

Elif Canseza Kaplan

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Education

PhD in Psycholinguistics/Audiology

2017 – 2025

Deniz Başkent's Speech Perception Lab, University of Groningen / UMCG

Groningen, NL

- Dissertation: *Prosodically-Driven Spoken Word Recognition: The Influence of Listeners' Musical Background.*
- Supervisors: Deniz Başkent, PhD; Anita Wagner, PhD.
- Committee: Fred Dick, PhD; Barbara Tillmann, PhD; Wander Lowie, PhD.

Visiting PhD Researcher (Secondment)

2019 – 2020

The Centre for Speech Technology Research (CSTR), University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

- Supervisors: Simon King, PhD; Cassia Valentini-Botinhao, PhD.

MA in Cognitive Science

2013 – 2017

Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- Thesis: *Knowledge-Based Expectation Effects in Pitch Perception: A Cross-Cultural Investigation.*
- Supervisors: Esra Mungan, PhD; Markus Pöchtrager, PhD.

BA in Foreign Language Education

2007 – 2013

Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

Research Interests

My research broadly examines how humans perceive, process, and make sense of complex auditory signals such as speech and music. I study cognitive and perceptual mechanisms that support auditory communication—attention, prediction, and memory—and how they operate across language and music. This work integrates approaches from cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, and auditory neuroscience to understand prosody, speech perception, and cross-domain transfer from musical experience.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Kaplan, E. C., Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. E. (2025, in press). Musical abilities influence the use of durational prosodic cues in spoken word recognition. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0001517>
- Kaplan, E. C., Wagner, A. E., Toffanin, P., & Başkent, D. (2021). Do musicians and non-musicians differ in speech-on-speech processing? *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 623787. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.623787>

Conference Proceedings

- Kaplan, E. C., Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. E. (2019). Differences in processing speech-on-speech between musicians and non-musicians: The role of prosodic cues. *Proceedings of ICA 2019* (pp. 5756–5758). <https://doi.org/10.18154/RWTH-CONV-239680>

- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Wagner, A. E., & Başkent, D. (2018). Are musicians at an advantage when processing speech on speech? In R. Parncutt & S. Sattmann (Eds.), *Proceedings of ICMPC15/ESCOM10* (pp. 233–236). Graz: Center for Systematic Musicology, University of Graz.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- **Kaplan, E. C.**, & Mungan, E. Cross-cultural effects of knowledge-based expectations on pitch perception in Turkish makam and Western tonal music. (Manuscript in preparation).

Grants and Awards

Marie Skłodowska–Curie (H2020) Early Stage Research Fellow Mar 2017 – Sep 2020
University of Groningen / UMCG Groningen, NL

- ENRICH ETN; funded by the EU Horizon 2020 MSCA (GA 675324).

Faculty of Social Sciences Travel Grant Jul 2016
Boğaziçi University Istanbul, TR

- Supported attendance at the 14th International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition (ICMPC14), San Francisco, USA.

TÜBİTAK Scholarship Dec 2014 – Mar 2017
Boğaziçi University Istanbul, TR

- 3-year scholarship from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK 1001; 114K348).

Research Experience

PhD Researcher / Marie Curie Early Stage Research Fellow Mar 2017 – Oct 2025
Deniz Başkent’s Speech Perception Lab (dbSPL), University Medical Center Groningen Groningen, NL

- PI: Deniz Başkent, PhD; Co-supervisor: Anita E. Wagner, PhD.
- Designed and conducted visual-world experiments combining eye-tracking and pupillometry to examine how musical experience relates to spoken language processing.
- Tested speech-in-quiet and speech-on-speech conditions; evaluated how prosodic cues support lexical prediction.

Visiting PhD Researcher Mar 2019 – Dec 2019
Centre for Speech Technology Research (CSTR), University of Edinburgh Edinburgh, UK

- PI: Simon King, PhD; Co-supervisor: Cassia Valentini-Botinhao, PhD.
- Developed and ran an eye-tracking experiment on suprasegmental prosody and linguistic prediction; analyzed anticipation effects in spoken word recognition.

Research Assistant Sep 2015 – Mar 2017
Music Cognition Lab, Boğaziçi University Istanbul, TR

- PI: Esra Mungan, PhD; Co-supervisor: Markus Pöchtrager, PhD.
- MA thesis on how cultural background and musical structure shape pitch perception across Western tonal and Turkish makam systems.

Project Assistant Dec 2014 – Mar 2017
Cognitive Science Program, Boğaziçi University Istanbul, TR

- PI: Lucas Thorpe, PhD (TÜBİTAK 1001; 114K348) on “Concepts and Beliefs: From Perception to Action.”
- Contributed to a cross-disciplinary project on embodied cognition; co-organized seminars and workshops.

Research Assistant

Oct 2014 – Jul 2015

Psychology Department, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- PI: Reşit Canbeyli, PhD.
- Assisted with experimental design for auditory language processing and hemispheric asymmetries; supported data collection (e.g., tympanic temperature).

Research Assistant

Feb 2015 – Jun 2015

Psychology Department, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- PI: Ayhan Aksu-Koç, PhD.
- Contributed to a longitudinal study on children’s acquisition of evidentiality and genericity; ran comprehension tasks with 3–4-year-olds.

Research Assistant

Oct 2014 – Jun 2015

Linguistics Department, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- PI: Markus Pöchtrager, PhD.
- Phonological case study on the vowel system of Kabardian using Government Phonology; analyzed typologically rare phonemic patterns.

Clinical Intern

Oct 2010 – Jun 2011

Neuropsychology Department, Çapa Medical Faculty

Istanbul, TR

- Observed aphasia therapy sessions (Supervisor: Öget Öktem-Tanör, PhD).
- Documented a conduction aphasia case (right-hemispheric stroke in a developmentally right-handed patient).

Teaching Experience

Part-Time Lecturer

Jan 2025 – Present

Psychology Department, Bahçeşehir University

Istanbul, TR

- Graduate Statistics for Psychology (MA); emphasis on SPSS, regression modeling, and interpretation.

Part-Time Lecturer

Jan 2022 – Present

Cognitive Science MA Program, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- Introduction to R for Statistics (COGS 589); reproducible analysis, open science, data visualization, mixed-effect models.

Daily Supervisor

Dec 2018 – Jun 2019

Research School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Groningen

Groningen, NL

- Supervised the master’s thesis of Joëlle Jagersma (PI: Deniz Başkent, PhD).

English Teacher (Visually Disabled)

Jan 2010 – Jun 2010

GETEM, Boğaziçi University

Istanbul, TR

- Prepared students for English proficiency exams at the Assistive Technology and Education Laboratory for Individuals with Visual Disabilities (GETEM).

Conference Presentations and Workshops

- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. E. (2020, Dec). *Differences in Processing Speech-on-Speech Between Musicians and Non-musicians: The Role of Durational Cues*. Poster, 179th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (virtual).
- **Kaplan, E. C.** (2020, Mar). *What your eyes reveal about listening effort*. Demo at ENRICH dissemination event “Easy speaking and effortless listening”, Royal Institution, London, UK. Event page
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. E. (2020, Jan). *Differences in Processing Speech-on-Speech Between Musicians and Non-musicians: The Role of Prosodic Cues*. Poster, Speech in Noise (SpIN) Workshop, Toulouse, France.
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Başkent, D., & Wagner, A. E. (2019, Sep). *Differences in Processing Speech-on-Speech Between Musicians and Non-musicians: The Role of Prosodic Cues*. Poster, International Congress on Acoustics, Aachen, Germany.
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Wagner, A. E., & Başkent, D. (2019, Mar). *Are Musicians at an Advantage When Processing Speech in Cocktail-Party?* Oral, 41st Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS), Bremen, Germany.
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Wagner, A. E., & Başkent, D. (2019, Jan). *Are Musicians at an Advantage When Processing Speech in Cocktail-Party?* Poster, Speech in Noise (SpIN) Workshop, Ghent, Belgium.
- **Kaplan, E. C.** (2018, Oct). *Individual and Group Benefits of Enrichment: Effects of Musical Training*. Oral, E8 ENRICH Workshop on Speech Modifications, The Hague, Netherlands.
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Yazıcı, Z. F., & Mungan, E. (2018, Jul). *Can Western Listeners Detect Pitch Deviations in Makam Music Sequences?* Poster, ICMPC15/ESCOM10, Graz, Austria.
- **Kaplan, E. C.** (2017, Oct). *Top-Down Enrichment of Speech Perception*. Oral, E5 ENRICH Meeting, Universidad del País Vasco, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.
- Exenberger, A., Govender, A., **Kaplan, E. C.**, Kirwan, J. A., Raman, S., Simantiraki, O., & Shifas, M. (2017, Jul). *Listening Effort Measures and Speech Enhancement*. Oral, E4 ENRICH Summer School, University of Heraklion, Crete, Greece.
- **Kaplan, E. C.**, Yazıcı, Z. F., & Mungan, E. (2016, Jul). *Knowledge-Based Expectation Effects on Pitch Perception: A Cross-cultural Investigation*. Poster, ICMPC14, San Francisco, USA.
- Mutlu, M. C., **Kaplan, E. C.**, Şen, U., Eren, K., Ertaş, G., Saybaşılı, H., & Canbeyli, R. (2015, Sep). *Lateralized Tympanic Membrane Temperature Responses to Listening to Words*. Poster, EBBS–EBPS Joint Meeting, Verona, Italy.

Technical & Language Skills

- **Operating Systems:** macOS, Windows.
- **Programming:** R (proficient), Python (intermediate), MATLAB (intermediate).
- **Software:** RStudio, SPSS, Praat, Audacity, Mus2.
- **Experimental Tools:** EyeLink 1000 (eye-tracking); experience with pupillometry & VWP.
- **Writing:** L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office.
- **Languages:** Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate).

Service and Outreach

Project Coordinator & Researcher

Bilim Akademisi

Jun 2023 – Jun 2024

Istanbul, TR

- Organized the workshop “Formulating Project Calls for Transdisciplinary Research Focused on Earthquakes”.
- Coordinated preparation of two earthquake-related books published by Bilim Akademisi Yayinevi.

Translator (Humanitarian Field)

Afette Rehber Çevirmenler Derneği

Feb 2023 – Mar 2023

Hatay, TR

- Served Swiss Humanitarian Aid (Mother and Child Care Unit, Mozaik Hospital, Antakya) after the Feb 2023 earthquakes.

Logistics Coordinator

Cave Rescue Commission, Turkish Speleological Foundation

Feb 2023 – Present

Turkey

- Coordinated planning and logistics for cave rescue operations.

Education Coordinator

TAKIM Search and Rescue Association

Feb 2023 – Present

Turkey

- Organized public trainings on disaster awareness; coordinated logistics for SAR teams.

References

Anita Wagner, PhD

University of Groningen

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Esra Mungan, PhD

Department of Psychology, Boğaziçi University

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Simon King, PhD

School of PPLS, University of Edinburgh

simon.king@ed.ac.uk

Deniz Başkent, PhD

Perceptual and Cognitive Neuroscience (PCN), UMCG

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