

Curriculum Vitae

Deniz Inanici

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology
University of Buffalo, Graduate School of Education, Buffalo, NY
Expected Graduation Date: May 2030
Presidential Fellow

Master of Philosophy in Education Professional Counseling
University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA
May 2021
GPA: 4.00/4.00
Merit-Based Scholarship: August 2020 - May 2021

Master of Science in Counseling and Mental Health Services
University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA
June 2020
GPA: 3.91/4.00

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Bilgi University, College of Social Sciences & Humanities, Istanbul, Turkey
GPA: 3.32/4.00
January 2019
Graduated with Honors Certificate (given to students who has reached GPA higher than 3.00)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant

University at Buffalo, Graduate School of Education
Buffalo, NY
August 2025 – Present

- Serve as Graduate Assistant under the supervision of Dr. Sandro Sodano, supporting research and academic initiatives in career development, career interests and mentorship.
- Assist with research development, program activities, and departmental projects as assigned.
- Contribute to mentorship programming as part of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) in collaboration with Dr. Margarita Dubocovich.

Lead Researcher

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 2024 – Present
Advisor: Michael Nakkula, PhD.

Leading a mixed-methods research study on the impact of mental health experiences on career development and aspirations among young adults.

- Oversee study design, participant recruitment, and data collection to examine retrospective mental health influences on career aspirations, strengths, and coping strategies.
- Conduct semi-structured interviews and integrate qualitative and quantitative methods to capture comprehensive insights from a sample of 40 graduate students.
- Planning to perform thematic analysis of interview transcripts and statistical analysis of rating questions; develop a code book to identify key themes.
- Coordinate participant outreach with PennGSE, ensuring ethical standards and data integrity throughout the study.

Research Assistant

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 2020 – Present

Advisor: Michael Nakkula, PhD.

Lead a cross-cultural research study on the topic of future planning and mentoring sources for Vietnamese and Turkish high school students, as part of the Penn GSE Global Possibility Network.

- Drafted IRB protocol, sought collaboration with two schools, interviewed students in Turkey, transcribed and translated interviews from Turkish to English, performed inductive thematic analysis to achieve a cross-cultural qualitative paper and subsequent research-based programming.
- Assisted Dr. Nakkula in data analysis and data collection for the Possibility Mentoring project which helps middle school students take steps and realize their futures, while gaining real-world experience in education.
- Assisted mentees in exploring and prioritizing career interests, creating and executing action plans and assessing progress.
- Evaluated progress of the Possibility Mentoring program by attending leadership meetings, reading mentors' memos to write weekly summary reports and presenting the reports at mentor training sessions during the whole graduate school time period.
- Partnering with Global Possibility Network(GPN) which is an initiative based in the Human Development and Quantitative Methods Division of the Penn GSE.

Research Assistant

Istanbul Bilgi University

Istanbul, Turkey

September 2018 – July 2019

Advisor: Umit Akirmak, Ph.D.

Assisted an experimental study on cognitive processes, specifically related to human memory.

- Collected free association data in the lab and used the normative data to predict performance in various tasks including free recall, cued recall, recognition, and the DRM paradigm.
- Recruited participants on campus and guided through the stages of the experiment to ensure sessions were conducted in a prompt and efficient manner
- Debriefed participants at the end of the experiment to inform about the true purpose of the study, to answer questions, and to receive feedback
- Worked on association of Subjective Well Being and Time Perspective alongside Dr. Umit Akirmak and collaborated on a literature review of Subjective Well Being from a hedonistic perspective.

Research Assistant

NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development,
New York, NY

June 2018 -August 2018

Advisor: Diane Hughes, Ph.D.

Assisted a research project at the Center for Research on Culture, Education, and Development (CRCDE) in Dr Diane Hughes' Lab.

- Responsibilities included; analyzing qualitative data such as surveys and identity maps, creating open coding themes based on the data.
- Coded qualitative data to identify patterns of race stories.

Research Assistant

Acibadem Maslak Hospital

Istanbul, Turkey

June 2017 – September 2017

Advisor: Ozlem Er, MD

Conducted research on anxiety and depression levels of oncology patients at Acibadem Maslak Hospital Oncology Service.

- Recruited patients in the hospital and guided through the stages of the research study.
- Administered Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) to inpatient cancer patients in approximately one hour-long sessions.
- Debriefed patients at the end of the interviews to inform about the true purpose of the study, to answer questions, and to receive feedback
- Organized and updated the study calendar and Excel sheets regularly to coordinate sessions, monitor progress, and keep track of patient information
- Presented findings at an International Medical Oncology Congress in Antalya, Turkey.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Licensed Professional Counselor

Joseph J Peters Institute

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 2024 – June 2025

- Provide individual psychotherapy to children, adolescents, young adults, and families, maintaining an average caseload of 27 clients per week.
- Develop and implement innovative therapeutic techniques to improve outcomes and support agency growth.
- Work with psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and school counselors to assess, diagnose, and treat a wide range of mental health disorders, including depressive, bipolar, anxiety, eating, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma-related disorders.
- Conduct crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies and attend weekly case discussions for peer supervision and collaborative learning.
- Complete treatment plans, progress notes, and discharge summaries within required timeframes, maintaining comprehensive, compliant records and conducting client follow-up as needed.
- Cultivate professional relationships with other agencies and foster a cohesive team approach across agency programs.

Licensed Professional Counselor

Sunstone Counseling

McLean, Virginia

September 2022 – July 2024

- Provided individual psychotherapy sessions to children, adolescents, young adults and families, with an average caseload of 25 clients per week.
- Collaborated with psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and school counselors to assess, diagnose, and treat clients struggling with a wide range of mental disorders, including depressive disorders, bipolar and related disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive and related disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.
- Conducted crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies.
- Attended weekly case discussion meetings to receive and provide peer supervision.

Resident Counselor

Hope Spring Child and Family Services

Fairfax, Virginia

August 2021 – August 2022

- Provided individual psychotherapy sessions to children, adolescents, adults and families, with an average caseload of 30 clients per week.
- Collaborated with psychiatrists to assess, diagnose, and treat clients struggling with a wide range of mental disorders, including depressive disorders, bipolar and related disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive and related disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.
- Conducted crisis intervention for psychiatric emergencies.
- Attended monthly case discussion meetings to receive and provide peer supervision.
- Presented long-term case conceptualizations at the monthly group supervisions.

Counseling Intern

Joseph J Peters Institute

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 2020 – May 2021

- Provided outpatient individual and group therapy sessions, implemented and carried out treatment and resiliency plans, conducted mental health assessments and bio-psychosocial evaluations with survivors of trauma.
- Developed treatment and resiliency plans with an average caseload of 15 clients per week.
- Trained and implemented Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), psychotherapy, and body safety practices. Carried out discharge procedures.

Practicum Student

Intercultural Family Services

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

December 2019 – March 2020

- Conducted mental health assessments and bio-psychosocial evaluations.
- Presented case conceptualization and updates in weekly individual supervision sessions to monitor client prognosis and discuss treatment plans.

Counseling Intern

Acibadem Maslak Hospital

Istanbul, Turkey

January 2019 – July 2019

- Provided individual counseling sessions to in-patient cancer patients and their families within Dr. Ozlem Er's oncology clinic.
- Attended various training sessions on patient relationships and etiquette for Oncology Nurses.

Educator

Istanbul Bilgi University

Istanbul, Turkey

February 2018 – June 2018

- Gave an informative presentation on child abuse in Turkey and provided training about safe touch rules to parents and elementary school teachers.
- Prepared informative brochures on the topic of child abuse to educate parents and school staff.

Counseling Intern

Acibadem Maslak Hospital

Istanbul, Turkey

June 2017 – September 2017

- Assisted Dr. Ozlem Er as an counseling intern for in-patient oncology patients.
- Provided short-term interventions for cancer patients and families.

NON-PROFIT/ VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Professional Counseling Program Mentor

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

Philadelphia, PA

September 2020 - May 2021

- Connected with two first-year students in Penn GSE graduate program via Zoom, building a sense of community amidst virtual learning through monthly meetings for an academic year.
- Facilitated conversations and mentored around coursework, research, career path, shared personal experience and information as a second-year student to support the new students in navigating the graduate academic environment.

Volunteer Therapist

The Psychiatric Association of Turkey (PAT)

Izmir, Turkey

November 2020 - November 2021

- Worked with clients voluntarily who were affected by the earthquake that happened in Izmir, Turkey.
- Offered virtual individual short term therapy sessions and joined group counseling session

Community Development Volunteer

Bogazici University and Dunyagoz Etiler Hospital

Istanbul, Turkey

August 2018 - July 2019

- Read books to be recorded as audiobooks for individuals with visual disabilities as a part of Talking Books Project.

- Talking Books Project is a collaborative work between Donyagoz Etiler Hospital and the Assistive Technology and Education Laboratory for Individuals with Visual Disabilities (shortly GETEM in Turkish) at Bogazici University.

Community Development Volunteer

Istanbul Bilgi University and World Human Relief (WHR)

Istanbul, Turkey

September 2018 - January 2019

- Designed and sold jean jackets in order to raise funds for the construction of an elementary school in Mardin, an impoverished city in the southeast of Turkey.
- This fundraiser was part of the World Human Relief Project, which is a humanitarian non-profit endeavor that is dedicated to reducing human suffering by aiding victims of poverty, disease, hunger, war, and disasters.

Community Development Volunteer

Istanbul Bilgi University and Bilgi Open Door Project

Istanbul, Turkey

February 2018 - June 2018

- Gave an informative presentation on child abuse in Turkey and provided training about safe touch rules to parents and elementary school teachers.
- Prepared informative brochures on the topic of child abuse to educate parents and school staff.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Buffalo, Graduate School of Education, Fall 2025, awarded Graduate Presidential Fellowship.

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, Fall 2020, awarded a \$11,000 scholarship for the dual masters degree program based on academic achievement.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVIEW

Do, M., **Inanici, D.**, Maslekar (2024). Nature of "Mentoring Sources" to Support Future Planning for Vietnamese and Turkish High School Students: A Cross-Cultural Qualitative Study in Two Urban Schools, *Journal of Youth and Society*, Manuscript in review

Nakkula, M., **Inanici, D.**, Kim, M. J., Garcia, A. (2023). Possibility Mentoring Findings Book/Multicultural Mentoring, Manuscript in review

PRESENTATIONS

Inanici, D., Do, M., (March 2025), *Empowering Futures: Possibility Development and the Role of Technology in College and Career Readiness*, Will be a speaker in a panel at the Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) Conference, Chicago, IL

Do, M., **Inanici, D.**, Maslekar, A. (April, 2022). *Mentoring Sources in Future Planning for Students in Turkey and Vietnam*. Presentation conducted at the Comparative & International Education Society (CIES)

Conference, Minneapolis, MN

Do, M., **Inanici, D.**, (July, 2021). *Mentoring Sources in Future Planning for Students in Turkey and Vietnam*. Presentation conducted at the Global Possibility Network (GPN) Founders' Summit, Virtual Conference

Inanici, D., Kim, M. J., Garcia, A. (February, 2020). *Integration of Language in a Mentee-Mentor Relationship*. Poster presented at the Ethnography in Education Research Forum, Philadelphia, PA

Inanici, D., (September, 2017). *Anxiety and Depression Disorders in Cancer Patients*. Poster presented at the International Medical Oncology Congress, Antalya, Turkey

TRAININGS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Child Centered Play Therapy Online Training, Jewel Janan, Online, June 2024

Borderline Personality Disorder in Adolescents Training: The Pros and Cons of Early Identification, Prevention, and Treatment, Debra A. Riggs, Online, April 2024

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Training in the Treatment of Anxiety and Eating Disorders Training Matt Hecht, Psy D, Online, February 2023

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) Training, Daniel W. Smith, Online, July 2020

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA Certificate, National Council for Mental Health for Depression, November 2020

Applied Sports Psychology Certificate, Mentalift, May 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

License in Professional Counseling (LPC) in Commonwealth of Virginia

License in Professional Counseling (LPC) in Pennsylvania

National Board for Certified Counselors, National Certified Counselor

LANGUAGES

Native in Turkish

Fluent in English

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, R Studio and SPSS