IREM SAGLAMDEMIR

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain   2022 – 2026
Advisor: Daniel I. Rees

M.Res. in Economic Analysis, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain   2020 – 2022
Advisor: Juan Jose Dolado

B.A. in Economics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey   2015 – 2020
High Honors Degree

Fields

Applied Economics, Development and Labor Economics, Economic History, Political Economy

Job Market Paper

The Latent Legacy of Prohibition: Resistance Culture and Modern Entrepreneurial Resilience   [Job Market Paper]

Abstract: This paper examines whether early 20th century state-level prohibitions on the sale and manufacture of alcohol influenced entrepreneurial responses to the COVID-19 crisis. During the period 1880-1920, approximately 1,600 counties in the United States voluntarily went dry (i.e., they prohibited the sale and manufacture of alcohol through local referenda or local ordinances), while an almost equal number of counties were forced to comply with state-level prohibitions. I argue that being forced to become dry fostered a long-lasting culture of adaptation and informal entrepreneurship. Using county-level data from 2010–2023, I find that exposure to forced prohibition is associated with a surge in new business applications in the aftermath of the COVID-19 shock. This effect appears to be more pronounced in areas with low remote-work feasibility and stronger anti-prohibition sentiment as, for instance, measured by references to bootlegging and speakeasy in historical newspaper accounts and anti-prohibition party vote shares. My results suggest that informal entrepreneurial norms rooted in the resistance to prohibition had an enduring impact on economic adaptability and entrepreneurship.

Working Papers & Work in Progress

Natural Disasters, Media Narratives, and Electoral Behavior: Evidence from the 2023 Turkish Earthquake   [Working Paper]

Abstract: Natural disasters can reshape electoral outcomes by altering public perceptions and information flows. Using an event-study framework and spatial variation from Turkey's February 2023 earthquake, I show that disaster-exposed areas experienced a 7 percentage-point increase in incumbent vote share in the May 2023 elections. This temporary surge appears to be driven by rally-around-the-flag dynamics and media narratives emphasizing unity, rather than aid distribution. The results speak to the literature on crisis response, media framing, and electoral behavior under centralized regimes.

Frontier Culture and Modern Labor Market Resilience: Evidence from the Great Resignation [Working Paper]

Abstract: Can cultural orientation be at the root of new labor and entrepreneurial trends triggered by the COVID-19 shock in the U.S.? This paper explores how regional cultural orientation shaped labor market responses during the COVID-19 shock. Using the Total Frontier Experience (TFE) measure (Bazzi et al., 2020) and modern census data, I find that counties with stronger frontier heritage experienced larger increases in both voluntary quits and new business applications. These results are robust to controls for pandemic severity, resistance to mandates, and fiscal transfers. The findings add a labor supply channel to the literature on cultural persistence and offer a cultural explanation for regional differences in post-COVID Great Resignation Phenomenon.

Childhood War Exposure and the Long-Run Gender Norms: Evidence from the WWII
This project examines how exposure to warfare during childhood shapes long-run gender norms and attitudes. I compile novel historical datasets on WWII exposure, linked with contemporary survey data on gender attitudes and behaviors. Preliminary analysis suggests that early-life exposure to war correlates with persistent differences in gender role attitudes. Ongoing work focuses on refining exposure measures and testing mechanisms. The historical dataset will be available upon completion of the project.

Teaching Experience

Global Health (B.S.)	Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Labor Economics (B.S.)	Fall 2022, Fall 2023
Econometrics (B.S.)	Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Economics I, Microeconomics (B.S.)	Fall 2021, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
Mathematical Statistics II (B.S.)	Spring 2019

Work Experience and Academic Service

Data replicator for the Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA)	2024 – current
Referee Service for Journal of Health Economics	2025
Economics Research Intern on monetary and fiscal policies at ISBANK, Turkey	2019
Market Research Intern, Distrito Emprendedor, Mexico	Summer 2018

Seminars and Workshops

Codechella Madrid: Mixtape sessions in-person workshop by Scott Cunningham, Ph.D. Workshop and Work-in-Progress Seminar at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	2025

Codechella Madrid: Mixtape sessions, ENTER Jamboree, Ph.D. Workshop,
Work-in-Progress Seminar at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid   2024

Mixtape sessions by Daniel Rees and Mark Anderson,
Ph.D. Workshop at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid   2023

Scholarships and Awards

FPI Fellowship (Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation)   2023 – 2026
PIPF Fellowship (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)   2022 – 2023
Graduate program scholarship (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)   2020 – 2022
Excellence Teaching Award, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid   2021, 2022, 2023
Academic Excellence Award Class of 2020, B.A. Economics, Bogazici University   2020
ERASMUS Scholarship, Universidad Carlos III Madrid, Spain   2018

Computer Skills

R, Stata, Latex, EViews, Gretl, Microsoft Office

Language Skills

Turkish – Native
English – C1 (TOEFL 100)
Spanish – B1
German - A1 (Goethe Certificate)