Akcan Balkir

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Education

Ph.D.	Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2022-ongoing
B.A.	Computer Science, Economics (*Highest Honors in Economics, Distinction in General Scholarship*), University of California, Berkeley, 2020

Awards

2025	Burch Center Continuing Student Fellowship
2025	Berkeley Opportunity Lab – Place-Based Policy Initiative
2025	Fisher Center Research Grant
2025	Berkeley Opportunity Lab - Energy and Environmental Mentorship Grant
2025	George Break Prize in Public Finance
2020	Mark A. Schimbor Prize (best undergraduate economics thesis at UC Berkeley)

Selected Work in Progress

2025	"How Much Tax do US Billionaires Pay? Evidence from Administrative Data" with Emmanuel Saez, Danny Yagan, and Gabriel Zucman. NBER Working Paper.
2025	"Estimating Taxes Paid by Wealth Groups" with Emmanuel Saez, Danny Yagan, and Gabriel Zucman. SOI Working Paper.

Employment

Teaching (at UC Berkeley)

2023-2025	ECON 198 Directed Group Study, course instructor
2022	ECON 1 Introduction to Economics, course tutor
2017-2018	COMPSCI 61B Data Structures, course assistant and small group tutor

Research

2024-2025	Research Assistant for Prof. Joe Shapiro, UC Berkeley
2018-2023	Research Assistant for Prof. Emmanuel Saez, UC Berkeley
2018-2020	Senior Research Assistant for Zachary Bleemer, UC Cliometric Project
2019	Research Assistant Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
2017	Development Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Professional Activities

2023	Program Chaperone, Stone Center Institute, UC Berkeley
2022-2023	Individual Tutor for Underrepresented Minority Students, Berkeley Economists for Equity, UC Berkeley

Affiliations

2024-present	Contractor, Census Bureau
2020-2024	Contractor, Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (JSRP)