

**Yaren Koca**

[yarenkoca.com](http://yarenkoca.com)

[yarenkoca@gmail.com](mailto:yarenkoca@gmail.com) | Dept. of Psychology, University of Regina

## Education

- 2021– PhD, Experimental and Applied Psychology, University of Regina  
Supervisor: Chris Oriet  
Thesis Title: Representation of Familiarity in the Face Space  
GPA: 95.00%
- 2019-21 M.A., Experimental and Applied Psychology, University of Regina  
Supervisor: Chris Oriet  
Thesis Title: Statistical Summary Representations in Identity Learning: Exemplar-Independent Incidental Recognition  
GPA: 90.75%
- 2015-19 B.A., Psychology, Bilkent University  
Supervisor: Huseyin Boyaci  
Thesis Title: The Role of Surround Suppression and Spatial Summation in Human Motion Perception  
GPA: 3.69/4.0

## Awards, Grants, and Honours

- 2024 Doctoral Scholarship (\$21,000 CAD), University of Regina
- 2024 FGSR Thesis Only Scholarship (\$6,250 CAD), University of Regina
- 2024 International Doctoral Student Award (\$1400 CAD per semester), University of Regina
- 2023 Doctoral Scholarship Award (\$21,000 CAD), University of Regina
- 2022 Master's Thesis Academic Excellence Award, Canadian Psychological Association
- 2021 FGSR Women in STEM Entrance Scholarship (\$10,000 CAD)
- 2021 Teaching Assistant Award, Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology
- 2021 Master's Award (\$130 CAD)
- 2019-21 Master's Scholarship (\$17,500 CAD per year)
- 2020 UR Graduate Scholarship (\$1800 CAD)
- 2019 Faculty of Arts Entrance Award (\$10,000 CAD)
- 2016-19 Government of Türkiye KYK Scholarship (11,925₺)
- 2015-19 Comprehensive Scholarship, Bilkent University
- 2015-19 High Honour Degree, Bilkent University

## Publications ([Google Scholar](#))

- Koca, Y.,** Corpuz, R. L., Oriet, C. (2023). Crowding the face space: The attractor field hypothesis and within-person variability. *Visual Cognition* <https://doi.org/10.1080/13506285.2024.2409271>
- Kramer, R.S., **Koca, Y.,** Mireku, M. O., Oriet, C. (2024). Anchoring has little effect when forming first impressions of facial attractiveness. *Perception* <https://doi.org/10.1177/03010066241284956>
- Koca, Y.,** Oriet, C. (2023). From pictures to the people in them: Averaging within-person variability leads to face familiarization. *Psychological Science* 34(2) 252–264. <https://doi.org/10.1177/095679762211315>

## Conference Talks (^advisee)

**Koca, Y., Derow<sup>^</sup>, M., Oriet, C. (2023).** Are expectations of obstructed facial features accurate? *CSBBCS 2023 Meeting, University of Guelph*

## Poster Presentations (^advisee)

**Koca, Y., Corpuz, R., Oriet, C. (2024).** Crowding the face space: The attractor field hypothesis and within-person variability. *CSBBCS 2024 Meeting, University of Alberta*

Ueckert<sup>^</sup>, L., **Koca, Y., Oriet, C. (2024).** I know that person! Why can't I remember? *CSBBCS 2024 Meeting, University of Alberta*

**Koca, Y., Oriet, C. (2021).** Statistical Summary Representations in Identity Learning: Exemplar Independent Incidental Recognition. *CSBBCS 2021 Meeting, McGill University*

**Koca, Y., Corpuz, R., Oriet, C. (2021).** I guess I just have one of those faces: The effect of similar intervening identities on familiarization. *Vision Sciences Society 2021 Meeting*

**Koca, Y. (2019).** The role of surround suppression and spatial summation on human motion perception. *Bilkent University Senior Project Poster Presentation*

## Invited Talks

2023 Getting Started with Obsidian, McGill University HD Seminar

2023 Programming with PsychoPy3, University of Regina EAP Stats Workshop

2021 SSRs in Identity Learning: Exemplar-Independent Incidental Recognition, AFC Lab Talk Series

## Research Experience

2018– R.I.C.E. Lab (Supervisor: Chris Oriet), University of Regina

2018-19 Computational and Biological Vision Group (Supervisor: Huseyin Boyaci), Bilkent University

2015-18 Visual Perception & Attention Lab (Supervisors: Jennifer Corbett & Jaap Munneke), Bilkent University

2017-18 Computational Vision Lab (Supervisor: Aaron Clarke), Bilkent University

2017 Timing & Decision Making Lab (Supervisor: Fuat Balci), Koç University

2017 Evolutionary Psychology Lab (Supervisor: Laith Al-Shawaf), Bilkent University

## Teaching

2022–24 PSYC270 – Human Information Processing, University of Regina

2023 PSCYC375 – Perception, University of Regina

## Teaching Assistant Positions

2021 PSYC255 – Biological Foundations of Behaviour, University of Regina

2021 PSYC455 – Psychoactive Drug Effects on Brain and Behaviour, University of Regina

2020 PSYC375 – Perception, University of Regina

2020 PSYC270 – Human Information Processing, University of Regina

2020 PSYC204 – Research Methods, University of Regina

2016-18 CS123 – Introduction to Computer Science and Programming, Bilkent University

## Academic Advising

2023-24 Logan Ueckert (Honours Thesis), University of Regina

2022-23 Magdalyn Derow (Honours Thesis), University of Regina

### **Academic Service and Volunteer Positions**

- 2023– University of Regina Student Associate Departmental Representative, CSBBBCS
- 2021– Psychology Participant Pool Coordinator, University of Regina
- 2022 CERC Review Committee Student Volunteer, University of Regina
- 2020-23 Webmaster, University of Regina Psychology Graduate Student Association
- 2016-17 Executive Board Member and Chair, Bilkent University Psychology Community
- 2016-17 Bilkent University Student Representative, Psychology Students Act Platform (PÖMYAP)

### **Professional Memberships**

- 2024– Psychonomics Society
- 2021– Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science (CSBBBCS)
- 2021-22 Vision Sciences Society (VSS)

### **Certificates**

- 2021 V-VSS 2021 Certificate of Participation, Vision Sciences Society
- 2020 Student Teaching Certificate, University of Regina
- 2020 Tri-Council Certificate, Panel on Research Ethics
- 2017 Summer Research Program Participation Certificate, Koç University

### **Skills and Languages**

R, Python (PsychoPy3), JavaScript (jsPsych), Git (Basic), TeX, MATLAB (PsychToolbox), JASP, SPSS, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Turkish, English