

BETUL TURKUM

Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Marseille, France

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Marseille, France
Postdoctoral Fellow

2023-

EDUCATION

European University Institute, Florence, Italy
PhD in Economics
Supervisors: Sule Alan, Andrea Ichino

2019-2023

London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom
Visiting Scholar
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 Labor, and Family Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Abstract Reasoning, Theory of Mind and Character Development in the School, with Sule Alan, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 221 (2024): 307-326 ([Paper](#))

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

SSRN and AMSE Working Paper: The Impact of COVID-19 on Peer Relationships: Insights from Classroom Social Networks ([Paper](#)) – Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

In the spring of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, governments implemented drastic containment measures, including widespread school closures that deprived millions of children of their primary social environment—the classroom. To understand how the pandemic affected classroom peer relationships, we leverage social network data from 3rd and 4th-grade students in Turkish primary schools, comparing pre-pandemic and pandemic cohorts across three relationship types: friendship, academic support, and emotional support. We document opposing changes across network types: friendship isolation increased by 22%, while academic support nominations rose by 20%. These improvements in academic support were driven entirely by native students; refugee students faced deterioration in both friendship and academic support networks. Our findings show that large-scale disruptions can reshape peer relationships in complex ways, underscoring the vital role of the classroom in building social capital.

SSRN and AMSE Working Paper: The Effect of Mass Migration on Economic Development in the Formal Sector: Syrian Refugees in Turkey ([Paper](#)) - Submitted

The Syrian refugee crisis is one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of the 21st century, with Turkey—hosting over 3.6 million Syrians—carrying a disproportionate share of the burden. This study examines how this large-scale influx has affected economic development in Turkey, focusing on provincial GDP per capita as a key outcome. Using panel data from 81 provinces between 2006 and 2019, I exploit variation in refugee shares across provinces following the Syrian Civil War within a difference-in-differences framework. Employing a distance-based instrument for refugee intensity, I find that a 10-percentage-point increase in the refugee-to-population ratio reduces GDP per capita by approximately 15%, suggesting substantial economic strain, particularly in refugee-dense areas. Additionally, a complementary analysis shows that refugee inflows have increased unemployment among natives, reflecting widespread labor market disruptions. These findings offer important insights into the economic effects of large-scale forced migration in a developing country context.

WORK IN PROGRESS

From Mothers to Children: Intergenerational Returns to Education (*Job Market Paper*)

This study examines the intergenerational effects of maternal education on early childhood development using the 1997 Turkish Compulsory Schooling Law in a regression discontinuity framework. Drawing on the 2018 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey, it evaluates how policy-induced increases in maternal schooling affect children's sociocognitive and physical development. Results show improvements in children's ability to follow directions, interact with peers, and in physical outcomes, including reduced stunting, higher birth weight, and better anthropometric measures. Benefits vary by maternal background: sociocognitive gains are concentrated among children of rural-origin mothers, while physical improvements are stronger for urban-origin mothers. Effects are amplified when maternal grandmothers are educated, highlighting intergenerational complementarities. The mechanisms appear to operate through maternal health behaviors and parental investments: more educated mothers are more likely to seek timely and higher-quality prenatal care, form partnerships with economically advantaged spouses, and provide more attentive supervision, thereby fostering supportive environments for child development.

Marital Decisions, Religious Beliefs, and Economic Conditions, with Eva Raiber, Jeanne Bovet, and Gozde Corekcioğlu - French National Agency Grant (ANR JCJC)—Coordinator: Eva Raiber

The Infracfamily Labor Market Impact of Extended Schooling, *with Afonso Leme*

TEACHING

Lecturer, Aix-Marseille School of Economics Conducting an Empirical Project (Graduate Level)	2024-2025
Teaching Assistant, Koc University, Department of Economics EC 360, Money and Banking (B.A.) EC 340, Public Finance (B.A.)	2018-2019

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Research Assistant to Prof. Andrew Geddes Migration Policy Center, European University Institute Project: Global Asylum Governance and European Union's Role — ASILE	2021-2022
Research Assistant to Prof. Sule Alan Department of Economics, European University Institute Project: Field Data Collection for a Corporate Culture Project	2019-2020
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

REFEREEING

Journals: Economics of Education Review, Journal of Population Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, International Migration

Conferences: The International Conference on Development Economics (ICDE) Marseille 2024

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, and WORKSHOPS

2025: European University Institute (Practise Job Talk), Aix-Marseille School of Economics (Development and Political Economy Seminar)

2024: EDP Jamboree at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) (invited)

2023: Newcomers Welcome Day (Aix-Marseille School of Economics), Workshop on Networks and Development Naples (Centre for Studies in Economics and Finance), European University Institute, (postdoc job market—London School of Economics, Aix-Marseille University, Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods)

2022: European University Institute, London School of Economics

Pre-2022: Bogazici University, Koc University, European University Institute

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, R, MATLAB, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, MS-Office,

GRANTS & AWARDS

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
Erasmus Scholarship	2014-2015
Other Scholarships received during undergraduate degree:	2011-2016
Zorlu Foundation, Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), Bogazici University	
Turkish University Women Association (TUKD), Bogazici Managers Association (BYV)	
Ranked 178th nationwide (Top 0.01%) among 1.6 million participants,	2011
Turkish National University Entrance Exam	

PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 21.06.1992

Citizenship: Turkish

Languages: English (fluent), Turkish (native), French (intermediate), Italian (basic)

REFERENCES

Sule Alan, Cornell University, salancrossley@gmail.com

Andrea Ichino, European University Institute, andrea.ichino@eui.eu

Eva Raiber, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, eva.raiber@univ-amu.fr

Murat Kirdar, Koc University, mkirdar@ku.edu.tr