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Gizem Erdem

Visiting Scholar
Assistant Professor of Psychology, Koc University, Istanbul



Gizem Erdem is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Koc University and a licensed marriage and family therapist and a clinical supervisor in Istanbul. She obtained her BA degree in Psychology at Bogaziçi University in 2006. She completed her MS and PhD degrees in Human Development and Family Science with a specialization in Couple and Family Therapy at the Ohio State University in 2014. In 2013, she was awarded the National Council on Family Relations Student Award for her research with substance-abusing runaway youth and their families. She was the first foreign-born researcher to have received the award in NCFR history. Her doctoral dissertation focused on examining substance abuse treatment research outcomes from Amartya Sen's Capability Approach. Following her doctorate, she completed post-doctoral work

at the Institute for Health Research and Policy in the University of Illinois at Chicago. She worked in youth-mentoring projects under direct supervision of David DuBois.

Erdem has published and presented extensively on substance abuse as well as risk and resilience among marginalized populations. Her research has appeared in prestigious journals, such as *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, *Addictive Behaviors*, *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, and *Prevention Science*. Her general areas of interest are adolescent substance abuse, youth mentoring from a positive youth development framework, family systems theory, and Capability Approach. In particular, she is interested in peer mentoring, school- and community-based interventions tailored to serve at-risk youth and their families, which include but are not limited to (first-time) juvenile delinquents, youth in foster care system, and youth and families in poverty with substance abuse issues. Erdem serves as the research board member of the National Mentoring Research Center (chaired by David DuBois) and also occasionally reviews grants for OJJDP and NIJ in the United States. In addition, she provides consulting in program evaluation for the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Family and Social Policy in Turkey as needed.

During her time at CMES, Erdem will work on a research project that examines the ways in which youth mental health can be re-conceptualized from Amartya Sen's Capability Approach. She is also interested in integrating capabilities and functionings in substance abuse treatment and youth-mentoring research.

Contact Information

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