

# Mustafa Kaba

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral/Experimental/Public 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

[matthias.sutter@coll.mpg.de](mailto:matthias.sutter@coll.mpg.de)

[David.Levine@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:David.Levine@rhul.ac.uk)

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## JOB MARKET PAPER

“From Elected to Appointed: The Economic Consequences of Local Authoritarian Takeovers”  
(with *Serkant Adiguzel* and *Murat Koyuncu*)

**Abstract:** This paper investigates the impact of authoritarian takeovers on the rule of law and economic efficiency in local jurisdictions. Authoritarian takeovers refer to the replacement of elected officials with centrally appointed representatives. Using the universe of state contracts in Turkey and a staggered Difference-in-Differences (DiD) design, we show that authoritarian takeovers deteriorate the rule of law and reduce economic efficiency in public procurement. Notably, centrally appointed mayors use competitive auctions at a rate nearly half that of elected mayors and instead exploit legal provisions almost three times as often. Such practices inflate contract prices by 24% and reduce value for money by 40%, causing waste equivalent to 6% of procurement spending in the affected municipalities. These results are robust to various tests, including Regression Discontinuity (RD) estimation. Probing the underlying mechanisms, we find evidence for diminished local accountability driving these effects. By contrast, we do not find evidence for either the coordination benefits from a more centralized governance or politicians’ discretion leading to quality improvements in procurement. In an era of global autocratization, our sub-national evidence on authoritarian takeovers underscores the instrumental value of democracy.

PUBLICATIONS	<p>“Who Buys Vote-buying? How, how much, and at what cost?” <i>Journal of Economic Behavior &amp; Organization</i> 193 (2022): 98-124.</p>
WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Social Norms, Political Polarization, and Vaccination Attitudes: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Turkey” [<i>Revisions requested at the <b>European Economic Review</b></i>] (with <a href="#">Murat Koyuncu</a>, <a href="#">Sebastian Schneider</a>, and <a href="#">Matthias Sutter</a>)</p> <p>“Female Leadership and Workplace Climate” [<i><b>Under Review</b></i>] (with <a href="#">Sule Alan</a>, <a href="#">Gozde Corekcioglu</a>, and <a href="#">Matthias Sutter</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coverage from <a href="#">IZA World of Labor</a></li> <li>- Coverage from <a href="#">VoxEU</a>, <a href="#">CEPR</a></li> </ul> <p>“Class Voting and Economic Policy Preferences: A Machine Learning Approach” [<i>Draft in preparation for submission</i>]</p> <p>“The Olympic Effect: Fact or fiction?” [<i>Draft in preparation for submission</i>] (with <a href="#">Nicole Stoelinga</a>)</p>
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p>“Local Responses to a Global Crisis: Public Service Delivery in Turkish Municipalities Amidst Migrant Influx” (with <a href="#">Serkant Adiguzel</a> and <a href="#">Murat Koyuncu</a>)</p> <p>“Is Seeing Believing? How Public Service Visibility Influences Local Government Spending and Procurement Policies” (with <a href="#">Serkant Adiguzel</a>, <a href="#">Asli Cansunar</a> and <a href="#">Murat Koyuncu</a>)</p> <p>“Social Identity and Policy Preferences: Evidence from a Large-scale Survey Experiment in the U.S.” (with <a href="#">Matthias Sutter</a>)</p> <p>“Reputation Signalling and Exports in Contract-Intensive Industries” (with <a href="#">Nicole Stoelinga</a>)</p>
TEACHING	<p><b>Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Cologne:</b></p> <p>2023 (Grad-level) Applied Econometrics (Scheduled)</p> <p>2022 (Grad-level) Econometrics for Behavioral Economics (with applications in R) <a href="#">[Syllabus]</a> <a href="#">[Student evaluations]</a></p> <p><b>Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University:</b></p> <p>2016 (Grad-level) Macroeconomics, EC 504</p> <p>2016 Macroeconomics, EC 308</p>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	<p><b>Refereeing for:</b> <i>European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i></p> <p><b>Short-term Data Consultant</b></p> <p>2019 European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</p>
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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