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From the IBPP Research Associates. Turkey Zeynep Cemalcilar

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(Contributed by IBPP Research Associate Zeynep Cemalcilar through Global Network Initiative Staffer Ian Robertson). I received a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in social psychology from Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. I also worked as a research assistant at Bogazici for two years and had a one-year stint as a teaching assistant in the psychology department of a new, private university in Istanbul. I have been in the United States (US) only three months and have begun PhD studies at Purdue University in the child development and family studies department. The area of family studies is very much related to politics and social policies and I still may pursue an original interest in social psychology. "Turkey needs people working in these diverse areas as well as the others!"

Psychology is one of the most "developing" sciences in Turkey. Interest in psychology is growing enormously--however in terms of academics rather than being applied. Hopefully, there will be opportunities to apply psychology in everyday life. Since it is still in the process of developing, there are not so many diverse "specialization areas" in Turkish psychology. Most of the universities only have bachelor's programs. Just a few have master's programs and only one or two universities have doctoral programs at this moment. The master's and doctoral areas are mostly in social, clinical, and just a few in industrial psychology. This is mostly because of the fact that there are not enough psychology scholars in Turkey. We have to come to the US or attend universities in Europe to get a valid PhD--a degree this is both hard to achieve and very time- and resource-consuming. However, we do have very valuable professors in the Turkish universities--although they are not high in number--who are mostly educated in the US and have been actively contributing to the international literature. (Keywords: Turkey, Zeynep Cemalcilar.)