)

## MENTORING

### Ph.D. students

#### *Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics*

D. Z. Karadöller (Co-supervisor, 2016-) “Role of iconicity and delayed sign language input on spatial language and cognition”

### Masters’ thesis supervised

#### *Özyeğin University*

G. Avcılar (2019-) “The relation between Theory of Mind and referential communication”

C. Gökbalkan (2019) “The links between use of mental state terms, Theory of Mind and social skills in middle childhood”

*Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics*

M. ter Bekke (2018) “Speaking but not gesturing predicts motion event memory across and within languages” – next position: Research assistant, Radboud University

Ph.D. qualifying exam committees

B. Buğan (2020, Boğaziçi University)

Masters’ thesis committees

A. Yurtsever (2019-, Koç University)

Z. Adıgüzel (2019-, Koç University)

Z. Aslan (2019, Koç University)

Undergraduate and graduate research assistants

*Özyeğin University* (18)

İ. Piri (Fall 2019- ); Z. Coşkun (Fall 2019-); Ş. Cihankaya (Fall 2019); E. N. Küçük (Fall 2018); G. Avcılar (Spring 2018); N. Kayalı (Spring 2018); H. Zincir (Spring 2018); L. Kantarcı (Spring 2018); Y. Keleş (Spring 2018); S. Arıkan (Spring 2018); S. Örnek (Spring 2018); İ. Yeşilçavdar (Fall 2018); G. Tuğsat (Fall 2018); M. Ağırbaşı (Spring 2018); E. Balcıoğlu (Spring 2018); M. Hazır (Spring 2018); S. Ertaş (Spring 2018); Ö. Baturlar (Fall 2017-Fall 2018)

*Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics* (4)

M. Odabaş (Summer 2018); S. Ertaş (Summer 2017); M. ter Bekke (Spring 2017);

R. Omardeen (Spring 2017)

*University of Delaware* (10)

T. Maher (Spring 2016); T. Dino (Fall 2015-Spring 2016); S. Katz (Spring 2015); V. Dillon (Fall 2014-Spring 2015); A. Witrock (Spring 2014); A. McQuiston (Spring 2013-Fall 2013); A. Yung (Fall 2012); M. Choi (Fall 2012); J. Rubinstein (Spring 2012); A. Pinto (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

---

### **Program Committees**

Cognitive Science Society Meeting (2020), Turkish National Psychology Congress (2020)

### **Reviewing**

Ad-hoc journal reviewing: Language Learning and Development, Cognitive Science, Spatial Cognition and Computation, NeuroImage, Bilingualism: Language and Cognition

Book chapter reviewing: John Benjamins, Koç University Press (in Turkish), Trends in Language Acquisition Research (TILAR) Series

Grant reviewing: Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (2019, 2020), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017, 2018)

Conference reviewing: International Congress of the International Association for the Study of Child Language (2020), Cognitive Science Society Meeting (2014, 2019), Society for Research in Child Development (2017, 2019), Workshop on Events in Language and Cognition (2016), Workshop on Children's Acquisition and Processing of Head-Final Languages (2014, 2016)



## **Professional Memberships**

Cognitive Science Society

International Association for the Study of Child Language

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

---

### **Özyeğin University**

2020- Undergraduate advising committee

2019- Undergraduate internship coordinator, Developmental area

2018- Coordinator, Graduate program in Developmental Psychology

2018-2019 Organizer, Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival

### **Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics**

2016-2017 Research staff committee co-chair

### **University of Delaware**

2014 Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Graduate Orientation

2011-2016 Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences Graduate Recruitment

## REFERENCES

---

**Anna Papafragou, Ph.D.**

Department of Linguistics  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA, 19104, USA  
anna4@sas.upenn.edu

**Aslı Özyürek, Ph.D.**

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics  
6500 AH Nijmegen  
The Netherlands  
Asli.Ozyurek@mpi.nl

**Roberta M. Golinkoff, Ph.D.**

Unidel H. Rodney Sharp Professor  
School of Education  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716, USA  
roberta@udel.edu