

Elif Erbay

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Istanbul University, Department of Economics

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Research Interests

Economics of education, Migration, Gender economics, Inequality

Academic Positions

Research Assistant, Istanbul University

Oct 2018 - present

Research Assistant, Dogus University

Sept 2017 - Sept 2018

Education

Ph.D. in Economics of Education, University of Zurich

2024 - 2026 (expected)

8th Course Programme for Doctoral Students in Economics of Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Istanbul University

2020 - 2025 (expected)

Thesis Title: Three Essays on Intergenerational Educational Mobility and Inequality

M.A. in Economics, Bogazici University

2017 - 2020

Thesis Title: The Effect of Syrian Refugees on the School Enrollment of Youth in Turkey

B.A. in Economics, Bocconi University (Erasmus program)

2015 - 2016

B.A. in Economics, Bogazici University (Double major)

2014 - 2017

B.A. in Management, Bogazici University

2012 - 2017

Publications

"[Women Empowerment through Compulsory Schooling Reform: The Case of Türkiye](#)" (2024) in B. Balın, D. Mumcu Akan, F. Karagöz Özenç, and Ö. Garan (Eds.), *Pursuing Sustainable Development Goals*, IU Press.

"[Syrian Refugees and Human Capital Accumulation of Native Children in Turkey](#)" (2023) *joint with Murat Kırdar and Selcen Çakır*, *Journal of Human Capital*, 17(4), 557-592.

"[The Effect of Covid-19 on Primary School Enrollments: Evidence from Turkey](#)" (2023) in M. Baykal, J. Haddock, and A. Dayanır (Eds.), *Post Covid Era: Future of Economics and World Order*, IU Press.

Working Papers

"[Prolonged Guesthood: The Effects of Syrian Refugees on Voting Behavior in Turkey](#)" *joint with E. Kübra Usta*, revision requested by *Economics & Politics*

Abstract: This study investigates the effects of Syrian refugee inflow on the voting behavior of natives in Turkey. We utilize administrative data at the provincial level, employ a difference-in-differences strategy for the identification and distance-based instrumental variable to account for the endogenous refugee settlement. We find a positive and significant effect of refugees on the right-wing nationalistic party's (MHP) vote share, while there are no effects on the vote share of the incumbent party (AKP) and the main opposition party (CHP). Investigating the evolution of voting reaction after 2011 shows that AKP vote share first increased in 2015 then dropped in 2018 and 2023. When the heterogeneity of refugee hosting places is

considered, CHP vote share increases in highly urban and lower population areas. Overall, our results indicate a considerable voting reaction from natives. We argue that perceived threats of natives based on their sociocultural positions and sociotropic voting behavior explain the natives' reaction.

"All the 'Missing' Ladies: Competition Intensity and Political Selection" *joint with Selcen Çakır and Konstantinos Matakos*

Abstract: How does political selection respond when electoral competition intensifies? Who gets to represent us? We study the effect that changes in the intensity of electoral competition has on women's political representation in Turkey. We leverage occurrence of two consecutive legislative elections within few months as a natural experiment giving rise to a DiD strategy which allows us to identify JDP's changes in its list composition and rank as a response to heightened competition. We find that the latter led to a wholesale removal and demotion of women candidates from its lists, bucking the previous trend of increasing female representation. Heterogeneity analysis further reveals that most of the women candidates were removed from electable seats and safe (conservative) districts. While this is consistent with theories of statistical discrimination, the removal of women even from inconsequential positions also reveals taste-based discrimination that has a compounding effect. A counterfactual exercise shows that had lists remained unchanged between the two elections, JDP's female representation in parliament would have been up by 50%, thus highlighting the role that *male-dominated* regional party committees play in exacerbating gender-based discrimination (*own-gender bias*) in political selection.

"Pathways to Progress: The Gender Roles and Intergenerational Educational Mobility in Turkey,"

Abstract: This paper examines intergenerational educational mobility among females in Turkey, leveraging data from four waves of the Turkish Demographic and Health Surveys (TDHS) from 2003 to 2018 to quantify absolute mobility metrics. Our analysis reveals a significant upward trend in educational mobility for individuals born after 1985, largely attributable to extensive educational reforms aimed at increasing access to schooling. This trend is particularly pronounced in rural areas, suggesting that policy interventions have been effective in reducing regional disparities. In addition to highlighting the impact of educational expansion on mobility dynamics, this study explores the influence of regional, historical, and gender-specific factors. The findings contribute to the broader literature on educational mobility and underscore the importance of continued policy efforts to promote educational equity and socioeconomic advancement in developing countries.

Work in Progress

"The Effect of Parental Education on the Early Childhood Development: Causal Evidence from Turkey"

"Religious Attire and Political Representation: A Study of the Headscarf Ban in Turkey," *joint with Selcen Çakır and Konstantinos Matakos*

"Did Covid-19 Deepen the Educational Inequalities?," *joint with Murat Birdal*

"Who was the Most Affected by the Pandemic? Reshaped Poverty Dynamics in Turkey," *joint with Emine Tahsin*

"Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality: Great Gatsby Curve for Education"

Workshops and Conferences

2024: Applied Economics Conference (Serbia), Turkish Economic Association 31st Conference on Economics (Turkey), Gebze Technical University Departmental Seminar (Turkey), Turkish-German University Economics Conference (Turkey)

2023: Workshop on Difference-in-Differences (*Instructor: P. Sant'Anna*); University of Warwick CAGE Summer School (UK), Turkish Economic Association 30th Conference on Economics (Turkey)

2022: Workshop on Difference-in-Difference with Panel Data (*Instructor: J.M. Wooldridge*); International Growth

Center Virtual Ph.D. Course (*Modules on Education; Credit, insurance, and risk; and Migration*)

Fellowships and Grants

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Ph.D. Scholarship	2021 - present
The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, M.A. Scholarship	2018-2020
Bogazici University, High Honor Degree in Graduation	2017

Languages

English (advanced), Turkish (native), Italian and Spanish (beginner)

Computational Skills

Stata, R, Python, and L^AT_EX

References

Prof. Murat Kırdar, Koc University, Department of Economics	mkirdar@ku.edu.tr
Prof. Murat Birdal, Istanbul University, Department of Economics	muratbirdal@gmail.com
Assoc. Prof. Emine Tahsin, Istanbul University, Department of Economics	eminetahsin@gmail.com
Assoc. Prof. Tolga Aksoy, Yıldız Technical University, Department of Economics	toaksoy@yildiz.edu.tr
Assist. Prof. Selcen Çakır, Bogazici University, Department of Economics	selcencakir1@gmail.com