Barış Soybilgen
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EDUCATION

Ph.D, **Economics**   **Sep 2011 - June 2015**
Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
Title of Doctoral Dissertation: Three Essays on Forecasting

Master of Arts, **International Economics**   **Oct 2008 - Sep 2010**
Konstanz University, Konstanz, Germany
Title of Master Thesis: How do Stock Prices Respond to Macro Shocks?

Bachelor of Science, **Systems Engineering**   **Sep 2003 - Feb 2008**
Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Turkey
Title of Final Project: Bond Portfolio Selection Using Fuzzy Multiobjective Linear Programming

Exchange Student, **Industrial Engineering**   **Jan 2006 - May 2006**
Montana State University, Bozeman, U.S.A

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director   **Feb 2018 - Present**
Researcher   **Sep 2015 - Feb 2018**
Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Financial Studies, Istanbul, Turkey

I am mainly responsible for the project of NowcastTurkey and Web-Based Food Inflation in the center:
- For the project of NowcastTurkey, I am developing short-term macro forecasting models and a financial condition index for Turkey using R and Matlab. Macroeconomic forecasts are released to the public through NowcastTurkey.com.
- For the Web-Based Daily Inflation project, I am developing web scraping tools using Python to obtain price data from web sites of retail chains and then produce daily inflation for Turkey. Then, I predict the official inflation figure using collected data.

Assistant Professor   **Sep 2018 - Present**
Lecturer   **Sep 2015 - Sep 2018**
Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey

I teach graduate and undergraduate courses related with machine learning, statistics, econometrics, and macroeconomics.

Machine Learning Consultant   **June 2019 - Jan 2020**
Matriks, Istanbul, Turkey

For Matriks, which is one of the biggest financial software companies in Turkey, I guided software developers to build an interactive financial forecasting program that utilizes machine-learning algorithms. I instructed software developers on how to optimize machine learning algorithms and perform feature engineering. I also managed the workflow of the project.

Adjunt Lecturer   **Feb 2018 - Aug 2019**
MEF University, Istanbul, Turkey

I taught graduate and undergraduate level courses related with machine learning, forecasting and R programming language.

Research Assistant **Oct 2010 - Aug 2015**

Bahçeşehir University Center for Economic and Social Research (Betam), Istanbul, Turkey

My main duty in Betam was to prepare research briefs about Turkish economy together with other researchers in Betam. They can be classified into three groups:
- Monthly "Economic Outlook and Forecasts" research briefs which analyze the current and future state of Turkish economy.
- Quarterly "Growth Review" research briefs which review Turkish quarterly national accounts figures.
- Occasional research briefs which bring new perspectives to various economic problems in Turkey (e.g. innovation, international trade, middle income trap).

My other primary duty in Betam was to forecast key macroeconomic variables of Turkish economy. I developed several statistical models for this task.

I also helped other researchers in Betam to prepare reports for NGOs and private companies such as:
- Tobacco agriculture and development report for Philips Morris.
- Severance payment report for Pension Monitoring Center.
- Report on information technologies in Turkey for TUBISAD.

PROJECTS   Creating a New Consumer Price Index for Istanbul (In Progress) - Requested Istanbul Chamber of Commerce; Expected Time Span: 2019-2021; Role: Project Member.

Analyzing the Economic Impact of Istanbul Seismic Risk Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness Project (Completed) - Requested by Governorship of Istanbul; Time Span: 2015-2016; Role: Project Member.

SKILLS   ***Programming Languages & Softwares:***
Advanced Level: R, Matlab, Python, Stata, E-Views, MS Office.
Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent).

PUBLICATIONS Identifying U.S. Business Cycle Regimes Using Dynamic Factors and Neural Network Models, Journal of Forecasting, 2020.

Determinants of Turkish female labour force participation: an analysis with manufacturing firm-level data, joint with Nazli Karamollaoglu, Applied Economics Letters, 2020.

Identifying Turkish Business Cycle Regimes in Real Time, Applied Economics Letters, 2019.

Evaluating the Effect of Geopolitical Risks on the Growth Rates of Emerging Countries, joint with Huseyin Kaya & Dincer Dedeoglu, Economics Bulletin, 39(1), 2019.

On the Performance of Wavelet Based Unit Root Tests, joint with Burak Alparslan Eroglu, Journal of Risk and Financial Management, 11(3), 2018.

Evaluating Nowcasts of Bridge Equations with Advanced Combination Schemes for the Turkish Unemployment Rate, joint with Ege Yazgan, Economic Modelling, 72, 2018.

Nowcasting the New Turkish GDP, joint with Ege Yazgan, Economics Bulletin, 38(2), 2018.

Nowcasting Turkish GDP and News Decomposition, joint with Michele Modugno & Ege Yazgan, The International Journal of Forecasting 32(4), 2016.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS	Estimating the Forward-Looking Taylor Rule for Turkey under Multiple Structural Breaks, joint with Burak Alparslan Eroglu and Haluk Yener, Current Issues in Turkish Economics, 2019.
	Evaluating the Asymmetric Effects of Production, Interest Rate and Exchange Rate on the Turkish Stock Prices, joint with Huseyin Kaya, Ege Academic Review, 19(2), 2019.
	The Exchange Rate Pass-Through for Main Consumption Groups, joint with Huseyin Kaya, Finans-Politik & Ekonomik Yorumlar Dergisi, 56(648), 2019. (in Turkish)
	An Evaluation of Inflation Expectations in Turkey, joint with Ege Yazgan, Central Bank Review, 17(1), 2017.
WORKING PAPERS	Nowcasting US GDP Using Tree-Based Ensemble Models and Dynamic Factors, joint with Ege Yazgan; *Situation: Submitted - Computational Economics.*
	Nowcasting US GDP Using Tree-Based Ensemble Models and Dynamic Factors, joint with Ege Yazgan; *Situation: Revise & Resubmit - BU Journal.*

TEACHING   **Istanbul Bilgi University**

Advanced Econometrics II (M.Sc.)
Macroeconomics for Finance (M.Sc.)
Financial Analysis and Reporting (M.Sc.)
Thesis Seminar (M.Sc.)
Machine Learning for Managerial Decision Making (B.A.)
Statistics II (B.A.)
Office Applications for Business and Economics (B.A.)
Business Finance (B.A.)
Current Issues in Finance (B.A.)
Introduction to Economics (B.A.)

MEF University

Model Building and Validation (M.Sc.)
Forecasting (M.Sc.)
Forecasting (B.A.)
R For Social Sciences (B.A.)

MEMBERSHIPS Turkish Economic Association, International Institute of Forecasters.

REFEREEING International Journal of Forecasting, Empirical Economics, Economic Modelling, Central Bank Review, International Review of Economics and Finance, Applied Economic Letters, Central Bank of Turkey Working Papers.