

Aliyar Özercan

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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, CT, USA

- Ph.D. in Philosophy Aug 2018 – Cont'd
 - Focus: Philosophy of language, Philosophy of Cognitive Science, Neuroscience.

Boğaziçi University (Formerly Robert College), Istanbul, Turkey

- Ph.D. in Philosophy Aug 2016 – Transferred
 - Focus: Philosophy of language, theory of self.

Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey

- M.A. in Philosophy Aug 2013 – Jul 2016
 - Thesis: The Maxims of Relevance Theory for Determining the Referent of a Proper Name
 - Adviser: Emeritus Prof. Dr. Teo Grünberg
 - Focus: Philosophy of Language, pragmatics, theory of reference.
 - Top student of the graduating class.
- B.A. in Philosophy Aug 2009 – Jun 2013
 - Focus: Logic, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science.
 - Graduated with Honors.
 - Top third student of the graduating class.

RESEARCH INTEREST

Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, Philosophy of language, evolution of language and meaning.

PUBLICATIONS

SOLE AUTHOR

- [1] [A. Özercan](#), *Symbolic Logic Manual*, METU Press, in English, 135 pages, Oct 2014.
 - Course book of PHIL103 (Introduction to Logic), PHIL203 (Modern Logic I), and PHIL302 (Modern Logic II) at Middle East Technical University.

JOINT EDITOR

- [1] T. Grünberg, *Language, Logic, and Empirical Knowledge Collected Papers 1965-2005*, Editors: D. Grünberg and [A. Özercan](#), 196 pages, METU Press, Jan 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

- [1] [A. Özercan](#), “Bir Hatanın Peşinde” (In Pursuit of a Mistake) in 2. *ODTÜ Lisansüstü Felsefe Öğrencileri Konferansı (2nd METU Philosophy Graduate Students Conference)*, METU, Ankara, Turkey, Dec 2017.
- [2] [A. Özercan](#), “Dinleyici İçin Kurallar,” (The Maxims of the Audience) in 1. *ODTÜ Lisansüstü Felsefe Öğrencileri Konferansı (1st METU Philosophy Graduate Students Conference)*, METU, Ankara, Turkey, May 2016.
- [3] [A. Özercan](#) and O. Akçelik, “In Pursuit of the Missing Premise,” in *British Logic Colloquium 2015*, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, Sep 2015.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ECOM Research Group, University of Connecticut

Jan 2016 – Cont'd

- Research Assistant
 - Organizational assistance for 6th annual workshop, along with ECOM Speaker Series
 - Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dorit Bar-On

Laboratory for Computational Ontology, Middle East Technical University

Jan 2014 – May 2016

- Research Assistant
 - Projects: Ontology of Agency, In Pursuit of the Missing Premise.
 - Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aziz F. Zambak
 - Focus: Ontology, theory of agency, statistical analysis, logic.

	UC Davis , Department of Philosophy	Sep 2015 – Dec 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visiting Scholar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: Indexicality of Proper Names. • Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Adam Sennet • Focus: Theory of reference, pragmatic approaches on names, communication theories. 	
	Middle East Technical University , Department of Philosophy	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate Student Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting professors on their research and their courses. 	Sep 2013 – Jun 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undergraduate Student Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting professors on their research and their courses. 	Oct 2010 – May 2013
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	University of Connecticut , Department of Philosophy	Aug 2018 – Cont'd
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PHIL1101 - Problems of Philosophy (Fall, 2018) ▪ PHIL1102 - Philosophy and Logic (Spring, 2019) 	
	Bartın University , Department of Philosophy	Jan 2016 – May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FEL205 - Introduction to Logic (Fall semesters) ▪ MAN201 - Logic I (Fall semesters) ▪ MAN202 - Logic II (Spring semesters) 	
	Middle East Technical University , Department of Philosophy	Sep 2012 – Jan 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PHIL103 - Introduction to Logic (Fall semesters) ▪ PHIL203 - Modern Logic I (Fall semesters) ▪ PHIL302 - Modern Logic II (Spring semesters) 	
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE	Bartın University , Department of Philosophy, Bartın, Turkey	Jan 2016 – May 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Double Major Program Coordinator ▪ Minor Program Coordinator ▪ Erasmus+ Departmental Coordinator 	
AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS FOR	UC Davis	Sep 2015 – Dec 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livatyali Research Grant, full-cover grant for being a visiting scholar at UC Davis. 	
	Cambridge University	Sep 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Giver: Laboratory for Computational Ontology, for the expenses of both the research of <i>In Pursuit of the Missing Premise</i> and presentation in Cambridge University. 	
	Harvard University Summer School	May 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award giver: Akbank Think-Tank, received as the award of winning the 'Project Will Bring 1 Million New and Profitable Customer' contest, totaling \$95,000. 	
	Middle East Technical Univeristy	2009 – 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Honor's Student (2012). • Honor's Student (Spring 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012). 	
WORK IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Book section (In Editing): Logic and Formal Ontology, in <i>Formal Ontoloji'nin Elkitabı</i> (Handbook of Formal Ontology), Eds. A. F. Zambak & O. Akçelik, in Turkish. ▪ Paper: In Pursuit of a Mistake. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • İnan argues that a meditation on what curiosity is requires us to appeal to the notion of inostensible reference, referring to something unknown, which is done via an inostensible definite description. I, on the other hand, argue that, such a referring cannot be done with a definite description, due to the pragmatic fact that we are not very careful in constructing our definite description of our object of curiosity and sometimes we misdefine it. To solve problem, I propose three possible ways we could make such an inostensible reference, using Searle's, Lakatos's, and Recanati's theories. ▪ Paper: Ultimate Turing Test. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we be able to figure out whether one thing is human or not after an AI passes the Turing Test? Imagine an evil philosopher who wants to understand the true nature of humanity. He not only creates an artificial intelligence that passes the Turing Test, but also creates creatures, indistinguishable from humans with meat and bones (except a specific part known just by this philosopher). After a decade of mass production and slowly placing them into the society, he reveals his secret and forces people to take The Ultimate Turing Test, where the subject tries to understand his or her nature, whether s/he is an AI or not. Can we construct such a test? 	

**GRADUATE
COURSES**

University of Connecticut

- Foundations in Neuropsychology - John Salamone & Deborah Fein
- Modal Logic - Keith Simmons.

Aug 2018 – Cont'd

Boğaziçi University

- Kant's Moral Philosophy - Ken Westphal.
- Events and Their Names - Sun Demirli.
- Seminar on Leibniz - Steven Voss.
- Philosophy of Curiosity - İlhan İnan.
- Seminar on Self - Steven Voss.

Dec 2017 – Sep 2016

UC Davis

- Vagueness (A) - Adam Sennet.
- Heretic Approaches to Natural Language Semantics (A) - Hanti Lin.

Sep 2015 – Dec 2015

Middle East Technical University, Department of Philosophy

- Philosophy of Logic & Mathematics - Ahmet Çevik.
- Proper Names - Teo Grünberg.
- Research Problems in Philosophy of Science - Teo Grünberg.
- Propositional Theories of Meaning in Philosophy of Lang. - Teo Grünberg.
- Advanced Logic - Aziz Zambak.
- Meaning and Truth - Teo Grünberg.
- Formal Ontology - Aziz Zambak.

Feb 2015 – Jun 2014

Harvard University, Department of Government

- American Foreign Policy - David Rezvani.

Jun 2012 – Sep 2012

LANGUAGES

- Turkish: Native.
- English: Fluent (speaking, reading, writing).
- French: Basic (reading, writing).
- Latin: Basic (reading, writing).

REFERENCES

▪ **Emeritus Professor Dr. Teo Grünberg**

Professor of Philosophy
Middle East Technical University
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▪ **Professor Dr. David Grünberg**

Professor of Philosophy
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06800 Çankaya/Ankara Turkey
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▪ **Assoc. Professor Dr. Aziz F. Zambak**

Professor of Philosophy
Principal Investigator at Laboratory for Computational Ontology
Middle East Technical University
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