Mahmut Sami Gürdal

Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech
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Education

Ph.D. in Human Development, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA — Expected 2027

M.S. in Human Development, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA — 2024
> Thesis: Emotion regulation and screen use among parents of toddlers: A moderating role of parental personality
>
> Advisors: Dr. Koeun Choi & Dr. Cynthia L. Smith

B.A. in Psychology, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Türkiye — 2022

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant — 2023 - Present
Cognitive Developmental Science Lab
Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech
PI: Dr. Koeun Choi

Graduate Research Assistant — 2022 - Present
Child Development Center for Learning and Research
Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech
PI: Dr. Isabel Bradburn

Honors, Fellowships, & Awards

Outstanding Master's Student Award, Virginia Tech Graduate School	2024
Membership Offer, Phi Kappa Phi	2023, 2024
Academic Fellowship, Hüsnü M. Özyeğin Foundation ($3,000)	2022
High Honor Degree (Magna Cum Laude), Özyeğin University	2022
Dean's High Honor List, Özyeğin University	2019 - 2022
Full Scholarship for Bachelor's Degree, Özyeğin University	2017 - 2022
Member, Psi Chi - The International Honor Society in Psychology	2021
First Place Prize in Undergraduate Level, 3rd Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival	2020
First Place Prize in Paper Presentations, 2nd Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Research Festival	2019

Grants

Funded External Grants

2. **Research Grant**, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye — 2021 - 2022

   - Investigation of Moderator Role of Psychological Resilience on the Relationship Between Social Media Use and Depression (4,000.00 TRY)
   - PIs: **Mahmut Sami Gurdal**, Tunahan Aktay, Aleyna Akkan, Ekin Kızıldaş
   - Advisor: Dr. İbrahim H. Acar

1. **Research Grant**, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye   2020 - 2021
   - Investigation of the Relationship Between Foreign Language Anxiety and Beliefs About Foreign Language Learning (3,980.00 TRY)
   - PI: **Mahmut Sami Gurdal**
   - Advisor: Dr. İbrahim H. Acar

Funded Internal Grants

7. **Travel Grant**, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech ($500)   2024
6. **Travel Grant**, Graduate & Professional Student Senate, Virginia Tech ($300)   2023
5. **Travel Grant**, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech ($850)   2023
4. **Travel Grant**, Graduate & Professional Student Senate, Virginia Tech ($500)   2022
3. **Travel Grant**, Özyeğin University (€650)   2022
2. **Conference Attendance Grant**, Özyeğin University ($25)   2021
1. **Internship Grant**, Özyeğin University (5,000 TRY)   2021

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. **Gurdal, M. S.**, & Acar, İ. H. (2024). Foreign language anxiety and language learning beliefs: A comparative study of six language learner groups. *The Journal of Quality in Education, 14* (23), 44-60. https://doi.org/10.37870/joqie.v14i23.430

Manuscripts in Preparation

1. **Gurdal, M. S.**, Choi, K., & Smith, C. L. (in preparation). Associations of maternal emotion regulation and mothers' and toddlers' screen use.

Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Oral Presentations

4. Walker, A., Quesenberry, E., Choi, K., **Gurdal, M.**, Jeon, M., Katz, B., Kebede, L., Morris, K., Odom, C. & Yu, S. (2024, April 4-7). *The impact of voice assistant accent on user experience* [Paper presentation]. The Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), Athens, GA, USA.

3. **Gurdal, M. S.**, & Acar, İ. H. (2021, July 7-10). *Üniversite öğrencilerinin yabancı dil kaygısı ve yabancı dil öğrenimine yönelik inançları arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi (En: Examining the relationship between university students' foreign language anxiety and their beliefs about foreign language learning)* [Paper presentation]. The 8th International Eurasian Educational Research Congress, Aksaray, Türkiye. https://bit.ly/3nwPIt3

2. Karakoç, D., **Gurdal, M. S.**, Sezen, N., & Acar, İ. H. (2019, May 3). *Preschool children's coping strategies during self-regulation tasks* [Paper presentation]. The 2nd Annual Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Psychology Research Festival, Istanbul, Türkiye. http://doi.org/10.13140/rg.2.2.26483.86568

1. **Gurdal, M. S.**, Karakoç, D., Sezen, N., & Acar, İ. H. (2019, April 25-27). *Çocukların ve öğretmenlerin çocukların öz düzenlemesi için kullandıkları stratejiler (En: Strategies used by children and teachers for children's self-regulation)* [Paper presentation]. The 14th National Preschool Teaching Student Congress, Istanbul, Türkiye.

Peer-Reviewed Poster Presentations

5. **Gurdal, M. S.**, Choi, K., Shin, E., & Smith, C. L. (2024, March 21-23). *Understanding parental factors associated with toddlers' video viewing: A chained mediation model investing the roles of parental emotion regulation, media use, stress, and media use motive* [Poster presentation]. The 2024 Biennial Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, Pasadena, CA, USA. https://bit.ly/CDS2024-Abstracts

4. **Gurdal, M. S.**, Choi, K., Shin, E., Kim, J., Yu, S., & Smith, C. L. (2023, March 23-25). *Associations of maternal emotion regulation and mothers' and toddlers' screen use* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development 2023 Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.

3. **Gurdal, M. S.**, & Acar, İ. H. (2022, June 19-23). *Associations among foreign language anxiety, self-regulation, and beliefs toward foreign language learning* [Poster presentation]. The 26th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Rhodes, Greece.

2. Aktay, T., Kızıldaş, E., **Gurdal, M. S.**, Akkan, A., & Acar, İ. H. (2021, April 7-9). *The contributions of teacher-child relationships to children's social competence* [Poster presentation]. The Society for Research in Child Development 2021 Virtual Biennial Meeting, Virtual.

1. Akkan, A., Aktay, T., Kızıldaş, E., **Gurdal, M. S.**, & Acar, İ. H. (2020, June 29). *Exploring Turkish and American children's reactions to a disappointing situation* [Poster presentation]. The 3rd Annual Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Psychology Research Festival, Istanbul, Türkiye.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Assistant   2022 - 2024
Department of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech
Courses: Curriculum in Early Childhood (Spring 2024, Spring 2023)
          Infancy and Early Childhood (Fall 2023, Fall 2022)

Mentoring Experience

Research Team of Child Development Center for Learning and Research   2024 - Present

- **Spring 2024:** Ava Regehr, Devin Wang, Holly Durham, Lauren Mazanek

Outreach Experience

Editorial Activities

- **Reviewer**, *Travel Fund Program*, Virginia Tech Graduate and Professional Student Senate   02/2024

Service to the Community

- **Participant**, *Conversational AI for Children's Learning* [Hands-on Booth]   07/2024
  - Back to School Resource Fair, Wonder Universe: A Children's Museum, Christiansburg, VA
- **Organizer**, *Research on Conversational AI Agents* [Hands-on Booth]   02/2024
  - Belview Elementary School STEM Family Night, Radford, VA
- **Participant**, *Conversational AI and Social Robots for Storytelling* [Hands-on Booth]   11/2023
  - Virginia Tech Science Festival, Blacksburg, VA
- **Participant**, *Conversational AI for Children's Learning* [Hands-on Booth]   10/2023
  - Virginia Tech Humanities Week, Blacksburg, VA

- **Participant**, *Robot Musical Theater*   06/2023
    - VICC Summer Camp, Blacksburg, VA

Memberships

Cognitive Development Society (CDS)	2024 - Present
The International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD)	2023 - Present
International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS)	2023 - Present
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)	2022 - Present
Psi Chi - The International Honor Society in Psychology	2021 - Present

Additional Education & Certificates

Social and Behavioral Research, CITI Program	2022
Basic Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI Program	2022
Mindfulness for Life, Özyeğin University	2021
Preschool Self-regulation Assessment, Child Development and Learning Studies Lab	2018

Computer Skills

Statistical Analysis: SPSS, R Studio, Lisrel, HLM

Experimental Design and Data Collection: PsychoPy, E-Prime, Qualtrics, ELAN

Document Preparations: LaTeX, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)