

Mustafa Kaba

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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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

Prof. Arthur Schram

Prof. Matthias Sutter

Department of Economics

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Max Planck Institute

European University Institute

University of Amsterdam

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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 examines whether electoral accountability deters public officials from abusing the law using a novel indicator of law abuse based on the use of *unforeseen event clause*: a typical clause in procurement regulations granting officials with more discretion at times of *force majeure* events. Exploiting a natural experiment and applying a staggered Differences-in-Differences (DiD) design, we find that public officials who lack reelection incentives are 24 percentage-points more likely to abuse the unforeseen event clause than those who face reelection incentives. The unjustified use of unforeseen event clause in turn inflates contract prices by 23% and reduces value for money by 40%. These results are robust to various specification checks, including a Regression Discontinuity in Time (RDiT) design. We rule out the possibility that the documented effects are driven by better quality procurement through increased discretion. We, however, find no evidence of electoral accountability deterring more subtle malpractices such as cost manipulation.

PUBLICATIONS	“Who Buys Vote-buying? How, how much, and at what cost?.” <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i> 193 (2022): 98-124. [Paper]	
WORKING PAPERS	“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]	
	“The Olympic Effect: Fact or fiction?” (with Nicole Stoelinga) [Working Paper] [Under Review]	
	“Female Leadership and Workplace Climate” (with Sule Alan , Gozde Corekcioglu , and Matthias Sutter) [Working Paper] [Under Review]	
	“Class Voting and Economic Policy Preferences: A Machine Learning Approach” [Working Paper]	
WORK IN PROGRESS	“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: <i>European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i>	
	Short-term Data Consultant 2019 European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	
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 5, 2023