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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Personal Information: Male, Turkey (F-1 Visa)

Undergraduate Studies:

B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, Middle East Technical University, Turkey, 2013

Masters Level Work:

M.A. in Economics, Koc University, Turkey, 2015

Graduate Studies:

University of Pennsylvania, 2015 to present

Thesis Title: "Essays on Firm Level Distortions and Aggregate Productivity"

Expected Completion Date: May 2021

Thesis Committee and References:

Professor Guillermo Ordonez (Co-Advisor)
Department of Economics
University of Pennsylvania
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Professor Harold L. Cole (Co-Advisor)
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Professor Aviv Nevo
Department of Economics
University of Pennsylvania
133 South 36th Street, Suite 617,
Philadelphia, PA, 19104
Phone: 215-898-0499
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary Fields: Macroeconomics

Secondary Fields: Firm Dynamics, Labor Economics, Information Economics

Teaching Experience:**University of Pennsylvania**

Summer 2017-2020 Introduction to Econometrics, Instructor (4 semesters)
Summer 2018, 2019 Public Speaking, Debating and Persuasion (High School), Instructor

Spring 2021 Introduction to Macroeconomics, TA for Prof. Luca Bossi
Spring 2020 Introduction to Econometrics, TA for Prof. John Lazarev
Fall 2019 Labor Economics, TA for Prof. Petra Todd
Spring 2017 Econometrics II (Graduate), TA for Prof. Frank Schorfheide
Fall 2016 Macroeconomic Theory, TA for Prof. Guillermo Ordonez

Koc University

Spring 2015 Macroeconomics II (Graduate), TA for Prof. Sumru Altug
Fall 2014 Global Economics (Graduate), TA for Prof. Kamil Yilmaz
Fall 2014 Turkish Economy, TA for Prof. Kamil Yilmaz
Spring 2014 Introduction to Economics II, TA for Prof. Ozgur Yilmaz
Fall 2013 Introduction to Economics I, TA for Prof. Ozgur Yilmaz

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2019 Research Assistant for Prof. Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde (NBER)
2018 Research Assistant for Prof. Harold Cole
2017-2018 Research Assistant for Prof. Guillermo Ordonez
2016 Research Assistant for Prof. Philipp Illeditsch
2013-2015 Research Assistant for Prof. Kamil Yilmaz

Professional Activities:**Clearances:**

US Census Bureau Special Sworn Status, Principal Investigator for the project: "Causes of the Major Growth of Professional Business Services and Its Macroeconomic Implications" (2021-2026)

Presentations:

FRB St. Louis PhD Students Workshop (2020), EEA-ESEM (2019), Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics (2019), GCER Alumni Conference (2019), Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings (2019), 3rd GW Student Research Conference in Economics (2019), XII. Winter Workshop (2018), Young Economists Symposium (2018), Mack Institute Fast-Take Talks (2019, 2020), 14th Macro Finance Workshop (2019 Poster), MFM Summer Session for Young Scholars (2018 Poster)

Referee:

Journal of Economic Theory, International Economic Review, Macroeconomic Dynamics, Central Bank Review

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2021 GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation (UPenn)
2020 Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Dissertation Internship (Cancelled)
2019 Macro-Financial Modeling (MFM) Dissertation Fellowship (Alfred Sloan P. Found.)
2019 PIER Student Travel Grant x2 (UPenn)
2019 SASgov Travel Grant (UPenn)
2019 GAPSA Research Student Travel Grant (UPenn)
2018 Mack Institute Research Fellowship (Mack Institute for Innovation Management)
2018 SAS Dean's Travel Subvention (UPenn)
2015 Hiram C. Haney Foundation Fellowship (UPenn)

Publications:

“How Connected is the Global Sovereign Credit Risk Network?” with Yilmaz, K. *Journal of Banking and Finance* (2020)

Research Papers:

“Productivity Gains from Labor Outsourcing: The Role of Trade Secrets” (Job Market Paper)

How quickly producers can adjust their workforce with changing demand is important for aggregate productivity. Labor outsourcing allows quick adjustments but potentially exposes sensitive information to outsiders, which may deter producers from outsourcing if the legal system does not adequately protect secret information. I quantify the impact of trade secret protection on labor outsourcing, and consequently, on aggregate productivity. First, using event studies and differences-in-differences around the staggered adoption of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, I show that better trade secret protection leads to increased outsourcing. Second, to quantify the resulting gains in productivity, I build a structural model of outsourcing and multi-industry dynamics and estimate it with data from the U.S. manufacturing sector. I decompose the cross-state differences in labor outsourcing into differences in firing cost, industry composition, demand volatility, and trade secret protection. Strengthening trade secret protection for all states to match the state with the strictest protection would increase the outsourcing employment by 29% and aggregate output by 0.8 %.

Presented at: FRB of St. Louis (2020), EEA-ESEM (2019), Annual Meeting of the Society for Economic Dynamics (2019), GCER Alumni Conference (2019), Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, (2019), 3rd GW Student Research Conference in Economics (2019), XII. Winter Workshop (2018), Young Economists Symposium (2018), and Mack Institute Fast Takes (2018, 2019) under the title “Intellectual Property Rights, Professional Business Services and Earnings Inequality”.

“Price Informativeness and Business Cycle Misallocation” with Ordonez, G.

Recessions are characterized by slow input reallocation and increased measures of misallocation. A usual suspect is declining information quality about new investment opportunities. We study the role of information frictions by measuring how the informativeness of the stock prices changes with business cycles. We first build a stock market model in which both the information content and the noise in prices respond to changes in economic activity, affecting how well those prices reflect firm's performance. Then we incorporate this module in a dynamic model with heterogeneous firms to characterize how stock price informativeness and capital misallocation interact with one another. An increase in liquidity concerns of traders can simultaneously boost information production, decrease stock price informativeness, and increase capital misallocation in the economy.

Presented at: 14th Macro Finance Society Workshop (2019-Poster Session), MFM Summer Session for Young Scholars (2018-Poster Session)

“Changing Jobs to Fight Inflation: Labor Market Reactions to Inflationary Shocks” with Koru, O. and Villalvazo, S.

Recent empirical work shows a strong positive correlation between job-to-job transition rates and nominal wage growth in the U.S. First, using time series regressions, structural monetary policy shocks, and survey data on search effort we provide evidence that inflationary shocks cause higher job-to-job transitions in the subsequent years. Second, to understand the aggregate implications, we build a structural model with aggregate shocks and competitive on-the-job search in which wages react sluggishly to inflation. In periods with high inflation, the decline in real wages incentivizes the employees to search on-the-job more actively, to negotiate a new contract, but also to be less selective in their search behavior. This creates a fundamental trade-off: increased search effort leads to more job-to-job transitions while being less selective reduces the expected efficiency gain in each transition. Therefore, the effect on output becomes ambiguous. Third, we calibrate the model to the U.S. economy and confirm that the output response to inflation shock is non-monotonic. Importantly, our paper highlights a novel role for inflation: the monetary authority can stimulate productivity with an inflationary shock through job-to-job transitions.

Presented at: Macro Lunch Talk at UPenn (2018, 2019)

“Products and Politics: Comparative Advertising and Competitive Positioning” with Jerath, K. and Yildirim, P. (Submitted)

Comparative advertising promotes a product through a comparison with competitors' products, often highlighting the weaknesses of the latter. We study comparative advertising with a focus on how it impacts product positioning for profit maximizing firms. We find that factors such as the negative spillover of comparative advertising and heterogeneity in consumer tastes are important determinants of how firms position themselves in the market and whether they engage in comparative advertising. In certain settings, the threat of comparative advertising can result in lower positional differentiation along with positive advertising. We derive welfare implications of comparative advertising; for instance, allowing comparative advertising, as the FTC does, may lead to lower innovation by firms and lower consumer welfare, without comparative advertising being actually used in equilibrium. We also study the context of political competition, where a candidate's objective is winning by plurality. We find that, due to this difference in objective (compared to profit-maximizing firms), the equilibrium outcome supports high positional differentiation along with comparative advertising. This can help to explain the often-observed polarization in political campaigns.

Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Fluent)

Computational Skills: R, Matlab, C++, Julia, Python, VBA, GAMS