

KEREM OKTAR

oktar@princeton.edu • 88 College Road West, Princeton, NJ 08540 • +1 (206) 591 9577 • <https://oktar.princeton.edu>

EDUCATION

Princeton University – Princeton, NJ September 2019 – Present
PhD Candidate in Cognitive Psychology
Advisor: Tania Lombrozo

Pomona College – Claremont, CA May 2019
Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science and Economics (Double Major).
Honors: *cum laude* (GPA: 3.9 / 4.0) with Distinction in Linguistics and Cognitive Science.
Theses: “*Investigating Affective Reactions to Inconsistency Processing*”, “*Modelling Gerrymandering*.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant September 2016 – May 2019
Pomona College Department of Cognitive Science – Claremont, CA
Supervisor: Dr. Shlomi Sher

- Developed and tested a novel affective-spillover paradigm investigating the relationship between inconsistency processing and affect.
- Conducted a literature review of consciousness studies for a review article on animal consciousness.

Supervisor: Dr. Jack Abecassis

- Co-designed a syllabus for *Thought and Cognition* (LGCS 150) going through primary literature on philosophy of mind and embodied cognition, organizing material into presentations and assignments.
- Authored a series of lectures on brain-to-brain synchrony as a basis for human communication; explaining the modelling, methodology, and philosophy underlying recent publications.
- Conducted archival research on neuro-aesthetics for a project on cognitive schemata and film-theory.

Neuroimaging Research Assistant June – August 2017
Pennsylvania State University, Language and Aging Lab – State College, PA
Supervisor: Dr. Michele Diaz

- Performed pre-processing and statistical analyses on brain scans (functional MRI and DTI).
- Wrote UNIX scripts and Python programs to build an efficient brain scan analysis pipeline (FSL).
- Investigated measures of brain physiology integrity and related deficits in language production in aging.

WORK AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

University Administrative Fellow October 2019 – Present
Office of IT User Experience (UX) Office – Princeton, NJ
Supervisor: Dr. Charlie Kreitzberg

- Conducting a university-wide audit of the the UX maturity of IT by conducting interviews and surveys.
- Shadowing Dr. Kreitzberg and attending workshops to gain insight into UX testing and development.

Summer Analyst Intern July 2018 – August 2018
Promontory Financial Group & IBM – New York, NY

- Authored an internal research report on use of machine learning algorithms for compliance functions.
- Conducted interviews with managing directors and analysts on anti-money laundering consortia solutions.
- Presented key findings of AML research to executive staff across multiple offices.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

September 2016 – May 2019

Pomona College Department of Cognitive Science – Claremont, CA

Supervisors: Dr. Laura Johnson and Dr. Jack Abecassis

- Assisted with three classes: (1) Introduction to Cognitive Science (LGCS 011), (2) Literature, Film and Cognitive Science (RLIT 181), and (3) Thought and Cognition (LGCS 150).
- Graded and responded to over 500 student writing assignments and quizzes across the three classes.
- Wrote lectures and prepared presentations for RLT 181 and LGCS 150.

SERVICE

Subject Pool Administrator

September 2019 – Present

Princeton University Department of Psychology – Princeton, NJ

- Served as the point-person for all student participation in psychological studies at Princeton University.
- Ensured compliance with IRB protocol and ethical standards, reviewing debriefing and consent forms.

Faculty Search Committee Member

October – January 2018

Pomona College Department of Cognitive Science – Claremont, CA

- Selected as the sole student member of a search committee for a faculty in Cognitive Science.
- Evaluated applicants' files, participated in video interviews, met with candidates during campus visits.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Oktar, K., Solache, L., Zhang, L. (2017). *The Impact of Increasing Levels of Difficulty on the Generation Effect.* Koc University Undergraduate Psychology Journal, 4(18), 12-17.

Oktar, K. (2018, September). *Investigating the Affective Reactions Elicited Through Inconsistency Processing.* Presentation at the Pomona College Stover Walk Research Conference in Claremont, CA.

Gertel, V., **Oktar, K.** & Diaz, M. (2017, November). *Graph Theoretical Approaches Show a Relationship Between Resting State Functional Connectivity in Younger and Older Adults and Phonological Aspects of Language Production.* Presentation at the meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.

Winter, S.B., Rizio, A.A., Dempsey, J., **Oktar, K.**, Diaz, M.T. (2017, November). *White Matter Integrity and Language Production in Aging.* Presentation at the meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore, MD.

AWARDS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- University Administrative Fellowship (Fall '19) for UX Research at Princeton University.
- First Year Research Fellowship (Fall '19) at Princeton University.
- Fletcher Jones Foundation Prize in Cognitive Science for best thesis at Pomona College.
- Recognized as one of 2019's *Top 25 Most Successful Turkish Undergrads in America* by a Turkish NGO.
- Pomona College Summer Research Grant (Spring '18, Spring '17) recipient for conducting independent research on inconsistency processing at Pomona and neuroscience research at Penn State.
- Pomona College Scholar (2016-2019) recipient. Award given to top 25% of class.
- Pulliam Memorial Scholarship (Fall '16) recipient for overall excellence in academics.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Software and Programming: Experience with R, SPSS, STATA, Python, Excel, FSL, E-Prime.

Languages: Turkish (Native Speaker), English (TOEFL 114/120), Spanish (Beginner).

Interests: Writing (short stories), hiking, composing and playing music (guitar, drums).