

Melodi Özyaprak - Curriculum Vitae

Title: Assistant Professor of Creativity and Change Leadership

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Education:

- March 2018 **University of Connecticut**, Connecticut, USA
Post-Doc in Gifted Education
Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development
- August 2012 **Istanbul University**, Istanbul, Turkey
Ph.D. in Gifted Education
Special Education Department
- August 2006 **Istanbul University**, Istanbul, Turkey
M.A. in Gifted Education
Special Education Department
- July 2003 **Istanbul University**, Istanbul, Turkey
B.S. in Math Teacher Training Program
- *Minor in Science Teacher Training Program*

Research Interests:

- Creative Education
- Creativity and Critical Thinking
- Curriculum Development/Differentiation with an Emphasis on Creativity
- Gifted Education
- Mathematics Education

Teaching Philosophy:

Dr. Melodi Özyaprak holds a deep passion for education and believe in preserving high performance and fostering a love for learning, even in the face of modern education policy challenges. Teaching has been a lifelong calling for her, and she finds solace in the classroom, whether it's a traditional one or any environment where learning takes place. She thrives on shared experiences, questions, and joyful learning. She aims to inspire a lifelong love of learning in all students, regardless of their cognitive characteristics. Sincerity and enthusiasm are her keys to motivating them.

She values nurturing students' understanding, potential, and contribution to society. She wants them to be lifelong learners, Socratic thinkers, creative problem solvers, and individuals who continually strive to discover their full potential.

In her teaching style, she prioritizes trust, inquiry, and a scientific approach. She designs curricula that adapt to the evolving knowledge landscape and encourage students to become independent thinkers and learners. She believes that success is achieved when students actively

participate, ask profound questions, and challenge their own thinking. Her goal is to nurture curious, humble, and creative individuals who find their passion and embrace personal growth.

Selected Publications:

1. Teacher nomination in identifying gifted and talented students: Evidence from Turkey. *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, 2021.
2. Asking the right questions to nominate a student as gifted and talented: A machine learning approach, *Journal of Information Technologies*, 2020.
3. The effectiveness of self-regulated learning on teaching SCAMPER technique of creativity, *Turkish Journal of Giftedness and Education*, 2016.
4. Differentiating Math Curriculum, Book Chapter in “Teaching Mathematics to Gifted Students and Enhancing Mathematical Creativity, 2021.
5. Mathematics and creativity, Book Chapter in *Creativity and Domain Specific Practices*, 2019.
6. Teaching higher-order thinking skills, Book Chapter in *Designing Educational Programs for Gifted and Talented Students*, 2017.
7. Creativity of gifted students, Book Chapter in *Giftedness*, 2014

Professional Experience:

- [Associate Director], [Johns Hopkins University], [2021-2022]
- [Assistant Professor], [Istanbul University], [2012-2020]

Professional Memberships:

- Asia-Pacific Federation on Giftedness (APFG) - Turkish Delegate, 2016-2018.
- World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) - Turkish Delegate, 2010-2012.
- World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) - Turkish Delegate, 2004-2006.

Personal Hobbies:

Outside of academia, Melodi Özyaprak enjoys reading, hiking, singing, and philosophy. She believes that a well-rounded life outside work enhances creativity skills, the quality of teaching, and overall life satisfaction.