

EREN BILEN

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Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, Tournaments, Health Economics

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of South Carolina	Fall 2016-Present
<i>Committee:</i> Alexander Matros (chair), Philip Brookins, Lindsey Woodworth, Edsel Pena	
M.A. Economics, University of South Carolina	May 2016
C.A.S. Applied Statistics, University of South Carolina	May 2016
B.A. Economics, Izmir University of Economics	May 2015
B.A. International Trade and Finance, Izmir University of Economics	May 2015

Job Market Paper

“The Superstar Effect: Evidence from Chess”

Abstract. “Superstars” exist in many places – in classrooms, or in workplaces, there are a small number of people who show extraordinary talent and ability. The impact they have on their peers, however, is an ongoing research topic. In competition, they might intimidate others; causing their peers to show less effort. On the opposite, superstars might encourage higher effort, as their existence in a competition could push all competitors to “step up” their game. In this study, I analyze the impact of a superstar on their peers using evidence from chess. The existence of a contemporary superstar (and the current World Chess Champion) Magnus Carlsen, as well as, past world champions such as Garry Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov, or Bobby Fischer enables me to identify whether the existence of a superstar in a chess tournament has a positive or an adverse effect on other chess players’ performance. The results indicate that the effect depends on the intensity of the superstar. If the skill gap between the superstar and the rest of the competitors is large enough, an adverse effect exists. However, when the skill gap is small, there may be slight positive peer effects. In terms of head-to-head competition, the evidence shows that superstars outperform their opponents in all specifications due to their higher ability. Understanding the effect of superstars on peer performance is crucial for firms and managers considering to introduce a superstar associate for their team.

Teaching Experience

Instructor , Department of Economics, University of South Carolina	2018-Present
Introduction to Economics	Spring 2019-2020, Fall 2018-2019
Spring 2020 Evaluation: 3.9/5.0*	
Fall 2019 Evaluation: 4.0/5.0	
Spring 2019 Evaluation: 4.3/5.0	
Fall 2018 Evaluation: 4.4/5.0	

*Course switched online due to COVID-19.

Teaching Assistant , Department of Economics, University of South Carolina	2015-Present
Math Camp (Graduate level)	Summer 2020, Summer 2019
Applied Microeconomics (Graduate level)	Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Applied Macroeconomics (Graduate level)	Spring 2017
Negotiations (Graduate level)	Spring 2020
Game Theory	Fall 2018, Spring 2017
Introductory Econometrics	Fall 2016
Labor Economics	Fall 2016
Development Economics	Fall 2017
Environmental Economics	Fall 2019
Economics of Sustainable Development	Fall 2016
International Monetary Economics	Spring 2019, Spring 2017
Intermediate Microeconomics	Spring 2020, Spring 2018
Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2018, Summer 2017, Fall 2016
Principles of Macroeconomics	Fall 2015
Introduction to Economics (Honors College)	Fall 2019
Introduction to Economics	Summer 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Working Papers

1. “Online Examinations and Cheating amid COVID-19”, with Alexander Matros.
2. “Another One Bites the Dust: Red Corner Advantage in Ultimate Fighting Championship”, with Robert Pettis.
3. “When Trader Joe’s Comes to Town: The Effects of Trader Joe’s Store Openings on Adult Obesity”.
4. “To Drive or Bike?: The Effects of Transportation Method Choice on Obesity”.

Work in Progress

“Returns to Higher Education: Evidence from the 1997 Headscarf Ban in Turkey.”

Conference Presentations

Southern Economic Association Meetings (scheduled, speaker), New Orleans LA	November 2020
Contests: Theory and Evidence (speaker), Norwich, UK	June 2020
American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) (poster), St. Lois MI	June 2020*
Evidence-Based Economics Summer Meeting 2020 (speaker), Munich, Germany	June 2020*
Economics Brownbag (speaker), University of South Carolina, Columbia SC	February 2020
Southern Economic Association Meetings (speaker/discussant), Fort Lauderdale FL	November 2019
American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) (discussant/poster), Washington D.C.	June 2019

Professional Service and Activities

Preparing for Future Faculty, Center of Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina	June 2020
Reviewer, American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)	January 2020
Referee, Discover USC Day, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC	April 2019
International Student Ambassador, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC	Spring 2019

Professional Societies and Affiliations

American Economic Association, American Society of Health Economists, Southern Economic Association

Awards

Ph.D. Fellowship, Darla Moore School of Business	2016-present
MAEC Financial Award, Darla Moore School of Business	2015-2016

*Cancelled due to COVID-19.

High Honor Student Award, Izmir University of Economics	2015
Full Undergraduate Scholarship, Izmir University of Economics	2011-2015
Project Development and Entrepreneurship Award, Turkish Industry and Business Association	2013

Computer Skills

Programming: Python, C, JavaScript	Web: HTML
Math/Stat: R, Stata, Matlab, SAS	Database: SQL
Typography: L ^A T _E X	