

# Mustafa Kaba

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[kaba@coll.mpg.de](mailto:kaba@coll.mpg.de)  
[mustafakaba.github.io](https://github.com/mustafakaba)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral/Experimental Economics, Political Economy

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Senior Research Fellow** 2021-  
*Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn*

**Visiting Scholar** Fall 2023-  
*Department of Economics, UC Berkeley*

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

**Consultant**, Governance Dept., World Bank, Washington D.C. 2023-

## EDUCATION

**European University Institute (EUI)**, Florence 2016-2021  
*Ph.D., Economics*

**Boğaziçi University**, İstanbul, Turkey 2014-2016  
*M.A., Economics*

**Boğaziçi University**, İstanbul, Turkey 2009-2014  
*B.Sc., Industrial Engineering*

## REFERENCES

Prof. David K. Levine	Prof. Arthur Schram	Prof. Matthias Sutter
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Max Planck Institute, Bonn
Royal Holloway, London	University of Amsterdam	<a href="mailto:matthias.sutter@coll.mpg.de">matthias.sutter@coll.mpg.de</a>
<a href="mailto:David.Levine@rhul.ac.uk">David.Levine@rhul.ac.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:a.j.h.c.schram@uva.nl">a.j.h.c.schram@uva.nl</a>	

## JOB MARKET PAPER

“From Elected to Appointed: The Economic Consequences of Central Takeovers on Public Procurement”  
(with [Serkant Adiguzel](#) and [Murat Koyuncu](#))

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the impact of central takeovers on local jurisdictions. Using a novel dataset covering the universe of state contracts in Turkey, we analyze the differences between elected and centrally appointed mayors in their practice of law and resultant economic efficiency. We find that central takeovers adversely affect the rule of law in public procurement, with appointed mayors being more likely to misuse regulatory provisions, resulting in significant economic costs. Specifically, appointed mayors abuse the procurement regulation 23 percentage points more than elected mayors and reduce the use of competitive *sealed-bid auctions* by 33 percentage points. Such malpractice inflates contract prices by 24% and reduces value for money by 40%. These results are robust to a variety of tests, including a Regression Discontinuity in Time (RDiT) approach. Our analysis suggests that the primary mechanism driving these outcomes is the lack of local accountability faced by appointed mayors. In contrast, we do not find any evidence of better quality procurement through expanded discretion.

## PUBLICATIONS

“Who Buys Vote-buying? How, how much, and at what cost?” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 193 (2022): 98-124.

## WORKING PAPERS

“Social Norms, Political Polarization, and Vaccination Attitudes: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Turkey” [*Under Review*]  
(with [Murat Koyuncu](#), [Sebastian Schneider](#), and [Matthias Sutter](#))

“Female Leadership and Workplace Climate” [*Under Review*]  
(with [Sule Alan](#), [Gozde Corekcioglu](#), and [Matthias Sutter](#))

“Class Voting and Economic Policy Preferences: A Machine Learning Approach” [*Draft in preparation for submission*]

“The Olympic Effect: Fact or fiction?” [*Draft in preparation for submission*]  
(with [Nicole Stoelinga](#))

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“Local Responses to a Global Crisis: Public Service Delivery in Turkish Municipalities Amidst Migrant Influx”  
(with [Serkant Adiguzel](#) and [Murat Koyuncu](#))

“Is Seeing Believing? How Public Service Visibility Influences Local Government Spending and Procurement Policies”  
(with [Serkant Adiguzel](#), [Asli Cansunar](#) and [Murat Koyuncu](#))

“Social Identity and Policy Preferences: Evidence from a Large-scale Survey Experiment in the U.S.” (with [Matthias Sutter](#))

“Reputation Signalling and Exports in Contract-Intensive Industries” (with [Nicole Stoelinga](#))

## TEACHING

### Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Cologne:

2023 (Grad-level) Applied Econometrics (Scheduled)  
2022 (Grad-level) Econometrics for Behavioral Economics (with applications in R)  
[\[Syllabus\]](#) [\[Student evaluations\]](#)

### Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University:

2016 (Grad-level) Macroeconomics, EC 504  
2016 (Grad-level) Macroeconomics, EC 308

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Refereeing for:

*European Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*

### Short-term Data Consultant

2019 European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

## PRESENTATIONS

	2023	5 <sup>th</sup> World Bank/IFS/ODI Political Economy of Public Finances Conference, London; SAET-SWET Conference in Honor of David K. Levine, Paris; Post-doc Seminar Series at Nuffield College, Oxford; Royal Economic Society Annual Congress, Glasgow; NHH Bergen-MPI Workshop.
	2022	14 <sup>th</sup> Winter Workshop in Economics at Koc University; EuroWEPS Causal Inference Workshop, EUI; Levine-Mattozzi Reading Group, EUI; 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.
<b>FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS</b>	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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.
<b>SKILLS</b>	<b>Languages:</b> English, Turkish (native), German (beginner) <b>Programming/Typesetting:</b> R, Python, Stata, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Github, Qualtrics	

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