

Mustafa Kaba

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 10, 53113, Bonn, Germany

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[mustafakaba.github.io](https://github.com/mustafakaba)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconometrics, Behavioral/Experimental Economics, Political Economy

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Senior Research Fellow
Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn

2021-

Visiting Scholar
Department of Economics, UC Berkeley
Host: Gerard Roland

Fall 2023

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Consultant, Governance Department, World Bank

2023-

EDUCATION

European University Institute (EUI), Florence
Ph.D., Economics

2016-2021

Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, Turkey
M.A., Economics

2014-2016

Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, Turkey
B.Sc., Industrial Engineering

2009-2014

REFERENCES

Prof. David K. Levine

Department of Economics

European University Institute

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Prof. Arthur Schram

Department of Economics

University of Amsterdam

a.j.h.c.schram@uva.nl

Prof. Matthias Sutter

Max Planck Institute

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JOB MARKET PAPER

“Unforeseen Events or Unscrupulous Officials? Electoral Accountability and Law Abuse in Public Procurement” (with [Serkant Adiguzel](#) and [Murat Koyuncu](#))
[Draft available soon]

Abstract: This paper investigates the role of electoral accountability in deterring public officials from legal transgressions, utilizing a novel measure of law abuse. Our primary focus is the undue exploitation of the unforeseen event clause, a standard provision in procurement regulations that offers officials greater discretion during force majeure incidents. Using a setting where elected mayors were replaced with appointed mayors combined with a staggered Differences-in-Differences (DiD) approach, our findings reveal that appointed mayors without reelection incentives are 24 percentage-points more likely to misuse the unforeseen event clause compared to elected mayors. Such misuse correspondingly inflates contract prices by 23% and diminishes value for money by 40%. These findings are robust to a variety of tests, including a Regression Discontinuity in Time (RDiT) approach. We rule out the possibility that the documented effects stem from better quality procurement due to expanded discretion. However, we find no evidence of electoral accountability deterring more subtle malpractices such as cost manipulation.

PUBLICATIONS	<p>“Who Buys Vote-buying? How, how much, and at what cost?.” <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i> 193 (2022): 98-124. [Paper]</p>	
WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Social Norms, Political Polarization, and Vaccination Attitudes: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Turkey” (with Murat Koyuncu, Sebastian Schneider, and Matthias Sutter) [Working Paper] [Under Review]</p> <p>“The Olympic Effect: Fact or fiction?” (with Nicole Stoelinga) [Working Paper] [Under Review]</p> <p>“Female Leadership and Workplace Climate” (with Sule Alan, Gozde Corekcioglu, and Matthias Sutter) [Working Paper] [Under Review]</p> <p>“Class Voting and Economic Policy Preferences: A Machine Learning Approach” [Working Paper]</p>	
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p>“Social Identity and Policy Preferences: Evidence from a Large-scale Survey Experiment in the U.S.” (with Matthias Sutter)</p> <p>“Reputation Signalling and Exports in Contract-Intensive Industries” (with Nicole Stoelinga)</p>	
TEACHING	<p>Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Cologne: 2023 (Grad-level) Applied Econometrics (Scheduled) 2022 (Grad-level) Econometrics for Behavioral Economics (with applications in R) [Syllabus] [Student evaluations]</p> <p>Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University: 2016 (Grad-level) Macroeconomics, EC 504 2016 (Grad-level) Macroeconomics, EC 308</p>	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	<p>Refereeing for: <i>European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i></p> <p>Short-term Data Consultant 2019 European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</p>	
PRESENTATIONS	2023	5 th World Bank Political Economy of Public Finances Conference, London; SAET-SWET Conference in Honor of David K. Levine, Paris; Post-doc Seminar Series at Nuffield College, University of Oxford; Royal Economic Society Annual Congress, Glasgow; NHH Bergen-MPI Workshop.
	2022	14 th Winter Workshop in Economics at Koc University; EuroWEPS Causal Inference Workshop, European University Institute; Departmental Seminar at Bogazici University Economics Dept.; Brown Bag Seminar at Sabanci University Political Science Dept.
	pre-2021	UC Santa Barbara-MPI Workshop; ASREC Europe; Swiss Political Science Association Annual Congress; Hertie School of Governance PhD Workshop.

**FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS**

2022-	Research Fellow, Center for Social and Economic Behavior (C-SEB), University of Cologne.
2019-2020	PhD Scholarship, European University Institute.
2016-2019	PhD Scholarship, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2016	Ranked 2 nd in the MA program in Economics, Boğaziçi University.
2009-2014	Undergraduate Scholarship, Boğaziçi University Foundation.
2009	Ranked in the first 0.1% at the university entrance exam in Turkey.

SKILLS

Languages: English, Turkish (native), German (beginner)

Programming/Typesetting: R, Python, Stata, L^AT_EX, Github, Qualtrics

Last Update: September 7, 2023