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DENİZ SANIN

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Contact Information

Department of Economics
Georgetown University
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Personal Information: Date of Birth: 05/20/1991, Gender: Female, Citizenship: Turkish

Doctoral Studies:

Georgetown University, 2016 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics,

Thesis Title: “*Essays in Development, Labor and Gender Economics*”

Expected Completion Date: May 2022

Harvard University, 2021 to present

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow in Women and Public Policy Program, Kennedy School

Expected Completion Date: June 2022

References:

Professor Garance Genicot (Main Advisor)
Georgetown University
202-687-7144, garance.genicot@georgetown.edu

Professor Laurent Bouton
Georgetown University
202-687-6113, lb910@georgetown.edu

Professor Mary Ann Bronson
Georgetown University
310-592-8049, mary.ann.bronson@georgetown.edu

Professor Martin Ravallion
Georgetown University
202-687-6427, mr1185@georgetown.edu

Prior Studies:

Duke University, 2013-2015

M.A. in Economics

Sabancı University, Turkey, 2009-2013

B.A. in Economics, Minor in Mathematics with High Honors

Research and Teaching Fields:

Research: Development Economics (primary), Labor Economics (secondary)

Teaching: Microeconometrics, Development Economics, Labor Economics

Job Market Paper:

“Paid Work for Women and Domestic Violence: Evidence from the Rwandan Coffee Mills”

Using the government-induced rapid expansion of the coffee mills in Rwanda in the 2000s, I first provide causal evidence that a mill opening increases women’s paid employment, women’s and their husbands’ earnings and decreases domestic violence. Then I show that the decline in violence is plausibly driven by women’s paid employment. The increase in husbands’ earnings is not the dominant mechanism. The opening of a mill affects coffee farmers who reside in its catchment area, a buffer zone around the mill, during the harvest months. A mill opening enables women to transition from being unpaid family workers in their family plots to wage workers in the mills. Using a staggered difference-in-differences (DID) design, I show that upon a mill opening, women in the catchment areas are 18% more likely to work for cash and 26% less likely to self-report domestic violence in the past 12 months. Using novel monthly administrative records on the universe of hospitalizations for domestic violence and a DID event-study design, I also show that it is 20% less likely for the hospitals in the catchment areas to have a domestic violence patient in a harvest month compared to one month before the beginning of the harvest season. The decline in violence is present even among couples where husbands work in occupations with no change in earnings with a mill, non-agricultural manual jobs. Increase in women’s outside options and their contribution to household earnings, not exposure reduction between couples, explain the results.

Working Papers:

“Do Domestic Violence Laws Protect Women from Domestic Violence? Evidence from Rwanda”

This paper provides causal evidence that domestic violence laws protect women in violent marriages. In 2008, Rwanda became the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to criminalize all forms of domestic violence and allow women to divorce their husbands unilaterally if their husbands are violent towards them. Theory suggests that the law protects women in abusive marriages via two possible channels. First, it enables women to divorce men unable to curb their violent behavior (divorce effect). Second, for couples who remain married, the law deters men’s violence (deterrent effect). To study the impact of the law on women in violent marriages, I exploit the geographical variation in the intensity of the Rwandan Genocide. The context provides variation in where violent marriages are more likely to be located before the law’s adoption. According to the data, after the law, there is an overall increase in divorce and domestic violence rates. I first show that, the divorce rates *increase more* in the formerly genocide-intense areas, where women are more likely to be in violent marriages. This is consistent with the divorce effect. Sexual domestic violence rates *increase less* in the formerly genocide-intense areas. I provide support that this is not only due to the dissolution of violent marriages but also to the deterrent effect.

"Parental Leave Policy Design: A Dynamic Analysis" with Mary Ann Bronson.

We use harmonized novel data across Sweden, Austria, Germany and the UK to evaluate how parental leave (PL) policy design affects the speed with which women re-enter the labor force after childbirth, their fertility, and labor supply in the long-run. We first provide novel evidence describing employment dynamics after first birth in countries with differing PL designs, as well as subsequent transition into home-maker status, a highly persistent state. Using an event-study, we show that Swedish working mothers are 10% less likely to participate in the labor force 2 years after first birth relative to the year prior. The effect increases to approximately 30% for Austrian, German and British mothers. Sweden, the country with the most generous PL design, is the only country where women do not become homemakers following first birth. In the UK, the country with the least generous PL design, the probability of participating in the labor force does not converge back to its pre-birth level even 10 years after first birth. Next, we build a model of fertility and women’s labor supply, in which households make optimal decisions about both. Using the model, we first show how changing PL policy is predicted to affect women’s PL uptake, re-entry into employment, and decisions about fertility, and how well this matches the existing cross-country evidence. Next, we show that the model generates multiple equilibria for female LFP and fertility under alternative policies, including a high-fertility, high-LFP equilibrium (Sweden), and a low-fertility, low-LFP equilibrium (Germany).

Conferences and Invited Presentations:

- 2021: Harvard Kennedy School WAPPP, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, European Winter Meetings of The Econometric Society & EJM (BSE), Midwest International Economic Development Conference (Northwestern), North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society (Université du Québec à Montréal), Southern Economic Association Meetings, Annual Washington Area Development Economics Symposium, Society of Household Economics Annual Meeting (Boston University), Midwest Economic Association Meetings
- 2020: European Winter Meetings of The Econometric Society & EJM (Nottingham), Econometric Society World Congress (Bocconi), Midwest Economic Association Meetings (canceled), Southern Economic Association Meetings, Delhi Winter School (Delhi School of Economics)
- 2019: Georgetown Center for Economic Research Biennial Conference, Mortara Development Seminar (Georgetown)

Teaching Experience:

- Fall '21 Microeconomics (Undergrad), Prof. Alex Poirier
Spring '21 Intro to Econometrics (Undergrad), Georgetown University, Prof. Louise Laage
Fall '20 Econ. Analysis of Law (Undergrad), Georgetown University, Prof. Josh Teitelbaum
Spring '18, '19, '20 Econometrics II (Ph.D.), Georgetown University, Prof. Ivana Komunjer
Fall '19 Econometrics (M.A.), Georgetown University, Prof. Alan Bester
Fall '18 Econometrics (M.A.), Georgetown University, Prof. Mary Ann Bronson
Fall '17 Intro to Econometrics (Undergrad), Georgetown University, Prof. Anil Nathan
Fall '12 Intro to Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), Sabanci University, Prof. Hakki Yazici

Research Experience and Other Employment:

- 2018 Georgetown University, Research Assistant to Prof. Garance Genicot
2015-2016 Duke University, Research Associate to Prof. Charles Becker
2013 Duke University, Research Assistant to Prof. Marjorie McElroy
2012 Sabanci University, Research Assistant to Prof. Alpay Filiztekin
2011-2013 Sabanci University, Research Assistant to Prof. Izak Atiyas

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

- 2021 Harvard Kennedy School Women and Public Policy Program Research Fellowship
2021 6th Year Funding Competition, Georgetown University
2020 GradGov Research Project Award, Georgetown University
2019 Graduate School Dissertation Travel Grant (for Rwanda), Georgetown University
2019 Summer Research Grant, Georgetown University
2018 Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award Nominee
2016 Ph.D. Fellowship, Georgetown University
2010-2013 Sakip Sabanci Fellowship, Sabanci University
2010-2013 Dean's List, Sabanci University