

BETUL TURKUM

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EDUCATION

Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Marseille, France Postdoctoral Fellow	2023-
European University Institute, Florence, Italy PhD in Economics Supervisors: Sule Alan, Andrea Ichino	2019-2023
London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom Visiting PhD Student Supervisor: Stephen Machin	2022-2023
European University Institute, Florence, Italy MRes in Economics	2019-2020
Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey M.A in Economics (High Honor) Supervisor: Murat Kirdar	2016-2018
Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey B.A in Economics (Honor)	2011-2016

RESEARCH INTEREST

Economics of Education, Migration, and Crime, Labor and Development Economics

PUBLICATIONS

The effect of 3.6 million refugees on crime, with Murat Kirdar and Ivan López Cruz, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 194 (2022): 568-582 ([Paper](#))

WORKING PAPERS

CEPR Discussion Paper: Disruption to Schooling Impedes the Development of Abstract Reasoning and Theory of Mind in Children (with Sule Alan) ([Paper](#))

We show that the development of abstract reasoning and cognitive empathy (theory of mind) is severely hindered when children are deprived of the stimulation of a school environment. We document significantly lower abstract

reasoning and cognitive empathy scores in elementary school children who returned from an extended school closure caused by the Covid-19 pandemic relative to proximate pre-pandemic cohorts. This developmental delay has a significant socioeconomic gradient, with underprivileged children experiencing more substantial delays. We also document a significant disruption in the development of socioemotional skills: 0.24 sd lower grit, 0.43 sd lower emotional empathy, 0.06 sd lower epistemic curiosity, and 0.24 sd higher impulsivity. About eight months of school exposure results in a remarkable recovery in abstract reasoning and theory of mind for all socioeconomic groups. However, the measured levels still indicate significant delays relative to the expected developmental trajectories. No notable improvements are observed in socioemotional skills except for curiosity. These findings reveal that the damage school closures inflicted on children goes beyond well-documented academic losses and highlight the crucial role of the school environment in fostering fundamental cognition and socioemotional development in children.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Classroom Social Networks after COVID-19 (with Yusuf Agus)

In the spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, governments took drastic measures to curb the virus spread, including shutting down educational institutions. This sudden and unexpected closure of schools not only disrupted the education of millions of students but also deprived them of their primary social environment—the classroom. In this study, we analyze the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on classroom peer relationships using a unique field dataset collected from 3rd and 4th-grade primary school children in Turkey that includes both pre-pandemic and pandemic cohorts. Our findings reveal that the pandemic cohort undergoes significant changes in their classroom social interactions after an extended school closure, compared to the pre-pandemic cohort. We observe deteriorations in classroom cohesiveness, with an extreme increase in the probability of isolation, a decline in reciprocal relationships among classmates, and an increase in segregation within the classroom. Our research also uncovers significant heterogeneities in the effects of the pandemic, with impacts being more pronounced for males and refugees.

The Effect of Mass Migration on Economic Development

This paper estimates the impacts of 3.65 million Syrian refugees in Turkey—the largest refugee group in any country—by the end of 2019 on the level of economic development, proxied by GDP per capita. Turkish provinces faced distinctive rises in immigration after the Syrian Civil War. The variation of refugee shares in provinces allows me to evaluate this impact using a difference-in-differences methodology. Since the refugees' settlement patterns could be correlated with the per capita GDP, to address this selection issue, this study uses both 2SLS and OLS methods. This research offers suggestive evidence of a positive impact of the refugee inflow on economic development in the medium-term, and a negative impact in the long term, using panel data of provinces between 2006 and 2019. The impact of the shock in the short term is unclear. However, none of the effects are statistically significant.

RESEARCH & TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

Research Assistant to Prof. Andrew Geddes

2021-2022

Migration Policy Center, European University Institute

Project: Global Asylum Governance and European Union's Role — ASILE

Research Assistant to Prof. Sule Alan Department of Economics, European University Institute Project: Field Data Collection for a Corporate Culture Project	2019
Teaching Assistant, Koc University, Department of Economics EC 360, Money and Banking (B.A.) EC 340, Public Finance (B.A.)	2018-2019
Research Assistant to Prof. Gokhan Ozertan Department of Economics, Bogazici University TUBITAK Project: Climate Change Projections in Turkish Agriculture: Impacts on Yields and Crop Patterns, Extreme Risk Analysis, and Autonomous Adaptation	2017-2018
Garanti Bank Headquarters Summer Intern at the Department of Actuary	Summer 2015
Mazars Group Turkey Long-term Intern at the Department of Audit	2015-2016

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for: International Migration

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, Eviews, R, MATLAB, L^ATEX, Windows Applications, MS-Office

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIP

PhD Completion Grant (EUI)	2022 – 2023
Doctoral Grant (MAECI)	2019 – 2022
European Doctoral Programme Visiting Grant (EUI)	2022
Full Merit Scholarship, Koc University, Department of Economics	2018-2019
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey Scholarship	2016-2018
Merit Scholarship, Credit and Dormitories Institution of Turkey	2011-2018
Some Scholarships received during undergraduate degree:	2011-2016
Zorlu Foundation, Community Volunteers Foundation(TOG), Bogazici University Turkish University Women Association(TUKD), Bogazici Managers Association(BYV)	

PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 21.06.1992

Citizenship: Turkish

Languages: English(fluent), Turkish(native), Italian(beginner), French(beginner)

REFERENCES

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