

Yasemin Kisbu

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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 Psychology**
Arizona State University, Department of Psychology, USA
Dissertation title: Estimating causal direct and indirect treatment effects.
Advisor: Prof. David P. MacKinnon
- 2004 – 2006 **M.A. in Developmental Psychology**
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2001 – 2004 **B.A. in Economics**
Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Positions and Affiliations

- 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](http://www.evalresearchlab.com)
- 2022 – 2026 **Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science (AMPPS), APS, Sage.**
Associate Editor
- 2022 – Present **UNICEF Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Geneva Switzerland**
Evaluation Advisor, Digital interventions.
- 2018 Summer **Harvard University, USA**
Visiting Scholar
- 2009 – 2013 **Research in Prevention Laboratory, Arizona State University**
Graduate Research Associate

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

Research Interests

- Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for impact evaluation
- Quantitative evaluation methods to improve intervention effectiveness
- Large-scale data analysis to inform policy and interventions
- Transportability and adaptability studies to bring effective programs to settings and countries different from where they originated
- Systematic review and meta-analysis of intervention effectiveness
- Child well-being, especially in vulnerable populations (e.g., refugees, girls, disabilities, LMIC)

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

(* sign denotes graduate student)

1. **Kisbu**, Y., Akcinar, B., Kuscul, H., Bozok, M. Turunc, G., Fisek, G. (2022). Protective and risk factors for involved fathering in a traditional culture. *Family Relations*, 1-31.
2. Turunç G.* & **Kisbu**, Y. (accepted, 2022). Emotional, cognitive, and social functioning in children and early adolescents living in post-armed conflict: Testing mediating mechanisms using UNICEF MICS. *International Journal of Psychology*.
3. Uslu, D.*, Marcus, J., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. (2022). Toward optimized effectiveness of workplace training programs: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Personnel Psychology*, 21, 49-65.
4. Turunc, G.* & **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. (2021). Parents' attitudes toward domestic violence as a risk factor for early childhood development: Testing an actor-partner interdependence model using UNICEF MICS. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1-26.
5. **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. & Doenyas, C. (2021). Can School Teachers' Willingness to Teach ASD-Inclusion Classes Be Increased via Special Education Training? Uncovering Mediating Mechanisms. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 113, 1-9.
6. Ozcan, S.M.*, Cetinkaya, E., Goksun, T., & **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. (2021). Does learning to code influence cognitive skills of elementary school children? Findings from a randomized experiment. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, 91, 1434-1455.
7. Balci, F., Baykal, E., Goksun, T., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. Yantac, E. (accepted 2021). Improving creative thinking in elementary school children from disadvantaged families: A randomized trial. *Journal of Creativity Research*.
8. **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.
9. Çetinkaya, E.*, Hermann, S., & **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. (2020). Adapting the values affirmation intervention to a multi-stereotype threat framework for female students in STEM. *Social Psychology of Education*, 23, 1587-1607.

10. Sumer, O.*, **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y. Etel, E., Selcuk, B. (2020). Developmental change in early language and cognitive skills of institution-reared children as compared to their parent-reared peers. *Children and Youth Services Review*, *121*, 1-9.
11. 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.
12. Niehues, W.*, **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., & Selçuk, B. (2020) Motivation and Math Achievement: Are They Linked with Socio-Economic Status? *Educational Psychology*, 1-22.
13. **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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Kağitçibaşı, C., **Kisbu-Sakarya**, Y., & Aydoğdu, E*. (2017). Intercultural engagement and relatedness: Examining mediation effects. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, *61*, 21-28.
18. **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.
19. 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.
20. **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.
21. **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.
22. 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.

23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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 / final draft:

29. **Kisbu**, Y. et al. (under invited revision). Fathering styles in Turkey: a latent profile analysis based on a representative sample.
30. Niehues W.*, Selcuk B., & **Kisbu** Y. (under invited revision). German-Turkish, Turkish and German mothers' perception of their psychological control, autonomy support, mother-child conflict and children's learning-related behaviors.
31. **Kisbu**, Y. & Çetinkaya, E.* (final draft). Transportability and adaptability of a brief and scalable social belonging intervention to Syrian refugee education context. Evidence from two randomized evaluations.
32. Turunc, G.* & **Kisbu**, Y. (final draft). Mental health and social risk factors for parental involvement of Syrian refugee fathers.
33. Faraci, C.* & **Kisbu**, Y. (final draft). Effectiveness of Parent Mediated Autism Interventions: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.
34. Ozcan, S.M.*, Sabuncuoglu, A., Sezgin, M., & **Kisbu**, Y.. (final draft in preparation). A cluster randomized trial on the impact of mobile-app augmented STEM curriculum on children's cognitive outcomes.
35. Ozcan, S.M.*, Goksun, T., & **Kisbu**, Y. (final draft in preparation). The Impact of Learning to Code on Higher-order Executive-Functions.

Awards and Grants

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

UNICEF Turkey, Programme Cooperation Agreement, *Evidence generation, dissemination and capacity building for better monitoring and reporting for the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Turkey*, 10/2021-02/2023, Role: PI.

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 (Experimental evaluation lead).

Suna Inan Kirac Foundation, *Better monitoring of child outcomes in the area of girls’ education programs (Phase I of a multiple-years agreement under signature)*, 07/2022-12/2022, Role: PI.

Koç University Seed Research Fund, *A brief intervention to reduce belonging uncertainty and increase academic achievement in Syrian refugee students: Evidence from two experimental evaluations*, 2019-2021, Role: Principal investigator.

UNICEF Turkey Small Scale Funding Agreement, *Strengthening Ethical Standards and Norms for Research Involving Children in Turkey*, 04/2020-08/2021, Role: Principal investigator.

Selected Applied Projects

UNICEF Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Geneva Switzerland (07/2022-present)

- Evaluation advisor for digital interventions for child well-being led by the UNICEF Office of Innovation, that are aimed to be disseminated across the 22 countries in the region.

NeOAUVRA Virtual Reality based Assessment and Training, New York and Istanbul. (10/2021-Present)

- Evaluation advisor. The measurement validation and experimental evaluation studies for VR-based assessment tools and digital trainings.

Facebook EMEA Headquarters (11/2021-07/2022)

- Principal evaluator. A quasi-experimental impact evaluation study, which includes an interrupted time series analysis using social media data on digital campaigning interventions.

UNICEF Turkey (2020-present)

- Programme Cooperation Agreement signed to collaborate on multiple evidence generation studies pertaining to child well-being and education.
- Head of the Ethical Review Board services for UNICEF Turkey (2020-Present)
- Causal evaluability assessment of the conditional cash transfer for education project with a budget of €34m, to increase school attendance of Syrian refugee children.
- Back to Learning Study: A mixed method study – survey and FGDs - investigating the barriers and bottlenecks Syrian refugee and Turkish children experience related to their learning, enrolment, and attendance in school.

The Ministry of Family and Social Services and UNICEF Turkey (09/2021-05/2022)

- Child Well-Being in Turkey Project Academic PI. Responsibilities included the identification of dimensions and indicators of child well-being as investigated in large-scale quantitative studies abroad and in Turkey, data mapping and gap analysis for child indicator data in Turkey, preparation of the national quantitative survey on child well-being that will be implemented by the Turkish Statistical Agency every 4 years to guide the programmatic and policy efforts of the Turkish government.

Suna Inan Kiraç Foundation, Istanbul Turkey (07/2022-Present)

- Principal investigator for research on monitoring child indicators in the area of girls' education interventions.

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

- Principal evaluator for the cluster-randomized controlled trial of a theory-based elementary school curriculum on disaster preparedness conducted in 26 cities across Turkey.

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 experimental 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 quasi-experimental 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".

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 associate for Prof. David P. MacKinnon

- **Habitual and Neurocognitive Processes in Adolescent Obesity Prevention.** *Funded by NIH.* Methodologist and data analyst for a multiple-studies project that included computer intensive real-time mobile-app based 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.* Methodologist and data analyst 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.

Selected Organized Paper Symposia and 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.

Graduate-Level Teaching Experience

Koç University, Istanbul Turkey (Fall 2014 – present)

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

Topics covered: Experimental design, advanced analysis of variance, statistical power analysis, psychometrics.

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

Topics covered: Advanced regression analysis, 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.

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: Single

Dependent: Daughter, 8 years old (TR-US dual citizen)