

Yavuz Selim Kacmaz

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of California, Davis, CA, USA

Ph.D. in Economics, 2024–present

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

M.A. in Economics, June 2024

B.A. in Economics and History, June 2022

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Economics, Macroeconomics, Political Economy, Economic History

PUBLICATIONS

Kacmaz, Y. S., Kuzubas, T. U., Tarlaci, I., Torul, O., “Unequal Outcomes in Unequal Times: The Distributional Consequences of Turkey’s Unorthodox Policies”. *New Perspectives on Turkey*, Forthcoming.

Abstract: This paper examines trends in wage, income, and consumption inequality in Turkey from 2002 to 2023, a period marked by unorthodox economic policymaking before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Using microdata from the Turkish Statistical Institute’s Household Budget Survey and the Survey of Income and Living Conditions, we document several salient distributional patterns. Wage inequality declined steadily over two decades, including during the recent episode of policy experimentation—coinciding with sustained minimum wage hikes and a rising share of university-educated workers. Income inequality also fell, though less markedly, before reversing in recent years due to widening disparities in capital and entrepreneurial income. In addition, consumption inequality rose dramatically during the unorthodox policy period, exceeding income inequality growth and driven primarily by a surge in durable goods consumption among top-decile households. These findings reveal the complex and multi-dimensional distributional consequences of unconventional economic policy in emerging markets and highlight the importance of examining inequality across multiple dimensions when evaluating policy effectiveness.

WORKING PAPERS

Kacmaz, Y. S., Karaman, K., “Globalization from the Sixteenth Century to World War I: Evidence from Wheat Markets”

Abstract: This paper examines the evolution of commodity market integration from the late 16th century to the early 20th century. For this purpose, we compile a new and comprehensive data set on wheat prices, covering 76 cities and 16 countries across Europe, North America, East & South Asia, and the Middle East. To build separate international and country-specific market integration indices over time, we estimate a dynamic factor model that decomposes the price movements of each city into international, country-specific, and city-specific components. The model imposes an orthogonality condition to distinguish international integration from country-specific integration and hence avoids double counting. In terms of the timing of market integration, the results suggest that it started early, with gradual but meandering gains from the 16th century on, which accelerated after the 1820s. As for the composition of the gains in integration, the findings indicate that they were predominantly international rather than country-specific. In terms of the geography of market integration, the results show that northwest Europe was at the epicenter, with North America catching up in the late 19th century but the Middle East, Iberia, and East & South Asia lagging behind.

Canbakal, H., Filiztekin, A., **Kacmaz, Y. S.**, Yılmaz, L., “Child Sex Ratios in the Late Ottoman Empire and Turkey, 1897–1965”

Abstract: This paper aims to locate the late Ottoman Empire and republican Turkey up to 1965 in the Eurasian map of ‘missing girls/women’ through a spatio-temporal analysis. Employing panel data from the statistical yearbook of 1897 and censuses from 1916 onwards, we explore regional differences in sex ratios at birth and age group 0-4 in twenty-seven Ottoman provinces in the Balkans, Anatolia and Syria, and trace continuities and trends of change within the area of modern Turkey. Our findings show that the Ottoman lands as well as republican Turkey fitted in the southeastern European pattern of high sex ratios. The child sex ratio in Turkey began to improve after 1935. In both periods, regional differences were large and sex ratios tended to increase eastwards. To examine the possible drivers of the observed patterns, we test a set of demographic, economic and cultural variables, such as population density, urbanization, labor force participation, as well as literacy and ethno-religious identity.

WORK IN PROGRESS	Kabal, K., Kacmaz, Y. S. , Kırdar, M., “The Long-Term Effects of Village Institutes on Socioeconomic Outcomes in Turkey”	
PRESENTATIONS	Bay Area Economic History Workshop , UC Berkeley	2025
RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP	Title: Tariffs and Economic Development in the USA: New Evidence from a New Dataset of US Product-Level Tariffs, 1789–Present Investigators: Christopher M. Meissner	2025
	Title: Market Integration in the Ottoman Empire, 1550–1914 Investigators: Pınar Ceylan, Kıvanç Karaman, and Şevket Pamuk	2022–2023
	Title: Inequality of Wealth and Income in the Ottoman Empire, 1500–1800 Investigators: Hülya Canbakal and Alpay Filiztekin	2021
	Title: Regional Income Inequalities and the West-East Divide in Turkey, 1880–2010 Investigators: Güneş Aşık, Ulaş Karakoç, and Şevket Pamuk	2019–2020
TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP	<u>At UC Davis</u> ECN 1A, Principles of Microeconomics ECN 190A, Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems ECN 1B, Principles of Macroeconomics	Spring 2025 Winter 2025 Fall 2024
	<u>At Bogazici University</u> EC 504, Macroeconomics II (<i>master’s level</i>) EC 531, Econometrics I (<i>master’s level</i>) EC 358, World Economic History EC 101, Principles of Microeconomics	Spring 2024 Fall 2023 Spring 2023 Fall 2022
HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS	Summer Stipend , UC Davis Department Fellowship , UC Davis Murat Sertel Award , Bogazici University Graduate Scholarship , Turkish Historical Society Graduate Scholarship , Turkish Education Foundation Valedictorian in the Economics Department , Bogazici University Highest-Ranking Double-Major Student , Bogazici University Alper Orhon Econometrics Award , Bogazici University Undergraduate Double-Major Scholarship , TUBITAK Outstanding Success Scholarship , Bogazici University	2025 2024–2025 2024 2023–2024 2022–2024 2022 2022 2022 2021–2022 2016–2022

Scholarship for Turkey's Top 100, Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey
Golden Youth Prize, Türkiye İş Bankası

2016–2021
2016

COMPUTER SKILLS R, Stata, MATLAB, L^AT_EX