

Duru Kaya

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PROFILE

Hardworking and ambitious student with an extensive background in psychological research, including assistant researcher roles in social psychology and cognitive psychology laboratories. Has strong academic writing skills, evident from her roles as the editor-in-chief of the official journal of UCL's Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, and lead researcher of a literature review.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Oct 2022 — Present

Psychological Research Project Leader, UCL Bioethics and Medical Law Society

London

- Led a team of researchers and produced a literature review that is currently under review by the editorial board of the journal of Psychiatric Genetics
- Researched the administration of predictive genetic tests on at-risk individuals to determine a genetic susceptibility to developing Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and specifically investigated the psychological responses exhibited by test-takers in response to learning their genetic predisposition results
- Became the first year-one undergraduate student to be selected for the role of Project Leader amongst numerous applicants after an extensive interview process, proposing her own idea for research
- Conducted interviews with and received mentorship from leading researchers in the field of psychiatric genetics, including Dr. Jonathan Roiser, Dr. Essi Viding, Dr. Joshua Buckman, and Dr. Michael Moutoussis
- Advanced her leadership skills as the Project Leader, and gained extensive knowledge on MDD and the genetics of mood disorders
- Gained experience on the process of producing a literature review and applying to a science journal

Aug 2023 — Present

Research Assistant, Space Magnitude Association Research Laboratory, Izmir University of Economics

Izmir

- Conducted research on cognitive psychology, investigating the space-magnitude associations within the mental number line, the SNARC effect, stimuli-response compatibility, individual and cultural differences in number processing, and learning and memory processes
- Wrote the introduction and discussion sections of an ongoing experiment about the influence of reading habits and frequency on the orientation of the mental number line
- Participated in weekly scientific discussions with her own ideas, discussing the implications of experimental findings and proposing directions for future research
- Performed data analysis using RStudio
- Took the initiative to investigate a neurolinguistics explanation for the null results obtained in Turkish samples
- Gave a comprehensive presentation to the research team on using Gorilla Experiment Builder to program various experimental designs. Went beyond the programming skills she was taught in her degree to better suit the type of experimental designs used in the SMART lab
- Programmed an experiment about the spatial organization of emotional expressions and numbers
- Recruited participants for ongoing experiments, collected demographics information from participants, and was responsible for equipment administration
- Assisted teammates with academic writing

Jan 2024 — Present

Research Assistant, Guinote Lab on Social Psychology, University College London

London

- Researched the asymmetry in impression formation when participants were provided with good and bad evaluations of people
- Prepared stimuli to be used in research about the difference between people's markings of well-written versus poorly-written academic essays
- Met weekly with the research team and proposed her own ideas on how to construct and improve experimental designs

Sep 2023 — Present

Editor-in-Chief, Psychology and Language Sciences Journal of UCL

London

- Oversaw the management of the Psychology and Language Sciences (PALS) Journal website affiliated with the UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences

- Reviewed and provided feedback for article submissions from BSc Psychology undergraduates on various topics regarding Psychology, such as behavioural economics, eating disorders, autism, generational trauma, attachment styles, and the use of placebo effect in scientific research
- Set deadlines and managed the writing progress of all authors, releasing three issues in one year
- Was responsible for the marketing of the journal and created promotional material for the PALS Press website

Dec 2023 — Present

Tutoring for 1st Year BSc Psychology Modules

London

- Provided weekly tutoring for the year-one modules of the BSc Psychology undergraduate degree, involving a wide range of fields, such as memory and decision-making, social psychology and individual differences, forensic psychology, and experimental psychology
- Prepared revision material summarising key theories and research within each field, as well as allowing students to recognize potential gaps in the literature and limitations to our current knowledge

Jul 2021 — Aug 2021

Young Psychologist Summer Internship Program, InvestIN

London

- Experienced the practical side of psychology through simulated patient consultations
- Learned how to approach, build rapport, direct questions appropriate to CBT techniques, and design behavioural experiments with clients
- Discussed the impact of adverse childhood experiences in child development
- Practiced how to guide clients to challenge their negative thinking patterns
- Discussed case studies on depression, anxiety, addiction, and anger management with peers, determining the proper treatment options through debates

Sep 2020 — Jun 2022

President, Koc Psychology Club

Istanbul

- Prepared bi-weekly presentations on a variety of psychological phenomena like behavioural economics, phobias, implicit biases, and memory systems
- Led peer discussions on topics related to peer pressure, racism, and impacts of social media on mental health
- Researched and wrote several literature reviews for the Koc Psychology Magazine

Oct 2020 — Jun 2021

Science Discussions with Yale Psychology Graduate, Arin Korkmaz

Istanbul - New Haven

- Conducted weekly scientific reading discussions with Yale Psychology Graduate Arin Korkmaz
- Read and critically evaluated research papers on a variety of topics, including paranoia, System 1 and System 2 thinking processes, and the replicability crisis in psychology

EDUCATION

Sep 2022 — Present

BSc Psychology, University College London (UCL)

London

- Completed her first year modules with 1st tier grade (+70), including Introduction to Statistical Methods (mark: 88.10), Memory and Decision (mark: 75.00), Qualitative and Mixed Research Methods (mark: 79.50), Forensic Psychology (mark: 80.20), Evidence and Enquiry in Psychology (mark: 76.70), Introduction To Psychological Experimentation (mark: 75.26),
- Described by Dr. Joseph Devlin as "Duru is a very good writer - possibly the best I've had in 1st year seminars. Duru is clearly a highly motivated young woman who has a strong command of the material and content of the course. She writes extremely well and regularly participates in class discussions. It was a pleasure having Duru in seminar this term" in the academic and personal development seminar report 2022-2023.

Sep 2018 — Jun 2022

Diploma of Higher Education, The Koc School

Istanbul

- Completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) alongside the Turkish Ministry of National Education (MEB) diploma
- Became the only student in her high school cohort to graduate from the IBDP with full marks from all of her subjects and additional diploma requirements (45/45 IB Score; A from Extended Essay on Psychology; A from Theory of Knowledge)
- Took higher level Chemistry, Biology, and English Language and Literature; and standard level Psychology, Mathematics, and Turkish Language and Literature
- Wrote an Extended Essay on Psychology, investigating the literature on maladaptive and healthy perfectionism in academically gifted adolescents

SKILLS

Academic Writing

Participant Recruitment

Leadership

Data Analysis in RStudio