

# ELIF N. POYRAZ

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Department of Psychology & Center for Cognitive Science

152 Frelinghuysen Rd, Piscataway, NJ 08854

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Cognitive Psychology** *expected May 2025*  
Rutgers University - New Brunswick  
Advisor: Alan M. Leslie

**M.S., Cognitive Psychology** *Jan. 2021*  
Rutgers University - New Brunswick  
Advisor: Alan M. Leslie

**B.S., Psychology** *June 2017*  
Middle East Technical University (METU)

**Exchange Student, Psychology** *Sept.-Dec. 2015*  
University of California - San Diego

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Rutgers University Cognitive Development Lab** *2017-present*  
**Graduate Student Researcher**  
Advisor: Alan M Leslie

**Rutgers University Cognition and Learning Center** *2021-present*  
**Graduate Student Researcher**  
Advisor: Jinjing (Jenny) Wang

**METU CogLab** *2016-2017*  
**Research Assistant**  
Advisor: Asli Kilic Ozhan

**METU Life Span Development Lab** *2016-2017*  
**Research Assistant**  
Advisor: Emre Selcuk

**Koc University Child & Family Studies Lab Summer Internship Program** *June-Aug 2017*  
**Research Assistant**  
Advisor: Bilge Selcuk

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER REVIEWED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**Poyraz, E.**, Hemmer, P., & Leslie, A.M. (2020). Can Changes in Inhibitory Control Explain Child-Level Theory of Mind Performance? In Proceedings of The Forty-Second Annual Conference of The Cognitive Science Society (pp. 1825– 1832).

## CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

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## INVITED TALKS

- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2024). Preschoolers, False Belief Performance, and Development of Inhibitory Control. Invited talk, presented at Boston University Developing Minds Lab.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2020). Can Changes in Inhibitory Control Explain Child-Level Theory of Mind Performance? Invited talk, presented at Rutgers University Cognition and Learning Center.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

\*Denotes Undergraduate Author

- Poyraz, E.,** \*Desbiens, S., Leslie, A.M., & Wang, J. (2024). Can children account for others' knowledge state when making numerical decisions? Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biennial Meeting.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2024). Preschoolers, false belief performance and the development of inhibitory control. Poster presented at Cognitive Development Society Biennial Meeting.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2021). Can Changes in Inhibitory Control Explain Child-Level Theory of Mind Performance? Poster presented at Rutgers 14th Annual Perceptual-Cognitive Science Forum
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2020). Can Changes in Inhibitory Control Explain Child-Level Theory of Mind Performance? Talk presented at the 2020 Virtual Psychonomics Annual Meeting.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2020). Can Changes in Inhibitory Control Explain Child-Level Theory of Mind Performance? Poster presented at the 42nd Annual Virtual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2019). Second-Order Theory of Mind: Thinking About Thinking ... About Thinking. Talk presented at RuCCS Fall 2019 Cognitive Festival.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2019). Second Order Theory of Mind: "Do they know that we know?". Poster presented at Rutgers 12th Annual Perceptual-Cognitive Science Forum.
- Poyraz, E.,** & Leslie, A.M. (2018). Second Order False-belief Understanding in Children. Talk presented at RuCCS Fall 2019 Cognitive Festival.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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Rutgers School of Graduate Studies Conference Travel Award, \$ 1000	2024
Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund	2017-2018
UC-EAP Full Tuition Fee Remission, Overseas Exchange Program	2015

## MENTORSHIP

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\*Denotes Psychology Senior Honors Thesis Students

### Cognitive Development Lab Students (PI: Alan M. Leslie)

\*Khushi Shah (Rutgers, 2023-present)

\*Sahana Iyer (Rutgers, 2024-present)

Deniz Gulkan (2023-present)

Caroline Sullivan (2023-present)

Shriya Joshi (2023-present)

Antonino Scandaglia (2023-present)

Jai Yadav (2024-present)

JY Yang (2024- present)

Emery Clomax (2024)

Daniella Mancebo (2023-2024)

Yanyi Chen (2023-2024)

Jade Zack (2023-2024)

Tiffany Fan (2023-2024)

Aparnaa Muthaiah (2022-2023)  
Swathi Jayakumar (2020-2023)  
\*Doriana Lacitignola (Rutgers, 2022-2023)  
Zara Nelson (2022-2023)  
Riddhi Jadhav (2022-2023)  
Ashley Han (2021-2022)  
Yuthikaa Raj (2020)  
\*Dean Schansinger (Rutgers, 2018-2020)

**Cognition and Learning Center Students (PI: Jinjing (Jenny) Wang)**

Sophia Carter (2024-present)  
Johan Valbuena (2024-present)  
Camilla Rutkowski (2024-present)  
Adeline O'Brien (2024-present)  
Shannon Desbiens (2023-2024)  
Jessica Febo (2023-2024)  
Grace Lee (2023-2024)  
Khadija Zia (2023-2024)  
Isabella Ponce (2022-2023)

## TEACHING

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**Primary Instructor**

Cognition  
(Rutgers PSYCH305) Advanced undergraduate level.

*Summers 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024*

Designed the entire course; including the selection of readings, creating the assignments and in-class materials, online lecture recordings, lecture slides.  
Taught both in person and asynchronous remote.

**Teaching Assistant**

Programming for Behavioral Scientists: MATLAB  
(Rutgers PSYCH403) Advanced undergraduate level.

*Falls 2019, 2021, 2024*

Facilitated class flow, helped students understand the code, troubleshoot errors during and after class, provided feedback to their coding assignments.

Cognitive Science: A Multi-disciplinary Introduction  
(Rutgers COGSCI201) Introductory undergraduate level.

*Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024*

Lead recitation sections, engage students on discussion of various CogSci topics.

Cognition Lab & Sensation and Perception Lab  
(Rutgers PSYCH306 & PSYCH302) Advanced undergraduate level.

*Falls and Springs 2018 through 2023*

Held online and in person classes; taught students about various cognitive and perception phenomena, running experiment codes using PsychoPy, analyzing data on Microsoft Excel, reading scientific articles and writing lab reports.

**Guest Lecturer**

Cognitive Science: A Multi-disciplinary Introduction  
Topic: Origins of Cognition  
(Rutgers COGSCI201) Introductory undergraduate level.

*Fall 2023*

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

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**Graduate Mentor**, Rutgers Honors College Department *2023-2024*  
Provided feedback during graduate school application workshops, attended networking events, and provided one-on-one mentorship to advanced undergraduate students studying in Rutgers Honors College.

**Graduate Student Representative**, Rutgers Psychology Department DEI Committee *2021-2023*  
Served as a graduate student representative to the department Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Act as a representative for international students, raising student needs and concerns during monthly meetings.

**President**, Rutgers Cognitive Science Graduate Student Organization *Sept 2019- May 2023*  
Organized talks by inviting graduate students both from Rutgers and other universities.

**Graduate Editor**, The "Mental Note" Journal *2019*  
Served as a reviewer and editor for short manuscript submissions to the journal.

## SKILLS

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**Programming Languages:** MATLAB, Python, R

**Organization:** Microsoft Office, Notion

**Creative:** Procreate

**Language:** Turkish (Native)