

Burak Sonmez

University College London
Centre for Quantitative Social Science
UCL Social Research Institute,
London WC1H 0AL,
United Kingdom

Phone: +447722401566
Email: b.sonmez@ucl.ac.uk
Webpage: <https://brksnmz.github.io>

Academic appointments

University College London, UCL Social Research Institute
Lecturer in Quantitative Social Science, 2021 - Present.

London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Sociology
LSE Fellow in Quantitative Social Research Methods, 2020- 2021.

University of Essex, Department of Sociology
Fixed-term Lecturer, 2019-2020.

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Essex, 2019.

Committee: [Prof. Yasemin Soysal](#) (Supervisor), [Prof. Paul Clarke](#) (Chair)

Thesis: *Rethinking Charitable Actions: Identifying the New Characteristics of Social Solidarity*

M.A. Longitudinal Social Research, ISER , University of Essex, 2014.

Thesis: *A Longitudinal Assessment of the Relationship between Welfare and Globalization: How Do People Perceive?*

B.A. Economics, Bilkent University, 2012.

Fields of Interest

Social Norms; Trust; Collective Actions; Punishment; Beliefs; Inequality; Experimental Methods; and Computational Social Science.

Publications

Journal articles

Ari., B / Sonmez, B. "Human Rights Violations and Public Support for Sanctions: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment." (2024). *Journal of Peace Research*. [DOI](#). (Equal co-authorship).

Sonmez, B., Makarov, K. & Allum, N. (2023). "Public perception of scientists: Experimental evidence on the role of sociodemographic, partisan, and professional characteristics.". *PLOS ONE*. [DOI](#) (Equal co-authorship).

Ermisch, J., Gambetta, D., Lo Iacono, S., & Sonmez, B. (2023). "Trust and Strength of Family Ties: New Experimental Evidence". *Social Psychology Quarterly*. [DOI](#)

Sonmez, B., & Iacono, S. L. (2022). "Other-Regarding Behaviors and Attitudes toward Asylum Seekers". *Socius*. [DOI](#)

Lo Iacono, S., & Sonmez, B. (2021). "The Effect of Trusting and Trustworthy Environments on the Provision of Public Goods". *European Sociological Review*. [DOI](#)

Book chapters

"Double-edged Sword of Cooperation: The Vulnerability of Trusting and Trustworthy Behaviour" In: Barradas de Freitas, Raquel & Lo Iacono, Sergio (eds.) (2021). *Trust Matters: Cross-Disciplinary Essays*, Hart Publishing.

Work in progress

"Collective and Individual Solutions to Social Dilemmas: The Effects of Trusting Contexts." with Fairbrother, M. & Lo Iacono, S. (*Revise and Resubmit*). [Preregistration](#)

"Limits of the Humanitarian: Liminal Legality and Socio-Exclusion of Asylum Seekers and Refugees". (*Manuscript in progress*). [Preregistration](#).

"Redistribution Preferences: The Role of Merit and Structural Inequality". (*Manuscript in progress*). [Preregistration](#).

"Close to the Edge: When Do Americans Condone Violence to Stop Undocumented Border Crossings?" with Victoria Donnaloja and Sergio Lo Iacono. (*Manuscript in progress*). [Preregistration](#).

"Understanding Individuals' Propensity towards Sustainability." with Martina Testori and Sergio Lo Iacono. (*Manuscript in progress*). [Preregistration](#).

"Public Support for Sanctions: The Interplay of Costs and Punishment." with Baris Ari. (*Manuscript in progress*). [Preregistration](#).

Reports

Integrated cross-national dataset on migration policies and recognition of foreign educational credentials. Growth, Equal Opportunities, Migration and Markets (GEMM) with Soysal, Y., Alizade, J. & Koopmans, R. 2018. [online] [Access the report](#).

Book reviews

Book Review: *Competing Responsibilities: The Ethics and Politics of Contemporary Life*. 2018. *Cultural Sociology*, 12(2), 276–277. [Access the review](#).

Invited Seminars & Conferences

Invited talk at University of Leeds, Centre for Democratic Politics (Research Seminar), March 2024.

Invited talk at London Inequality Workshop, King's College London (Research Seminar), February 2024.

Invited talk at Bilkent University, The Department of Political Science (Research Seminar), January 2024.

Invited talk at Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (Research Seminar), May 2023.

European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference, Online, October 2021.

British Sociological Association (BSA) Annual Conference, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK, April 2018.

The 112th American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference, the Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, Montreal, Canada, August 2017.

The 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Warsaw, Poland, July 2016.

Joint Empirical Social Science (JESS) Seminars, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), Colchester, UK, February 2016.

Selected Grants & Honours

Nuffield Foundation Funding the Project "Evaluating Fundamental British Values Initiative", 2024-2027 (£224,529), Co-Investigator. [Access the project.](#)

Education Endowment Foundation Funding for the Project "Evaluating Teaching Recruitment Strategies", 2024-2025 (£195,000), Co-Investigator. [Access the project.](#)

British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grants for the Project "Humanitarian Communication: Gated Information and Sentiments towards Asylum Seekers and Refugees", 2020-2022 (£7300), Principal Investigator.

Essex Social Sciences Doctoral Scholarship, University of Essex, 2015-2018 (Full Scholarship) (£48000).

University of Essex, EssexLab Seedcorn Grant for Experiments, 2018-2019 (£2000), Principal Investigator.

University of Essex Doctoral Scholarship Training Bursary and Research Grant, 2015-2018 (£4250).

ESRC Collaborative & Multidisciplinary Funding for the project "Let's Talk" with R. Baltaru, S. Lo Iacono, R. Weir and F. Zilio, University of Essex, 2017 (£8000).

University of Essex, EssexLab Seedcorn Grant for Experiments, 2016-2017 (£2000), Principal Investigator.

Academic Excellence International Masters Scholarship, University of Essex, 2013-2014.

Bilkent University, Dean's Honour List, 2008-2009, 2010-2011, 2011-2012.

Professional Research Experience

University of Essex, Department of Sociology

Research Officer, [Bright Futures](#), Mar, 2017 – Sep, 2018.

A project, investigating East Asian student mobilities, focusing on the internal and international mobility of Chinese and Japanese higher education students, brings empirical findings on the relationship between educational mobility and life course aspirations and formation, and their regional dynamics.

Senior Research Officer, [GEMM](#), Oct, 2016 - Dec, 2017.

A work package on the mapping of the development training programs, vocational programs, and schemes for translation of education credentials in the EU for the period 2003-14 of GEMM: Growth, Equal Opportunities, Migration and Markets” (as part of the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Commission).

Institute for Social & Economic Research (ISER)

Research Assistant, Dec, 2013 - Sep, 2014.

Research project on partnership dissolution and formation: how do they affect income, employment and well-being?, funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

Bilkent University (Department of Political Science)

Research Assistant, Feb, 2013 - July, 2013.

Research project on European Union and Transformation of Policy and Governance: The Case of Three Policy Areas in Turkey, project No: 109K443, funded by TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey).

Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)

Research Assistant/Data Analyst, Aug, 2011 - Oct, 2011.

Current Teaching Experience

Computational Social Science (undergraduate), [Module Website](#)
University College London

Quantitative Methods in Social Research (postgraduate), [Module Website](#)
Pompeu Fabra University (RECSM Winter & Summer Methods School)

Previous Teaching Experience

University College London (2021-2024)

Experiments in Social Sciences: Online Experiments (NCRM course)

Game Theory for Social Sciences (undergraduate)

Social Network Analysis (undergraduate)

Advanced Quantitative Methods (postgraduate)

Data Analysis in the Real World (postgraduate)

Intro to Regression Analysis (postgraduate)

Statistics Bootcamp (postgraduate)

London School of Economics and Political Science (2018-2021)

Researching London: Advanced Social Research Methods (undergraduate)

Quantitative Social Research Methods (postgraduate)

Data in Society (undergraduate)

Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (postgraduate)

Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for Media & Communications (postgraduate)

University of Essex (2016-2020)

Models and Measurement in Quantitative Sociology (undergraduate)

Longitudinal Data Analysis, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis (postgraduate)

Ethics and Public Policy (undergraduate)

Online Data Collection through Crowdsourcing Marketplaces (short course)

Researching Social Life I (undergraduate)

Researching Social Life II (undergraduate)

Consultancy Experience

UNIDO and the UN Global Compact

Survey Researcher (Freelancer), Oct, 2014.

Series of Dialogues on Means of Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Engaging with the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Agenda, National Consultations in Turkey.

Library of Stuff (NGO)

Lead Data Scientist, Feb, 2015 - June, 2015.

Research Project on "The Database of Carbon Footprints of Everyday Objects in Turkey", funded by the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology.

Matterhorn Platform

Survey Design Consultancy for Online Dispute Resolution Services in Michigan Courts, Jul 2019 - Nov 2019.

SAGE Publishing

Survey Design and Data Analytics Consultancy for SAGE Internal Communications Survey, Oct 2019 - Jan 2020.

European Research Council Funded Project

Experimental Design and Data Analytics Consultancy for ERC-funded Project on Dispute Resolution Automation, Oct 2022 - Present.

Service Work

Programme Director of BSc Social Sciences with Data Science at UCL, Sep 2022 - Sep 2024.

Deputy Programme Director of BSc Social Sciences with Data Science at UCL, Sep 2024 - Present.

Additional Method Training

Office for National Statistics Safe Researcher Training, UK, August, 2024

Causal Inference, University of Manchester, Scott Cunningham, UK, October 2019.

Using Neighbourhood Data in Understanding Society, Institute for Social and Economic Research, UK, November 2018.

Advanced Social Network Analysis – Statistical Analysis for Cross-Sectional and Longitudinal Social Network Analysis, Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis, Filip Agneessens, UK, Summer 2017.

Scraping and Data Management in R, Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis, Matthew Loftis, UK, Summer 2017.

Identifying Causation through Experimental & Quasi-Experimental Research, Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis, James Lo, UK, Summer 2016.

Advanced Survey Data Analysis and Survey Experiments, Essex Summer School in Social Science and Data Analysis, Brian Shaffner, UK, Summer 2016.

Affiliations & Other Qualifications

Fellowship of Higher Education Academy in the UK.

Associate Fellowship of Higher Education Academy in the UK. Recognition Reference Number: PR130001.

Member, American Sociological Association.

Language Competency

English and Turkish

Computer Skills

R, Stata, Python, JavaScript, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX

Last updated: October 3, 2024

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST