

## ACADEMIC CURRICULUM VITAE

### **Sezercan Ucar, M.A.**

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Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
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#### **EDUCATION**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Time Period</b>
<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>Human Development and Family Science</b> <i>"Marriage and Family Therapy" Concentration</i>	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg, VA)	08/2023-Present
<b>M.A.*</b>	<b>Psychology</b> <i>"Couple and Family Therapy" Concentration</i>	Özyeğin University (İstanbul, Turkey)	09/2019-07/2022
<b>B.A.</b> <i>(Magna Cum Laude)</i>	<b>Psychology</b> <i>Minor in "International Relations"</i>	Özyeğin University, (İstanbul, Turkey)	09/2012-06/2017

(\*) *Master's Thesis: "The experiences of noncustodial fathers after divorce and custody: A phenomenological study about parental alienation"*

#### **WORKING EXPERIENCE**

##### **Assistantship Experience**

###### **Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA**

08/2023-Present

- I am responsible for analyzing Dr. Paul Springer's qualitative data, collaborating on new manuscripts based on the analyses for publication, and conducting new qualitative research about the role of friendship support systems on LGBT individuals' coming out experiences in a cross-cultural context.

###### **Graduate Assistant, Family Therapy Center of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA**

08/2023-Present

- I am assisting the Family Therapy Center of Virginia Tech's Clinical Director, Dr. Jenene Case Pease, with the administrative part of the center by organizing client forms via Titanium, preparing clinical PRN data for the analysis, interviewing and selecting new undergraduate interns for each semester, editing the clinical manual, and recording training videos related to systems used at the center for the new intern psychotherapists.

**Full-time Teaching Assistant, Özyeğin University, Istanbul**

09/2021-06/2023

- I was responsible for assisting professors' teaching activities by regulating attendance procedures, holding office hours and recitation sessions, giving guest lectures, and preparing and grading exams and assignments for several undergraduate courses of several instructors:
  - *Research Methods II* – Undergraduate, 2023.
  - *Attitudes and Persuasion* – Undergraduate, 2023.
  - *Family Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2022.
  - *Applied Social Psychology: Behavior Change* – Undergraduate, 2022.
  - *Social Psychology I & II* – Undergraduate, 2022 & 2023.
  - *Sports Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2022 & 2023.
  - *Biopsychology* – Undergraduate, 2022 & 2023.
  - *General Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2021-2023.
  - *Introduction to Psychology I & II* – Undergraduate, 2021-2023.
  - *Public Health and Exercise Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2021.
  - *Natural and Artificial Intelligence* – Undergraduate, 2021.

**Part-time Graduate Research Assistant, Özyeğin University, Istanbul**

02/2020-09/2020

- I was responsible for providing assistance to Dr. Selenga Gürmen's studies within the framework of literature review, translation of the scales into Turkish, and application for research funds.
- The research areas included divorce, co-parenting, parental distress, and parental alienation.

**Part-time Graduate Teaching Assistant, Özyeğin University, Istanbul**

09/2019-08/2021

- I was responsible for assisting professors' teaching activities by regulating attendance procedures, holding office hours and recitation sessions, giving guest lectures, and grading exams and assignments for several undergraduate courses of several instructors:
  - *Family Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2020.
  - *Individual, Family and Cultural Diversity* – Undergraduate, 2020 & 2021.
  - *Introduction to Psychology I & II* – Undergraduate, 2019-2021.
  - *General Psychology* – Undergraduate, 2019-2021.
  - *Adult Psychopathology* – Undergraduate, 2019.

**Guest Lectures at Özyeğin University**

- "Models of Family Functioning", "Structural Maps and Genograms", "Divorce and Parental Alienation", *Family Psychology* – Undergraduate Course, 2020-2022.
- "Family Psychology 101", *Introduction to Psychology II* – Undergraduate Course, 2022 & 2023.
- "Family Psychology", *General Psychology* – Undergraduate Course, 2022 & 2023.

### **Clinical Experience**

#### **Individual, Couple, and Family Therapist Under Supervision, Freelance**

06/2021-06/2023

- I had individual, couple, and family therapy sessions with clients online under systemic supervision.
- I used various systemic psychotherapy models and interventions (such as strategic therapy, structural family therapy, solution-focused therapy, emotionally focused couples therapy, and emotionally focused individual therapy).

#### **Intern Psychotherapist, Kartal Municipality Women's Counseling Center, Istanbul**

02/2021-06/2021

- Individual (22 sessions) and couple sessions (10 sessions) were held within the scope of the compulsory external internship, which is one of the requirements of the Özyeğin University Couple and Family Therapy graduate program.

#### **Intern Psychotherapist, Özyeğin University Couple and Family Therapy Center,**

Istanbul 02/2020-06/2021

- Psychotherapy sessions with individuals (211 sessions), couples (58 sessions), and families (38 sessions) were held with intensive individual supervision (55 hours) and group supervision (150 hours) in the education clinic affiliated with the Couple and Family Therapy graduate program at Özyeğin University.
- Various systemic psychotherapy models and interventions (such as strategic therapy, structural family therapy, solution-focused therapy, emotionally focused couples therapy, and emotionally-focused individual therapy) were used in the sessions.

#### **Undergraduate Intern, Istanbul French La Paix Psychiatric Hospital, Istanbul**

04/02/2019-22/02/2019

- I participated in seminars on psychopathology and various psychotherapy models, psychiatric interviews, morning meetings with inpatients, and interacted with individuals with different psychopathologies in different hospital units.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### **Manuscripts In Preparation**

- **Ucar, S.,** Gürmen, M. S., & Söylemez, Y. (in prep). Being on the target of parental alienation: A phenomenological study about noncustodial fathers.

#### **Conference Presentations**

- **Ucar, S. & Gürmen, M. S.** (2023, March). *Parental alienation experiences of noncustodial fathers: A phenomenological study.* Presented at the International Family Therapy Association (IFTA) World Family Therapy Congress, Málaga, Spain.

#### **Translations**

- Translation to Turkish for *Rohner Research Publications*. 2020 – Dr. David Rising and Dr. Ronald Rohner's "Recovery from Rejection: A Manual of Client Handouts for Clinical Practice [Reddedilmenin Yaralarını Sarmak: Klinik Uygulama için Danışan Yönergeleri Kitapçığı]"

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2023 – CLAHS Dean Graduate Scholar Award, Virginia Tech
- 2019 – Full Performance Scholarship for M.A. Studies, Özyeğin University
- 2017 – High Honors Certificate, Özyeğin University
- 2012 – Full Performance Scholarship for B.A. Studies, Özyeğin University

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATES**

- ICEEFT Certified “Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy Externship”,  
Dr. Senem Zeytinoğlu, 12/2020
- ICEEFT Certified “Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy Core Skills Training”,  
Dr. Senem Zeytinoğlu, 04/2021
- ICEEFT Certified “Emotionally Focused Individual Therapy Level 1”,  
Dr. Ting Liu & Dr. Senem Zeytinoğlu, 02/2021
- ICEEFT Certified “Emotionally Focused Individual Therapy Level 2”,  
Dr. Ting Liu & Dr. Senem Zeytinoğlu, 06/2021
- EMDRIA Certified “EMDR Level 1 & Level 2”,  
Roy Kiessling & Dr. Serkan Özgün, 01/2021 (in the supervision period)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy [AAMFT], 2023-Present
  - Margins to Center: Cultural Connections among C/MFTs
  - Queer and Trans Advocacy Network
- International Centre of Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy [ICEEFT], 2020-Present
- Turkish Psychologists Association [TPD], 2017-Present
- Turkish Couple and Family Therapy Association [ÇATED], 2020-Present
- Turkish Emotionally Focused Individual, Couple, and Family Therapy Association [DOÇAT], 2020-Present

### **SKILLS**

#### **Computer**

- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications, SPSS, and MAXQDA
- Working knowledge of R Studio

#### **Language**

- Written and oral fluency in Turkish (native) and English
- Intermediate level in French