

# SINAN ALPER

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021 - PRESENT

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** – YASAR UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

2018 - 2021

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** - YASAR UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

2017 - 2018

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR** – BASKENT UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND LETTERS, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

## EDUCATION

2012 - 2016

**PHD** – MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ANKARA, TURKEY)

Psychology (Social Psychology)

Advisor: Prof. Nebi Sümer

2010 - 2011

**MSC** – LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (LONDON, UK)

Organisational and Social Psychology

Advisor: Assoc. Prof. Derek Hook

2005 – 2010

**BSC** – MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY NORTHERN CYPRUS CAMPUS (TRNC)

Business Administration

CGPA: 3.91/4; Highest ranked graduate of the year

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Conspiracy, paranormal and pseudoscience beliefs
- Political psychology
- Moral psychology
- Cognitive processes and how they relate to social attitudes

## **COURSES TAUGHT TO GRADUATES**

- Advanced Social Psychology
- Political Psychology
- Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
- Independent Experimental Study

## **COURSES TAUGHT TO UNDERGRADUATES**

- Social Psychology
- Political Psychology
- Statistics I: Descriptive Statistics
- Statistics II: Inferential Statistics
- Cross-Cultural Psychology
- The Science of Psychology
- General Psychology
- Cognitive Processes II: Mind and Behavior

## **SUPERVISED GRADUATE STUDENTS**

- Ecesu Madan (Present). “Does inequality increase conspiracy beliefs?”
- Benan Ayazoğlu (Present). “The role of ostracism and feeling of competence in game-play on the relationship between violent video game playing and aggression: A longitudinal study.”
- Büşra Elif Yelbuz (2022). “Facial characteristics and the inferences of the Big Five and the Dark Triad personality traits.”
- Tuğçenaz Elcil (2021). “The effect of Covid-19 threat on warm and competent political leader preferences: Differences between preferences of left-and right-oriented people.”
- Nilay İşbilir (2020). “Norway and Turkey at the edges of gender equality: A mixed method approach in examining perceptions of gender inequality.”
- Erdal Kozan (2020). “The effect of gender roles on gender identity, sexual orientation and subjective perception of attractiveness.”

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

**Associate Editor** (2021 - Present): *European Journal of Social Psychology*

## **REVIEWING ACTIVITIES**

**Ad Hoc Reviewer:** Applied Cognitive Psychology, Current Psychology, Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, Personality and Individual Differences, Scientific Reports, Social Science & Medicine, Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, Public Opinion Quarterly, Public Understanding of Science (in alphabetical order)

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Alper, S. (2018). An abstract mind is a principled one: Abstract mindset increases consistency in responses to political attitude scales. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 77, 89-101. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2018.04.008> (SSCI)
2. Alper, S. (2018). Personal control V. Ziegler-Hill ve T. Shackelford (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences* içinde. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8\\_1803-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1803-1) (Book Chapter)
3. Alper, S. (2019). Does abstract mindset decrease or increase deception? *Social Psychology*, 50, 94-104. <https://doi.org/10.1027/1864-9335/a000367> (SSCI)
4. Alper, S. (2019). Personal agency. V. Ziegler-Hill ve T. Shackelford (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences* içinde. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8\\_1871-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1871-1) (Book Chapter)
5. Alper, S. (2019). Power distance. V. Ziegler-Hill ve T. Shackelford (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences* içinde. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8\\_1888-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-28099-8_1888-1) ((Book Chapter)
6. Alper, S. (2020). Explaining the complex effect of construal level on moral and political attitudes. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 29(2), 115-120. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721419896362> (SSCI)
7. Alper, S. (2021). Does the association between illness-related and religious searches on the internet depend on the level of religiosity?. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 12(4), 497-505. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1948550620923233> (SSCI)
8. Alper, S. (2021, October 2020). There are higher levels of conspiracy beliefs in more corrupt countries. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/2umfe> (Preprint)
9. Alper, S., & Imhoff, R. (2022). Suspecting foul play when it is objectively there: The association of political orientation with general and partisan conspiracy beliefs as a function of corruption levels. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 19485506221113965. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506221113965>
10. Alper, S., & Özkan, T. (2015). Do internals speed less and externals speed more to cope with the death anxiety? *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behavior*, 32, 68-77. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trf.2015.05.002> (SSCI)
11. Alper, S., & Sümer, N. (2017). Özgür irade ve belirlenimcilik ölçeğinin Türkçeye uyarlaması ve psikometrik özellikleri [The Adaptation of Free Will and Determinism Plus (FAD-Plus) Scale into Turkish and Its Psychometric Properties]. *Türk Psikoloji Yazıları*, 20(39), 26-35. (TR Dizin)
12. Alper, S., & Sümer, N. (2019). Control deprivation decreases, not increases, belief in a controlling god for people with independent self-construal. *Current Psychology*, 38, 1490-1494. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-017-9710-9> (SSCI)
13. Alper, S., & Tasman, D. R. (2019). Sosyal karşılaştırmaların ulusal nostalji üzerindeki etkisi [The effect of social comparisons on national nostalgia]. *Türk Psikoloji Yazıları*, 22(43), 69-73. <https://doi.org/10.31828/tpy1301996120180316m000005> (TR Dizin)
14. Alper, S., & Us E. Ö. (2021). The role of intentionality in perceiving terrorism as a more important problem than traffic accidents. *Current Psychology*, 40, 4063-4071. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-019-00372-0> (TR Dizin)
15. Alper, S., Yelbuz, B. E., Akkurt, S. B., & Yılmaz, O. (2022, August 16). The positive association of education with the trust in science and scientists is weaker in highly corrupt countries. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/3h8fj> (Preprint)
16. Alper, S., & Yılmaz, O. (2019). How is the Big Five related to moral and political convictions: The moderating role of the WEIRDness of the culture. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 145, 32-38. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2019.03.018> (SSCI)

17. Alper, S., & Yilmaz, O. (2020). Does an abstract mind-Set increase the internal consistency of moral attitudes and strengthen individualizing foundations?. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 11(3), 326-335. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1948550619856309> (SSCI)
18. Alper, S., & Yilmaz, O. (2020). *Sağcılığın ve solculuğun psikolojisi: Farklı dünyaların insanları [The psychology of the political rightism and the leftism: People from separate worlds]*. Nobel Akademik Yayıncılık. (Book)
19. Alper, S., Bayrak, F., & Yilmaz, O. (2020). All the Dark Triad and some of the Big Five traits are visible in the face. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 168, 110350. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.110350> (SSCI)
20. Alper, S., Bayrak, F., & Yilmaz, O. (2021). Inferring political and religious attitudes from composite faces perceived to be related to the dark triad personality traits. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 182, 111070. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2021.111070> (SSCI)
21. Alper, S., Bayrak, F., & Yilmaz, O. (2021). Psychological correlates of COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs and preventive measures: Evidence from Turkey, *Current Psychology*, 40, 5708-5717. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007%2Fs12144-020-00903-0> (SSCI)
22. Alper, S., Bayrak, F., Us, E. Ö., & Yilmaz, O. (2020). Do changes in threat salience predict the moral content of sermons? The case of Friday Khutbas in Turkey. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 50(3), 662-672. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2632> (SSCI)
23. Alper, S., Douglas, K., & Capraro, V. (2021, December 20). Conspiracy beliefs and generosity across 52 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fdyxr> (Preprint)
24. Alper, S., Kunter, E., & Uz, İ. (2018). Zamir kullanımının erkek ve kadınlarda bireycilik ve toplulukçuluğa etkisi [Sex differences in the effect of pronoun type on self-construal]. *Nesne*, 6(12), 68-81. <https://doi.org/10.7816/nesne-06-12-04> (TR Dizin)
25. Alper, S., Us, E. Ö., & Tasman, D. R. (2019). The evil eye effect: Vertical pupils are perceived as more threatening. *Cognition and Emotion*, 33(6), 1249-1260. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2018.1550741> (SSCI)
26. Alper, S., Yilmaz, O., & Saribay, S. A. (2021). How do cognitive styles influence political Attitudes? A joint consideration of Dual-Process Model and Construal Level Theory. In J. D. Sinnott & J. S. Rabin (Eds.), *The Psychology of Political Behavior in a Time of Change* (pp. 177-193). Springer, Cham. (Book Chapter)
27. Bago, B., Kovacs, M., Protzko, J., Nagy, T., Kekecs, Z., Palfi, B., ... & Matibag, C. J. (2022). Situational factors shape moral judgements in the trolley dilemma in Eastern, Southern and Western countries in a culturally diverse sample. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-022-01319-5> (SSCI)
28. Bayrak, F., & Alper, S. (2021). A tale of two hashtags: An examination of moral content of pro- and anti-government tweets in Turkey. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2763> (SSCI)
29. Bayrak, F., Alper, S., & Yilmaz, O. (2021). Çözüm önerisinin itici görülüp görülmemesi Kürt sorununu kabul etmeyi etkiliyor mu? [Does perception of solution proposal as aversive affect the acknowledgment of Kurdish question?]. *Kalem Eğitim ve İnsan Bilimleri Dergisi*, 11(1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.23863/kalem.2020.145> (TR Dizin)
30. Buttrick, N., Choi, H., Wilson, T. D., Oishi, S., Boker, S. M., Gilbert, D. T., Alper, S., ... & Wilks, D. C. (2018). Cross-cultural consistency and relativity in the enjoyment of thinking versus doing. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 117(5), e71-e83. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000198> (SSCI)
31. Dogruyol, B., Alper, S., & Yilmaz, O. (2019). The five-factor model of the moral foundations theory is stable across WEIRD and non-WEIRD cultures. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 151, 109547. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2019.109547> (SSCI)

32. Jones, B. C., DeBruine, L., Flake, J. K., Aczel, B., Adamkovic, M., Alaei, R., ... Alper, S., ... & Vergauwe, E. (2018). To which world regions does the valence-dominance model of social perception apply?, *Nature Human Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-01007-2> (SSCI)
33. Klein, R. A., Vianello, M., Hasselman, F., Adams, B. G., Adams, R. B., Alper, S., ... & Nosek, B. A. (2018). Many Labs 2: Investigating variation in replicability across samples and settings. *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science*, *1*(4), 443–490. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2515245918810225> (SSCI)
34. van Mulukom, V., Pummerer, L. J., Alper, S., Bai, H., Čavojová, V., Farias, J., ... & Žeželj, I. (2022). Antecedents and consequences of COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs: A systematic review. *Social Science & Medicine*, 114912. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.114912>
35. Yelbuz, B. E., Madan, E., & Alper, S. (2022). Reflective thinking predicts lower conspiracy beliefs: A meta-analysis. *Judgment and Decision Making*, *17*(4), 720-744. <https://sjdm.org/journal/22/220408/jdm220408.pdf> (SSCI)
36. Yılmaz, O., & Alper, S. (2019). The link between intuitive thinking and social conservatism is stronger in WEIRD societies. *Judgment and Decision Making*, *14*(2), 156-169. <http://journal.sjdm.org/18/181212/jdm181212.pdf> (SSCI)
37. Yılmaz, O., Bayrak, F., & Alper, S. (2019). Wittgenstein’ın psikoloji bilimine dair görüşlerine eleştirel bir bakış [A critical look at Wittgenstein's opinions on psychology]. *Current Research in Social Sciences*, *5*(2), 130-142. (TR Dizin)

## GRANTS

- TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) 1001 (Project no: 221K046) – Principle Investigator – “The Temporal Changes in Epistemically Suspect (Conspiracy, Paranormal and Psuedoscience) Beliefs: Longitudinal Analysis of the Predictors and the Moderators” (2022 – Present)
- TÜBİTAK 3501 (Project no: 221K535) – Principle Investigator – “Reducing Epistemically Suspect Beliefs through Scientific Reasoning” (2022 – Present).
- TÜBİTAK 1001 (Project no: 121K638) – Researcher – “How to Increase Social Cooperation against the Threat of Earthquakes?” (2021 – Present).
- TÜBİTAK 3501 (Project no: 121K107) – Researcher – “How to Promote Cooperation under Resource Scarcity? The Moderating Role of Intuitive/Analytical Thinking” (2021 – Present).
- TÜBİTAK 1001 (Project no: 115K312) – Scholarship Student - “The Relationship between Individualism-Collectivism and the Structural Characteristics of the Language” (2015 –2017).
- Yasar University – Scientific Research Project (Project no: BAP 087) – Principle Investigator – “The Effect of Gender Roles on Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and Subjective Preferences” (01.2020 –07.2020).
- Yasar University – Scientific Research Project (Project no: BAP 080) – Principle Investigator – “The Association between Face Perception and the Perceived Political and Religious Attitudes” (.02.2020 –08.2020).

## **AWARDS**

- The Sakip Sabancı International Research Award 2021 – Best Essay Award – “Believing COVID-19 Conspiracy Theories: Not a Bug but a Feature of Human Nature”.
- The Preregistration Challenge Prize (Centre for Open Science) - Won two prizes (\$1,000 each) (2019)
- Yasar University – Successful Researcher Award (2020, 2021 and 2022)
- Yasar University – Achievement in Education Award (2022)