

Ozan Kuru, Howard Deshong Postdoctoral Fellow

Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania
Research Fellow, Cultural Cognition Project, Yale University

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Areas of Expertise

Research Interests: Public opinion / Political communication / Science communication Political psychology / Digital journalism / Social media and political behavior / Survey Methodology

Methodological Approaches: Psychometric measurement / Survey designs / Experimental designs / Content analysis / Meta-analysis

Education

Ph.D. in Communication (2018), University of Michigan
Rackham Predoctoral Fellow, April 2017 - April 2018, University of Michigan
Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research – ICPSR 2016
Institute for Social Change, Rackham Program in Public Scholarship, 2016
Stanford University Summer Institute in Political Psychology, 2011
Inaugural Summer Academy of International Society of Political Psychology, 2011
BA in Psychology, Koc University, 2008-2012

Doctoral Thesis

Kuru, O. (2018). Communicating Public Opinion in Post-Fact Politics: Biased Processing of Public Opinion Reports and Potential Journalistic Remedies. (Doctoral Dissertation).

Journal Articles

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. W. (2017). Motivated reasoning in the perceived credibility of public opinion polls. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 81(2), 422–446. doi: 10.1093/poq/nfx018

Kuru, O., Bayer, J., Pasek, J., & Campbell, S. (2017). Understanding and measuring mobile Facebook use: who, why, and how? *Mobile Media & Communication*, 5(1), 102–120. doi: 10.1177/2050157916678269

Kuru, O. & Pasek, J. (2016). Improving social media measurement in surveys: Avoiding acquiescence bias in Facebook research. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 57, 82–92. doi: 10.1016/j.chb.2015.12.008

Journal Articles Under Revision or Review

Kuru, O. Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. (Revise and Resubmit). When Polls Disagree: How Competitive Results and Methodological Quality Shape Partisan Perceptions of Polls and Electoral Predictions.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. (Under review). When Pundits Weigh In: The Influence of Expert and Partisan Commentaries on Electoral Perceptions.

Book Chapters

Kuru, O. & Pasek, J. (2016). Comparing Social Media Use and Political Engagement: Toward a Valid Measurement Strategy. In Richardson (Ed.) *Social Media and Politics: A New Way to Participate in the Political Process*. Santa Barbara: CA, ABC-CLIO.

Policy Reports

Ayers, W., Bren-Porath, E., Blum, M., Cohen, J., Darling, J., Dunwoody, S., Enten, H., Greenberg, A., Johnson, T., Kuru, O. McGeeney, K., Ormson, El., Pasek, J., Traugott, M., & Waddington, B. (2018). Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Attacks on Survey Credibility. American Association for Public Opinion Research Ad Hoc Committee on Attacks on Survey Credibility (first report presented to the Executive Council).

Other Publications

West, C-A. & Kuru, O. (September 3, 2016). Motivated Reasoning in Perceived Credibility of Public Opinion Polls. Center for Political Studies Blog, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. (October 5, 2016). If my candidate is behind, the poll must be biased. Monkey Cage, The Washington Post.

Kuru, O. (November 29, 2016). What the Failure of Election Predictions Could Mean for Media Trust and Data Journalism. Global View, The MediaShift.

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. (October 9, 2017). Journalists should stop highlighting individual polls and focus on polling averages. The Huffington Post.

Kuru, O. (January 10, 2018). Why Twitter Polls Should Have a Warning Label. PoliticalShift, The MediaShift.

Kuru, O. (June 11, 2018). Kamuoyu algısı ve anketler: Seçmen hangi sayıyı dikkate almalı? Analiz, Diken. (Perceptions of Public Opinion and Polls: Which Numbers Should Voters Pay Attention To? Op-ed on 2018 Turkish election, written in Turkish).

Working Papers

Kuru, O. Pasek, J., & Traugott, M. Look at the Polling Averages! Public Perceptions of Individual vs Aggregated-Contextualized Evidence on Public Opinion.

Kuru, O. Cherry-picking Public Opinion Metrics: Polls, Polling Averages, Forecasting Models, Election Prediction Markets, and Social Media Buzz Trends.

Conference Presentations

Kuru, O. (2011). Political Socialization, Political Efficacy and Political Involvement of University Students. Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation – PIDOP Conference, Poster presentation. (EC 7th Framework Program), Bologna, Italy.

Kuru, O. (2011). Political Knowledge and Partisanship: 2010 Referendum in Turkey. The Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey.

Kuru, O. (2012). Personality, Ideology and Incumbent Evaluation Effects on Different Types of Participation. Processes Influencing Democratic Ownership and Participation – PIDOP Conference (European Commission's 7th Framework Program), Surrey, UK.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J. (2013). Acquiescence Response Bias in Facebook Research: Circumventing a Pernicious Problem with Item-Specific Measures. European Survey Research Association, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J. (2013). Acquiescence Bias in Facebook Research and Implications for Predicting Social-Political Variables: Social Capital. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research. Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O. Traugott, M., Pasek, J. (2015). Transparency, Survey Literacy, and Motivated Reasoning in the Public Interpretations of Poll Results. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research. Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O. Traugott, M., Pasek, J. (2015). Motivations, Expectations, and Transparency Effects in the Public Interpretations of Poll Results. American Association for Public Opinion Research. Hollywood, FL, USA.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J. (2015). Meta-analysis of Facebook Studies: Civic-Political Participation, and Social Capital. (Poster Presentation). Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O, Pasek, J. Traugott, M. (2016). Motivated Reasoning in the Perceived Credibility of Public Opinion Polls. American Association for Public Opinion Research. Austin, TX, USA.

Kuru, O, Pasek, J. Traugott, M. (2016). Motivated Reasoning in the Perceived Credibility of Public Opinion Polls. American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Kuru, O. Pasek J. (2016). Understanding and Measuring Social Media Use and Political Engagement: A Systematic Review of Conceptualization and Operationalization. National Communication Association. Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Kuru, O. Bayer, J. Pasek, J. Campbell, S. W. (2016). What is so different about Mobile Facebook use? And how should we measure it? National Communication Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J., Traugott, M. (2016). Perceptions of Polls and Voter Expectations: Competitive Poll Results, Methodology, and Opinionation. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research. Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O. (2016). Complexity of Public Opinion in the Digital Age: Public Perceptions of Diverse Quantifications. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research. Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J., Traugott, M. (2017). Perceptions of Polls and Voter Expectations: Competitive Poll Results, Methodology, and Opinionation. American Association for Public Opinion Research, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Kuru, O. (2017). De-monopolization of Polls: What Do Ordinary Citizens Make of Different Quantifications? American Association for Public Opinion Research, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Kuru, O. Pasek, J. Traugott, M. (2017). Motivations and Belief Updating in Voter Expectations: Polls vs Polling Averages. American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., Traugott, M. (2017). Singular vs Aggregate Evidence of Public Opinion. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, Chicago, IL, USA.

McClain*, C. Kuru, O. Pasek, J. (2017). Gauging the Horserace Buzz: How the Public Engages with Polls on Twitter. Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, Chicago, IL, USA.

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., Traugott, M. (2018). Perceptions of Elections in Repeated Exposure to Singular vs Aggregate Evidence of Public Opinion. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, USA.

Ayers, W., Bren-Porath, E., Blum, M., Cohen, J., Darling, J.*, Dunwoody, S., Enten, H., Greenberg, A., Johnson, T., Kuru, O. McGeeney, K., Ormson, El., Pasek, J., Traugott, M., Waddington, B. (2018). Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Attacks on Survey Credibility. Presented at the Annual Conference of American Association for Public Opinion Research, Denver, CO.

Kuru, O., Pasek, J., Traugott*, M. (2018). Perceptions of Elections in Repeated Exposure to Singular vs Aggregate Evidence of Public Opinion. American Association for Public Opinion Research, Denver, CO.

*indicates presenting collaborator other than me

Research and Travel Grants/Awards

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan. 2017-18

External Research Grant. (with Josh Pasek and Michael Traugott). National Science Foundation, Time Sharing Experiments in Social Sciences (2016) Short Studies Program Grant. NSF Grant 0818839, Jeremy Freese and James Druckman, Principal Investigators.

Best Student Paper Award. 2017 Seymour Sudman Best Student Paper Competition of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Conference.

Best Student Paper Award. 2016 Doris Graber Student Paper Competition of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research Conference.

Helen F. Weber Fellowship, Communication Studies, University of Michigan (Winter-2017). (Competitive Fellowship Funding for 1 Term).

University of Michigan Regents' Fellowship (Fall'2012, Winter'2013, Fall'2015, Winter'2016)

University of Michigan Internal Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Spring/Summer Fellowship, Communication Studies, 2013, 2016

Departmental Candidacy Level Research Award, 2017

Chamberlain Graduate Research Grants – 2013, 2015

Rackham Pre-Candidacy Level Research Award – 2014

Rackham Candidacy Level Research Award – 2016

Departmental Travel Support Fund for the 6th year, 2017-18 - \$2,500

Rackham International Travel Grants – 2013, 2014

Rackham National Travel Grants – 2015, 2016

Departmental Jay Payne, Louis Tendler & Phillip Slomovitz Travel Scholarships - Conference Travel Funds, 2013 (1), 2014 (2), 2015 (2), 2016 (3), 2017 (1)

Other Grants and Awards

TUBITAK Scholar. Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (2008-12)

Vehbi Koc Foundation Scholar. Koc University (2008-2012).

International Society for Political Psychology TOBB University Workshop Travel-Lodging Grant (2012).

German-Atlantic Association, Conference Travel-Lodging Grant (2011).

Fiat Scholarship by Koc University – Conference Travel Grant (2011)

Invited Reviewer for Journals

2014: Political Psychology (1)

2016: Political Psychology (1); International Journal of Public Opinion Research (1); Field Methods (1); Mobile Media and Communication (1)

2017: Journal of Information, Technology, and Politics (1); American Politics Research (1)

2018: New Media and Society (1); Public Opinion Quarterly (1) International Journal of Public Opinion Research (1)

Service

Committee Member at American Association for Public Opinion Research's False Accusations Against Surveys Ad-Hoc Committee – 2017-2019

Graduate Student Representative, Communication Studies, 2015-16

Graduate Student Coordinator for Political Communication Lab, Fall'2012-Winter'2017

Peer-mentor of a first-year PhD student in Communication Studies, 2015-16

Research Supervisor – 2 Undergraduate research assistants – Fall'13-Winter'14

Research Supervisor – 4 Undergraduate research assistants – Fall'16-Winter'17

Panel Chair/Moderator MAPOR 2013, MAPOR 2016, ISPP 2014

A Selection of Media Mentions

Pew Research Center (11/29/2016). [[Access](#)] Huffington Post (10/6/2016). [[Access](#)] Opinion Today (10/5/2016). [[Access](#)] Huffington Post (9/9/2016). [[Access](#)] Huffington Post (10/11/2017) [[Access](#)] Nieman Journalism Lab (01/11/2018) [[Access](#)] Poynter (01/11/2018) [[Access](#)] American Press Institute (01/11/2018) [[Access](#)]

Professional Memberships

National Communication Association, (2016-); American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2015-); Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research, (2015-); American Political Science Association, (2016-).