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# Merve Akbaş

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## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. in Economics**, Duke University, Durham, NC. Expected May 2014.

- Areas of Expertise: Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics.

**M.A. in Economics**, Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey. 2009.

- Thesis Title: "Should Old Technologies Be Banned? The Case of Organic Food Market"

**B.A. in Economics**, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2006.

- Dean's Honor List.

**Exchange Student**, University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia. January-June 2005

## **RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Researcher**, Department of Economics and Center for Advanced Hindsight, Duke University, 2011-Present.

- Designed and implemented computerized laboratory experiments.
- Designed a complex survey experiment and collected cross-cultural data.
- Analyzed experimental data using Excel and STATA.
- Conducted correlations, regressions, t-tests and non-parametric tests, ANOVA.

**Head Teaching Assistant**, Microeconomics I and Introduction to Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Duke University, 2011-2012.

- Communicated expectations while supervising undergraduate TAs and graders.
- Served as point of contact for 350 students in introductory macroeconomics course.
- Held weekly TA sessions and demonstrated how to solve sample game theory problems for 100 students in an intermediate microeconomics course.

**Graduate Assistant**, Department of Economics, Duke University, 2009-2011.

- Collected health related data from web to update a big dataset on health policy.
- Cleaned health related datasets using SAS.
- Prepared explanatory charts and graphs in Excel.

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, Sabancı University, 2006-2008.

- Conducted weekly recitation sessions, graded exams, prepared and evaluated homework for introductory and intermediate level microeconomics courses.

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics and Department of Mathematics, Boğaziçi University, 2004.

- Held weekly Q&A sessions with 100 students in introductory microeconomics course.
- Held weekly TA sessions to solve sample problems for 200 students in a linear algebra class.

## **AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Duke University Graduate School Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$5,000), 2011.

Duke University Economics Department Fellowship (\$21,000). 2008-2009.

Duke University Economics Department Full Tuition Scholarship, 2008-2013.

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, National Scholarship for Graduate Study (\$20,000), 2006-2008.

Sabancı University Full Tuition Scholarship, 2006-2008.

German Academic Exchange Service University Summer Grant, 2005.

- Awarded to selected students from Europe, proficient in German. Covered tuition for 4-week summer course at Free University of Berlin and living expenses.

Ranked top 0.1% among 1.5 million in the nationwide university entrance exam in Turkey, 2001.

Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among 500,000 in the nationwide high school entrance exam in Turkey, 1994.

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

STATA, R, Excel, MATLAB, SAS, LaTeX, PowerPoint.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

English (Fluent), German (8 years of high school education in German), Turkish (Native), Spanish (Beginner).

**ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS**

Currently: Yoga, Swimming, Ice Skating.

Previously: Member of Boğaziçi University Sailing Team and Heni Sailing Team, 2006 – 2008.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award with Heni Sailing Team, Bodrum International Women's Sailing Cup, 2007.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award with Heni Sailing Team, Istanbul Bosphorus Cup, 2008.