

Northwestern

Economics

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Turkish. Married. One child.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Research: Macroeconomics, Labor Economics
Teaching: Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Family Economics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Dissertation: Essays on Unemployment, Education and Fertility
Committee Chairperson: Professor Matthias Doepke
Date of Completion: June 2018 (expected)

PREDOCTORAL STUDIES

M.A.: Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 2013
M.A.: Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, France, 2012
B.A.: Economics, Bogazici University, Istanbul (Summa Cum Laude), 2011
HEC School of Management, Paris, Spring 2010

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2017
Distinguished Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2015-2016
Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2012
Eiffel Scholarship, Toulouse School of Economics, 2011-2012
High Achievement Award, Bogazici University, 2006-2011
Presidential Scholarship, Turkey, 2006-2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2013-2017
Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics,
Intermediate Macroeconomics, Economics of Gender, Economics of Family

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Young, Educated, Unemployed”

In a number of European countries, unemployment rates for young college graduates are higher than for young high school graduates. This presents a challenge for canonical models of unemployment that suggest that unemployment should decrease with education. I disentangle two potential explanations for the pattern: “labor market frictions” versus “relative productivity.” Here, labor market frictions are obstacles to labor market flows (such as employment protection regulation), whereas relative productivity refers to features that lower the output of educated workers already matched to firms (such as an education system that does not provide the right skills or a lack of jobs that make good use of workers’ skills). The analysis builds on a search and matching model with endogenous productivity differences and the possibility of mismatch (educated workers working in low skilled jobs). I show that when young educated workers have productivity levels close to uneducated workers, they have higher unemployment rates, because firms create fewer skilled jobs. My counterfactual analysis shows that the relative productivity channel is more important than the labor market frictions channel in accounting for unemployment of young educated workers. The results suggest that improving education policy and fostering firms’ demand for skills may have important roles to play in addressing high unemployment among young workers.

OTHER PAPERS

“Trends in Work and Leisure: It’s a Family Affair” with Titan Alon and Matthias Doepke.

In recent decades, the correlation between U.S. men's wages and hours worked has reversed: low-wage men used to work the longest hours, whereas today it is men with the highest wages who work the most. This changing correlation accounts for roughly 30 percent of the rise in the variance of male earnings between 1975 and 2015. In this paper, we rationalize these trends in a model of joint household labor supply. Our quantitative model generates similar changes to what is observed in the data as a reaction to shifts in women's education and labor supply, the gender gap, and assortative mating. Our model is consistent with the observations that the changing wage-hours correlation among men is driven by married men, and that there is little change in the wage-hours correlation among employed women and at the household level. The results suggest that taking into account joint household decision making is essential for understanding the dynamics of labor supply.

“The Heterogeneous Effects of the Great Recession on Fertility” with Husnu Dalgic.

Following the Great Recession, fertility in the US declines sharply after 2007 from 2.12 to 1.84 children per women and it is currently below the rate that sustains population level. We offer a novel channel through which effects of recessions on fertility are amplified. Males are typically employed in heavily procyclical industries whereas females work in acyclical industries. In the Great Recession, male dominated industries such as manufacturing, and construction suffered the most while female dominated industries such as health and education slightly expanded. A decline in the earnings of males reduces fertility through income effect. On the other hand, increased labor market opportunities for women also reduces fertility through substitution effect. We show with a two-sector model that employment of males and females in different industries amplify

the response of fertility rate to shocks. Using American Community Survey, we document that the expansion of female dominated industries aggravates the decline in the fertility rate in places where male-dominated industries have been hit hard.

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), French (Advanced), Italian (Beginner), Turkish (Native)

REFERENCES

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