



KOÇ UNIVERSITY
**Office of Learning
and Teaching**

Dear Koç University Members,
As the 2024 Spring Semester launches, first of all, as KOLT we would like to wish you a great semester!
And we would like to share some recent news and to highlight the upcoming events and activities of KOLT.
Enjoy!

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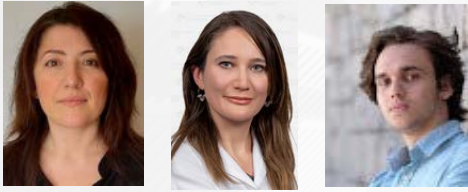
KOLT Teaching Improvement Grant (TIG) Program – Spring 2024 Recipients

We are pleased to announce the four recipients of Spring 2024 Koç University Office of Learning & Teaching (KOLT) Teaching Improvement Grants.

KOLT Teaching Improvement Grant program is a funding opportunity for advancing learning and teaching at Koç University. Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs), Virtual Exchange Projects, Teach-Research-Publish, Gender Inclusive Teaching, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in Courses were the five priority areas for the Spring 2024 grants.

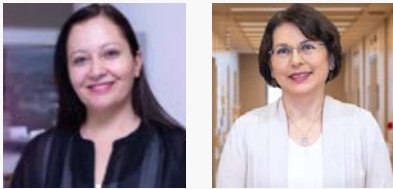
In total, four proposals are granted for the Spring 2024 semester. We would like to congratulate our faculty members on their success.

Here is the list of recipients of Spring 2024 KOLT Teaching Improvement Grants.



Dr. Deniz Ceylan, Dr. Tuba Mutluer, Dr. Görkem Ayas – SOM:

“Enhancing Psychiatric Assessment Skills in 5th-Year Medical Students through Mental Status Examination Simulations” under the Call 3: Teach, Research and Publish.



Dr. Özlem Doğan and Dr. Sinem Ezgi Gülmez – SOM:

“AI supported “Rational use of antibacterials” panel discussion proposal for School of Medicine Pre-clinical Year-2 Curriculum” under the Call 5: AI Applications in Courses.



Dr. Suncem Koçer – CSSH:

“Integrating AI Literacy into Media Education: A Model for Social Sciences and Humanities” under the Call 5: AI Applications in Courses.



Dr. Kamuran Osmanoğlu – CSSH:

“Innovative Legal Writing & Research with AI Integration” under the Call 5: AI Applications in Courses.

PBL4TEA Erasmus+ KA220 HED Project

Members of the KOLT, Dr. Zuhal Zeybekoğlu and Dr. Ferah Özer, recently conducted an international teacher training workshop on “*Digital Enhancement of Active Learning in Higher Education*” which was held in Porto, Portugal at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa between February 14-16, 2024, under the scope of the PBL4TEA – PBL framework for Digital Collaborative Teacher Training Erasmus+ KA 220 HED project in which Koç University Office of Learning and Teaching is a partner.

For the 3-day training, more than 70 Portuguese and Lithuanian faculty members from diverse backgrounds and disciplines engaged in collaborative hands-on workshops, used various digital tools, learnt best practices through lively exchanges of ideas, gained fresh perspectives and valuable insights on active learning principles and digitally enhanced learning and teaching.

For more information, you may visit project's website [on this link](#).



Universidade do Minho



KOLT New Advisory Board Members

New advisory board members for KOLT have been assigned for in three-year term.

We would like to congratulate the new members of the Advisory Board, welcoming them on board and appreciate for their future contributions for advancing teaching and learning activities at Koç University.

You may find the list of the Advisory Board members below:

- Prof. Dr. Funda Yağcı Acar – VPAA
- Prof. Dr. Sinan Ünver – CS
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Evrim Didem Güneş – CASE
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suncem Koçer – CSSH
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuba Mutluer – SOM
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuba Şengül – SON
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Cem Veziroğlu – School of Law
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Murat Kuşçu – CE
- Dr. Zuhâl Zeybekoğlu – Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT)

KOLT Upcoming Faculty Seminars

• Prompt Engineering for AI Tools



Facilitator: Alp Köksal, M.S.

Description: This workshop equips faculty with the skills to design precise prompts, enhancing AI utilization in research and teaching. You'll discover how to harness AI more efficiently for enriching academic inquiry and improving student engagement through targeted thoughtful AI interactions.



Date: February 23, 2024

Time: 1 pm

Place: Zoom (online)

• Task Design in Higher Education Courses



Facilitator: Jale Günbak-Hatıl, M.S.

Description: This hands-on workshop aims to facilitate faculty members in developing a task outline suitable for incorporation into their courses. In the process, participants will actively participate in a well-organized discussion, aiming to recognize patterns in their disciplinary approaches and contemplate ways to assist students in enhancing their knowledge and skills.



Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 12-1:30 pm

Place: KOLT Office (face-to-face)

To register the upcoming workshops, please [click here](#).

Insights from Outstanding Teaching Award Recipients

*Prof. Dr. Selva Demiralp – Economics – CASE
Outstanding Teaching Award Recipient (2021-2022)*

My approach to making the course engaging for students involves integrating real-world examples, enabling them to see immediate applications of the knowledge gained in class. I consistently draw connections to current events, ensuring the content feels relevant and timely. At the beginning of each chapter, I contextualize its importance within the course's broader structure, helping students grasp the purpose behind what they're learning.

Even when tackling chapters that are more technical and might seem dull, I energize the students by illustrating the future practical use of this information, especially in understanding more intuitive concepts in subsequent chapters. I often frame questions as scenarios they might encounter, such as during a job interview, a query from their boss, or a discussion about the economy with their parents. Providing the answers, I encourage them to take notes, playfully suggesting they're receiving insider tips. This has become a humorous aspect of our class culture, but it also appears to enhance their interest and retention of the material.



My teaching philosophy extends beyond merely covering the course content; it's about empowering students to apply economic principles to real-world challenges. The students seem to value this approach, finding it enriching not just academically but in how it broadens their intellectual horizons and equips them with practical skills for real-life economic problem-solving. My mission is to provide them with a solid foundation in economics and the ability to translate this knowledge into practical, real-world applications.



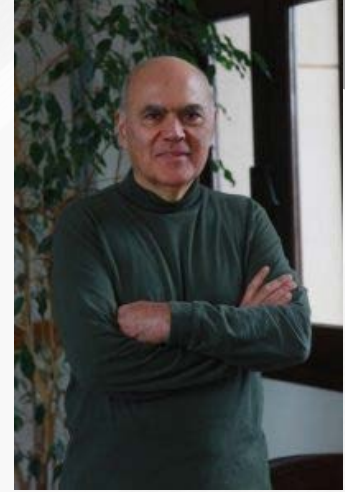
For more insights from previous recipients of Outstanding Teaching Award, please visit our web site's '**Teaching Experiences at KU**' section.

Insights from Outstanding Teaching Award Recipients

*Dr. Eşref Ünsal – Computer Engineering – CE
Outstanding Teaching Award Recipient (2021-2022)*

Please find some of the matters that worked for me in the 3 courses I have been teaching:

- Urging the students to comment/discuss the subject at hand and put forward what they think (*no discouraging of wrong or unusual answers*). The course turns into a discussion session such as the ones in the MBA programs of Harvard.
- Highlighting the importance of active participation and commenting as a preparation for the business meetings to come. The casual discussion media improves the public speaking and capability to comment freely in front of others, which is a big gain for industrial/commercial platforms with company employees and the third parties in the days to come.
- Having name cards/plates for the students, placed in front of them in class (enhances remembering the names of the students and allows the students to address each other)
- Bringing forward cases/news from the recent topics, news articles from international commercial press, besides classical case examples and anecdotes.



Works on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)



Asst. Prof. Dr. Remziye Semerci's KOLT TIG supported work on Teach, Research, and Publish theme was published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing

Semerci, R., & Savaş, E. H. (2023). The effects of child health nursing curriculum-integrated therapeutic activities on therapeutic communication skills of nursing students: Non-randomized study. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 73, 221-227.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Reşat Bayer's work on teamwork within in a senior capstone course was published in the Journal of Political Science & Politics by Cambridge University Press

Bayer, R., Turper, S., & Woods, J. (2022). Teamwork within a Senior Capstone Course: Implementation and Assessment. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(4), 828-833



If you have research studies, articles, books, reports, etc. published on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), please share your works with us, so that we can disseminate good practices with our faculty members. For more examples of SoTL works, please visit our web site's **'Research and Projects'** section.