Tugsad Akgül

Doctoral Researcher
University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland
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sapere aude!

Education

Ph.D. in Educational Sciences, University of Zurich, Switzerland — March 2024 – Present
Dissertation: *Self-determination Theory for Instructional Design*
Supervisor(s): Prof. Dr. habil. Sascha Schneider

M.S. in Educational Sciences, Izmir Democracy University, Turkey — February 2021 – September 2023
Thesis: *Improving ELT teacher candidates' technological pedagogical content knowledge: An action research*

M.S. in Educational Sciences, Bilkent University, Turkey — August 2020 – transfer

B.A. in English Studies, Saarland University, Germany — September 2015 – August 2016
Erasmus+

B.A. in English Studies, Akdeniz University, Turkey — September 2013 – June 2018

Research Interests

Motivation | Self-regulation | Social presence | Memory | Attention

Research Experience

Doctoral Researcher, University of Zurich — March 2024 – Present

Graduate Researcher, Izmir University — February 2021 – January 2024

Teaching Experience

Co-teaching, *Mastering Eye-Tracking Research*, University of Zurich — September 2025 – October 2025

Co-teaching, *Microteaching*, Izmir University — September 2023 – December 2023

Teacher, *English literature*, Bilkent Laboratory and International School September 2020 – December 2020

Teacher, *English as a foreign language*, American Culture Schools January 2019 – July 2020

Supervision

Co-Supervisor, University of Zurich January 2025 – December 2025
Master's Thesis: *Effects of supporting autonomy and relatedness on learning with static digital learning materials*

Publications


Open Data


Open Materials


Open Code


Preregistered


Preregistered+



Akgül, T. & Schneider, S. (2025). Learning with Study-With-Me Videos: A Review of Their Cognitive, Social, and Motivational Effects. *EDULEARN25 Proceedings*, 4414–4418. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.25390.22085



Tulea, C., Scheller, N., **Akgül, T.**, Habermeyer, T., & Schneider, S. (2025). The Power of Choice in Learning—But for Whom? Investigating the Role of Motivation in Digital Learning Environments. *EDULEARN25 Proceedings*, 6393–6400. doi.org/222.22210.21125/edulearn.2025.1572



Akgül, T. (2023). Improving ELT Teacher Candidates' Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge: An Action Research. [Master's Thesis, IDU], *YÖKTEZ*. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18832.21768



Akgül, T. (2022). The Relation Between Metacognitive Awareness and Regulation. *EJER'22 Book of Proceedings*, 280–288. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.35062.46406

Manuscripts in Review or Preparation

Akgül, T., Asghar, A., Scheller N. & Schneider, S. (2026). Learning Through Story and Belief: Combining Narrative Texts and Growth Mindset Inductions to Support Competence and Relatedness [Manuscript in preperation].

Akgül, T., Scheller, N., von Gugelberg H. M. & Schneider, S. (2026). Instructional Design for Motivation: Effects of Autonomy-supportive Text Design and Study-With-Me Videos on Learning [Manuscript in preperation].

Akgül, T., Endres, T. & Schneider, S. (2025). Making It Personal: Autobiographical Memory Cues as a Key to Boost Interest Development and Learning [Manuscript accepted]. *Journal of Applied Cognitive Psychology*.

Akgül, T., Habermeyer, T. & Schneider, S. (2025). The Presence of Learning Partners and Choice as Psychological Need Support Cues in Multimedia Learning [Manuscript in review]. *Journal of Instructional Science*.

Projects

A math tutor to provide support for individual learning needs (MATHiL) June 2025 – Present
Digitalization Initiative Zurich (DIZH)
Project Advisor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmalfeldt (PHZH)

Self-Determination Theory of Instructional Design (SDT4ID) March 2024 – Present
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
Project Advisor: Prof. Dr. habil. Sascha Schneider (UZH)

Conference Presentations & Posters

Akgül, T., Gugelberg, H. M., Scheller, N. & Schneider, S. (2026). *Designing Towards Intrinsic Motivation: Effects of Autonomy-Enhancing Language and Learning Partner Presence on Learning.* Presentation at the EARLI SIG 6&7 Conference, Zürich, Switzerland, 10 – 12 August.

Akgül, T., Endres, T. & Schneider, S. (2026). *Making It Personal for Whom? The Role of Neuroticism and Mind-Wandering in Autobiographical Memory (AM) Cue Effects on Interest and Learning.* Poster at the *Association for Psychological Science (APS) Conference*, Barcelona, Spain, 28 – 30 May. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.14562.90568.

Akgül, T., Scheller, N., Habermeyer, T. & Schneider, S. (2025). *Promoting Basic Psychological Needs through Motivational Text Design.* Poster at the *Jahreskongress 2025 der Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Bildungsforschung (SGBF)*, Lucerne, Switzerland, 2 – 4 July. doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.25390.22085.

Akgül, T. & Schneider, S. (2024). *The Presence of Learning Partners and Choice as Motivation Support Features in Multimedia Learning.* Presentation at the *EARLI SIG 6&7 Conference*, Tübingen, Germany, 21 – 23 August.

Akgül, T. & Deniz, S. (2022). *Examining Teacher Candidates' University Motivations and Innovation Competencies.* Presentation at the *IV. International Congress on Educational Research (ICER'22)*, Izmir, Turkey, 11 – 13 November.

Akgül, T. & Mutlu, G. (2022). *Instructional Planning for Sustainable Development: A Document Analysis Study.* Presentation at the *MEF University IV. International Student Conference on Educational Sciences (MISCES'22)*, Istanbul, Turkey, 26 – 27 March.

Akgül, T. & Deniz, S. (2022). *Perceptions of Students in Faculty of Education Towards Online Education During the Pandemic.* Presentation at the *III. International Congress on Educational Research (ICER'21)*, Izmir, Turkey, 12 – 14 November.

Grants and Funding

Scientific Research Grant for Master's Degree 2021–2023
Council of Higher Education of Turkey

Mobility Grant 2015–2016
Erasmus+

Fellowships, Awards, and Honours

Research Hackathon Winner 11 September 2024
UZH Digital Society Initiative

Scientific Talks and Keynotes

Is Learning Only a Cognitive Activity? Taking It a Step Further with the CASTLE Theory 29 April 2024
Faculty of Education, Middle East Technical University

Professional Affiliations

UZH Digital Society Initiative April 2024 – Present
Member

European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction April 2024 – Present
Member

Service

Reviewer March 2024 – Present

- European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)

Organizing Committee Member October 2024 – August 2026

- EARLI SIG 6&7 Conference 2026

Organizing Committee Member April 2021 – December 2023

- International Conference on Educational Research (ICER 2021/2022/2023)

Volunteer Roles

Academic Advisor, IDU Society of Innovation in Education June 2022 – December 2023

Relevant Certificates

Cognitive Tutoring Software Using CTAT, *Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich* August 2025

Data Analysis with R, *Izmir Democracy University* March 2022

Professional and Language Skills

Turkish/English	Native or bilingual proficiency
Greek	Professional working proficiency
German	Professional working proficiency
French	Intermediate working proficiency

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Labvanced Eyetracking Software	Very Good
SPSS, JASP, Jamovi	Very Good
Qualtrics, SoSci Survey, SONA	Very Good
R, Overleaf	Good
MAXQDA	Good
Adobe Premiere	Good
CTAT	Good
Scratch	Good

Last updated: October 26, 2026