

Curriculum Vita

Özge Savaş, Ph.D.

Bennington College
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Academic Appointments

- 2020-present** Bennington College
Assistant Professor of Psychology
- 2018-2019** Center for Arab American Studies at University of Michigan, Dearborn
Visiting scholar

Education

- 2020** Ph.D. in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
- 2016** M.S. in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
- 2015** M.A. in Developmental Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul-Turkey
- 2010** B.S. in Psychology, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara-Turkey

Research Interests

- Sub-fields** Migration, citizenship, culture, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, politics
- Concepts** Self, identity, community, belonging, desire, need, deservingness, vulnerability, resilience, empowerment, agency, autonomy, trust, privilege, marginalization, diaspora, globalization, neoliberalism
- Theories** Decoloniality, Intersectionality/Critical Race Theory, Liberation Psychology
- Methods** Qualitative methods (Thematic Analysis, Narrative Analysis), Critical Participatory Action Research, Quantitative methods (Surveys), Mixed methods

Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals

[* denotes equal contribution], [* * denotes student authors]

Savaş, Ö.* & Dutt, A.* [under review]. Decolonial and intersectional feminist psychology for the future of (forced) migration and refugee resettlement.

Savaş, Ö., Caulfield, S., Smith, H., House, M., & Stewart, A. J. [in press]. Vulnerability and empowerment on the ground: Activist perspectives from the Global Feminisms Project. *Feminism & Psychology*.

Klein, V., * **Savaş, Ö.**, * Conley, T., (2021). How WEIRD and androcentric is sex research? Global Inequities in Study Populations. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 1-8.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2021.1918050>

Savaş, Ö., Greenwood, R. M., Blankenship, B. T., Stewart, A. J., Deaux, K. (2021) All immigrants are not alike: Intersectionality matters in views of immigrant groups. *Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, 9(1), 86-104. DOI: 10.5964/jspp.5575

Blankenship, B. T., Davis, T., Areguin, M. A., **Savaş, Ö.**, Winter, D. & Stewart, A. J. (2021). Trust and tribulation: Racial identity centrality, institutional trust, and support for candidates in the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election. *Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy*.
<http://doi.org/10.1111/asap.12256>.

Savaş, Ö. & Stewart, A. J. (2018) Alternative pathways to activism: Intersections of social and personal pasts in the narratives of women's rights activists. *Qualitative Psychology*, 6(1), 27-46. DOI: 10.1037/qap0000117

Blankenship, B., **Savaş, Ö.**, Frederick, J., Stewart, A. J., (2018) Piecing together the American voting puzzle: How voters' personalities and judgments of issue importance mattered in the 2016 Presidential Election. *Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 18(1), 172-191. DOI: 10.1111/asap.12157

Blankenship, B., Frederick, J., **Savaş, Ö.**, Montgomery, S., Stewart, A. J. (2017) Privilege and marginality: How group identification and personality predict right- and left-wing political activism. *Analysis of Social Issues and Public Policy* 17(1), 161-183. DOI: 10.1111/asap.12132.

Sümer, N., Sakman, E., Harma, M., & **Savaş, Ö.**, (2016). Turkish mothers' attachment orientations and mental representations of their children. *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology* 34(1), 49-63.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Savaş, Ö., * Klein, V., * Conley, T., (in preparation, invited response to commentary). Should we turn the volume down or up? The WEIRD controversy continues. *The Journal of Sex Research*.

Savaş, Ö., * *Sopta, I. (in preparation). Who is the self in UNHCR's "self-sufficiency" handbook? Fractured selves and communities in refugee resettlement.

Savaş, Ö., Dutt, A., Klein, V., * *Solis, L. (in preparation) Deserving pleasure in the Global South: Narratives of desire, want and need.

Duncan, L. E., **Savaş, Ö.**, Smith, H., Stewart, A. J. (in preparation). Discourses of Feminism in the Global Feminisms Project.

Refereed Book Chapters

Savaş, Ö. & Al-Midani, S. (forthcoming, Jan 2023) Syrian refugees on the margins: Gendered and racialized excursions in home-making. In Y. Hanoosh, S. Howell, & A. Shryock (Eds.)

Uncertain Refuge: Vitality and Vulnerability in Arab Detroit. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Savaş, Ö. (2021) Whose Challenge is #ChallengeAccepted? Performative Online Activism During the COVID-19 Pandemic and its Erasures. In K. A. Haas (Ed). *Being Human during COVID.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. [10.3998/mpub.12136619](https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12136619)

Awards & Grants

- 2022** **Innovative Teaching Grant (\$3,400)**
This grant is awarded by the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education. The Consortium is formed by Sarah Lawrence College, Vassar College, Bard College, Bennington College, and New School for Social Research.
- 2019** **Public Scholarship Grant (\$8000)**
This grant is awarded by Rackham Program in Public Scholarship in support of researchers who work with a broad spectrum of community partner organizations. The expectation is the co-creation of public goods as a result of the partnership between the researcher and the community organization. The grants are generously supported by the University of Michigan Office of Research.
- 2018** **Dr. Philip M. Kayal Fund for Arab American Research (\$1500)**
This grant was established by Center for Arab American Philanthropy in the name of Dr. Philip Kayal, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology. The grant supports young Arab American scholars and/or social science research on the Arab American community.
- 2018** **Patricia Gurin Award (\$500)**
This award was established in honor of Patricia Gurin by the University of Michigan Psychology Department. It is a competitive award given annually to graduate students who conduct research in any of the areas that characterize Gurin's research. These include the areas of identity, diversity, self-efficacy and control.
- 2017-2018** **Barbour Scholarship (\$19,738)**
The Barbour Scholarships were endowed at the University of Michigan in 1917 by Levi Lewis Barbour "for women of the highest academic and professional caliber from the countries encompassing the large region extending from Turkey in the west to Japan and the Philippines in the east to study modern science, medicine, mathematics and other academic disciplines and professions critical to the development of their native lands."
- 2017** **Nan Donald Award (\$2000)**
Given by the University of Michigan Psychology Department. The purpose of the Nan Donald Award is to encourage continuing interdisciplinary study in Psychology and Sociology.
- 2017** **Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$500)**
- 2016** **Rackham International Students Fellowship (\$10,000)**

"The Rackham International Student Fellowship assists outstanding international students, particularly those who may be ineligible for other kinds of support because of citizenship."

- 2011** **Best Abstract Award, V. National Psychology Graduate Students Conference**
(£500)
Title: Language, memory and emotion: Emotional intensity of the autobiographical memories vary depending on language competence
Awarded by the psychology graduate student sub-committee of the Turkish Psychological Association.
- 2010** **Best Poster of the Year Award**
Awarded by the Psychology Department at Middle East Technical University.

Conferences & Workshop Presentations

- Savaş, Ö.**, (June, 2022). Achieving 'self-reliance' after resettlement: Differences between male- and female-headed households. Paper presented as part of the symposium in Ö. Savaş (chair), *Refugee belonging: An Examination of social, political and institutional processes* at Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in Puerto Rico.
- Savaş, Ö.**, (June, 2019). Who is "worthy" of belonging? Paper presented as part of the symposium in M. Okuyan & Ö. Savaş (co-chairs), *Dominant groups' reactions to a changing society: Maintenance and confrontation* at 14th Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in San Diego, CA.
- Savaş, Ö.**, (June, 2019). *Doing research, policy, activism in/for/from the Majority World.* Facilitated interactive discussion in Ö. Savaş, P. Salter & A. Dutt (co-chairs) at 14th Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in San Diego, CA.
- Savaş, Ö.**, Greenwood, R. Blankenship, B. T., Stewart, A. J., & Deaux, K. (June, 2018). Immigrant representations in the United States: Capturing the heterogeneity. Paper presented as part of the symposium in K. Deaux (chair), *Immigrant representations in the making* at 13th Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Savaş, Ö.** & Stewart, A. J. (September, 2017). Creating affinity with immigrants: Perceptions of historical similarity and personal salience. Paper presented in the EASP-SPSSI Joint Meeting *To be both (or more): Immigration and Identity Multiplicity* in Utrecht, Netherlands.
- Savaş, Ö.** & Stewart, A. J. (June, 2017). Changing attitudes about immigrants before the 2016 U.S. election. Paper presented as part of the symposium in A. J. Stewart (chair), *Making the U.S. home in the changing immigration context* at 12th Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Savaş, Ö.** & Stewart, A. J. (June, 2017). Overcoming internalized oppression: Transnational experiences for developing a feminist praxis. Paper presented as part of the symposium in T. Kurtis (chair), *Transnational feminist psychology approaches to*

social justice at 12th Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Savaş, Ö. & Stewart, A. J. (November, 2016). Decolonizing psychological theory of political socialization with evidence from global women's movements. Paper presented as part of the symposium in A. J. Stewart (chair), *Challenging what is given: Narratives of feminist activists in the Global Feminisms Project* at Annual National Women's Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada.

Savaş, Ö. & Stewart, A. J. (June, 2016). Alternative pathways to political activism: A contextual-developmental approach. Paper presented as part of the symposium in A. Stewart (chair), *Commitments to advocacy and activism: Political, relational and developmental contexts* at 11th Biennial Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rubin, J., McClelland, S., Bell, S., & **Savas, O.** (June, 2016). Faculty attitudes about qualitative research methods in U.S. psychology graduate programs. Paper presented at the 11th Biennial Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Frederick, J., **Savas, O.**, Stewart, A. J., Montgomery, S. & Blankenship, B. (July, 2015). Privilege and marginality: How group identification and personality predict right- and left-wing political activism. Paper presented at Annual meeting of International Society of Political Psychology in San Diego, California.

Montgomery, S., Blankenship, B., Frederick, J., **Savas, O.**, & Stewart, A. J. (June, 2014). Movers and shakers: Personality, identity, and political activism. Poster presented at 10th Biennial Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues convention in Portland, Oregon.

Savaş, Ö., Altinok, N., Küntay, A., & Liszkowski, U. (June, 2012). Within-culture differences in caregiver-infant triadic joint actions. Paper presented at the Fifth International Conference on Language, Culture and Mind, Young Researchers Workshop, Lisbon, Portugal.

Okuyan, M., Cingoz-Ulu, B., & **Savas, Ö.** (April, 2012). Kolektif eylemi etkileyen faktörler: Psikoloji öğrencileri örneği [The factors contributing to collective action: The case of psychology students]. Paper presented at the 17th National Psychology Congress, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Savaş, Ö., Altinok, N. & Bilgin, A. (April, 2012). Dil, bellek ve duygu: Anılara atfedilen duygu yoğunluğunun anının anadil ve ikinci dilde anlatılmasına göre farklılaşması [Language, memory and emotion: Emotional intensity of the autobiographical memories vary depending on language competence]. Poster presented at the 17th National Psychology Congress, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Savaş, Ö. (January, 2012). The effect of caregiver gesture-talk integration on communicative development in infancy. Paper presented at The British Academy Latin America Link Programme Communicative Development: A cross-linguistic, cross-cultural comparison, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.

Savaş, Ö., Altınok, N. & Bilgin, A. (September, 2011). Anılara atfedilen duygu yoğunluğunun anının anadil ve ikinci dilde anlatılmasına göre farklılaşması. [Emotional intensity of the autobiographical memories vary depending on language competence] Paper presented at the V. Graduate Psychology Students Congress, Dogus University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Savaş, Ö. (July, 2009). Uzman otoritesinin sahte anı oluşturmada etkisi: Bellekte uymacılık [Influence of expert power on forming false memories: Does memory conform?] Paper presented at the XIV. National Psychology Students Congress, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Invited Talks, Workshops

- 2022** “*On belonging*” Keynote at Southern Vermont Economy Summit in Mount Dover, VT.
- 2022** *An Applied Psychology of Belonging*. Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Flint
- 2021** *Workshop on Intersectionality*. Teaching Global Feminisms: Using Activist Interviews Across Disciplines Conference in Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2019** *Multiple belongings, multiple perspectives*. Psychology Department, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2019** *Belonging: From citizens to refugees*. Psychology Department, the American University of Paris, Paris.
- 2012** Workshop on *Coding Audio and Video Data with ELAN, an Annotation Software*. Language and Communication Development Lab Workshop Series, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Public Scholarship & Other Publications

Savaş, Ö., Fike, K., S. Zaynab Mahood, & McKenna, N. (2021). [The Pandemic's Toll on English Language Learners: "Last year, I didn't learn nothing."](#) In *Sound Science, Sound Policy Blog of Psychology Today*.

Interview with Dr. Elizabeth Cole on U.S. site of the Global Feminisms Project. In [Contextualizing Feminist Voices, Global Feminisms Project](#).

Featured in the podcast “[Who holds up half the sky](#)” produced by Andreea Coscai.

White Papers/Reports

McClelland, S., Rubin, J., **Savaş, Ö.**, & Bell, S. (2015). A mixed method study of faculty attitudes about qualitative research methods in U.S. psychology graduate programs. *Report submitted to the Executive Committee of the Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology (SQIP)*. See: <http://qualpsy.org/graduate-training-in-qualitative-methods-in-us-psychology-a-report-by-the-task-force/>

University of Michigan's ADVANCE Program (2014-2018). Faculty Exit Interview Study. *Co-authored 3 reports, once each year, from 2014 to 2018.* See for 2016 report: <http://advance.umich.edu/resources/UM-Exit-Interview-Study-2014-Report-executive%20final.pdf>

University of Michigan's ADVANCE Program (2014-2018). Department climate assessments for faculty, postdocs, staff, and graduate students. *Co-authored 5 departmental- and college-level climate assessment reports from 2014 to 2018.* See examples: <http://advance.umich.edu/climatestudies.php>

Courses Taught

Bennington College

Advanced Senior Seminar
Qualitative Inquiry
Research Methods
Self and Identity in Diaspora
Migration, Identity, and Belonging
The Personal and Political
Intersections in Black Feminist Movement and Research
Psychological Study of Sex and Gender

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Psychology of Belonging
Introduction to Women's Studies
Introduction to Psychology of Women and Gender
Political Psychology

Guest Lectures

- 2019** *Seeking refuge in Southeast Michigan.* Invited to talk in the course "Refugees of Unjust Worlds: Race, Gender, and Nation" (instructor: Dr. Amal Fadlalla; ~18 students)
- 2018** *Asking Questions in Interviews: The Roles of Researcher Identity, Stigma, and Emotions in Qualitative Research.* Invited to talk in the course "Identity and Stigma in Society: Theoretical Foundations and Methodological Approaches in Psychology" (instructor: Dr. Benjamin T. Blankenship; ~10 students).
- 2016** *Gender-based Violence: Intimate Partner Violence.* Invited to talk in the course "Introduction to Women's Studies" (instructor: Dr. Maria Cotera; 300 students).
- 2016** *Gender-based Violence: Global and State Violence.* Invited to talk in the course "Introduction to Women's Studies" (instructor: Dr. Prof. Maria Cotera; 300 students).

Student Advising & Mentorship

Current Advisees: Fatima Apurba Alamgir, Lara Solis, Taha Qadeer Ahmar, Miracle Thornton, Elise Provost, Santiago Jenkins, India Rose Carter Bolick, Madeline Brook, Maren Dillipane, Uyen Huynh, Ayla Connor-Kirshbaum, Danielle Rodriguez

Undergraduate Honors Theses Supervised:

- 2022** Hafsa Zulfiqar, Thesis title: "Institutional, Symbolic, and Individual Factors that affect International Students' Sense of Belonging at an American College."
- Thomas Finegar, Thesis title: "Morally Ambiguous Characters in Theatre and Why We Care So Much."
- Jacqueline Escobar, Thesis title: "Mirame: See beyond what you're told - a media analysis of how the immigrant population is represented and the effects those perceptions bring."
- 2021** Savannah Hernandez, Thesis title: "Exploration of Machismo culture and mental health stigma among first-generation college students."

Undergraduate Honors Theses Second Reader:

- 2021** Malhy Guadalupe Mendez, Thesis title: "Ni de Aquí, Ni de Allá: The Impact of Bilingualism and Identity on the Social Development of Children of Latinx Immigrants in Austin, TX and Surrounding Regions."
- Suzie Rejali, Thesis title: "Iranian American Immigrants' Sense of Identity & Belonging Through the Generations."
- Camille Cano, Thesis title: "Pandemics and access: A case study on Bennington College's Response to COVID-19."
- Jessica Meagher, Thesis title: "Culling: A political anatomy of Anorexia Nervosa."

Service to the Institution

Bennington College

- 2022** **'Whole Person' Committee of the Strategic Planning**
Role: Committee member. Assessment of students' needs on campus taking an intersectional approach, and making recommendations to the administration for the implementation of a new structure to improve student well-being.
- 2022** **Search Committees**
Member of Committee for Visiting Professor Position in Linguistics
Member of Committee for Visiting Professor Position in Clinical/Counseling Psychology
- 2022** **Curriculum Implementation Committee**
Role: Co-chair. Review and approve courses, as well as facilitating communication across discipline groups about curricular needs at Bennington College.
- 2022** **Faculty Forum**

Role: Convener in rotation. Gather information, prepare and set agenda items, and send emails in advance of the meeting and as a follow-up. Convene college-wide faculty meeting.

2022

Taskforce in Reshaping the Advanced Work

Role: Member of the taskforce. Gather information, assess student and faculty needs, propose a new structure for students to complete their theses in the advanced work seminar in the Society, Culture and Thought Area.

2020-2021

President's Working Group (PWG) to Advance Anti-racist Practices

Role: Member of Climate Survey Subcommittee

PWG at Bennington College envisions a future for Bennington College that is more diverse, more inclusive and is actively fighting against racism and exploring the intersections with class, gender, and other vectors of identity and positionality.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2014-2018

ADVANCE Program

Role: Graduate Student Intern

University of Michigan ADVANCE Program aims to improve campus environment for faculty, students and staff, focusing on recruitment, retention, climate, and leadership practices.

2017-2018

Department of Psychology Graduate Student Leadership Council

Role: Representative of Gender and Feminist Psychology Area

2016

Brown Bag Organizing Committee

Role: Student member, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

2016-2017

Studies on Turkey Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop

Role: Student coordinator. Co-organizer with two other graduate students.

2008-2010

Middle East Technical University Psychology Student Association

Role: President (2009-2010), Executive member (2008-2009)

2008-2009

Turkish Psychology Students Study Group (TPSSG)

Role: Representative of Middle East Technical University Psychology Department.

Service to the Profession

Ad-hoc Reviewer: Journal of Peace and Conflict Psychology; Feminism & Psychology; Frontiers in Psychology; Qualitative Psychology; Journal of Social and Political Psychology, Journal of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (Ziauddin University)

Internationalization Committee of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Role: Committee member. (Goals are to increase and serve SPSSI's international membership and to develop international activities. This committee also selects recipients for international travel awards to attend SPSSI conferences.)

Society for Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology (SQIP) Taskforce (2015)

Role: Assisting with data collection and analysis, and report writing in the service of the discipline of psychology as part of the taskforce formed by APA Division 5.

Conference/Speaker Series Organizing:

2022 Decolonial and Anti-racist Perspectives on (Forced) Migration Speaker Series

Role: Organizer and host. Organized a speaker series. Invited and hosted three scholars in Spring 2022 (Dr. Sunil Bhatia, Dr. Anjali Dutt, and Dr. Pablo Bose)

2018 Public Scholarship Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop

Role: Student coordinator. *Co-organizer with three other graduate students.*

2009 METU Psychology Days

Lead Organizer, Conference theme: "Universality and Diversity"

Role:

Professional Memberships

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

International Society for Political Psychology (ISPP)

American Psychological Association Division 45: Cultural and Ethnic Minority Psychology

American Psychological Association Division 35: Society for the Psychology of Women

American Psychological Association Division 5: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

References

Prof. Abigail J. Stewart

Sandra Schwartz Tangri Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies
University of Michigan

Email: abbystew@umich.edu

Prof. Kay Deaux

Distinguished Professor Emerita, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York
Visiting Scholar, New York University

Email: kdeaux@gc.cuny.edu

Prof. Sara I. McClelland

Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Psychology
University of Michigan

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Prof. Andrew Shryock

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Anthropology
University of Michigan

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Prof. Aylin Küntay

Professor and Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Koç University

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