

# Meymune N. Topçu

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MEF University, Department of Psychology, Istanbul/Turkey

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## EDUCATION

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- 2021      Ph.D. in Cognitive, Social, and Developmental Psychology  
New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2014      M.A. in Psychology  
New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2010      B.A. in Psychology and History (Double-major) (Honors)  
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2023      Assistant Professor  
MEF University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2023      Honorary Visiting Scholar  
Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- 2022      Visiting Scholar  
New School for Social Research, New York, NY

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- 2024      2224-A Yurtdışı Bilimsel Etkinliklere Katılım Desteği Programı, TÜBİTAK.
- 2023      James S. McDonnell Foundation Collective Memory Network (Ongoing)  
*Project Title: Collective Anxiety, Memory, and Future Thinking: A case study (Role: PI), \$25.000*

- 2023 James S. McDonnell Foundation Collective Memory Network (Ongoing)  
*Project Title: Existential Threats and Collective Mental Time Travel (Role: PI), \$10.000*
- 2022 Irvin Rock Memorial Award in Psychology, New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2021 James S. McDonnell Foundation Collective Memory Network (Ongoing)  
*Project Title: Collective Temporal Thought (Role: co-PI), \$25.000*
- 2019 Student Research and Conference Travel Fund, New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2014-2016 Student Research and Conference Travel Funds, New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2012-2016 New School Prize Fellowship, New School for Social Research, New York, NY
- 2005-2010 Undergraduate Science Scholarship, TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Yamashiro, J. & **Topçu, M. N.** (in press). Collective future thinking. In A. Erll & W. Hirst (Eds.) *Cognition, culture, and political momentum: A companion to interdisciplinary memory research*.
- Topçu, M. N.** & Hirst, W. (2024). When the personal and the collective intersects: Memory, future thinking, and perceived agency during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General* 153(9), 2258-2278.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0001624>
- Hirst, W. & **Topçu, M. N.** (2023). Scripts, agents, and interpretations: Delving into valence biases of mental time travel. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*, 12(1), 25-28. <https://doi.org/10.1037/mac0000105>
- Cheriet, N.\*, **Topçu, M. N.\***, Bastin, C., Hirst W., & Folville, A. (2023). A day that America will remember: Flashbulb memory, collective memory, and future thinking for the Capitol Riots. *Memory*, 31(5), 715-731, (\*Equal contribution).  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09658211.2023.2190570>
- Topçu, M. N.** & Hirst, W. (2022). Collective mental time travel: Current research and future directions. *Progress in Brain Research*, 274(1), 71-97.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.pbr.2022.06.002>

- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2021).** Mémoire collective et élaboration. In R. Miljkovitch & C. Beauvais (Eds.). *L'élaboration mentale: Comprendre les mécanismes qui sous-tendent la santé mentale* (pp. 149-160). Elsevier Masson. [Collective memory and elaboration. In *Mental elaboration: Understanding the mechanisms underlying mental health*]
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2020).** Remembering a nation's past to imagine its future: The role of event specificity, phenomenology, valence, and perceived agency. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition* 46(3), 563-579.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/xlm0000746>
- Merck, C., **Topçu, M. N., & Hirst, W. (2016).** Collective mental time travel: Creating a shared future through our shared past. *Memory Studies*, 9(3), 284-294.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1750698016645236>

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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- Topçu, M. N., Wang, Z., & Hirst, W. (in prep.).** Past, present, and future perceptions of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US and in China: A longitudinal exploration.
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (in prep.).** The effects of imagining election results on national memories and voting behavior: The 2016 and 2020 US presidential elections.
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (in prep.).** “The future is bright because I will be in control”: The role of perceived agency in episodic future thinking.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Topçu, M. N. (2024).** National goals and collective future thinking: Structural influences. Psychonomic Society 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New York, NY, USA. (Paper)
- Sözer, E., **Topçu, M. N., Boduroğlu, A. (2024).** What's next? Turkish general elections as a historic moment for remembering the past and projecting the future. Psychonomic Society 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New York, NY, USA. (Poster)
- Topçu, M. N. (2024).** How memory and future thinking structures the experience of collective anxiety: Turkish elections. 66<sup>th</sup> TeaP (Tagung experimentell arbeitender Psycholog:innen) Annual Meeting, Regensburg, Germany. (Paper)
- Topçu, M. N. & Boduroğlu, A. (2023).** The impact of memory and future thinking on collective anxiety. Psychonomic Society 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA. (Poster)

- Topçu, M. N. & Boduroğlu, A. (2023).** Toplumsal endişeler, toplumsal bellek, ve gelecek düşüncesi: Türkiye seçimleri. VII. Deneysel Bilişsel Psikoloji Sempozyumu, Doğu Akdeniz Üniversitesi, KKTC. (Paper)
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2023).** The role of narratives in collective future thinking: The case of American Exceptionalism. Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Nagoya, Japan. (Paper)
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2019).** Remembering the collective past to imagine a collective future. Memory Studies Association, Madrid, Spain. (Paper)
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2019).** The role of perceived agency in episodic future thinking. Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Cape Cod, MA, USA. (Poster)
- Topçu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2018).** The moderating role of self-agency on episodic mental time travel. Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Aarhus, Denmark. (Poster)
- Boduroglu, A., Tekcan, A., Bilge, R., **Topcu, M. N.**, Ikizoglu, A., & Sozer, E. E. (2017). Impact of sociopolitical identity on memory. Psychonomic Society, Vancouver, Canada. (Poster)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2017).** Trump or Clinton? The effects of imagining election results on people's national memories. International Society of Political Psychology, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. (Paper)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2016).** Collective future thinking: The role of event specificity, perceived agency, and identity. International Conference on Memory, Budapest, Hungary. (Paper)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2016).** Collective future thinking: Specificity, phenomenal characteristics, and entitativity. Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Aarhus, Denmark. (Poster)
- Hirst, W, Merck, C., & **Topcu, M. N. (2016).** Remembering a collective past and imagining its future. Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Aarhus, Denmark. (Invited Talk)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2015).** Remembering the collective past to imagine a collective future: The role of event specificity, valence, and perceived agency. Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Victoria, BC, Canada. (Paper)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2014).** Remembering the collective past to imagine a collective future. International Society of Political Psychology, Rome, Italy. (Paper Presented)
- Topcu, M. N. & Hirst, W. (2014).** Remembering the collective past to imagine a collective future. Poster at Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA. (Poster)
- Tekcan, A., Okur, S., Ugur, H., & **Topcu, M. N. (2011).** Gender and Self Defining Memories. Society of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, New York, NY. (Paper)

**Topcu, M. N.** (2008). Voting Attitudes of Turkish Electorates: An analysis of 2007 General Elections in Turkey from the perspective of political psychology. Student Symposium at the Foundation for Sciences and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey. (Paper)

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2023 National goals and collective future thinking: Structural Influences. McDonnell Collective Memory Conference, St. Louis, MO, USA.
- 2023 Anxieties, memories, and elections: The Turkish context. McDonnell Collective Memory Conference, St. Louis, MO, USA.
- 2023 Imagining the collective future: Valence, perceived agency, and narratives. Psychology Department, Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye.
- 2023 Imagining the collective future: Narratives, valence, and perceived agency. Interdepartmental Laboratory Memory and Society, University of Trento, Trento, Italy.
- 2023 Toplumsal bellek ve geleceği düşünmek: Algılanan öznelık, değerklik, ve anlatılar. Psikoloji Bölümü, Medeniyet Üniversitesi, İstanbul, Türkiye.
- 2023 The role of narratives in collective future thinking. Talk presented at the workshop, “Transatlantic dialogue on collective temporal thought: Representations of the future”, UCLouvain, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium.
- 2022 The role of narratives in collective future thinking: The case of American exceptionalism. Talk presented at the workshop, “Breaking down the siloes: Connecting cultural, social, and psychological aspects of memory”, Bad Homburg, Germany.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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PSYC 439	Memory in Society – MEF University
PSYC 204	Cognitive Psychology – MEF University
PSYC 303	Measurement and Evaluation in Psychology – MEF University
PSYC 311	Selected Topics in Cognitive Psychology – Kadir Has University
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology – Boğaziçi University
PSY 376	Collective Memory – İstanbul Şehir University (2 terms)

## **AD-HOC REVIEWER**

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*Memory*

*Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*

*Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*

*Applied Cognitive Psychology*

*Memory, Mind, and Media*

*Nature: Scientific Reports*

*Cognition and Emotion*

*Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*

## **MEDIA**

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Love, S. (2022, November 9). Collective mental time travel can influence the future. *Wired*.

Retrieved from <https://www.wired.com/story/psychology-mental-time-travel-politics/>