

Yasemin Kisbu-Sakarya

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Background

- 2013 – 2014 **Post-doc in Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Methods for Impact Evaluation**
Northwestern University, Institute for Policy Research, USA
Supervisor: Prof. Thomas D. Cook
- 2009 – 2013 **Ph.D. in Quantitative Research Methods (Quantitative Psychology)**
Arizona State University, Department of Psychology, USA
Dissertation title: Estimating causal direct and indirect treatment effects.
Committee: David P. MacKinnon (Chair), Leona Aiken, Stephen West, Roger Millsap
- 2004 – 2006 **M.A. in Developmental Psychology**
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2001 – 2004 **B.A. in Economics**
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Current Position

- 2014 – Present **Koç University¹, Istanbul Turkey**
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
(Received "Associate Professor" title from the Turkish Council of Higher Education)
Founding Director, [Independent Evaluation Laboratory](#)

Short-term and Visiting Affiliations:

- 2018 Summer **Harvard University, USA**
Visiting Scholar

Research Interests

- Experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluation
- Causal inference methods
- Statistical mediation analysis to test mechanisms of intervention effectiveness
- Large-scale data analysis to inform education policy and interventions
- Transportability and adaptability studies to bring effective programs to countries different from where they originated

¹ 1st among Turkish Universities according to QS World University Rankings.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

(* sign denotes PhD student under supervision)

1. **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., MacKinnon, D. P., Valente, M. J., & Çetinkaya, E. (2020). Causal Mediation Analysis in the Presence of Post-treatment Confounding Variables: A Monte Carlo Simulation Study. *Frontiers in Psychology – Quantitative Psychology and Measurement*, 1-16.
2. Niehues W.*, **Kisbu-Sakarya** Y., & Selcuk B. (2020). Family Cohesion Facilitates Learning-Related Behavior and Math Competency at the Transition to Elementary School. *Early Education and Development*, 1-15.
3. Niehues, W.*, **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., & Selçuk, B. (2020) Motivation and Math Achievement: Are They Linked with Socio-Economic Status? *Educational Psychology*, 1-22.
4. **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., Cook, T.D., Tang, Y., Clark, T. (2018). Comparative Regression Discontinuity: A Stress Test with Small Samples. *Evaluation Review*, 42, 111-143.
5. Tang, Y., Cook, T.D., & **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. (2018). Statistical Power for the Comparative Regression Discontinuity Design with a non-Equivalent Comparison Group. *Psychological Methods*, 23, 150-168.
6. Olivera, M., Rikoon, S., Gonzalez, O., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. & MacKinnon, D.P. (2018). Bias, type I error rates and statistical power of a latent mediation model in the presence of violations of invariance. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 78, 460-481.
7. Tang Y., Cook, T.D. & **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., Hock, H., & Chiang, H. (2017). The Comparative Regression Discontinuity (CRD) Design: An overview and demonstration of its performance relative to basic RD and the randomized experiment. In M.D. Cattaneo & J.C. Escanciano (Eds.), *Advances in Econometrics: Regression Discontinuity Designs: Theory and Applications*. Emerald Publishing Limited.
8. Kağıtçıbaşı, C., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., & Aydoğdu, E*. (2017). Intercultural engagement and relatedness: Examining mediation effects. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 61, 21-28.
9. **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., MacKinnon, D.P. & O'Rourke, H. (2015). Strategies for drug program evaluation: Statistical models of mediation for drug program evaluation. In L. M. Scheier (Ed.), *Handbook of drug abuse prevention research, intervention strategies, and practice*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
10. Miller, J. D., Maples, J. L., Buffardi, L., Cai, H., Gentile, B., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., Kwan, V.S.Y., LoPilato, A., Pendry, L. F., Sedikides, C., Siedor, L., & Campbell, W. K. (2015). Narcissism and United States' Culture: The view from home and around the world. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 109, 1068-1089.
11. **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., MacKinnon, D. P., & Miočević, M. (2014). The Distribution of the Product Explains Normal Theory Mediation Confidence Interval Estimation. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 49, 261-268.

12. **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, MacKinnon, D.P., & Aiken, L.S. (2013). A Monte Carlo comparison study of the power of the analysis of covariance, simple difference, and residual change scores in testing two-wave data. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 73, 47-62.
13. Cox, M. G., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, Miočević, M., & MacKinnon, D. P. (2013). Sensitivity Plots for Confounder Bias in the Single Mediator Model. *Evaluation Review*, 37, 1-27.
14. Ames, S. L., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, Reynolds, K.D., Boyle, S., Cappelli, C., Cox, M.G., Dust, M., Grenard, J.L., MacKinnon, D.P. & Stacy, A.W. (2014). Inhibitory control effects in adolescent binge eating and consumption of sweetened beverages and snacks. *Appetite*, 81, 180-192.
15. MacKinnon, D.P., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, & Gottschall, A. (2013). Developments in mediation analysis. In T.D. Little (Ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Quantitative Methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.
16. Kuehl, K. S., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, Elliot, D. L., Moe, E. L., DeFrancesco, C. A., MacKinnon, D. P., & Kuehl, H. E. (2012). Body Mass Index is a Predictor of Fire Fighter Injury and Worker Compensation Claims. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 54, 579.
17. Pirlott, A. G., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, DeFrancesco, C. A. , Elliot, D. L., & MacKinnon, D.P. (2012). Mechanisms of motivational interviewing in health promotion: A Bayesian mediation analysis. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, 9, 1-11.
18. Elliot, D.L., MacKinnon, D.P., Mabry, L., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, DeFrancesco, C.A., Coxe, S.J., Kuehl, K.S., Moe, E.L., Goldberg, L., & Favorite, K.C. (2012). Worksite wellness program implementation: A model of Translational Effectiveness. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*, 1-8.
19. Grenard, J. L., Stacy, A. W., Shiffman, S., Baraldi, A. N., MacKinnon, D. P., Lockhart, G., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.**, ... & Reynolds, K. D. (2013). Sweetened drink and snacking cues in adolescents. A study using ecological momentary assessment. *Appetite*, 67, 61-73.

Manuscripts under review / in progress (*sign denotes PhD student under supervision):

20. Çetinkaya, E.* & **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** et al. (provisionally accepted). Effectiveness of an adapted social-psychological intervention to reduce gender stereotype threat in STEM fields. *Social Psychology of Education*.
21. **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** et al. (manuscript under review). Protective and risk factors for positive fathering: Implications for social intervention and policy.
22. Çetinkaya, E.* & **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** et al. (under review). The impact of brief social psychological interventions to reduce academic achievement gap: A systematic review of the evidence.
23. Zayim, S.*, **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** et al. (under review). Does learning coding influence cognitive abilities of elementary school children? Findings from a randomized trial.
24. **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** & Çetinkaya, E.* (in preparation). Transportability and adaptability of a brief and scalable social belonging intervention to Syrian refugee education context.

25. Turunc, G.* & **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (manuscript under review). Justifying domestic violence, parental involvement, and early childhood development in LMIC: Testing an actor-partner interdependence model using UNICEF MICS data.
26. **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** et al. (manuscript under review). Fathering styles in Turkey: a latent profile analysis based on a representative sample.
27. **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** & Doeniyas, C.* (under review). Can we increase school teachers' willingness to teach ASD-inclusion classes by providing them special education training? uncovering mediating mechanisms.
28. Turunc, G.* & **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (in preparation). Mental health and social risk factors for parental involvement of Syrian refugee fathers.
29. Balci, F., Baykal, E., Goksun, T., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (under review). Improving creative thinking in elementary school children from disadvantaged families: A randomized trial.
30. Uslu, D. Marcus, J., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (under review). Toward optimized effectiveness of employee training programs: A meta-analysis.

Graduate-Level Teaching Experience

Koç University, Istanbul Turkey (Fall 2014 – present)

PSYC 501 Quantitative Research Methods I (Graduate Level - Fall)

PSYC 502 Quantitative Research Methods II (Graduate Level - Spring)

Topics covered: Experimental design, advanced analysis of variance, statistical power analysis, psychometrics, multiple regression, longitudinal data analysis, categorical data analysis, introduction to missing data analysis, and latent class analysis.

PSYC 556 Structural Equation Modeling

Topics covered: Confirmatory factor analysis, structural equations with latent variables, mediation analysis, measurement invariance, and latent growth curve models for longitudinal data.

Arizona State University (Fall 2010, Spring 2012)

Psychometrics (Graduate level). Graduate teaching assistant for Prof. Roger Millsap.

Statistical Mediation Analysis (Graduate level). Graduate teaching assistant for Prof. David MacKinnon.

Grants and Awards

Recipient of 2017 “Young Scientist Award” given by Science Academy in Turkey.

Scientific & Technological Research Council of Turkey, High Priority Areas Program (success rate: 2 out of 122 proposals were selected for funding), *Tangible Intelligent Interfaces for Teaching Computational Thinking Skills in Low Resource Settings*, 2019-2021, Role: Co-PI (Evaluation lead).

Koç University Seed Research Fund, *A brief intervention to reduce belonging uncertainty and increase academic achievement in Syrian refugee students*, 2019-2021, Role: PI.

UNICEF Turkey Small Scale Funding Agreement, *Strengthening Ethical Standards and Norms for Research Involving Children in Turkey*, 04/2020-12/2020, Role: PI.

Selected Applied Experience

UNICEF Turkey (2020-present)

- Head of the Ethical Review Board for UNICEF Turkey (2020-Present)
- Strengthening Ethical Standards for Research Involving Children in Turkey Project. Prepares (1) a desk review of the existing relevant policies, standards, and norms related to ethical review of research at public, private, civil society, and academic institutions in Turkey to identify the existing best practices and gaps that need to be addressed, (2) guidelines for practitioners, (3) training in ethics for practitioners.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed to collaborate on multiple research projects pertaining to child well-being and education.
- Causal evaluability assessment of the conditional cash transfer for education project with a budget of €34m, to increase school attendance of Syrian refugee children.

Turkish Natural Catastrophe Insurance Pool (in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency) (2018-2019)

- Principal evaluator for the theory-based elementary school curriculum on disaster preparedness conducted in 26 cities across Turkey. Determined evaluation design (cluster randomized controlled design), the targeted outcome indicators, prepared the questionnaires, and supervised the full planning, designing and implementation of the evaluation, has written the final report.

TOHUM Autism Foundation, Istanbul Turkey (2017 - 2018) *Funded by Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Social Impact Investment Program financed by EBRD.*

- Principal evaluator for the Autism Training for Inclusive Education Project conducted across 11 cities in Turkey. Determined evaluation hypotheses, the targeted outcome indicators, conducted literature review, prepared the questionnaires, supervised the full planning, designing, and implementation of the evaluation, and has written the final report.

Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV), Istanbul Turkey, (2015-2016)

- PI for the impact evaluation of TEGV after-school programs given to disadvantaged children in 20 cities across Turkey. Determined the targeted indicators and supervised the planning, design, and implementation of the evaluation. Conducted a propensity score matching analysis segregated by gender and has written the final report.

Mother-Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), Istanbul Turkey, (2015-2016) Funded by Bernard van Leer Foundation.

- Methodology PI for a comprehensive project on the State of Fatherhood in Turkey. The project had a mixed design involving qualitative and quantitative methods and gathered disaggregated data from a nationally representative sample of fathers in Turkey. Provided significant input into the development of a theoretical model identifying risk and protective factors for positive fathering, development of the survey including information about the household and appropriate parenting scales, sampling strategy, psychometric analysis of scales, data analysis.

Jacobs Foundation Marbach Residency Fellowship (August 2015).

- Project title “Towards optimised reach and effectiveness of parenting interventions to prevent violence against children”, in collaboration with Prof. Frances Gardner from Centre for Evidence based Intervention, Oxford University.

Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University, (2013-2014)

Post-doc researcher under the supervision of Prof. Thomas D. Cook. *Funded by IES.*

- Conducted research on the development and testing of a new quasi-experimental technique: Comparative Regression Discontinuity Design. Applied the new analysis methods to large-scale national datasets such as the US National Head Start Impact Study promoting child development and US Comprehensive Teacher Induction Study promoting student achievement.

Research in Prevention Laboratory (RiPL), Arizona State University, (2009-2013)

Graduate research assistant for Prof. David P. MacKinnon

- **Habitual and Neurocognitive Processes in Adolescent Obesity Prevention.** *Funded by NIH.* Data analyst and methodologist for a multiple-studies project that included computer intensive assessment methods to develop an evidence-based obesity prevention program. Provided technical input into sampling, indicator and questionnaire development, quantitative data analysis, and report writing. Analysis topics included multilevel power analysis to determine sample size, psychometric analysis of questionnaires, latent profile analysis, and multi-group structural equation modelling.
- **Promoting Healthy Living: Assessing More Effects (PHLAME).** *Funded by NIH.* Data analyst and methodologist for seven-wave longitudinal data on the evaluation of a health promotion program in US. Provided technical input into literature review, theoretical model building, quantitative data analysis, and report writing. Analysis topics include multilevel analysis, missing data analysis with categorical outcomes, Bayesian mediation analysis, and longitudinal models, and quantitative analysis of a data coming from a qualitative sub-study.

Organized Paper Symposia and Selected Conference Presentations

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. (June, 2019). Fathering in Different Contexts. **Symposium** organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research, San Francisco CA.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. (June, 2015). Advancing Quasi-Experimental Methods: Comparative Regression Discontinuity Design. **Symposium** organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research, Washington DC.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. (June, 2015). Advances in Mediation Analysis: Improving Causal Interpretation and Accuracy of Estimates. **Symposium** organized and chaired for the Annual Meeting of Society for Prevention Research, Washington DC.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. & Çetinkaya, E. (June, 2019). Optimizing the effectiveness of a role model intervention using a factorial experiment with a mediator, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, San Francisco CA.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. et al. (June, 2019). Protective and Risk Factors Associated with Involved Fatherhood: Implications for Policy and Practice, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, San Francisco CA.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. (2018). Estimating Causal Effects in Testing Causal Mechanisms: Problems and Solutions. Paper presented at European Society for Prevention Research Annual Conference, Portugal

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. & Çetinkaya, E. (2018). Social Psychological Strategies to Overcome Gender Stereotype Threat in STEM. International Conference on Gender & Education, Sabanci University, Istanbul.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y. & Cook, T.D. (June, 2017). Comparative regression discontinuity: Bias, precision, and violation of the parallelity assumption. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, Washington DC.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y., & MacKinnon, D., (June, 2015). Causal mediation. Paper presented at VII European Congress of Methodology, Spain.

Olivera-Aguilar, M., **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y., & MacKinnon, D.,** (June, 2015). Violations of invariance in a mediation model: Impact on relative bias, type I error rates, statistical power and coverage. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, Washington DC.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y., MacKinnon, D., & Tofighi, D. (June, 2011). Bayesian mediation analysis for studies with small samples. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, Denver, Co.

MacKinnon, D.P., Cox, M.G., Miocevic, M., & **Kisbu-Sakarya, Y.** (March, 2012). Methods to assess confounder bias applied to an anabolic steroid prevention program. Paper presented at the Frontiers in the Analysis of Causal Mechanisms Conference, Harvard's Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Cambridge, MA.

Kisbu-Sakarya, Y., MacKinnon, D., & Elliot, D. (2010, June). Cross-Sectional versus Longitudinal Analyses: Discrepant Findings from Prevention Research Data. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of Society of Prevention Research, Denver, Co.

Affiliations

Society for Prevention Research
EU Society for Prevention Research
European Association of Methodology
APA Division 5 - Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

Languages

Turkish (native)
English
French (graduated from a French Middle and High School in Istanbul)

Personal background information

Year of birth: 1981
Citizenship: Turkish
Marital Status: Married, 9years (Turkish citizen)
Child: Daughter, 6 years old (TR-US dual citizen)