Serdal Tümkaya, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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Institutional affiliation: Department of Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence, Ibn Haldun University, İstanbul, Turkey.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Artificial intelligence (AI), large language models (LLMs), humanoid robotics, neurophilosophy, and metaphilosophy.

Synthetic psychology for large language models; philosophy of mind, artificial intelligence, science, and cognitive science; epistemology; predictive processing; cognitive robotics; naturalism and scientism; history of analytic philosophy, particularly Quine.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2014–2022.

M.A. in Philosophy, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2011–2014.

B.A. in Philosophy, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, 2004–2011.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence, Ibn Haldun University, İstanbul, Turkey. August 2022–Present.

Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Ardahan University, Ardahan, Turkey. October 2020–March 2022.

Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. February 2013–October 2020.

Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Ardahan University, Ardahan, Turkey. 2012–2013.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Vice Dean, School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ibn Haldun University (2025–Present).

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS

Working Group Member, COST Action CA25110, Normative CONSCIOUSness in the TECH community (ConsciousTech). November 2026–Present.

Working Group Member, COST Action CA23106, An Evolutionary View to Understanding Affective States across Species (AFFECT-EVO). October 2026–Present.

Working Group Member, COST Action CA24121, Knowledge Graphs in the Era of Large Language Models (KGELL). October 2026–Present.

THESES

Master's thesis: "Is Cultural Neurophilosophy Possible?" METU Department of Philosophy, September 2014. Ankara, Turkey.

Ph.D. thesis: "A Clarificatory Defense of Eliminative Materialism." METU Department of Philosophy. March 2022. Ankara, Turkey.

PUBLICATIONS

International peer-reviewed journal articles

1. Tümkaya, S. (2026). "Method Before Ontology: Reconstructing the Core of Eliminative Materialism." *Acta Analytica*, 41(3), pp. 589–605. DOI: 10.1007/s12136-026-00675-5. First published online January 26, 2026.
2. Tümkaya, S. (2026). "Beyond Physicalism? Quine's Open-Ended Naturalism and the Possibility of the 'Supernatural'." *Metaphilosophy*, 57(1–2), pp. 119–128. DOI: 10.1111/meta.70027. First published online November 25, 2025.
3. Tümkaya, S. (2023). "In defence of Churchland-style eliminative materialism: Objections and replies." *South African Journal of Philosophy*, 41(4), pp. 347–359. DOI: 10.1080/02580136.2023.2199607. Journal issue dated 2022.
4. Tümkaya, S. (2023). [Note] "Against Slagle's Reading of Eliminative Materialism on Self-Defeating." *Philosophical Investigations*, 46(1), pp. 99–111. DOI: 10.1111/phin.12351. First published online April 12, 2022.
5. Tümkaya, S. (2022). "The United Shades of Eliminative Materialism." *The Philosophical Forum*, 53(2), pp. 95–113. DOI: 10.1111/phil.12310.
6. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "Churchland, Nagel, and Their Severe Critique of Folk Psychology." *Teorema*, 40(3), pp. 5–27.
7. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "A Novel Reading of Thomas Nagel's 'Challenge' to Physicalism." *Organon F*, 28(4), pp. 802–818. DOI: 10.31577/orgf.2021.28403.
8. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "On the Proper Treatment of the Churchlands." *Erkenntnis*, 86(4), pp. 905–918. DOI: 10.1007/s10670-019-00137-y. First published online in 2019.

National articles

1. Tümkaya, S. (2023). "Quine's Naturalism is More Inclusive than 'Liberal Naturalism.'" *Kutadgubilig: Felsefe-Bilim Araştırmaları*, 48, pp. 231–245.
2. Tümkaya, S. (2023). "What does the continuity thesis really mean in Quine's philosophy?" *FLSF Felsefe ve Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 35, pp. 179–192. DOI: 10.53844/flsf.1224220.
3. Tümkaya, S. (2022). "Yapay Bilinç Tartışmasında Biyolojik Doğalcı Yaklaşımın Hataları." *Kaygı*, 21(2), pp. 881–901. DOI: 10.20981/kaygi.1092807.
4. Tümkaya, S. (2022). "Çağdaş Ana Akım Analitik Felsefede Sezgilerin Olumsuz Rolü Üzerine." *Felsefe Dünyası*, 75, pp. 118–138.
5. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "Kaç Tane Farklı Metafelsefi Yaklaşım Vardır?" *Dört Öge*, 19, pp. 135–150.
6. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "Nörofelsefe İndirgemeci mi Yoksa Eleyici midir?" ["Is Neurophilosophy Reductionist or Eliminativist?"] *FLSF Felsefe ve Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 31, pp. 15–36.
7. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "Analitik Felsefe Neden Natüralizme Karşıdır?" *Kaygı*, 20(1), pp. 289–305.
8. Tümkaya, S. (2020). "Analitik Felsefe Diye Bir Felsefe Okulu Var Mıdır?" ["Is There a Philosophical School Such as Analytic Philosophy?"] *Felsefe Dünyası*, 72, pp. 290–309.
9. Tümkaya, S. (2018). "Thomas Kuhn ve Devrimler Yoluyla Birikimsel İlerleme." *Maltepe Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Dergisi*, 2017 1+2, pp. 238–256.
10. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Thomas Nagel'ın 'Fizikalizm' ve 'Yarasa Olmak Nasıl Bir Şeydir' Makalelerinin Bilince Nesnel Bir Açıklama Verme Arayışı Açısından Kıyaslanması." *Beytulhikme An International Journal of Philosophy*, 7(1), pp. 23–41.
11. Tümkaya, S., and Yaylım, B. (2017). "Eleyici Materyalizm 'Zihnin Tüm İçeriğini' Elemeyi mi Önerir?" ["Does So-Called Eliminative Materialism Suggest that the Entire Content of the Mind Should Be Eliminated?"] *Felsefe Dünyası*, 66, pp. 252–273.
12. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Nörofelsefe Neden Halen Uçta Bir Görüş Olarak Niteleniyor?" ["Why Do Philosophers Regard Neurophilosophy as Highly Marginal?"] *Kaygı: Uludağ Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi Felsefe Dergisi*, 29, pp. 99–110. DOI: 10.20981/kaygi.342417.

13. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Thomas Kuhn ve Onun Mantıksal Olmayan Rasyonalitesi." ["Thomas Kuhn and His Extra-Logical Rationality."] *Kutadgubilig: Felsefe-Bilim Araştırmaları*, 34, pp. 751–775.
14. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Nesnel Fenomenoloji Projesi Aracılığıyla Thomas Nagel, Bilinci Nesnel bir Şekilde Açıklamaya Çalışır." *Ethos*, 10(2), pp. 147–160.
15. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "The Tractatus, Logical Space, and Zombies." *FLSF Felsefe ve Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 23, pp. 291–306.

Research manuscripts

1. Article manuscript (in Turkish) on higher education in the age of large language models (LLMs).
2. Article manuscript (in Turkish) on synthetic psychology for large language models (LLMs).
3. "Sezgilerin Gölgesinde: Analitik Felsefenin Kaybolan Bilimselliği." Manuscript submitted for the proceedings of the XIV. Mantık Çalıştayı.

Other research projects

1. "All Vocabulary, No Architecture: LLMs and the End of Residual Propositionalism." Article manuscript.
2. "Müdahale Edilebilir Zihin" [The Interventionist Mind]. Article manuscript.
3. "Quine's Web, Churchland's Maps." Article manuscript.
4. Book chapter on perceptual plasticity and scientific realism, for an edited volume in the philosophy of perception.
5. Editorial project: Nörofelsefe Antolojisi. Doruk Yayınları.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Tümkaya, S., and Şahin, Y. (2026). "Felsefi İddialar ve Ampirik Kısıtlar: 2026'da Bilim Felsefesi, Zihin Felsefesi ve Etikte Bilişsel Bilimin Rolü." In Yunus Şahin and H. Oğuz Erdin (eds.), *Bilişsel Bilim Felsefesi*. Doruk Yayınları, pp. 499–525. ISBN: 9786258704587.
2. Tümkaya, S. (2025). "Yanılsamacılık ve Eleyici Materyalizm: İki Marjinal Yaklaşım." In Erhan Demircioğlu (ed.), *Zihin Felsefesi Antolojisi*. Doruk Yayınları, pp. 61–88. ISBN: 9786259610276.
3. Tümkaya, S. (2024). "Müzakere" [discussion of Enis Doko's "Teistik İşlevselcilik"]. In Betül Akdemir-Süleyman (ed.), *Bilinç ve Din: Çağdaş Felsefi Bilinç Kuramları II*. Küre Yayınları, pp. 125–148. ISBN: 9786256624085.
4. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Analitik Felsefeci Wittgenstein Kendi Ölümünü Deneyimledi mi?" In A. Kadir Çüçen (ed.), *Yaşam ve Ölüm Felsefesi*. Sentez Yayıncılık, pp. 425–435. ISBN: 9786059922678.
5. Tümkaya, S. (2014). "Yaygın Yanılgıların Kıskacında Nörofelsefe" ["Saving Neurophilosophy from Mumpsimus"]. In Bahadır Gülşen, Erkan Bozkurt, Gülce Sorguç, and Umut Morkoç (eds.), *Günümüzü Felsefe ile Düşünmek*. İzmir: Ege Üniversitesi Yayınları, pp. 151–160.

BOOK REVIEW

1. Tümkaya, S. (2021). "Science, Scientism, and Never-Ending Myths about the Scientistic Stance." *Metascience*, 30(2), pp. 323–326. DOI: 10.1007/s11016-021-00637-0.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. Tümkaya, S. (2018). "Ontolojik Natüralizm ve Yöntemsel Natüralizm Birbirini Dışlar: Deneysel Parapsikolojinin Düşündürdükleri Üzerine." In Vedat Kamer and Şafak Ural (eds.), *VIII. Mantık Çalıştayı Kitabı*. İstanbul: Mantık Derneği Yayınları, pp. 463–495. ISBN: 9786056631146.
2. Tümkaya, S. (2017). "Doğalcı Epistemoloji: Epistemolojinin İnkârı mı Asimilasyonu mu?" ["Naturalized Epistemology: Denial or Assimilation?"]. In Vedat Kamer and Şafak Ural (eds.), *VII. Mantık Çalıştayı Kitabı*. İstanbul: Mantık Derneği Yayınları, pp. 633–649. ISBN: 9786056631122.
3. Tümkaya, S. (2016). "The Overlaps between (Proper) Philosophy and (Actual) Science." In Megyer Gyöngyösi, Zsolt Kapelner, Zsófia Ádám, and István Faragó-Szabó (eds.), *On What It Is: Perspectives on Metaphilosophy*. Budapest: Philosophy Workshop of Eötvös József Collegium, pp. 131–148. ISBN: 9786155371714.

4. Tümkaya, S. (2016). "Bilim Ağında Tutarlılık." In Vedat Kamer and Şafak Ural (eds.), *VI. Mantık Çalıştayı Kitabı*. İstanbul: Mantık Derneği Yayınları, pp. 385–392. ISBN: 9786056631115.

CONFERENCES

1. "Quine'ın Naturalizmi ve Parapsikolojinin Bilimsel Sınırlarını Zorlama." XV. Mantık Çalıştayı. April 24–26, 2025. Gaziantep University. Gaziantep, Turkey.
2. "Sezgiler ve Çağdaş Analitik Felsefe." XIV. Mantık Çalıştayı. May 23–25, 2024. Bayburt University. Bayburt, Turkey.
3. "AHCI ve SSCI veritabanlarında endekslenen dergilerde tek kişilik özgün araştırma makalesi yayınlamış olmak öğretim üyeliğine atanmak için zorunlu olmalı mıdır?" Türkiye'de Yükseköğretimde Felsefe Eğitimi Sempozyumu. October 26–28, 2023. İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi, Felsefe Bölümü. İstanbul, Turkey.
4. "Quine'da Natüralizmin Nörofelsefeye Doğru Evrimi." Quine Üzerine Eleştirel İncelemeler Çalıştayı. July 7–8, 2023. Speaker (in person). Bursa Uludağ University. Bursa, Turkey.
5. "Quinean Naturalism and Experimental Parapsychology." Writing for Publication in English-Language Journals. June 12–14, 2023. Speaker (in person). Ibn Haldun University. Başakşehir, İstanbul, Turkey.
6. "Doğal Zeka Mümkün mü?" XII. Mantık Çalıştayı. May 11–13, 2023. Van, Turkey.
7. Çağdaş Bilinç Kuramları [The Contemporary Theories of Consciousness]. September 23–24, 2022. İstanbul, Turkey. Commentator.
8. "Eş-ölçülmezlik hangi durumlarda en bariz halini alır?" XI. Mantık Çalıştayı. May 26–28, 2022. Kastamonu, Turkey.
9. "Bilim-perestliğin nesi kötü?" X. Mantık Çalıştayı. September 2–4, 2021. Kapadokya, Turkey.
10. "Quine's Naturalism Is More Liberal than Liberal Naturalism." 4th Annual TiLPS History of Analytic Philosophy Workshop. December 14–15, 2020. Tilburg, Netherlands (online).
11. "Quine's Ignored Challenge to Imaginability-Based Arguments" (poster session). Exploring the Mind's Eye: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Imagination. October 25–26, 2019. Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey.
12. "The Neurophilosophical Approach to Morality: Elimination, Reduction, Revision, Unification, or Assimilation?" International Interdisciplinary Summer School 2018: The Neurobiology of Moral Conscience with Patricia Churchland. June 4–8, 2018. Tübingen, Germany.
13. "Quine Neden Ontolojik Natüralizme Karşıydı?" VIII. Mantık Çalıştayı. May 9–11, 2018. Bülent Ecevit University, Faculty of Letters, Zonguldak, Turkey.
14. "The Problem in the Philosophical Community of Turkey." Istanbul International Congress on Philosophy. May 2–4, 2018. Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters. Istanbul, Turkey.
15. "Doğalcı epistemoloji: epistemolojinin inkarı mı asimilasyonu mu?" ["Naturalized Epistemology: The Denial or Assimilation of Epistemology?"] VII. Mantık Çalıştayı. June 29–July 1, 2017. Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey.
16. "Kuhn Is an Objectivist Philosopher of Science Because His Values Are Your Rules." II. Uluslararası Felsefe, Eğitim, Sanat ve Bilim Tarihi Sempozyumu. May 3–7, 2017. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey.
17. "Bilim ve Felsefe İlişkisi: Quine ve Churchland Arasında." II. Uluslararası Felsefe, Eğitim, Sanat ve Bilim Tarihi Sempozyumu. May 3–7, 2017. Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey.
18. (with Aysun Şen) "Thomas Nagel is, at Bottom, Not an Anti-Physicalist but a Defender of It." Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy 2016. September 7–9, 2016. University of Salzburg, Austria.
19. "The Overlaps between Philosophy and Science." On What It Is: The Philosophy of Philosophy. February 13–15, 2015. Eötvös József Collegium, Budapest, Hungary.
20. "The Proper Place of Neurophilosophy within Philosophical Naturalism." 9th Annual Conference of the Postgraduate Philosophy Association of Southern Africa (PPA) 2014. July 19–20, 2014. University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

INVITED TALKS

1. “Eleyici materyalizm gerçekte nedir?” Bartın Üniversitesi Felsefe Bölümü. Dünya Felsefe Günü. November 2025. Online.
2. “Analitik felsefe diye bir felsefe okulu var mıdır?” Cogist. 2025.
3. “On what actual eliminative materialism is not.” August 1, 2023. Boğaziçi University. Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Turkey.
4. “İnsan Bilimleri, Beyin Bilimlerine İndirgenebilir mi?” December 14, 2022. Ibn Haldun University. Çarşamba Buluşmaları. Başakşehir, İstanbul, Turkey.
5. “Nörofelsefe İndirgemeci Bir Kuram Değildir.” [IV. Mind Symposium]. March 25–26, 2017. Neuroscience and Philosophy. Raymar Otel, Ankara, Turkey.
6. “Nörofelsefe Ne Değildir Üzerine.” (“On What Neurophilosophy Is Not.”) IV. Bilim Ve Felsefe Kampı [IV. Meeting of Science and Philosophy]. Topic: Philosophy of Science, Quantum Mechanics, Philosophy of Mind, and Psychoanalysis. September 11–14, 2015. Karaburun, İzmir, Turkey.
7. “Neden Felsefe?” (“Why Philosophy?”) UNESCO World Philosophy Day. November 2014. Haymana Nuri Bektaş Anadolu Lisesi, Haymana, Ankara, Turkey.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary instructor at Ibn Haldun University

1. Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence — PHIL 635, doctoral course (Fall 2026); PHIL 598, master’s course (Spring 2023).

2. Research Methods and Publication Ethics — PHIL 501 (Fall 2023, Fall 2024); PHIL 501 / PHIL 601 (Fall 2025, Fall 2026).

3. Neurophilosophy — PHIL 554 (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026).

4. Philosophy of Science — PHIL 305 (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025).

5. Seminar — PHIL 500 (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025); PHIL 500 / PHIL 600 (Spring 2026).

6. Philosophy of Mind — PHIL 445 (Fall 2022).

Other primary-instructor teaching

Scientific Method.

Scheduled teaching

Spring 2027: PHIL 702 — Philosophy of AI II: LLMs. A doctoral seminar on meaning, understanding, reasoning, knowledge, agency, and alignment in large language model systems.

Teaching assistant and occasional lecturer at Middle East Technical University

1. PHIL 106: Theory of Knowledge.

2. PHIL 108: Introduction to Philosophy — Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019. Teaching across Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology cohorts, including three Psychology cohorts.

3. PHIL 241: Philosophy and Evolution.

4. PHIL 442: Contemporary Philosophy II — Spring 2015.

5. PHIL 381: Scientific Method I — Fall 2019. Teaching assistant and substitute lecturer.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE UNIVERSITIES

1. “Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi ile Eğitimde İşbirliği.” Tüzyeksav [a private primary and secondary school for highly gifted students]. For six months. 2015. METU, Ankara.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

1. National Philosophy Graduate Conference. April 20–21, 2024. Ibn Haldun University. Süleymaniye, İstanbul, Turkey.
2. Writing for Publication in English-Language Journals. June 12–14, 2023. Organizer (in person). Ibn Haldun University. Başakşehir, İstanbul, Turkey.

3. International Philosophy Graduate Conference. May 6–7, 2023. Ibn Haldun University. Süleymaniye, İstanbul, Turkey.
4. Publication seminar series. March–May 2021, 10+ weeks. Organizing committee member.
5. Akademik İş Olanakları. 14+ weeks. January–April 2021. Online. Organizing committee member.
6. 3. ODTÜ Lisans Öğrencileri Felsefe Kongresi [3rd METU Undergraduate Students Philosophy Congress]. April 14–15, 2018. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.
7. 2. ODTÜ Lisans Öğrencileri Felsefe Kongresi [2nd METU Undergraduate Students Philosophy Congress]. December 9–10, 2017. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.
8. 2. ODTÜ Lisansüstü Felsefe Öğrencileri Kongresi [2nd METU Graduate Philosophy Students Congress]. December 7–8, 2017. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.
9. 1. ODTÜ Genç Akademisyenler Meta-Felsefe Kongresi [1st METU Young Scholars Metaphilosophy Congress]. April 22–23, 2017. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.
10. 1. ODTÜ Lisans Öğrencileri Felsefe Kongresi [1st METU Undergraduate Students Philosophy Congress]. November 5–6, 2016. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.
11. 1. ODTÜ Lisansüstü Felsefe Öğrencileri Kongresi [1st METU Graduate Philosophy Students Congress]. June 11–12, 2016. METU, Ankara, Turkey. Organizing committee member.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Completed journal reviews: Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (2026); Philosophy and the Mind Sciences (2026); Beytulhikme: An International Journal of Philosophy (2026); Felsefi Düşün (2025).

Additional journal reviewing: Philosophia, Felsefe Dünyası, Kaygı, Dört Öge, and Felsefe Arkivi.

Peer review of an edited-volume chapter (2026). External reviewer for BAP research projects.

AWARDS

Full scholarship for undergraduate study at İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

1. The Philosophy of Science Association
2. European Philosophy of Science Association
3. The Society for Philosophy and Psychology

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. David Grünberg
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Department of Linguistics, Boğaziçi University, 34342 Bebek, İstanbul, Turkey
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Asst. Prof. Dr. Yavuz Recep Başoğlu
Department of Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence, Ibn Haldun University, 34480 İstanbul, Turkey
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