

CURRICULUM VITAE

PELIN KESEBIR

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Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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(312) 330-1132

EDUCATION

- 2009 - Present** **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Psychology Department**
Post-doctoral Research Associate
- 2003 - 2009** **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**
Ph.D., Social Psychology and Personality
Minored in Sociology & Marketing
- 1998 - 2002** **Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey**
B. A., International Relations (*departmental valedictorian*)
B. A., Psychology (*departmental valedictorian*)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2009, Summer** Seminar on Consumption Theory, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
- 2007** Summer Institute in Social Psychology, Austin (Topic: *Political Psychology*)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2010** Transformative Consumer Research grant by the Association for Consumer Research
- 2008, Spring** Listed in the University of Illinois *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students*
- 2008** Graduate Teaching Certificate from the University of Illinois Center for Teaching Excellence
- 2007** Transformative Consumer Research grant by the Association for Consumer Research
- 1998 - 2002** *Vehbi Koç Scholarship* for Academic Excellence, Koç University, Istanbul

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- ◆ Existential motivation
- ◆ Psychology of religion and spirituality
- ◆ Cultural psychology
- ◆ Personality psychology
- ◆ Positive psychology
- ◆ Peace psychology
- ◆ Consumer behavior
- ◆ Statistics & research methods

PUBLICATIONS

Kesebir, P., & Diener, E. (2008). In pursuit of happiness: Empirical answers to philosophical questions. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 3, 117–125.

Reprinted in E. Diener (Ed.). (2010). *The Science of Well-Being: The Collected Works of Ed Diener*. Social Indicators Research Series 37. London: Springer Science+Business Media B.V.

Translated into French:

À la poursuite du bonheur: Des réponses empiriques à des questions philosophiques. *Traité de psychologie positive*. In C. Martin-Krumm et C. Tarquinio (Eds), (pp. 59–74). De Boeck: Bruxelles.

Kesebir, P., & Diener, E. (2008). In defense of happiness: Why policymakers should care about subjective well-being. In L. Bruni, M. Pugno and F. Comim (Eds.), *Happiness and Capabilities* (pp. 60–80). London: Oxford University Press.

Diener, E., **Kesebir, P.**, & Lucas, R. (2008). Benefits of national accounts of well-being—For societies and for the psychological science. *Applied Psychology*, 57, 37–53.

Kesebir, P., & Hong, Y.-Y. (2008). The pain-buffering functions of money and social support: A motivational account. *Psychological Inquiry*, 19, 196–198.

Tov, W., Diener, E., **Kesebir, P.**, & Harter, J. (2009). The social and economic context of peace and happiness. In C.-Y. Chiu, Y.-Y. Hong, S. Shavitt, & R. S. Wyer (Eds.), *Understanding Culture: Theory, Research, and Application* (pp. 239–255). New York: Psychology Press.

Kesebir, P. & Chiu, C.-Y. (2009). An invitation to pluralist public philosophy. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 9, 1–2.

Diener, E., **Kesebir, P.**, & Tov, W. (2009). Happiness. In M. Leary & R. H. Hoyle (Eds.), *Handbook of Individual Differences in Social Behavior* (pp. 147–160). New York: Guilford Press.

Kesebir, P. (2011). Existential functions of culture: The monumental immortality project. In A. Leung, C.-Y. Chiu, and Y.-Y. Hong, (Eds.), *Cultural Processes: A Social Psychological Perspective* (pp. 96–110). New York: Oxford University Press.

- Pyszczynski, T., & **Kesebir, P.** (2011). Anxiety buffer disruption theory: A terror management account of posttraumatic stress disorder. *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping, 24*, 3–26.
- Kesebir, P.**, Luszczynska, A., Pyszczynski, T., & Benight, C. (2011). Posttraumatic stress disorder involves disrupted anxiety-buffer mechanisms. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology, 30*, 819–841.
- Kesebir, P.**, & Pyszczynski, T. (2011). A moral-existential account of the psychological factors fostering intergroup conflict. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass, 5*, 878–890.
- Kesebir, P.**, & Pyszczynski, T. (2012). The role of death in life: Existential aspects of human motivation. In R. Ryan (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of human motivation* (pp. 43–64). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Pyszczynski, T., & **Kesebir, P.** (2012). Culture, ideology, morality, and religion: Death changes everything. In M. Mikulincer & P. R. Shaver (Eds.), *The Social Psychology of Meaning, Mortality, and Choice* (pp. 75–91). Washington, D.C.: APA Press.
- Kesebir, P.** & Kesebir, S. (2012). The cultural salience of moral character and virtue declined in twentieth century America. *Journal of Positive Psychology, 7*, 471–480.
- Pyszczynski, T., Motyl, M., Vail III, K. E., Hirschberger, G., Arndt, J., & **Kesebir, P.** (2012). Drawing attention to global climate change decreases support for war. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 18*, 354–368.
- Owe, E., Vignoles, V. L., Becker, M., Brown, R., Smith, P. B., Lee, S. W. S., Easterbrook, M., Gadre, T., Zhang, X., Gheorghiu, M., Baguma, P., Tatarko, A., Aldhafri, S., Zinkeng., M., Schwartz, S. J., Des Rosiers, S. E., Villamar, J., Mekonnen, K. H., Regalia, C., Manzi, C., Brambilla, M., Kusdil, E., Çağlar, S., Gavreliuc, A., Martin, M., Jianxin, Z., Lv, S., Fischer, R., Milfont, T. L., Torres, A., Camino, L., Kreuzbauer, R., Gausel, N., Buitendach, J., Lemos, F. C. S., Fritsche, I., Möller., B., Harb, C., Valk, A., Espinosa, A., Jaafar, J. L., Ferreira, M. C., Chobthamkit, P., Fülöp, M., Chybicka, A., Wang, Q., Bond, M. H., González, R., Didier, N., Carrasco, D., Cadena, M. P., Lay, S., Garðarsdóttir, R. B., Nizharadze, G., Pyszczynski, T., **Kesebir, P.**, Herman, G., Bourguignon, D., de Sauvage, I., Courtois, M., Özgen, E., Güner, Ü. E., Yamakoğlu, N., Abuhamed, S., Macapagal, M. E. J., Koller, S. H., Amponsah, B., Misra., G., Kapur, P., Vargas Trujillo, E., Balanta, P., Cendales Ayala, B., Schweiger Gallo, I., Prieto Gil, P., Lorente Clemares, R., Campara, G., & Jalal, B. (2013). Contextualism as an important facet of individualism-collectivism: Personhood beliefs across 37 national groups. (2013). *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, 44*, 24–45.
- Kesebir, P.**, Pyszczynski, T., Chatard, A., & Hirschberger, G. (2013). Reliving history: Using priming to assess the effects of world events on public opinion. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 19*, 51–68.
- Pyszczynski, T., & **Kesebir, P.** (2013). An existential perspective on the need for self-esteem. In V. Zeigler-Hill (Ed.), *Current Issues in Social Psychology: Self-Esteem* (pp. 124–144). New York: Psychology Press.

Zaleskiewicz, T., Gasiorowska, A., **Kesebir, P.**, Luszczynska, A., & Pyszczynski, T. (2013). Money and the fear of death: The symbolic power of money as an existential anxiety buffer. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 36, 55–67.

Chao, M., & **Kesebir, P.** (in press). Culture: The grand web of meaning. *The Experience of Meaning in Life: Perspectives from the Psychological Sciences*. In J. Hicks & C. Routledge (Eds.). New York: Springer Press.

Kesebir, P., & Pyszczynski, T. (in press). Meaning as a buffer for existential anxiety. In P. Russo-Netzer & A. Batthyany (Eds.), *Meaning in Existential and Positive Psychology*. New York: Free Press.

Zaleskiewicz, T., Gasiorowska, A., & **Kesebir, P.** (in press). Saving can save from death anxiety: Mortality salience and financial decision-making. *PLOS ONE*.

Kesebir, P. & Diener, E. (in press). A virtuous cycle: The relationship between happiness and virtue. Invited book chapter for *The Philosophy and Psychology of Virtue: An Empirical Approach to Character and Happiness* in N. E. Snow and Franco V. Trivigno (Eds.).

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

Kesebir, P. (2013). A quiet ego quiets death anxiety: Humility as an existential anxiety buffer. Under second-round review, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Kesebir, P., Chiu, C-Y., & Pyszczynski, T. (2013). Self-transcending sacredness perception: An existential anxiety buffer. Invited for resubmission, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Hirschberger, G., Pyszczynski, T., Ein-Dor, T., Sherman, T. S., Kadah, E., Kesebir, P. & Park, Y.C. (under review). A psychological casus belli: Fear of death fuels the desire for justice and encourages political violence.

Owe, E., Vignoles, V. L., Becker, M., Smith, P. B., Easterbrook, M., Brown, R., González, R., Didier, N., Carrasco, D., Cadena, M. P., Lay, S., Misra, G., Kapur, P., Bond, M. H., Schwartz, S. J., Des Rosiers, S. E., Villamar, J. A., Gheorghiu, M., Gavreliuc, A., Zinkeng, M., Kreuzbauer, R., Baguma, P., Martin, M., Tatarko, A., Herman, G., de Sauvage, I., Courtois, M., Garðarsdóttir, R. B., Buitendach, J., Harb, C., Schweiger Gallo, I., Prieto Gil, P., Lorente Clemares, R., Campara, G., Nizharadze, G., Macapagal, M. E. J., Jalal, B., Bourguignon, D., Jianxin, Z., Lv, S., Chybicka, A., Yuki, M., Zhang, X., Espinosa, A., Valk, A., Abuhamdeh, S., Amponsah, B., Özgen, E., Güner, Ü. E., Yamakoğlu, N., Chobthamkit, P., Pyszczynski, T., Kesebir, P., Vargas Trujillo, E., Balanta, P., Cendales Ayala, B., Koller, S. H., Jaafar, J. L., Gausel, N., Fischer, R., Milfont, T. L., Kusdil, E., Çağlar, S., Aldhafri, S., Ferreira, M. C., Mekonnen, K. H., Mogaji, A., Wang, Q., Fülöp, M., Torres, A., Camino, L., Cristina, F., Lemos, S., Fritsche, I., Möller, B., Regalia, C., Manzi, C., Brambilla, M. (under review). *Beyond West vs. East: Culture and self-construals across 38 nations*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Kesebir, P., Phillips, E., Anson, J., Pyszczynski, T., & Motyl, M. (in preparation). *Ideological consistency across the political spectrum: Liberals are more consistent but conservatives become more consistent when coping with existential threat.*

Kesebir, P., Chiu, C-Y., & Kim, Y-H. (in preparation). *Existential functions of famous people.*

Kesebir, P. & Kesebir, S. (in preparation). *Exposure to nature decreases consumerism.*

Kesebir, P. (in preparation). *The mortal consumer: An existentialist framework for consumer motivation.*

Kesebir, P. & Bond, M. H. (in preparation). *National socialization goals explain how much happiness predicts life satisfaction across countries.*

Kesebir, P. (in preparation). *Happiness for mortals: A theory for existential positive psychology.*

Yeung, V., Yuki, M., Chao, M, Kim, Y-H., & Kesebir, P. (in preparation). *Direct and indirect communication among American and Japanese students.*

CHAired SYMPOSIA

Kesebir, P. (2011, July). *Experimental existential approaches to intergroup conflict and violence.* Symposium presented at the International Society for Political Psychology Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. Speakers: Pelin Kesebir, Mark Dechesne, Gilad Hirschberger.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Kesebir, P. (2013, June). *Using Google Books to identify cultural trends.* Workshop presented at the conference of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, Los Angeles, CA.

Kesebir, P. (2012, January). *The sacred: An existential anxiety buffer.* Paper presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Pre-conference at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Kesebir, P. & Pyszczynski, T. (2011, July). *An existential account of the psychological factors that foster intergroup conflict and violence.* Paper session presented at the International Society for Political Psychology Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

Kesebir, P. & Pyszczynski, T. (2011, July). *Understanding the cycle of violence and breaking it: A terror management account.* Paper session presented at the International Association for Conflict Management Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

- Kesebir, P. (2011, June). *The sacred: An existential anxiety buffer*. Talk presented at Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Kesebir, P. & Pyszczynski, T. (2010, October). *Understanding the cycle of violence and breaking it: A terror management account*. Paper session presented at the annual convention of Society for Experimental Social Psychology, Minneapolis, MN.
- Kesebir, P. & Pyszczynski, T. (2010, May). *Disruption in normal anxiety-control mechanisms brought on by trauma exposure*. Paper presented at the annual convention of Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.
- Kesebir, P., Chiu, C-Y. & Pyszczynski, T. (2010, April). *Perceptions of sacredness help to manage death anxiety*. Talk presented at the annual convention of Rocky Mountain Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- Kesebir, P. (2010, March). *Anxiety buffer disruption theory: A terror management account of posttraumatic stress disorder*. Talk presented at the University of Colorado Psychology Department, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Kesebir, P. (2010, February). *Seeing sacred everywhere: Its buffering function against death anxiety*. Talk presented at Colorado State University. Pueblo, CO.
- Kesebir, P. (2008, August). *To be or not to be: An existentialist framework for consumer motivation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Society for Consumer Psychology (APA Division 23), Boston, MA.
- Kesebir, P. & Chiu, C-Y. (2007, April). *Touching immortality: On the existential function of famous people*. Paper presented at the Cultural Psychology Conference, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Kesebir, P. & Hong, Y-Y. (2006, January). *An existential look at happiness—To be or not to be: That is the question*. Paper presented at the 14th International Workshop by CEFOM (Cultural and Ecological Foundations of the Mind), Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Kesebir, P. (2014, February). *A quiet ego quiets death anxiety: Humility as an existential anxiety buffer*. Poster session to be presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Austin, TX.
- Kesebir, P. & Kesebir, S. (2013, January). *The cultural salience of moral character and virtue declined in twentieth century America*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.
- Kesebir, P., Phillips E., Anson, J., Pyszczynski T., Motyl, M. (2012, January). *Ideological consistency: How liberals and conservatives differ and how death thoughts affect them in*

opposite ways. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.

Kesebir, P., Pyszczynski, T., Chatard, A., & Hirschberger, G. (2011, January). *Studying history in the making: A novel method to assess the effects of real-life events on public attitudes*. Poster session presented at the Political Psychology Pre-conference at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX.

Kesebir, P. & Pyszczynski, T. (2010, May). *Using priming to assess effects of real world events on political attitudes*. Poster session presented at the annual convention of Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Kesebir, P. & Chiu, C-Y. (2010, January). *Seeing the world in sacred terms shields against existential anxiety*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Las Vegas, NV.

Kesebir, P. & Chiu, C-Y. (2009, February). *Seeing sacred everywhere: Its buffering function against death anxiety*. Poster session presented at the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Pre-conference at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Tampa, FL.

Kesebir, P. & Hong, Y-Y. (2008, October). *Existential anxiety and essentialism explain negative reactions toward brand extensions*. Poster session presented at the Association for Consumer Research North American Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Kesebir, P. & Chiu, C-Y. (2008, February). *The stuff that immortality is made of: Existential functions of fame*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.

Kesebir, P. & Hong, Y-Y. (2007, January). *Death anxiety and psychological essentialism predict importance of ascribed vs. non-ascribed aspects of identity*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Memphis, TN.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2003 - 2012 Lecturer & Teaching Assistant

Department of Psychology, UCCS

- ◆ PSYC 3400 – Social Psychology
 (Fall ‘13)
- ◆ PSYC 3100 – Statistical Models in Psychology
 (Fall ‘12)
- ◆ PSYC 3480 – Psychology of Religion and Spirituality
 (Spring ‘12)

Department of Business Administration, UIUC

- ◆ BADM 323 – Marketing Communications (Fall ‘08)

Department of Psychology, UIUC

- ◆ PSYC 201 – Introduction to Social Psychology (Fall ‘03, Spring ‘04, Spring ‘06, Spring ‘08)
- ◆ PSYC 250 – Psychology of Personality (Fall ‘04, Spring ‘05, Fall ‘05)
- ◆ PSYC 332 – Lab Methods in Social Psychology (Fall ‘06)
- ◆ PSYC 333 – Social Psychology in Natural Settings (Spring ‘07)

2002 - 2003

**Research & Development Assistant
Baltaş-Baltaş Management, Training & Consultancy, Istanbul**

2000 - 2002

**Research assistant
Department of Psychology, Koç University, Istanbul**

MEDIA COVERAGE

- ◆ Buying your way to eternity. *Time*, June 5, 2013.
- ◆ What our words tell us, op-ed column by David Brooks. *The New York Times*, May 21, 2013.
- ◆ The moral decline in the words we use. *The Atlantic Wire*, August 24, 2012.
- ◆ El dolor cuando es colectivo. *La Tercera* (Chilean newspaper), September 10, 2011.
- ◆ Michael Jackson’s legacy endures through music, videos. *USA Today*, September 2, 2009.
- ◆ Reading celebrity gossip helps ease our fear of dying. *New York Daily News*, November 8, 2008.
- ◆ Elvis is in the building: Fan clubs keep the grim reaper at bay. *Psychology Today*, September-October, 2008.
- ◆ Are you afraid? So what do you believe? *Los Angeles Times*, April 15, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- ◆ Book reviewer for *In-Mind* (<http://beta.in-mind.org>)
- ◆ Book reviewer for *Greater Good Magazine* (<http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/>)
- ◆ Ad-hoc Reviewer for:
 - *Journal of Happiness Studies*
 - *Motivation and Emotion*
 - *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*
 - *Journal of Personality*
 - *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*
 - *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*
 - *Applied Psychology*

- *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*
- *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*
- *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- *Cognition*
- *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping*
- *Emotion*
- *European Journal of Social Psychology*
- *Personality and Individual Differences*
- *Political Psychology*
- *Spanish Journal of Psychology*
- *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*
- *Open Psychology Journal*
- *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*
- *Social Psychology Quarterly*
- *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*

- ◆ Reviewer for 2009 APS Convention, Social Psychology and Personality poster track
- ◆ Reviewer for APS Student Council RISE-UP Research Award (2009)
- ◆ Reviewer for the North American ACR Conference (2008, 2009, 2010)
- ◆ Reviewer for the European ACR Conference (2010)
- ◆ Reviewer for Society for Consumer Psychology (SCP) Conference (2009, 2010)
- ◆ Reviewer for SPSP Graduate Student Committee Research Award (2008, 2010)

LANGUAGES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Turkish (<i>native</i>) ◆ German, Italian (<i>advanced</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ French, Spanish (<i>intermediate</i>) ◆ Greek, Portuguese, Russian (<i>beginner</i>) |
|--|---|

REFERENCES

- ◆ Dr. Thomas Pyszczynski
- ◆ Dr. Chi-Yue Chiu
- ◆ Dr. Ed Diener
- ◆ Dr. Sharon Shavitt