Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of the academic year 2011/2012 which covers research activities carried out between October 2011 and December 2011. This issue also includes the post-graduate degrees obtained for the 2011/2012 academic year, fall semester.

As mentioned in the last issue, the new editorial team is still in the process of taking on board the many responsibilities with a limited number of editorial staff – two members of staff. Consequently, this newsletter will also have publication deadline issues and we do apologize for any oversight or inconvenience these delays may have caused.

In lieu of these publication problems, e.g., lack of articles submitted for this particular time frame, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Research Advisory Board along with the Editor and Editorial Assistant have taken the decision to review the quarterly Research Newsletter agenda and have decided that twice a year would be a more appropriate way to disseminate information related to Research, News in Brief, and Interviews with staff and students in graduate programs. This would alleviate the work load that a small editorial team has to deal with.

We hope to continue providing invaluable information concerning the ongoing research topics that our colleagues are involved in. Likewise, we hope to maintain the same exemplary standards of the past. Hence, we are pleased to announce that in this newsletter, we have included two articles dealing with current research issues: One from the Faculty of Art and Sciences; Department of Psychology and one from the Faculty of Business and Administration, Department of Banking and Finance.

Our research spotlight features three articles; one from the Department of Psychology by Dr. İlmiye Özreis who initiated and coordinated the research on multitasking and acted as team leader and the second one from the Department of Banking and Finance by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Salih Katırcıoğlu the Chair, who contributed a summary of a published research article dealing with the relationship between educational tourism and economics of North Cyprus and finally, from the Biological Sciences Department submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bahar Taneri on ‘Predict and Prevent’, a discussion on gene-environment interaction.

We wish to express our appreciation and would like to thank all the contributors for providing us with their interesting material, without which the EMU Research Newsletter would never have materialized as an invaluable source of information. We look forward to working with our contributor’s again in the upcoming issues.

Finally, my personal thanks go to the Editorial Team member, Editorial Assistant Olusegun Olugbade for all his help and support especially during these major changes and challenges.

Sincerely yours,

Senior Instructor, Ulrike Lerner

Editor-in-Chief
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News Highlights</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Spotlight: Psychology</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Differences in Skills of Multitasking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By İlmiye Özreis, Yüksel Yılmazoğulları, Sezen Çamkıran, Sultan Öçelik, Seren Akman, Seray Arslan &amp; Sedef Gülmız.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Spotlight: Banking and Finance</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Tourism, Higher Education, and Economic Growth: The Case of North Cyprus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Salih Katırcioğlu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Spotlight: Biological Sciences</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Predict and Prevent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By Bahar Taneri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where are they now?</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMU Alumni</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2011-2012 Postgraduate Degrees</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recent Publications and Presentations</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conferences organized by/ in collaboration with EMU</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EMU’s Prolific Researcher - Dr. Salih Katırcıoğlu

Dr. Katırcıoğlu publishes extensively in international peer reviewed journals. He has over 60 articles published in international journals of which 32 are ranked and listed by Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) of Thomson Reuters as of April 2012. Dr. Katırcıoğlu continues regularly to publish in world leading journals such as The World Economy, Tourism Management, Applied Economics, Journal of Business Economics and Management, Tourism Economics, and International Journal of Manpower. As of May 2012, Dr. Katırcıoğlu has 20 articles for publication that are presently being reviewed by SSCI. Dr. Katırcıoğlu started to contribute to the tourism economics literature in 2006 with his original research findings. His works were also cited extensively by many other authors. His article in Tourism Management has been listed in the official website of the journal among the most cited articles in this world leading tourism journal. Many of his original research articles published in these journals had single authorship. Dr. Katırcıoğlu currently works on investigating new and original findings to contribute to the existing literature at a more advanced level. Research activities of Dr. Katırcıoğlu are not limited to article publications. He has also published two chapters in books and several conference proceedings. Furthermore, he is a member of several international peer reviewed journals, among them, the Journal of Comparative Asian Development, published by the Taylor & Francis Group. Finally, Dr. Katırcıoğlu frequently serves as reviewer for many journals, such as Tourism Management, The World Economy, Journal of Business Economics and Management, Tourism Economics, International Journal of Tourism Research, and Acta Oeconomica.

News submitted by: Salih Katırcıoğlu
The play performed during EMU’s 6th Psychology Days, “DÜDÜK,” was not based only on the protagonist. Each of the characters had an important role and we tried to equalize their status. Many people helped us organize and create this play. The aim was to critique and raise awareness about social prejudice against psychological treatment: labeling people “crazy” when they go to a psychologist. Feedback from our teachers and friends made us very happy. It showed us that our efforts were not in vain and that we were able to sensitize people regarding this important issue. We would like to thank everyone who helped organize and execute our humorous critique.

Poster Presentations

There were many poster presentations during Psychology Days this year. They were all well-designed and informative. Students, faculty, and guests enjoyed reading about the studies carried out by students in the Psychology Department. As a matter of fact, there was a competition for best poster but when the posters were evaluated, the judges awarded all projects certificates.

Projects & Authors

- Functions of Pre-School Education in Children’s development
  Başak Bağlama, Gülten Özkerem, Aslıcan Zayır

- Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Domestic Violence Against Women in North Cyprus
  Assoc. Prof. Dr. Biran Mertan, Uğur Maner (MSc), Fatoş Bayraktar (MSc), Assist. Prof. Dr. Şenel Hüsnü, Gözde Pehlivan (MSc), Düriye Çelik (MSc), Assist. Prof. Dr. Fatih Bayraktar

- A Project on the Relationship Between Mother & Child
  Şerife Özbiler, Assist. Prof. Dr. Şenel Hüsnü Raman

- Gender Differences in Multi-Tasking Ability
  Dr. İlimye Özreis, Yüksel Yılmazoğulları, Sezen Çamkıran, Sultan Öztürk, Seren Akman, Seray Aslan, Sedef Gülmez

- World Homosexuality Laws and the Role of Education and Media in Homosexuality
  Miray Ezgi Akyürek

- Exploring Second Generation Turkish Cypriots’ Perceived National Identity: Their Experiences, Feelings, Thoughts, and Perception about Immigration & Positive/Negative Discrimination
  Ziba Sertbay (MSc), Sevil Tekel, Sevgi Özgüzel

News submitted by: Ariel Ladum
Multitasking has been defined as the ability to perform more than one task at a time (McDowd & Craik, 1988). In everyday life, individuals multitask all the time. For example, the ability to drive safely requires drivers to attend to more than one task, i.e., control the steering wheel while also looking out for pedestrians (Howard & Connell, 2005). The general observation within the community is that women in comparison to men can better multitask. However, to date there are no conclusive findings to support this observation. For example, an initial study by Criss (2006) has shown that although men and women are equally productive in multitasking, women make fewer mistakes than men, while Baver, DeVincentis, and Taber (2008) indicate that females are better at multitasking. Other studies such as Buser and Peter (2011) have found that there are no gender differences in the ability to concurrently perform more than one task.

Gender differences in skills of multitasking could be explained within the framework of gender roles and practice. The ability to multitask like any other cognitive skill requires cognitive resources; hence, those individuals who retain an adequate amount of cognitive resources will perform each task more efficiently and automatically than those individuals whose resources are sparse (Craik, & Byrd, 1982; Shiffrin & Schneider, 1977). Such cognitive abilities can be enhanced through the practice of tasks (Maquestiaux, Hartley, & Bertsch, 2004). In light of this view, it could be argued that females may be better at multitasking because they have greater practice with performing multiple tasks (e.g., doing laundry while watching television) due to their gendered nature of parenthood (Sayer, 2007).

Experimental studies are needed to clarify for whether or not gender is a significant factor contributing to enhanced skills of multitasking. In light of this, the current study has adopted the divided attention paradigm to investigate whether there are gender differences in the skills of multitasking. It was expected that females will have a higher recall rate for a list of words and a lower reaction time than males (i.e., better multitasking skills) under conditions of divided attention at encoding and retrieval.

Method

Participants
In total, 83 participants (46 male, 37 female) aged between 18 and 30 years (M=23) were recruited from Eastern Mediterranean University. Participants were either Turkish or Turkish Cypriot students.

Materials
Word lists for the Free Recall Memory Task were selected from the online 'The Grocery List Collection' (The Grocery List Collection retrieved January 2006 from www.grocerylists.org.). Words that were two to three syllable shopping items which people would be familiar with were selected.

Reaction Time Task
The RT task was used to measure reaction times using the software program SuperLab Pro Version 4 (Cedrus Corporation, 2006), which was recorded by the computer program with millisecond accuracy.

Procedure
Participants' skills of multitasking were assessed under two divided attention conditions, that is, at encoding and retrieval. For the divided attention at encoding condition, participants were required to remember a list of 12 words while also performing the RT task. During the divided attention at retrieval condition, participants were required to recall the list of 12 words as many as possible while also performing the RT task.

Results
The MANOVA results showed that, during divided attention at encoding, there were no significant differences between gender and the amount of words that could be recalled F(1,82)=0.010, p=0.922 or the RT task F(1,82)=0.026, p=0.872. During the divided attention at retrieval condition, results showed that there was a significant difference between males and females on the recall task wherein females remembered more words (M=7.1, SD=1.96) than males (M=5.9, SD=1.69), F(1,82)=8.68, p=0.004. However, during divided attention at retrieval, there were no significant differences for the RT task F(1,82)=0.770, p=0.383.
The findings of the current study showed that there were no gender differences in the ability to multitask. Neither females nor males could coordinate the performance of multiple tasks. These findings indicate that the ability to multitask is not influenced by any differences in the cognitive functioning of males and females but rather the amount of practice which an individual has in coordinating the performance of multiple tasks.

The current findings are similar to those of Buser and Peter (2011) who also found no gender differences in the skills of multitasking. Both studies used a sample of young adults in which both sexes have greater experience in coordinating and executing multiple tasks in their daily lives due to the increased use of technology (e.g., texting while studying). Highly practiced tasks use automatic processing which requires fewer cognitive resources and enables for the multiple performance of concurrent tasks (Shiffrin & Schneider, 1977). It could thus be argued that the younger generation (both males and females) have greater practice in performing dual tasks, i.e., academic studying while also texting, hence, have improved multitasking skills. Such findings indicate the importance of practice in enhancing such skills regardless of gender and rule out the possibility that females in comparison to males have more efficient brain functioning allowing them to easily multitask.

Women who are housewives or mothers may be better at multitasking in comparison to men because they adopt multitasking to maximize time (Sayer, 2007), which also illustrates the importance of practice in enhancing such skills. Overall, the above findings demonstrate that skills in multitasking are enhanced through the practice of performing simultaneous tasks rather than gender per se. To strengthen this proposition, it would be important to investigate for differences in multitasking between mothers who are in male breadwinner relationships compared to dual breadwinner relationships. Such findings could further shed light on the importance of practice in improving the skills of multitasking.

References


Dr. İlmiye Özreis has completed her PhD in the field of Cognitive Psychology at Deakin University in Australia. Her thesis examined whether divided attention and memory skills of older adults could be improved through video game training. The findings show that limited training with the games cannot enhance these skills. However, greater amounts of training could improve these vital skills amongst older adults. Dr. Özreis has further worked on a number of research projects such as investigating for sex differences in skills of divided attention and multitasking and has attended a number of national and international conferences to present findings in relation to the applications of computer training to reverse cognitive decline. Furthermore, she has taught a range of units including Introduction to Psychology I & II, Cognitive Psychology, and Health Behaviour at Deakin University for the past four years. She is currently teaching the courses of Experimental Psychology I: Learning, Experimental Psychology II: Attention and Memory, Cognitive Psychology, Neuropsychology and Social Statistics I & II at Eastern Mediterranean University. For more information please contact our researcher at ilmiye.ozreis@emu.edu.tr
Investigating the relationship between international trade expansion and economic growth has been a popular topic in developmental economics. There are various ways through which international trade (including services) expansion can contribute to economic growth. There is a significant volume of research that investigates the empirical relationship between international trade and economic growth (particularly with respect to trade-led, export-led, and import-led growth hypotheses). However, the same cannot be said about the empirical relationship between international tourism and economic growth (Katırcıoğlu, 2009). Furthermore, the results of the studies investigating the relationship between international tourism and economic growth are still inconclusive (Katırcıoğlu, 2009a; 2009b; 2009c; Gündüz and Hatemi, 2005).

On the other hand, higher education is an important global phenomenon. Each year millions of people pursue their higher education at overseas institutions. Thus, higher education can be considered as a type of student tourism that contributes to national income, employment, and the wealth of local citizens. This fact is of particular importance to developing countries. Stevens and Weale (2003) mention that living standards in most countries, and especially those in Europe, have risen over the last millennium due to developments in education. It is obvious that one of the most important factors that affect private demand for secondary or higher education is the household income level and the costs incurred by a family when it takes the decision to invest in education (Beneito et al., 2001). However, there are generally accepted social and economic factors affecting household demands for education such as the parents' education, the geographical location of the place of residence, the size and composition of the family, the occupation of the primary earner and the family's own consideration of its social status (Beneito et al., 2001). On the other hand, there are some external factors that might also affect the decision to study abroad such as political and economic conditions of the targeted country or region, geographical location of the targeted institution, student fees, scholarship opportunities, medium of instruction and the accreditation of the diploma that is received from these institutions.

Empirical studies focusing on the relationship between international tourism and economic growth are limited and less rigorous in the literature as mentioned above. This fact is also valid for the empirical relationship between higher education and the economic growth of countries. There have been very few studies that have employed the latest econometric techniques to provide new impetus to the empirical research on the link between education growth and economic growth (See Glewwe and Jacoby, 2004; Blankenau and Simpson, 2004; Stevens and Weale, 2003; Dahlin, 2002). However, to the best of the author’s knowledge, there is no study up to date that investigates the empirical relationship between higher education development and economic growth.

Thus, this study empirically investigates the possible long-run and causal link between international tourism, higher education development, and economic growth in the small island state of North Cyprus. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) was established in 1983 in an already divided island and is not recognized by any country other than mainland Turkey. North Cyprus has a population of over 300,000, a 10,537 US$ per capita income (SPO, 2009) and is located in a strategic location in the Eastern Mediterranean. The TRNC does not have any foreign trade relationships with countries other than Turkey due to its political non-recognition. Therefore, international tourism and the emergence of the higher education sector are two major sources of foreign exchange for this small island. However, the tourism sector also faces great difficulties in attracting international tourists because of problems such as the lack of direct flights to North Cyprus and high transportation costs.

There are important implications and motivations for doing this study: First, international trade plays an extremely important role amidst economic concerns. However, there is little mention of international tourism, in spite of its importance amongst foreign expenditure items (Luzzi and Flückiger, 2003). A majority of the empirical studies on tourism forecasting have been built on tourism demand functions. Shan and Wilson (2001) mention several areas remain incomplete in
these sorts of studies and hence deserve further attention. For example, the role of international trade as one of the determinants of tourism demand is not well recognized in the literature. Thus, this study will not only search for the empirical relationship of international tourism growth with economic growth but also the relationship between international students’ flow and economic growth in this small island. Second, the econometric techniques used in previous studies of international tourism are generally poor as they do not incorporate new developments in econometrics such as co-integration and Granger causality concepts (Shan and Wilson 2001; Lim 1997; Song et al. 1997; Witt and Witt 1995). Third, there are very few studies in the literature analyzing the impact of education on economic performance or growth. To the best of the author’s knowledge up to date, there is no empirical study investigating the relationship between the development of the higher education sector and economic growth. Thus, this study is the first of its kind that will investigate the long-run equilibrium relationship and direction of causality between higher education growth and economic growth in the case of North Cyprus. Finally, the Cyprus problem has been on the world agenda for more than 40 years. The south of Cyprus has become a member of the European Union (EU) whereas the north of the island does not benefit from EU membership. Thus, this political stalemate will continue to attract attention in the international arena and the results of this study are also expected to give important messages to policy makers.

Results of the present study reveal that a long-run equilibrium relationship exists between international tourism and real income growth, and between higher education and real income growth in North Cyprus. Both the long-term and short-term effects of international tourism and higher education growth on the real income growth of the island are inelastic but statistically significant. Long term coefficient of international tourism for real income is 0.457 denoting that a one percent growth (or decline) in international tourism will lead to 0.457 percent growth (decline) in real income of North Cyprus. Furthermore, real income in North Cyprus converges to its long term level by 31.9 percent speed of adjustment as contributed by tourism and by 35.3 percent speed of adjustment as contributed by higher education development.

Finally, this study revealed non-directional causalities running from international tourism to real income and from higher education to real income in the long-term. The major finding of the present study is that the international tourism and the higher education sector are catalysts for economic growth in North Cyprus. Thus, both tourism-led growth and higher education-led growth hypotheses can be confirmed for North Cyprus.
Many of the serious illnesses stem from gene-environment interactions. These include obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, various types of cancers, and behavioral conditions such as depression, and are referred to as common complex diseases (Sun, 2010). Such diseases have severe public health impact. World Health Organization’s 2012 World Health Statistics report presents a grim overview of the public health burden caused by these diseases. It would suffice to provide a single number to alert the danger: 2.8 million! This is the number of lives lost globally per year as a result of obesity, which is associated with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and some forms of common cancers (WHO, 2012a). In this article, I discuss how gene-environment interaction could actually be turned into a tool to predict and prevent such conditions.

Accumulating evidence confirms the importance of environmental factors influencing DNA. It has been validated that individuals show different sensitivities to the same environmental factors based on their genetic variations (Caspi et al., 2010). In addition, there is extensive evidence showing that environmental factors lead to epigenetic modifications on DNA and disease onset (Jirtle & Skinner, 2007). An example of epigenetic modification is DNA methylation, which is most widely studied. Epigenetic changes in DNA could simply be explained as changes that affect the use of genes, but not the DNA sequence itself. The functioning of genes in return affect cell functions and hence organ functioning. Simply put, gene expression in our cells differs with environmental influence.

With the continued advancement of molecular genetics, healthcare and medicine have geared towards integrating genome-based knowledge into their framework. Genome-based knowledge takes healthcare and medicine to a new level and enables prediction, prevention and personalized treatment of diseases based on genetic data (Sadee, 2011). Obviously, effective translation of genome-based knowledge becomes the key to its utility in healthcare and medicine. Concentrated efforts towards this goal gave rise to Public Health Genomics, a relatively young field of science, which specifically aims to achieve this integration (Brand, 2011).

Together with my colleagues at the Institute of Public Health Genomics in Maastricht University, Netherlands, we have developed a novel model of Public Health Genomics – Common Complex Diseases (PHG-CCD) and it is ease, originating from gene-environment interplay (GxE). This model is unique in two fronts. Firstly, it takes into consideration the envirome concept in addition to the genome data. That is the collective environmental factors pertinent to the individual. Secondly, it presents a personalized approach, which takes into account the individual’s own DNA sequence.

PHG-CCD encompasses four different layers of information to enable effective translation of the existing genome data into public health. Specifically, the model integrates (a) validated gene-disease associations, (b) validated environmental causes of the disease, (c) personal gene/genome sequence of the individual, and (d) personal environmental factors of the individual. Figure 1, as it appears in our 2012 Personalized Medicine article titled “A new public health genomics model for common complex diseases, with an application to common behavioral disorders”, illustrates the PHG-CCD model. The first two factors, validated genetic and environmental causes of the disease, are available in the biomedical literature and have been collected and verified with vigorous experimental methodologies. Up to the era of personal genomes, these two factors were the only GxE related data available. With the emergence of the personal genome era, we now have the potential to reach an individual’s complete set of DNA sequence, which brings us to the third layer of information. This data makes it possible to access person-specific genetic variation. Lastly, environmental factors are vast and are individual-specific, therefore the fourth layer of information is relevant to the envirome of the person under consideration.

Here, to illustrate the PHG-CCD’s utility, I provide a statistically and quantitatively established GxE implicated in depression phenotype. Depression is a perfect example of common complex disease, so common that it affects over
A particular protein important in neurotransmission in the human brain is coded by the serotonin transporter gene. A specific allele of this gene, referred to as 5-HTTLPR short allele, makes the carriers more prone to depression compared to those individuals with the long allele. Interestingly, the depression phenotype would appear when combined with a particular environmental factor that is the early-life stress (Taneri et al., 2012). Specifically, severe adverse life events during the first 5 years of life, coupled with the 5-HTTLPR short allele lead to depression outcome. This is a straightforward example of how a given GxE could be linked with a serious common complex disease. The idea is to screen people both for their genetic data and for their envirome data and predict those that are at high risk. Such a predictive strategy would be used to prevent the onset of the disease by applying several protective measures. As mentioned above, this strategy implemented by PHG-CCD is applicable to any common complex disease with known GxE etiology.

The main benefit of the PHG-CCD relies in the fact that it presents an individualized prediction and prevention tool. A person’s DNA sequence combined with his/her environmental risk factors, predicts his/her susceptibility to certain diseases. By applying PHG-CCD, we could assess this risk, present the case to individuals and discuss potential prevention measures. PHG-CCD specifically aims to facilitate individually tailored intervention and prevention programs. This could also be taken to the population level and intervention and prevention programs could be applied to a specific population. Needless to say, implementation of PHG-CCD requires relevant public health policy development and establishment of pertinent ethical regulations, in addition to the integration of genome sequencing into healthcare management.

In short, knowledge of specific gene-environment interactions could be coupled with personal genome sequencing technologies and be translated into effective public health measures in order to ease the burden caused by common complex diseases.
After obtaining her Ph.D. degree from The Rockefeller University, USA, in 2005, Bahar Taneri has worked at Eastern Mediterranean University. She is currently an Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Her main research interests include genome biology, biomedical applications in general, alternative splicing and gene expression in particular. In addition to her teaching and research at EMU, she has developed the Molecular Biology and Genetics undergraduate program in early 2011. With funding from the EU Commission, in Spring 2011 she has worked as a visiting researcher at the Institute of Public Health Genomics, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences in Maastricht University, The Netherlands. She has ongoing collaborations with this Institute along with Scripps Genome Center, at the University of California San Diego, USA.

References


World Health Organization - 2012b: http://www.who.int/mental_health/management/depression/

About the Researcher

After obtaining her Ph.D. degree from The Rockefeller University, USA, in 2005, Bahar Taneri has worked at Eastern Mediterranean University. She is currently an Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Her main research interests include genome biology, biomedical applications in general, alternative splicing and gene expression in particular. In addition to her teaching and research at EMU, she has developed the Molecular Biology and Genetics undergraduate program in early 2011. With funding from the EU Commission, in Spring 2011 she has worked as a visiting researcher at the Institute of Public Health Genomics, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences in Maastricht University, The Netherlands. She has ongoing collaborations with this Institute along with Scripps Genome Center, at the University of California San Diego, USA.
EMU Alumni

Where are they now?

Danial Salimizad
I received my Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) in 2010. The supportive and friendly surround of North Cyprus also provided me with many opportunities aside from the purely educational ones. The EMU family helped me improve my knowledge, develop my ideas and afforded me with the prospect to contribute to professional scientific research projects and international publications (books, international journals and conferences). In my opinion, both critical and creative thinking is the key to success. This chance to develop oneself plays a great part in the culture of EMU.

Presently, I am a PhD candidate in the field of Mechanical & Material Engineering at Queen’s University, Ontario, in Canada. My PhD research projects are based on Solar Thermal Systems (Solar cooling and heating, thermal storage, dehumidifier, etc.). I am a member of the solar research team at the Solar Calorimetric Laboratory under The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Solar energy technologies have a huge impact on climate change and fuel pricing. Therefore, access to cheap and clean energy has become essential to the functioning of modern economies. Development and research in this area is indispensable and new ideas and technologies will always be welcome.

Göğem Topçu
I received my BSc (Hons) Psychology degree from EMU in 2009. I then went on to do my MSc in Health Psychology at the University of Nottingham, UK. I am currently working as a part-time instructor at EMU in the Psychology Department and I have recently embarked upon a PhD in Health Psychology at the University of Nottingham. My broad research interests include psychological aspects of chronic illnesses and disability, informal carers of individuals living with chronic illness, multiple sclerosis and dental health.

My proposed PhD research will be related to the study of ‘Informal Carers of Multiple Sclerosis Patients’. My PhD study aims to examine the overall quality of life (QoL) of informal carers of individuals with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

MS is the most prevalent chronic degenerative neurological disease among adults which causes disruptions in motor and sensory functions, cognitive dysfunctions and deficits in emotional and behavioural control. Therefore, many MS patients rely upon an informal care network to facilitate their daily living activities.

Caring for an MS patient is a highly stressful process and recognised as a threat to the caregiver’s QoL. Although there is a wealth of research investigating the caregiving experiences of other chronic conditions, the unstable and unpredictable nature of MS makes this carer role distinct from others. However, very few studies have been undertaken with this population of carers. Thus, more studies are necessary to address this population in order to understand their needs and experiences, and to help them alleviate their stress. In addition, it is important to identify the factors that might contribute to the deterioration of carers’ own health and well-being.

Thus, my proposed research will hopefully advance our understanding of the psychosocial factors that affect QoL of informal carers of MS patients. This will enable researchers to design interventions in order to alleviate the carer strain and improve both the carers’ and patients’ QoL.
### Fall 2011-2012 Postgraduate Degrees

The Following is the additional list of students who have successfully completed their postgraduate degrees in Fall 2011-2012. This list has been provided by EMU Institute of Graduate Studies and Research on 30 April 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LL.M.</strong></td>
<td>Buğrahan Bican</td>
<td>Çatmadan Doğan Kanunlar İhtilafi</td>
<td>Arzu Alibaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehmet Ekin Vaiz</td>
<td>Olağanüstü Hal Kavramı ve Denetimi</td>
<td>Sultan Tahmazoğlu Üzeltürk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M.A.</strong></td>
<td>Hamed Mousavinasab</td>
<td>Role of Social Networks on Political Activism: A Case Study of Facebook Usage during Iranian Presidential Election in 2009</td>
<td>Tuğrul İltər</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Müzeyyen Alasya</td>
<td>High School Students Learning Styles in North Cyprus</td>
<td>Bekir Özer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gülşah İbrik</td>
<td>Attitudes of Teacher Candidates Towards Professional Development Courses</td>
<td>Ahmet Konrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solmaz Taghizadeh Mahani</td>
<td>A Cross-Sectional Study of Iranian EFL Learners’ Realization of Request Speech Arts</td>
<td>Gülşen M. Vefali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Müge Çiçek Gutsul</td>
<td>University Students’ Beliefs, Awareness and Attitudes regarding the Target Culture Learning in an EFL Context</td>
<td>İlkyilçen M. Vefali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Relations</strong></td>
<td>Assi Habib Gody</td>
<td>The Challenges of the United Nations in Conflict Resolution: The Case of Darfur</td>
<td>Ahmet Sözen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MBA</strong></td>
<td>Soroush Khademalomoum</td>
<td>Effect of Service Personal Values on Evaluation of Higher Education Service</td>
<td>Seldjan Timur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christabell Tanifum Mankaa</td>
<td>The Relationship between Voluntary Turnover and Customer Satisfaction in the Restaurant Business: A case in Five Restaurants in famagusta, North Cyprus</td>
<td>Doğan Ünlücan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Ramadan Şanuvar</td>
<td>İnsan Hakları Avrupa Sözleşmesi’nin 6. Maddesi Çerçevesinde Adil Yargılanma Hakki Ve Saniğa Tanınan Temel Kaklar</td>
<td>Sultan Üzeltürk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kazhal Alizadeh Kaghazchi</td>
<td>The Choice of Travel Agencies Factors in North Cyprus: Evidence from Universities Students</td>
<td>Sami Fethi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Armin Gharagozloo</td>
<td>Nepotism, Favoritism and Cronyism: Evidence from Tourism Sector in the Case of North Cyprus</td>
<td>Sami Fethi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elahe Noroozi</td>
<td>The Determinant of Impulse Buying in Construction Sector: Evidence from North Cyprus Economy.</td>
<td>Sami Fethi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MS</strong></td>
<td>Sanaz Saeidi</td>
<td>In Pursuit of Diversity in Neighbourhoods: An Evaluation of Four Neighbourhoods in Famagusta</td>
<td>Derya Oktay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marketing Management</strong></td>
<td>Murat Osma</td>
<td>The AKP’s Reconstruction of the Kurdish Problem during the European Union Accession Process</td>
<td>Altay Nevzat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Architectural Design</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marjaneh Khorsand Mashhadi  
**Thesis Title:** Comparison of Iranian and Turkish Traditional Architectures in Hot-Dry Climates  
**Supervisor:** Mesut Özdeniz

Sayena Davarpanah  
**Thesis Title:** A Query on the Impact of Place on the Formation of Iconic Buildings in Architecture  
**Supervisor:** Hıfsiye Pulhan

Anıl Başarcan  
**Thesis Title:** A Model Proposal to Measure the Role of Design on the Sense of Place Achievement at Interior Spaces  
**Supervisor:** Nil Paşaoğluşahin

Stephanie Emefa Adzoa Akortor  
**Thesis Title:** The Quest for Community Participation in Decision Making Process in Büyükkonuk (North Cyprus)  
**Supervisor:** Derya Oktay

Vahibe Kazek  
**Thesis Title:** Evaluation of Integrated Photovoltaic Systems on Facades  
**Supervisor:** Halil Zafer Alibaba

**Banking and Finance**

Moussa Moukhtar Moussa  
**Thesis Title:** Bank-Specific and Macroeconomic Determinants of Bank Profitability: Case of Turkey  
**Supervisor:** Nesrin Özataç

Ali Hashemifar  
**Thesis Title:** An Empirical Analysis of Spread for Two Types of FX Brokers  
**Supervisor:** Cahit Adaoğlu

Bilsen Nesrin Çaplı  
**Thesis Title:** Profitability and Transparency in the North Cyprus Banking Industry  
**Supervisor:** Nesrin Özataç

Hamed Faghihi Taleghani  
**Thesis Title:** The Stock Market Development, The Banking Sector Development and Economic Growth: The Case of Iran  
**Supervisor:** Salih Katic二氧化

Ceyda Özkan  
**Thesis Title:** Interactions between Business Conditions and Financial Performance of Tourism Industry in Turkey  
**Supervisor:** Salih Katic二氧化

Cletus Ambe Shu  
**Thesis Title:** Outreach and Performance Analysis of Microfinance Institutions in Cameroon  
**Supervisor:** Bilge Öney

**Civil Engineering**

Sasan Somi  
**Thesis Title:** Humidity Intrusion Effects on Properties of Autoclaved Aerated Concrete  
**Supervisor:** Özgür Eren

Seyed Mehrdad Nourbakhsh  
**Thesis Title:** Inelastic Behavior of Eccentric Braces in Steel Structure  
**Supervisor:** Mürüde Çelik二氧化

Ahmed Zaid Shams-AL  
**Thesis Title:** Progressive Collapse Analysis of Four Existing Reinforced Concrete Buildings Using Linear Procedure  
**Supervisor:** Mürüde Çelik二氧化

Mona Malekzadeh  
**Thesis Title:** Effect of Polypropylene Fiber and Posidonia Oceanica Ash on the Behavior of Expansive Soils  
**Supervisor:** Huriye Bilis二氧化

Yashar Shaiai  
**Thesis Title:** Influence of Hooked-End Steel Fibers on some Engineering Properties of SIFCON  
**Supervisor:** Zalihe Sezai

Nima Rostami Alkhorshid  
**Thesis Title:** Numerical Analysis of Soft Clay Reinforced With Stone Columns  
**Supervisor:** Zalihe Sezai

Reza Jalali Larjani  
**Thesis Title:** Progressive Collapse Analysis of Two Existing Steel Buildings Using Linear Static Procedure  
**Supervisor:** Mürüde Çelik二氧化

Mahdi Kazemi  
**Thesis Title:** Emergency Service Location Study for City of Famagusta in Geographic Information System  
**Supervisor:** Mehmet M. Kunt

Niloufar Zahibi  
**Thesis Title:** Effect of Specimen Size and Shape on Strength of Concrete  
**Supervisor:** Özgür Eren

Sedigheh Saheban Zand  
**Thesis Title:** Effect of Vibration Time on Some Mechanical Properties of High Strength Steel Fiber Reinforced Concrete  
**Supervisor:** Özgür Eren
Changiz Ahbab  
*Thesis Title:* An Investigation on Time and Cost Overrun in Construction Projects  
*Supervisor:* Tahir Çelik

**Computer Engineering**  
Mina Farmanbar  
*Thesis Title:* Investigation of Matrix Encryption Algorithms  
*Supervisor:* Alexander Chefranov

Nima Bina  
*Thesis Title:* Implementation of VoD P2P System Based on the LCBBS Module  
*Supervisor:* İskı Aybay

**Economics**  
Uğur Gök  
*Thesis Title:* Evaluating Turkish Airports Efficiencies Using Data Development Analysis  
*Supervisor:* Sevin Uğural

Wada Isah  
*Thesis Title:* Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in Nigeria: An Empirical Investigation  
*Supervisor:* Cem Payaslıoğlu

**Electrical and Eletronic Engineering**  
Pouya Bolourchi  
*Thesis Title:* Intelligent Decision Making Based on Fuzzy Logic System in Remote Wireless Communication  
*Supervisor:* Şener Uysal

Oyelami Kazeem Opeyemi  
*Thesis Title:* Modeling and Simulation of the Controllable Network Transformers  
*Supervisor:* Osman Kükkrer

Hossein Feiz  
*Thesis Title:* Power Load Optimization in a Wireless Communication System in Remote Area  
*Supervisor:* Şener Uysal

Mostafa Arbabi Monfared  
*Thesis Title:* Localization in Wireless Sensor Networks Based on Fuzzy Logic  
*Supervisor:* Şener Uysal

Edmond Nurellari  
*Thesis Title:* LDPC Coded OFDM and its Application to DVB-T2, DVB-S2 and IEEE 802.6e  
*Supervisor:* Erhan A. İnce

Qadri A. A. Mayyala  
*Thesis Title:* Adaptive Equalization for Periodically Varying Fading Channels  
*Supervisor:* Osman Kükkrer

Yazdan Mehdipour  
*Thesis Title:* Current Distribution on Linear Thin Wire Antenna Application of MOM and FMM  
*Supervisor:* Haluk U. Tosun

**Interior Architecture**  
Tuğçe Ergüden  
*Thesis Title:* The Importance of Soft Furnishings in Interior Spaces. Pilot Study-Living Spaces  
*Supervisor:* Zehra Öngül

**Mathematics**  
Fatma Dolma  
*Thesis Title:* Implementing Petri Nets for Modelling and Simulation in Biosciences  
*Supervisor:* Rza Bashirov

**Mechanical Engineering**  
Olopa Odusegun Solomon  
*Thesis Title:* Energy Assessment of a Parabolic Trough Collector in North Cyprus  
*Supervisor:* Uğur Atikol

Muhammad Abid  
*Thesis Title:* Experimental Investigation of Thermal Conductivity through Nanofluids  
*Supervisor:* Hikmet Ş. Aybar

Reza Enayatollahi  
*Thesis Title:* Winter Performance of a Solar Humidification Dehumidification Desalination System  
*Supervisor:* Uğur Atikol

Mehdi Lajavardi Esfahani  
*Thesis Title:* Monitoring the Performance of a Small Scale Wind Turbine  
*Supervisor:* Uğur Atikol

**Tourism Management**  
Behnaz Ghareh Baghi Douri  
*Thesis Title:* The Effect of Job Resourcefulness and Customer Orientation on Hotel Employee Outcomes: An Empirical Study in Iran  
*Supervisor:* Osman M. Karatepe

Ali Aminiam Heidari  
*Thesis Title:* Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) of Tourism Accommodations: The Case of City of Mashhad, Iran  
*Supervisor:* Habib Alipour
Esmaeil Khaksar Shahmirzadi  
*Thesis Title:* Community-Based Tourism (CBT) Planning and Possibilities: The Case of Shahmirzad, Iran  
*Supervisor:* Habib Alipour

**Urban Design**  
Abdollah Mobaraki  
*Thesis Title:* Strategies for Mitigating Urban Heat Island Effects in Cities: Case of Shiraz City Center  
*Supervisor:* Beser Oktay Vehbi

---

**Ph.D.**

**Applied Mathematics and Computer Science**  
Tolgay Karanfiller  
*Thesis Title:* Exploiting Petri Nets to Reduce Switch Crosstalk and Path-Dependent-Loss in Optical Interconnection Networks  
*Supervisor:* Rza Bashirov

**Economics**  
Hasan Ulaş Altıok  
*Thesis Title:* Evaluation of the Legacy of the Pension Systems in Northern Cyprus and the Assessment of Current and Prospective Reforms  
*Supervisor:* Glenn Jenkins

**Educational Sciences**  
Nazenin Ruso  
*Thesis Title:* An Action Research in EMU: Integrating Community Based Service-Learning Projects  
*Supervisor:* Mehmet Altınay

Orhan Uludağ  
*Thesis Title:* An Investigation of the Effects of Perceived Justice, Verbal Aggression, and Burnout on Academic Achievement of University Students  
*Supervisor:* Hüseyin Yaratan

**Civil Engineering**  
Hakan Yalıçınler  
*Thesis Title:* Predicting Performance Level of Reinforced Concrete Structures Subject to Corrosion as a Function of Time  
*Supervisor:* Özgür Eren

**Computer Engineering**  
Ahmed Yahya Mahmoud  
*Thesis Title:* Development of Matrix Cipher Modifications and Key Exchange Protocol  
*Supervisor:* Alexander Chefranov

---

Şenay Kafkas  
*Thesis Title:* Interaction Variability of Human Protein Isoforms Identified through Biomedical Literature Mining  
*Supervisor:* Ekrem Varoğlu

**Mechanical Engineering**  
Phillips Olaleye Agboola  
*Thesis Title:* Improved Inclined Solar Water Desalination System  
*Supervisor:* Fuat Egelioğlu

**Physics**  
Özlem Ünver  
*Thesis Title:* Quantum Singularities in (2+1) Dimensional Matter Coupled Black Hole Spacetimes  
*Supervisor:* Özay Gürtuğ
Recent Publications and Presentations (October - December 2011)

Journal Publications (SCI, SSCI, A&HCI)

The journal publications listed here are those that are listed in Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI), Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-Expanded), or Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). A search on ISI Web of Science was performed on 30 April 2011 to retrieve articles with at least one author having EMU affiliation. This list may not be comprehensive as some articles could be deposited to ISI after the query date.


Other Refereed Journals Publications


Conference Papers


Conference Presentations


Book Chapters

Conferences organized by / in collaboration with EMU

**Conference Name:** 3rd International Conference on Econometrics, Operations Research and Statistics (ICEOS-2012)

**Date:** 24-26 May 2012

**Web Address:** http://iceos.emu.edu.tr/

**Conference Name:** 4th International Conference on Women’s Studies Gender Equality and the Law

**Date:** 3-5 October 2012

**Web Address:** http://cws.emu.edu.tr/gel2012/index.html