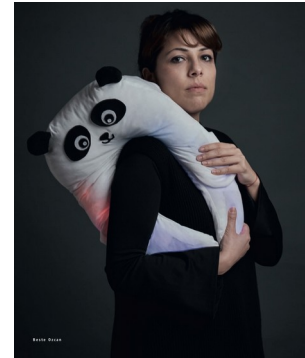


CURRICULUM VITAE

Beste Özcan,
PhD in design and innovation

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Current position: Post-doc research fellow at the Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, National Research Council of Italy, ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy.

OVERVIEW

As an interaction designer, I'm interested in developing interactive and soft wearable devices in terms of helping humans (e.g., children with Autism Spectrum Disorder - ASD) for their well-being and to have better social and communication skills. In particular, I have designed the following experimental prototypes:

- **“+me”**: it is the world's first *“Transitional Wearable Companion”* designed for the therapy of children with ASD. www.plusme.it
- **“Lokahi”**: a wearable body pillow for adults. www.beste-ozcan.com/lokahi/
- **“dada!”**: a wearable social-emotional robot for children.

EDUCATION

- **2011 – 16/01/2014**: International PhD in design and innovation, Second Univ. of Naples, Italy; dissertation: *“H+ design: time, space, human, machine”* (excellent grade).
- **2006 – 2009**: Master of Arts in interior architecture, Hacettepe Univ., Ankara, Turkey; dissertation: *“Sustainable city squares and the examination of Piazza del Popolo”* (grade 3,88/4,00).
- **2001 – 2005**: Bachelor of Science in interior architecture, Hacettepe Univ., Ankara, Turkey. (grade 3,69/4,00).

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- **2019, Jan. – present**: post-doc research fellow at the ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy, project *“+me: motivating children with autism spectrum disorders to communicate and socially interact through interactive soft wearable devices”*, coordinator: dr. Gianluca Baldassarre, www.istc.cnr.it/en/content/me.
- **2014, Mar. - 2019, Jan.**: collaboration with dr. Gianluca Baldassarre at ISTC-CNR; design and development of +me device.
- **2016, Jan. – Jul.**: research fellow at the Robotic Laboratory, Univ. of La Salle-Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Spain, project *“CASPER: cognitive assistive social pet robots for hospitalized children”*, supervisor: Prof. Jordi Albo Canals.
- **2015, 6 months**: co-tutoring at the Dept. of Planning, Design and Technology of Architecture, Univ. of Sapienza, Rome, Italy, www.beste-ozcan.com/upbra-co-tutoring/; development of website www.materialdesignlab.it/; assistantship for the History of Art Critics lesson.

- **2013, 6 months:** visiting researcher in Escuela Politecnica Superior, Universidad de Málaga, Spain.
- **2013, 6 months:** visiting researcher in CIAUD, Faculdade de Arquitectura, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal.
- **2009 – 2010:** International Exchange Program at the Dep. of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Valle Giulia, Univ. of Sapienza, Rome, Italy.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

- **2019:** lecture “*Design through research*” (4 hours) at the “*School of Artificial Intelligence*”, www.as-ai.org, as-ai.org/faculty/ ISTC-CNR, Rome, Italy.
- **2019:** Robotics classes (24 hours), hands-on activities at the Lipan Institute, Rome, Italy, in collaboration with cultural association “*science2mind*” www.science2mind.org.
- **2018:** “*INNO school project*” funded by European Union (60 hours): hands-on activities with 60 children aged between 8-13 years at the School Giovanni Falcone, Rome, Italy.

AWARDS

- “*Lokahi*”: one of the 5 winners of festival “*HER: art & data*”, Rome, 2018.
- “+me”: best creative design in “*New Technology*” category, competition “*Lazio Creativo, 2018*”.
- “+me”: selected as one of the best projects in the study program “*TornoSubito, 2015*”.
- “+me”: Runner-Up winner in “*GLOBAL ELEVATE AWARDS 2016*”.
- “+me”: “*Best Social Innovation Project 2015*”, competition “*StartCup Lazio 2015*”.

OTHER

- **Skills:** electronic prototyping with Arduino boards (basic); Fritzing application (basic); Processing Language (basic); Photoshop, Illustrator and Indesign (high); Wordpress (high); AutoCad, 3dsMax (medium).
- **Languages:** Turkish (native), English and Italian (professional proficiency), Spanish (basic).
- **Patent:** “+me” brand patent (deposit no: 302015000072334, registered on 13.11.2015).

SELECTED INVITATIONS, SEMINARS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **2019:** invited speaker at the “*World Innovation Summit (WISE)*”, Paris, France, giving presentation about “+me” project during “*Learning by opening up design and science*” workshop.
- **2017:** invited speaker at the “*Care and Rehabilitation Expo China: The Belt and Road High-level International Forum on Assistive Technology – 7th International Forum on Assistive Technology Innovation and Adaptation Services*”, Beijing, China, giving presentation about “+me” project.
- **2017:** guest lecturer at the the “*11th International Week*”, IADE Creative Univ., Lisbon, Portugal, giving presentations about “*Research journey: designing socially assistive robots*”.
- **2016:** co-organizer of “*SAR design workshop: designing socially assistive robots that bring educational and therapeutic benefits to children*” during “*New Friends:*

international conference on social robots in therapy and education”, Barcelona, Spain, www.bestezcan.com/nf16/.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- Fosch-Villaronga, E. and **Özcan, B.** (2019) “*The progressive intertwinement between design, human needs and the regulation of care technology: the case of lower-limb exoskeletons*”, Int. Journal of Social Robotics, DOI:10.1007/s12369-019-00537-8
- Sperati, V., **Özcan, B.** et al. (2019), “*Acceptability of Transitional Wearable Companion +me in typical children: a pilot study*”, Frontiers in Psychology, vol.10, DOI:10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00125.
- Ayanoglu, H., Saraiva, M., **Özcan, B.** (2019) “*Emotional Design and Human-Robot Interaction*”, Chapter 8 in “*Emotional Design in Human-Robot Interaction: Theory, Methods and Applications*”, Springer International Publishing (in press).
- **Özcan, B.**, Caligiore, D. et al. (2016), “*Transitional wearable companions: a novel concept of soft interactive social robots to improve social skills in children with autism spectrum disorder*”, pp.471-481, Int. Journal of Social Robotics, vol. 8, issue 4, DOI: [10.1007/s12369-016-0373-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12369-016-0373-8)
- Fosch-Villaronga, E. and **Özcan, B.** (2017) “*Exoskeleton Design and Regulation: the Intertwining Evolution between Humans and Robots*” (in Italian), Nuova Corrente Rivista di Letteratura e Filosofia, vol. 159, issue 59, pp. 89-116.

BOOKS

- **Özcan B.**, “*H+ design: time, space, human, machine*” (2019) PhD thesis manuscript, Common Ground Research Networks, Design Principles and Practices series, DOI:[10.18848/978-1-86335-138-6/CGP](https://doi.org/10.18848/978-1-86335-138-6/CGP)

CONFERENCE PAPERS WITH PROCEEDING

- **Özcan, B.**, Sperati, V., (2018) “*Lokahi: the wearable body pillow to foster an intimate interaction between two users through their heartbeat awareness*”, 15th Int. Conf. on Advances in Computer Entertainment Technology, ACE 2018 (accepted but the conference is cancelled).
- Fosch-Villaronga, E., Barco, A., **Özcan, B.**, Shukla, J. (2016) “*An interdisciplinary approach to improving cognitive human-robot interaction: a novel emotion-based model*”, Int. Research Conf. Robophilosophy 2016, TRANSOR 2016, proceedings “*What Social Robots Can and Should Do*”, vol. 20, pp. 195-205
- Curley, D., Barco, A., Pico, S., Gallego, P., Zervas, D., Angulo, C., **Özcan, B.**, Delvaux, J., Lhoir, M., Albo-Canals, J. (2016) “*CASPER Project: Social pet robots facilitating tasks in therapies with children with ASD*”, 2nd Int. Conf. on Social Robots in Therapy & Education, New Friends 2016, pp.33-34, Barcelona, Spain.
- Ayanoglu H., De Crescenzo A., **Özcan B.** (2011) “*Interactive System for Customization: Proposal for An Evolution of Creative Platforms*”, abstract published for VI Congresso Internacional de Pesquisa em Design – Pag.264, publication of CIAUD Centro de Investigação em Arquitectura, Urbanismo e Design. Lisbon, Portugal.