

SEBNEM TURE

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EDUCATION

2021 – Present **Ph.D. Psychology: *Personality, Development and Health***

Northwestern University, Class of 2026

Certificate in Quantitative Statistics

Advisor: Dan McAdams, Ph.D.

Dissertation:

Ture, S. (expected June 2026). *Life narratives in historical context: A three-study dissertation on the narrative processing of collective crises through emotion and meaning*. Northwestern University.

Committee: Dan P. McAdams (Chair), Claudia Haase, & Dan Mroczek.

2021 – 2024 **M.Sc. Psychology: *Personality, Development, and Health***

Northwestern University, Class of 2024

2017 – 2021 **B.A. Psychology**

Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey

Valedictorian (Highest Ranked Graduate), CGPA=3.92/4.00

Minor: Communication and Design

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

I study how personal and historical crises shape identity, emotion, and well-being through stories of lived experience. My work focuses on narrative identity, collective memory, and the ways emotion and storytelling shape meaning-making in both personal and collective contexts.

2021 – Present **Graduate Researcher**

Study of Lives Research Group, Northwestern University

P.I.: Dan. P. McAdams, Ph.D.

- Lead mixed-methods projects on how major historical events (e.g., war, disasters, social movements) are integrated into autobiographical life stories and how these narratives relate to resilience and well-being.
- Apply phonetic iterative analysis to integrate theory-driven coding with inductive insights from narrative texts.
- Use multilevel modeling and other quantitative methods (R, SPSS) to examine how narrative framing predicts longitudinal psychological and health outcomes.

- Collaborate with international partners (Denmark) to analyze 1,200+ older-adult narratives using topic modeling and narrative coding.
- Established coding manuals and interrater reliability for a 9-year longitudinal dataset on life narratives.

2023 – Present

Graduate Researcher

The Life-Span Development Laboratory, Northwestern University
P.I.: Claudia Haase, Ph.D.

- Design and conduct studies of emotional dynamics in marital conflict, focusing on distinctions between emotional and issue resolution.
- Integrate thematic conversation coding with behavioral and physiological measures; apply multilevel models to capture intra- and interpersonal processes.

2020 – 2021

Research Assistant Intern

Study of Lives Research Group, Northwestern University
P.I.: Dan. P. McAdams, Ph.D.

- Contributed to the Foley Longitudinal Study of Adulthood (9-year project on narrative identity in midlife).
- Revised coding manuals for personal growth and exploratory processing; coded 237 life-story interviews with reliability checks

2020 – 2021

Honors Thesis Researcher

Bilkent University
P.I.: Athanasios Mouratidis. Ph.D.

- Designed and carried out an independent honors thesis testing whether satisfaction and frustration of basic psychological needs operate as bipolar constructs within Self-Determination Theory.
- Developed a novel Implicit Association Test (IAT) to assess implicit associations between need satisfaction and frustration.

2020 – 2021

Research Assistant

Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Laboratory, Bilkent University
P.I.: Burcu Ayşen Ürgen. Ph.D.

- Investigated neural processing of biological motion through behavioral and fMRI paradigms.
- Assisted in drafting a grant proposal submitted to The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK).

2018 – 2020

Research Assistant

Social Psychology Laboratory, Bilkent University
P.I.: Gül Günaydın, Ph.D

- Developed Turkish-language resources for Language Style Matching research.
- Coded videotaped couple interactions for responsiveness and attachment in close relationships.

PUBLICATIONS AND CURRENT WORK

PUBLISHED / IN PRESS:

- Ture, S.**, Bonner, C. V., Yuan, M., & McAdams, D. P. (2025). Historical consciousness: Recollections of major historical events in the personal life story. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672251321018>
- Lind, M., **Ture, S.**, McAdams, D. P., & Cowan, H. R. (2024). Narrative identity, traits, and trajectories of depression and well-being: A 9-year longitudinal study. *Psychological Science*, 35(12), 1325–1339. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976241296512>
- McAdams, D. P., & **Ture, S.** (in press). Narrative identity. In T. Pyszczynski & S. J. Starr (Eds.), *Handbook of the science of existential psychology*. Guilford Press.

UNDER REVIEW / IN PREPARATION:

- Ture, S.**, Lam, P. H., Ouellet, L., Simpson, A., Hassinen, K., McAdams, D. P., & Reischer, H. N. (under review). Agency and communion across nine years of middle adulthood: Between- and within-person associations with psychological and developmental outcomes. *Journal of Adult Development*.
- Yu, C.-W., **Ture, S.**, & Haase, C. M. (under review). Suppression in social context: The intra- and interpersonal costs of expressive suppression in friends. *Emotion*.
- Ture, S.**, Cowan, H. R., McAdams, D. P. & Lind, M. (manuscript in prep). Narrative Processing of Yearly Life Challenges and Wellbeing Across Late Midlife: A Topic Modeling Approach
- Jones, C. M., **Ture, S.** & Mitchell, A. (manuscript in prep.). “This didn’t just pop up out of nowhere”: Multiracial and monoracial Black adults contextualizing Black Lives Matter 2020.
- Ture, S.**, Vosgueritchian, H., Khaty, R., Allé, M., Boulos, L.-J., & McAdams, D. P. (project underway). Narrative processing of collective crises through emotion and meaning.
- Ture, S.**, Kim, A., & Haase, C. M. (project underway). Emotional vs. issue resolution in marital conflict: A thematic conversation analysis.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Jones, C. M., **Ture, S.**, Mitchell, A., & Rogers, O. (2025, June). *Prompted to (re)consider: Black Lives Matter as a catalyst for Black (multi)racial identity processes* [Paper presentation]. Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood (SSEA), Charleston, South Carolina, USA.
- Ture, S.**, Kim, A., & Haase, C. M. (2025, March). *Emotional vs. issue resolution in marital conflict: A thematic conversation analysis* [Poster presentation]. Society for Affective Science Conference, Oregon.
- Ture, S.**, Cowan, H. R., McAdams, D. P. & Lind, M. (2025, February). *Narrative Processing of Yearly Life Challenges and Wellbeing Across Late Midlife: A Topic Modeling Approach* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Denver, CO.
- Ture, S.**, Yuan, M., Bonner, C., & McAdams, D. P. (2024, August). *Exploring Historical Consciousness: Incorporating the recollection of major historical events into the personal life story* [Symposium]. Biannual Meeting of the European Association of Personality Psychology, Berlin, Germany.

Lind, M., **Ture, S.**, Cowan, R.H., McAdams, D. (2023, August). Challenging life events across time: well-being and depression. In Lind, M & Thomsen, D.K. (chairs), *Autobiographical memory, life narratives, and mental health* [Symposium]. The Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Nagoya, Japan.

Ture, S., Yuan, M., Bonner, C., & McAdams, D. P. (2023, June). *Exploring Historical Consciousness: Incorporating the recollection of major historical events into the personal life story* [Poster presentation]. Special Interest Conference on Narrative Identity, Lille, France.

Lind, M., **Ture, S.**, Cowan, R.H., McAdams, D. (2023, June). Challenging life events across time: well-being and depression. [Symposium]. The Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Lille, France.

Ture, S., Datta A., Lam P., & McAdams, D. P. (2023, February). *Value and theme in the life Stories of late midlife adults: dimensions of agency and communion* [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

Ture, S., Datta A., & McAdams, D. P. (2022, July). *Correlates of agency and communion in narrated values and life themes of late midlife adults* [Poster presentation]. Biannual Meeting of the European Association of Personality Psychology, Madrid, Spain.

Ture, S., Reischer, H. N., Hassinen, K. C., & McAdams, D. P. (2022, February). *Exploratory processing and growth in life stories of late-midlife adults over nine years*. [Poster presentation]. Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

2024 – 2024 **Instructor and Course Designer**

Northwestern University – School of Professional Studies

- Designed, branded and led "[*Analyzing Life with Mental Illness*](#)," a high school course blending psychology and storytelling, achieving the highest enrollment in the program.

2021 – Present **Teaching Assistant**

- Assisted in teaching the psychology and human development courses below, mentoring students, facilitating discussions, and providing weekly feedback.
- Northwestern University, Department of Psychology
 - Research Methods (Winter 2025)
 - Positive Psychology (Fall 2024)
 - Personality Psychology (Fall 2023)
 - Introduction to Psychology (Spring 2023)
 - Buddhist Psychology (Winter 2023)
 - Introduction to Psychology (Spring 2022)
 - Introduction to Personality Psychology (Winter 2022)
- Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy
 - Life Story Interview (Spring 2022)

2022 / 2023

Guest Lecturer

- **Ture, S.** (November 2024). *Mixed Method Approaches in Psychological Research* Lecture given to a Research Methods class at Northwestern University.
- **Ture, S.** (Spring - 2023). *Collective Memory and the Personal Life Story*. Lecture given to a Personality class at Northwestern University, Department of Psychology.
- **Ture, S.** (Spring - 2022). *Qualitative Coding of Agency and Communion*. Lecture given to a Life Story Interview class at Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy.

2024 – 2025

Project Advisor

Northwestern University

- Aman Datta, *Psychology Honors Thesis: “Parsing Mental and Physical Health Narratives”*
 - Awarded WCAS Honors (Spring 2024)
- Allison Kim, Independent Undergraduate Project: “Emotional Closure as a Distinct Dimension of Marital Conflict Resolution”
 - Awarded WCAS Undergraduate Research Summer Grant (Summer 2025)
 - Received the Fletcher Undergraduate Prize (September 2025)

2023 – Present

Mentorship Experience

Northwestern University

- Allison Kim (Class of 2027)
- Quira Kennerly (Class of 2027)
- Connor Caserio (Class of 2025)
- Aman Datta (Class of 2024)
- Mary Yuan (Class of 2024)

2017 – 2021

Private Tutor

- Assigned as a role model to a student with dyslexia by his high school psychological counsellor. Mentored him to plan his studies, gave weekly constructive feedback and communicated hope to help him overcome learned helplessness

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

2024 – Present

Writer

Psychology Today

- Author the blog “Stories We Tell, Lives We Lead” ([Psychology Today](#)), attracting over 190,000+ views and being featured as “Essential Reads” and “Most Popular Article.”
- Communicating psychological research findings to a broader audience.

- 2017 – 2021 **Radio Host**
- Bilkent Radio Television and Publishing Inc.*
- Gain communication, time-management and problem-solving skills in an organizational workspace
 - Conceive of and host original morning show about psychology since February 2020. The weekly show shares cutting-edge articles, relate them to everyday life and has researchers & psychologists as guests
 - Promoted to coordinate university student DJ department
- 2018 – 2021 **News Reporter and Columnist**
- Bilkent News*
- Cover weekly local community news and write a bi-weekly column about mainly psychological findings and their relation to daily life or ideas for society improvement.
 - Work with the editor-in-chief consistently within established timelines
- 2019 – 2020 **Writer**
- InStyle Türkiye*
- Write monthly as a life-style blogger for instyle.com.tr

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- 2025 – Present **Graduate Intern (Administrative Assistantship)**
- Northwestern University – English Language Programs*
- Awarded a competitive assistantship to support programs serving 500+ international graduate students.
 - Coordinate events, mentor students, and manage program communications.
- 2024 – 2024 **Communications and Community Outreach Intern**
- Coalition of Limited English-Speaking Elderly (CLESE) | Northwestern University Center for Civic Engagement*
- Supported logistics for nonprofit programs serving limited-English-speaking seniors.
 - Conducted interviews to assess needs and inform advocacy initiatives.
 - Helped plan and implement outreach to expand access to culturally responsive services.
- 2023 & 2025 **ARP Logistics Committee Member**
- Association for Research in Personality (ARP) Conference, Evanston, IL*
- Assisted with planning and execution of the ARP Conference on 2023 and on 2025 in Evanston, IL., including event logistics and participant support.

2023 & 2025	Graduate Student Coordinator, Northwestern University, Psychology Department Recruitment Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-coordinated graduate recruitment events (2023 & 2025), managing outreach, scheduling, and logistics.
2022 – 2024	Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member Northwestern University, Department of Psychology Diversity and Inclusion Committee (DIC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized, advertised and executed Sneak Peak 2023, a DIC program to help historically marginalized students learn about graduate school in psychology. Reviewed applications and mentored participants for Sneak Peek 2022 & 2023.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2025– Present	Member, Society for Affective Science (SAS)
2022 – Present	Member, European Association of Personality Psychology (EAPP)
2022 – Present	Member, Association for Research in Personality (ARP)
2021 – Present	Member, Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023– 2023	Graduate Student Research Travel Award , Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs (\$1,000)
2021 – Present	Northwestern University Travel Grants , The Graduate School (\$5,750)
2021 – Present	Northwestern University Research/TA Fellowship , The Graduate School (\$225,000)
2017 – 2021	Comprehensive Undergraduate Scholarship , Bilkent University Full tuition waiver, monthly stipend and free accommodation, awarded due to high ranking in National University Examination.
2017 – 2021	High Honor Student , Bilkent University, all semesters attended

QUALIFICATIONS

Programming & Data Analysis: R (Advanced), SPSS (Advanced), Python (Intermediate), MATLAB (Basic), Microsoft Office (Advanced)

Research Platforms: Qualtrics, NVivo, Dedoose, OpenSesame, BeSample

Media & Design: Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop

Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Advanced), German (Intermediate), Arabic (Beginner)

CERTIFICATES

2023	Adult Mental Health First Aid USA, National Council for Mental Wellbeing
2023	QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training, QPR Institute
2023	CITI Training for Human Research
2016	Düşün-Yaz Philosophical Essay Competition, <i>Finalist</i>
2015	Özgür Pencere Short Story Competition, <i>Special Prize</i>
2015	iGEO National Geography Olympics, <i>Finalist</i>
2013	London College of Music Grade 5 for Solo Violin (Trainer: Dr. Adil Azizova, Bilkent Conservatory)
2011	Trinity College London Grade 3 for Violin