

Utku Caybas

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- 2022–present **Ph.D., Educational Psychology and Educational Technology**, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI
Advisor: Dr. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia
- 2021–2022 **Ph.D., Educational Psychology**, *University of Kentucky*, Lexington, KY
Advisor: Dr. Ellen L. Usher
(Transferred to another program)
- 2018–2021 **M.S., Curriculum & Instruction**, *Middle East Technical University*, Ankara, Turkey
Thesis: *Academic Motivation of Middle School Students: Perceived Teacher Affective Support, Number of Interaction Partners, Prior Achievement and Homophily*
Advisor: Dr. Nur Akkus-Cakir
Co-Advisor: Dr. Yesim Capa-Aydin
- 2015–2018 **B.A., Teaching Gifted Children**, *Istanbul University*, Istanbul, Turkey
(Double Major)
- 2014–2018 **B.A., Psychological Counseling and Guidance**, *Istanbul University*, Istanbul, Turkey
(Summa Cum Laude Honors)

Research Interests

Students' Achievement Motivation

- The role of social factors (peers and teachers)
- Motivation in STEM

Research Experience

Michigan State University

- 2022–present **MI State Motivate Lab**
Graduate Research Assistant
Advisor : **Dr. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia**, *Professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education*
- University of Kentucky
- 2021–2022 **P20 Motivation and Learning Lab**
Graduate Lab Member
 - Mentorship for undergraduate members
 - Data management and analysisAdvisor : **Dr. Ellen L. Usher**, *Professor, Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology*
- 2021–2022 **Biology Learning and Motivation Lab**
Graduate Research Assistant
 - Quantitative and qualitative data collection
 - Data management and analysisAdvisor : **Dr. Jennifer Osterhage**, *Associate Professor, Department of Biology*,

Middle East Technical University, Turkey

2019 – 2021 **Achievement Emotions and Motivation Research Group**

Graduate Researcher

- Survey development
- Data collection and analysis

Advisor : **Dr. Yesim Capa-Aydin**, *Associate Professor, Department of Educational Sciences,*

Publications

Osterhage, J. L., **Caybas, U.**, Han, J., & Usher, E. L. (2024) "I Just Don't Find It Interesting": Academic Major and Time of Enrollment Predict Motivation in an Introductory Biology Course. *Journal of Biological Education*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00219266.2024.2342801>

Caybas, U., Tarim, S. D., & Capa-Aydin, Y. (Under Review) "*Being Together Even Though We Were Apart*": Online Peer Interactions and Academic Motivation in Middle School During the Pandemic.

Presentations

* indicates equal authorship contribution; ^ indicates undergraduate student mentee

National / International

- 2026 **Caybas, U.**, Ergun, A. F., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2026, April 8-12). *From Conversations to Comparisons: The Importance of Peers for Math Motivation* [Paper Submitted]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2026 Van Luven, W., **Caybas, U.**, Neal, J. W., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2026, April 8-12). *Peer Recognition and Math Identity Development: A Longitudinal Network Perspective* [Paper Submitted]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2026 Inoue, S., Van Luven, W., **Caybas, U.**, Lee G. A., Taylor, M. R., Perez, T., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2026, April 8-12). *Longitudinal Development of Science Interest and Self-Efficacy and Their Post-College Outcomes* [Paper Submitted]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2026 Van Luven, W., Lee G. A., **Caybas, U.**, Inoue, S., Taylor, M. R., Jee, H., Melgar, G., Walton, S.P., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2026, April 8-12). *Higher education is complex: Exploring the dynamic interplay among belonging, competence beliefs, role identity, and achievement in engineering students* [Paper Submitted]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2025 **Caybas, U.**, Lee G. A., Van Luven, W., Inoue, S., Walton, S. P., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2025, April 23-27). *Heterogeneous Joint Trajectories of Effort Cost and Attainment Value in Engineering Students Throughout College* [Roundtable Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- 2025 Inoue, S., Lee, G. A., **Caybas, U.**, Van Luven, W., Walton, S. P., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2025, April 23-27). *Goal Profiles and Perceived Costs of International Asian and Asian American Students in Engineering* [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- 2025 Van Luven, W., Lee G. A., **Caybas, U.**, Inoue, S., Donnelly, M. B. D., Keane, J., Perez, T., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2025, April 23-27). *The Role of Academic Emotions and Belonging in Predicting Science Persistence: A Cross-Lagged Approach* [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- 2024 **Caybas, U.***, Lee, G. A.*, Van Luven, W., Inoue, S., Donnelly, M. B. D., Linnenbrink-Garcia, L., & Perez, T. (2024, August 28-30). *Validating Mental Health Cost: A New Dimension of Costs in Situated Expectancy-Value Theory?* [Paper Presentation]. International Conference on Motivation, Bern, Switzerland.

- 2024 Keane J., **Caybas, U.**, Ferguson-Johnson, S., Perez, T., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2024, July 18-20). *The Power of Growth Mindsets: Enhancing Women's Science Motivation, Persistence and Achievement*. [Paper Presentation]. Network Gender & STEM Conference, Heidelberg, Germany.
- 2024 **Caybas, U.** (2024, April 18-20). *Exploring Socio-Motivational Dependency in Middle School Students: A Study on the Influence of Peer and Teacher Support on Motivation* [Poster Presentation]. Society for Research on Adolescence, Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2024 **Caybas, U.**, Inoue, S., Van Luven, W. & Mansoor, S. (2024, April 11-14). *Arab/MENA American Students' Belonging to College Campuses* [Paper Presentation]. Division C Graduate Student Shark Tank Competition at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association., Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 **Caybas, U.**, Keane, J., Walton, S. P. & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2024, April 11-14). *Attainment value as a protective factor against the adverse effects of costs* [Paper Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2024 Keane J., Lee, G. A., **Caybas, U.**, Choi, G., & Linnenbrink-Garcia, L. (2024, April 11-14). *Stability of Motivation in Introductory Statistics: A Random-Intercept Latent Transition Analysis*. [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 **Caybas, U.**, Cole, A. E., Spillman, M. M.[^], Usher, E. L. & Han, J. (2023, April 13-16). *Peer Influences on Motivation: A Review of 10 Years of AERA Scholarship* [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Caybas, U.**, Patterson, J. T., Spillman, M. M.[^], Cole, A. E., Han, J., Usher, E. L., & Osterhage, J. (2023, April 13-16). *"We motivate one another": Peer influences on undergraduate students' motivation in introductory biology* [Roundtable Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 **Caybas, U.**, Capa-Aydin, Y., & Akkus-Cakir, N. (2022, August 22-26). *Predictors of students' subjective task values and expectancies for success at middle school* [Paper Presentation]. International Conference on Motivation, Dresden, Germany.
- 2022 **Caybas, U.**, Capa-Aydin, Y., & Tarim, S. D. (2022, August 22-26). *Relation between support and students' national exam performance: The mediating role of motivation* [Paper Presentation]. International Conference on Motivation, Dresden, Germany.
- 2022 Osterhage J., **Caybas, U.**, Han, J., & Usher, E. L. (2022, July 7-10). *"I'm not very into it": Motivational and achievement differences between first-year and upper-level students in an introductory biology course* [Paper Presentation]. Society for the Advancement of Biology Education Research, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2022 **Caybas, U.**, Han, J., Usher, E. L., & Osterhage J. (2022, June 6-9). *Instructor support during COVID-19: Investigating the relationship with undergraduate students' motivation and achievement in STEM* [Paper Presentation]. Tenth SELF International Conference, Quebec City, Canada.
- 2022 **Caybas, U.**, Tarim, S. D., & Capa-Aydin, Y. (2022, April 21-26). *Middle school students' remote interaction and their influence on academic motivation during the Covid-19 pandemic* [Poster Presentation]. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- 2021 **Caybas, U.**, Acim, S. E., Kurtcu, E., Ozenc, E., & Yavuz, B. (2021, October 1-8). *Children's literacy club* [Paper Presentation]. Education Reform Initiative - 18th Good Practices in Education Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2021 **Caybas, U.**, Akkus-Cakir, N., & Capa-Aydin, Y., (2021, August 23-27). *A study of homophily in peer group members' academic motivation* [Poster presentation]. European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction Biennial Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden.

- 2020 **Caybas, U.**, & Capa-Aydin, Y. (2020, August 25-28). *Development and validation of the expectancy-value scale for middle school students* [Paper presentation]. European Educational Research Association, Glasgow, UK. (Conference cancelled)

Local / Regional

- 2022 **Caybas, U.**, Spillman, M. M.[^], Patterson, J. T., Cole, A. E., Han, J., Usher, E. L., & Osterhage, J. (2022, April 2). *"I am more motivated to succeed when I am succeeding with a friend": The Role of Peers in Undergraduate Students' Motivation in Introductory Biology Courses* [Research Presentation]. Spring Research Conference. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- 2021 **Caybas, U.**, Osterhage, J., Han, J., & Usher, E. L. (2021, December 8). *Instructor support during COVID-19: Relationship with undergraduate students' motivation and achievement in STEM* [Research Presentation]. Teaching and Learning During Covid-19 Research Symposium. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Fellowships & Grants

- 2025 **Dr. Cassandra L. Book Graduate Fellowship in Education** (\$3000)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2025 **Research Funding Fellowship** (\$450)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2025 **Research Enhancement Grant** (\$1000)
Graduate School, Michigan State University
- 2024 **Jere E. and Arlene Pintozzi Brophy Endowed Fellowship in Education** (\$3750)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2024 **Dissertation Hard Cost Funding** (\$3535.19)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2023 **Jere E. and Arlene Pintozzi Brophy Endowed Fellowship in Education** (\$3500)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2023 **Summer Research Development Fellowship** (\$7000)
College of Education, Michigan State University
- 2022 **Helen Thacker Graduate Fellowship** (\$4000 - declined)
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology, University of Kentucky

Honors & Awards

- 2025 **Michael D. Feters Scholarship Award**
Mixed Methods Program at the University of Michigan
- 2024 **Summer School on Motivation and Emotion Selected Participant**
International Conference on Motivation, EARLI SIG 8
- 2024 **Research Conference Funding** (\$600)
The Graduate School, Michigan State University
- 2024 **Scholarship for Education Research**
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research
- 2024 **AERA Division C Equity and Inclusion "Shark Tank" Competition Finalist**
American Education Research Association
- 2024 **Graduate Student Travel Award** (\$250)
Motivation Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association
- 2024 **Conference Award** (\$300)
Council of Graduate Students, Michigan State University

- 2024 **Research Conference Funding (\$700)**
The Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, & Special Education, Michigan State University
- 2023 **Professional Development Award (\$500)**
Council of Graduate Students, Michigan State University
- 2023 **Research Conference Funding (\$600)**
The Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, & Special Education, Michigan State University
- 2023 **Graduate Student Travel Award (\$200)**
Motivation Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association
- 2022 **Professional Development Award (\$500)**
Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives, University of Kentucky
- 2022 **Student Professional Development Award (\$150)**
Student Government Association, University of Kentucky
- 2022 **Graduate Student Travel Award (\$200)**
Motivation Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association
- 2022 **Conference Travel Award (\$600)**
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology, University of Kentucky
- 2021 **Jacobs Foundation Presenter Award - EARLI 2021**
Jacobs Foundation
- 2019–2020 **Course Performance Awards**
Middle East Technical University
- 2015–2018 **Academic Merit Scholarship**
Divrigi Culture Association
- 2014–2019 **Academic Merit Scholarship**
Nesin Foundation

Teaching Experience

- 2022 Fall - **Course Instructor, Michigan State University**
Present
- TE 150: Reflections on Learning (undergraduate educational psychology course)
 - Taught each Fall and Spring semester in various formats (in-person, hybrid, and asynchronous online)
 - Instructed over 180 undergraduate students in total

Work Experience

- 2020 – 2021 **Instructional Designer, Yonder Private Elementary and Middle School**
- Instructional design
 - Professional development seminars for teachers
- Feb. 2018 – **Psychological Assessment Internship, Besiktas Guidance and Research Center**
Jun. 2018
- Assistantship in psychological testing
- Oct. 2017 – **School Counseling Internship, Findikli Vocational and Technical High School**
Jan. 2018
- Organized the school orientation for incoming students
 - Implemented bullying prevention program
- Jan. 2017 – **School Counseling Internship, Sancaktar Hayrettin Middle School**
May. 2017
- Implemented career guidance programs

Service

- 2023 – **NextGen Psych Scholars Program (NPSP)**
present
- Provided mentorship to underrepresented undergraduate students preparing to apply to PhD programs in psychology

Skills

Advanced Quantitative Training

- Longitudinal Structural Equation Modeling - Summer 2025 (Instructor: Amy Nuttall)
- Network Analysis: Introduction - Summer 2024 (Instructor: Sarah Shugars)
- Mixture Modeling and Latent Class Analysis - Spring 2024 (Instructors: Dan Bauer & Doug Steinley)
- Causal Inference - Fall 2023 (Instructor: Doug Steinley)
- Hierarchical Linear Modeling - Spring 2023 (Instructor: Kimberly Kelly)
- Structural Equation Modeling - Fall 2022 (Instructor: Amy Nuttall)
- Scale Development - Spring 2020 (Instructor: Yesim Capa-Aydin)

Data Analysis Software

- IBM SPSS Statistics
- RStudio
- Mplus
- MAXQDA - Qualitative Analysis Software

Affiliations

- 2022–present **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**
Division C: Learning and Instruction
Special Interest Group: Motivation in Education
- 2021–present **European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)**
Special Interest Group 08: Motivation and Emotion
Special Interest Group 10: Social Interaction in Learning and Instruction
- 2024–present **Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA)**

References

Dr. Lisa Linnenbrink-Garcia

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Educational Psychology and
Special Education*
Michigan State University
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Dr. Ellen L. Usher

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Scholarship and Education Science*
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Dr. Jennifer Schmidt

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