

DR. HASRET SAYGI

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Hasret Saygi is a sociolinguist specialising in multilingualism, migration and inequality. Drawing on linguistic ethnography and discourse analysis, she examines how language shapes belonging, identity and recognition, and how everyday interactions reproduce or challenge social hierarchies. Her research spans housing, education and community settings, with a focus on the experiences of refugees, migrants and international students. She is the author of *Risky Communications and Precarity in London's Shared Housing* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025), which examines the role of language in access to housing and the negotiation of shared domestic life. Her work has appeared in journals including *Language Policy*, *Language & Communication*, the *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* and *The Language Learning Journal*. She holds a PhD from Boğaziçi University and a Master's degree from King's College London, with an academic background in applied linguistics. She is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the UCL Institute of Education and a full-time faculty member in the Faculty of Education at Istanbul 29 Mayıs University.

RECENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Honorary Research Fellow, UCL Institute of Education | *Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment* | 2025–present

- Collaborative research on Turkish migrant children's reception and inclusion in British schools, Turkish heritage-language education, and teacher training with Turkish heritage-language teachers in the UK.

Assistant Professor, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University | *Faculty of Education, English Language Teaching* | 2020–2024; 2025–present

- Full-time university teaching and research across sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, discourse analysis, World Englishes/ELF, academic writing and project development; MA supervision and research mentoring.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UCL Institute of Education | *Department of Culture, Communication and Media* | 2024–2025

- TÜBİTAK (The Research Council of Turkey)-funded research on internationalisation of UK higher education, institutional support, and international student experience.

EDUCATION & ACADEMIC MOBILITY

PhD, English Language Teaching / Applied Linguistics | *Boğaziçi University* | 2019

Thesis: Everyday Interactions Between Local and Refugee Women in a Turkish Town: Identity Construction and Negotiation.

MA, TESOL & Applied Linguistics | *King's College London* | 2012

Thesis: Understanding Language Use in Workplace Contexts: Case Studies of Turkish Migrant Workers from a Sociohistorical Perspective.

BA, English Language Teaching | *Middle East Technical University* | 2010

Minor in Political Science, Middle East Technical University (2010).

Visiting Doctoral Researcher | *Applied Linguistics, University of Lleida, Spain* | 2016

Student Exchange | *English Language Teaching, Middlesex University, UK* | 2008–2009

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Saygi, H. (2025). *Risky Communications and Precarity in London's Shared Housing*. Palgrave Macmillan.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-99040-3>

- Monograph examining how language shapes access to London's shared housing market.
- Publisher-nominated for the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) Book Prize (2026).
- Chapter selected for Palgrave Macmillan's digital campaign supporting the ESRC Festival of Social Science (2026).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Young, S. & Saygi, H. (2026). Language brokering as a site of language learning: Linguistic practices amongst Turkish migrant adolescents in London. *The Language Learning Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09571736.2026.2738465> (Scopus Q1, ESCI).

Saygi, H. (2026, in press). Unequal multilingualisms: Selective bias and the hierarchisation of languages in Turkey. *Ankara University Language Journal*.

- Saygi, H. (2026). Is “Language as the Key to Integration” A Myth? Legitimate Speakership. *Journal of Language Research (JLR)*, 10(2), 63–76. <https://doi.org/10.51726/jlr.1851413>
- Saygi, H. & Young, S. (2026). Narratives of sacrifice and aspiration: Turkish middle-class families and educational migration to London. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 47(2), 1267–1282. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2025.2581861> (SSCI, Q1).
- Altıparmak, M. & Saygi, H. (2025). Syrian Students and Arabic in Turkey: Language Policies, Informal Support Mechanisms, and the Search for Linguistic Identity. *Journal of Language Education and Research*, 11(1), 99–125. <https://doi.org/10.31464/jlere.1565640>
- İzgi, R. & Saygi, H. (2025). Language, Identity, and Migration: A Discourse Analysis of Imam Hatip Students’ Attitudes towards Arabic. *Hacettepe University Journal of Faculty of Letters*, 42(3). <https://doi.org/10.32600/huefd.1566229>
- Saygi, H. & Erduyan, I. (2023). Local linguistic ideologies and Iraqi Turkmen’s experience of forced migration to Turkey: A folk linguistic perspective. *Language Policy*, 22(3), 289–314. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10993-023-09657-4> (SSCI, Q1).
- Saygi, H. (2023). A linguistic ethnography of the sense of belonging: Iraqi Turkmen women refugees in Turkey. *Language & Communication*, 88, 14–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2022.10.002> (SSCI, Q1).

Manuscripts Under Review

- Young, S. & Saygi, H. (under review). Learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) in schools in England: a raciolinguistic exploration of the narratives of Turkish migrant students. *London Review of Education* (SSCI, Q1).
- Saygi, H. (under review). Constructing linguistic insecurity in internationalised higher education: Chinese international students’ accounts of language and participation. *The Journal of Discourse*.
- Saygi, H. (under review). Multilingual service encounters in Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar. *Current Perspectives in Social Sciences*.

Book Chapters

- Saygi, H. (2020). “Dilbilimsel Etnografik Açıdan Anadolu’da Kadınlığın Müzakeresi ve İnşası” [Negotiation and Construction of Womanhood in Anatolia from a Linguistic Ethnographic Perspective]. In D. Danış & K. Biehl (Eds.), *Toplumsal Cinsiyet Perspektifinden Türkiye’de Göç Araştırmaları [Migration Research in Turkey from a Gender Perspective]*. Sabancı University Gender Studies & GAR, 101–121. <https://research.sabanciuniv.edu/id/eprint/44833/>
- Saygi, H. (2019). Anadolu’da Mülteci ve Yerel Kadın Karşılaşmaları [Encounters between Refugee and Local Women in Anatolia]. *Mekanda Adalet ve Mültecilik [Spatial Justice and Refugeeeness]* Beyond.Istanbul, 7, 110–116.

Book Review

- Saygi, H. (2024). Review of V. Mocanu, *Language Learning in Study Abroad: Social, Cultural, and Identity-Related Factors*. *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca*, 13(1), 191–196. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jelf-2024-2005>

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Supporting Turkish Heritage Language Education in the UK: Teacher Development and Complementary School Partnerships | 2026–2028

Conducted in partnership with Turkish complementary schools and in liaison with the Education Offices of the Turkish Embassy and the Consulate of Northern Cyprus in London. Focuses on teacher induction, professional needs and pedagogical challenges, including co-designed workshops, seminar activities and practical resources.

New-Wave Turkish Migration to London: Children’s Schooling, Language Needs and Belonging | with Dr Sara Young, UCL IOE | 2024–2026

Collaborative study examining educational migration, adaptation to British schooling, English and Turkish language needs, access barriers and language-brokering practices.

Language Dynamics and Fairness in Shared Housing: A Sociolinguistic Perspective | London | 2024–2025

Fieldwork exploring the lived experiences of unrelated adults in multicultural shared housing, focusing on language, identity, household dynamics and the negotiation of home.

Internationalisation Policies, Practices and Discourses of Higher Education in the UK: A Language Policy Perspective | UCL IOE / TUBİTAK 2219 | 2024–2025

€30,000-funded research on language-related challenges, participation and institutional support for international students in UK higher education.

The Impact of Migration on Multilingual Practices and Language Attitudes in Turkey | 2023–2024

Research on migration, cultural diversity, language ideologies, language attitudes and cultural hierarchies among university students.

‘We are at School: Üsküdar’ Project with Roma Children | 2019–2022

School-based action research with universities, public organisations, local teachers and parents supporting Roma children at risk of interrupted education and more inclusive institutional practice.

Everyday Interactions Between Local and Refugee Women in a Turkish Town | TÜBİTAK 2211 | 2016–2018

Community-based doctoral research on interaction, identity and belonging among local and refugee women; supported by a TÜBİTAK doctoral research grant.

Back-to-School & After-School Projects for Syrian Refugee Children | AD.DAR Syrian & Syrian Palestinian Community Center | 2014–2016

Project coordinator and voluntary teacher supporting school registration, integration, language and literacy education; extended in 2015 to include Turkish and literacy education for Syrian mothers.

ELF-Aware Teacher Education Project | Boğaziçi University BAP / EU-funded | 2014–2015

Project Assistant on work supporting English-language teachers in multilingual and multicultural teaching and learning contexts.

TEACHING & SUPERVISION & RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Master’s Theses Supervision

Altıparmak, M. (2023). Sociolinguistic evaluation of Arabic support education for Syrian children.

İzgi, R. (2023). Examining Arabic language policies in Turkey at family and student levels: A study of Imam Hatip Religious schools.

Research Methods

Ethnography • Qualitative interviewing • Participant observation • Discourse analysis • Community-based research

Areas Of Expertise & Courses Taught

• Applied Linguistics • Sociolinguistics • Introduction to Linguistics • Academic Writing Skills • Academic Reading Skills • Oral Communication Skills • Career Planning and Development • Language, Power and Inequality • Multilingualism • Discourse Analysis

POLICY, PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Supporting Turkish as a Heritage Language in the UK | London Turkish Embassy and Yunus Emre Institute, London | January 2026

Practitioner-facing knowledge-exchange event with Turkish heritage-language teachers and institutional partners.

<https://yeelondon.org.uk/2026/03/16/turkish-language-heritage/>

Risky Communications and Precarity in London’s Shared Housing | Migration, Identity and Translation Network, University of Warwick | March 2025

Invited public talk on language, housing and precarity. https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/mitn/events/seminars/

Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Turkey | Toward the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit: Global Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Tokyo | April 2016 <https://afppd.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/1-g7-gcppd-final-report-2nd-ed-6-june-2016-map-report.pdf>

Invited presentation connecting refugee-education research and advocacy with an international policy-facing audience.

Integration of Refugee Children and Schooling | European Young Leaders Summer Training Seminar, Sarajevo | August 2015

Invited presentation on refugee schooling and integration.

SELECTED INVITED, PLENARY & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Saygi, H. (November 2026). Language as Gatekeeping in London’s Shared Housing: Migrant Access and Precarity. 3rd International Conference on Migration Linguistics. **Singapore & Malaysian Association of Applied Linguistics, Singapore, Malaysia.**

Saygi, H. (March 2026). Linguistic Precarity and Household Communication in London’s Shared Housing. **American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference, University of Chicago, USA.**

Saygi, H. & Young, S. (September 2025). Educational Mobility as a Family Project: Middle Class Turks Moving to London. **British Association for Applied Linguistics Conference, University of Glasgow, UK.**

Saygi, H. (May 2025). From Arabic to English: Multilingual Bias and Language Hierarchies in Turkey. **Social Justice in ELT Conference, Bahçeşehir University, Turkey.**

Saygi, H. (March 2025). From Affinity to Stigma: Arabic Language in Turkey’s Migration Context. **British Academy Linguistic Injustice and Inequality in the Public Domain, University of Stirling, UK.**

Saygi, H. (September 2024). Intercultural Encounters in London’s Share Houses. **British Association for Applied Linguistics Conference, University of Essex, UK.**

Saygi, H. (June 2024). Activist Academic Research in Turkey’s Migratory Context. **Innovative Methods in Migration Research, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.**

- Saygi, H. (October 2023). Navigating Multilingual Bias: Arabic in Turkish Migratory Context. **14th International Free Linguistics Conference, Kadir Has University, Turkey. [Plenary Talk]**
- Saygi, H. (July 2021). Construction of womanhood parameters in a Turkish town. **International Pragmatics Association, 16th International Pragmatics Conference, Winterthur, Switzerland.**
- Saygi, H. (December 2018). Construction of religious identity through a shared activity: Quran recitations among refugee and local women. **Globalising Sociolinguistics Conference, University of Leiden, Netherlands.**
- Saygi, H. (July 2018). Linguistic ethnographic exploration of stance taking practices between refugee and local neighbours. **IMISCOE Conference, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.**
- Saygi, H. (July 2018). Strangers in the neighbourhood: Encounters between refugee and local women. **IAFOR International Conference on the City, University of Barcelona, Spain.**
- Saygi, H. (July 2018). Application of Du Bois' Stance Triangle Model as an analytical tool to investigate stancetaking practices. Metapragmatics, **Language Ideologies & Positioning Practices Research School, University of Vienna, Austria.**
- Saygi, H. (February 2017). Conceptualising sense of belonging from a discursive perspective in the context of migration. **Next Generation Global Studies on Spaces and Times of Globalization, University of Padova, Italy.**
- Saygi, H. (July 2017). Construction of Womanhood Parameters: Stances towards Womanhood in a Turkish Context. **DiscourseNet 19, University of Bucharest, Romania.**
- Saygi, H. (November 2016). Sociolinguistic aspects of the process of integration between refugees and locals in Turkey. **International Association for Languages and International Communication Conference, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.**
- Saygi, H. (October 2015). A case study on multilingual service encounters in Istanbul's Grand Bazaar. **International Association for World Englishes Conference, Boğaziçi University, Turkey.**
- Saygi, H. (September 2015). Understanding language use in workplace contexts: Case studies of Turkish migrant workers in London. **HUMAN Social Interaction and Applied Linguistics Conference, Hacettepe University, Turkey.**

INTERVIEWS & COMMENTARY

- Saygi, H. (October 2, 2019). "Toplumsal Kaynaşma Ortak Kimlikler ve Aidiyetlikler Üzerinden Sağlanamaz" [Social Integration Cannot Be Ensured Through Common Identities and Belongings]. Boğaziçi University News Bulletin.
https://www.academia.edu/42468628/Toplumsal_kayna%C5%9Fma_ortak_kimlikler_ve_aidiyetlikler_%C3%BCzerinden_s_a%C4%9Flanamaz
- Saygi, H. (June 24, 2019). "Is 'Language as the Key to Integration' a Myth?" IMISCOE PhD Network.
<https://imiscoephdblog.wordpress.com/2019/06/24/is-language-as-the-key-to-integration-a-myth/>
- Saygi, H. (February 26, 2019). "Refugees' Desire for Ordinarity." IMISCOE PhD Network.
<https://imiscoephdblog.wordpress.com/2019/02/26/refugees-desire-for-ordinariness/>

GRANTS, AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Honorary Research Fellow appointment, UCL Institute of Education, Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment, 2025–2028.
- Honorary Research Fellow appointment, UCL Institute of Education, Department of Culture, Communication and Media, 2024–2025.
- TÜBİTAK 2219 Postdoctoral Research Grant, €30,000, 2024–2025.
- Best PhD Thesis in Social Sciences Award, Boğaziçi University, 2019.
- TÜBİTAK 2211 Doctoral Research Grant, 2013–2017.
- International recognition as a young refugee-rights activist; invited panelist, Global Conference of Parliamentarians toward the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, Tokyo/Japan, 2016.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Roles

Associate Editor, *Journal of Discourse and Communication Studies*, 2026-present.

Peer Review

European Journal of Applied Linguistics • Journal of Linguistic Anthropology • Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development

- New Perspectives on Turkey

Professional Memberships

- American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) • British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL)
- International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion Network (IMISCOE)