

FIRAT BILGEL

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Last update: September 7, 2025

APPOINTMENT

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|--|------------------|
| Department of Economics, MEF University | Istanbul, Turkey |
| Full Professor of Economics, Department Chair | 2021-present |
| Associate Professor of Economics | 2020-2021 |
| Initiative for Reg. & App. Econ. Analysis, Montana State University | Bozeman MT, USA |
| Visiting Research Scholar | 2017-2018 |
| Department of Economics & Finance, Istanbul Okan University | Istanbul, Turkey |
| Associate Professor of Economics | 2016-2019 |
| Assistant Professor of Economics | 2011-2015 |
| Department of Economics, Istanbul Bilgi University | Istanbul, Turkey |
| Teaching Assistant | 2005-2007 |

EDUCATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Erasmus University | Rotterdam, The Netherlands |
| Ph.D in Law and Economics | 2008-2011 |
| University of Saskatchewan | Saskatoon SK, Canada |
| M.A in Economics | 2004-2005 |
| Istanbul Bilgi University | Istanbul, Turkey |
| B.A in Business-Economics | 1999-2003 |
| Lycée Saint Joseph | Izmir, Turkey |
| Baccalauréat | 1991-1998 |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Econometrics | Causal Inference | Program Evaluation | Law & Economics | Health Economics | Spatial Analysis | Election Forensics

PUBLICATIONS [CITATIONS: 660 (GS), 280 (WOS) | H-INDEX: 12 (GS), 8 (WOS)]

- [1] F Bilgel. The role of Pearl's causal framework in empirical research. *Ekonomi-TEK (Journal of the Turkish Economic Association)*, 13(2):230–252, 2024, **GS: 1**.
- [2] F. Bilgel and B.C. Karahasan. Understanding covid-19 mobility through human capital: A unified causal framework. *Computational Economics*, 63(2):793–833, 2024, **GS: 3**.
- [3] F. Bilgel and B.C. Karahasan. Effects of vaccination and the spatio-temporal diffusion of covid-19 incidence in Turkey. *Geographical Analysis*, 55(3):399–426, 2023, **GS: 6, WOS: 3**.
- [4] F. Bilgel. Effects of covid-19 lockdowns on social distancing in Turkey. *The Econometrics Journal*, 25(3):781–805, 2022, **GS: 4, WOS: 2**.
- [5] B.C. Karahasan and F. Bilgel. Economic geography and human capital accumulation in Turkey: evidence from micro-data. *Regional Studies*, 55(7):1252–1264, 2021, **GS: 6, WOS: 4**.
- [6] B.C. Karahasan and F. Bilgel. The topography and sources of multidimensional poverty in Turkey. *Social Indicators Research*, 154(2):413–445, 2021, **GS: 18, WOS: 10**.
- [7] F. Bilgel. Infant mortality in Turkey: Causes and effects in a regional context. *Papers in Regional Science*, 100(2):429–453, 2021, **GS: 3**.
- [8] F. Bilgel. State gun control laws, gun ownership and the supply of homicide organ donors. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 63:105925, 2020, **GS: 3**.

- [9] B.C. Karahasan and F. Bilgel. State–business relations, financial access and firm performance: a causal mediation analysis. *Journal of International Development*, 32(7):1033–1074, 2020, **GS: 5, WOS: 3**.
- [10] B.C. Karahasan and F. Bilgel. Market access and regional dispersion of human capital accumulation in Turkey. *Review of Development Economics*, 24(3):1073–1101, 2020, **GS: 13, WOS: 7**.
- [11] F. Bilgel. Guns and homicides: a multiscale geographically weighted instrumental variables approach. *Geographical Analysis*, 52(4):588–616, 2020, **GS: 20, WOS: 16**.
- [12] F. Bilgel. Spatial distribution of inequalities in end-stage renal disease in the United States. *Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology*, 30:100282, 2019, **GS: 5, WOS: 3**.
- [13] B.C. Karahasan and F. Bilgel. Spatial distribution of healthcare access and utilization: do they affect health outcomes in Turkey? *Middle East Development Journal*, 11(1):124–163, 2019, **GS: 7, WOS: 4**.
- [14] F. Bilgel and B.C. Karahasan. Thirty years of conflict and economic growth in Turkey: A synthetic control approach. *Defence and Peace Economics*, 30(5):609–631, 2019, **GS: 66, WOS: 33**.
- [15] F. Bilgel and B.C. Karahasan. Self-rated health and endogenous selection into primary care. *Social Science & Medicine*, 197:168–182, 2018, **GS: 17, WOS: 8**.
- [16] F. Bilgel and B.C. Karahasan. The economic costs of separatist terrorism in Turkey. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 61(2):457–479, 2017, **GS: 116, WOS: 50**.
- [17] F. Bilgel and B. Galle. Organ donation and new policies: do we need to act less generally and more locally? *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 175(12):1999–2000, 2015, **GS: 2**.
- [18] F. Bilgel and B. Galle. Financial incentives for kidney donation: a comparative case study using synthetic controls. *Journal of Health Economics*, 43:103–117, 2015, **GS: 45, WOS: 27**.
- [19] F. Fagan and F. Bilgel. Sunsets and federal lawmaking: Evidence from the 110th congress. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 41:1–6, 2015, **GS: 22, WOS: 8**.
- [20] F. Bilgel. The effectiveness of transplant legislation, procedures and management: Cross-country evidence. *Health Policy*, 110(2-3):229–242, 2013, **GS: 10, WOS: 6**.
- [21] F. Bilgel and K.C. Tran. The determinants of Canadian provincial health expenditures: evidence from a dynamic panel. *Applied Economics*, 45(2):201–212, 2013, **GS: 83, WOS: 26**.
- [22] F. Bilgel. The impact of presumed consent laws and institutions on deceased organ donation. *The European Journal of Health Economics*, 13:29–38, 2012, **GS: 95, WOS: 45**.
- [23] N. Bayram, F. Bilgel, and N.G. Bilgel. Social exclusion and quality of life: An empirical study from Turkey. *Social Indicators Research*, 105:109–120, 2012, **GS: 77, WOS: 25**.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

- Criminogenic Effects of Mass Forced Displacement
- Causal Identification in Crime Research: Lessons from Structural Causal Models
- Effects of Family Involvement on Deceased Donor Organ Recovery

BOOKS

- [1] Bilgel, F. (2011). *The Law and Economics of Organ Procurement (European Studies in Law and Economics, vol:5)*. Intersentia. **GS: 12**

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- [1] Türkiye’de Bölgesel Eşitsizlikler: Yakınsama, Dağılım ve Mekan. (with B.C. Karahasan), in *Türkiye Ekonomisinde Kalkınma ve Dönüşüm Taner Berksoy’a Armağan*, Imge Publishing, 2018
- [2] Health care services in Turkey (with N.G. Bilgel). in *The Last Fifteen Years of Turkish Economy*, Okan University Publishing, 2014
- [3] The Identification of Relevant Market in the Passenger Car Industry: A Method Proposal and its Application to Turkish Market (with A. Ilıcak). Chapter 7 in *Competition Law and Policy in the Automotive Industry*, 239-256, Ekin Publishing, 2006

GRANTS

- [1] Non-Monetary Dimensions of Inequality and Poverty Among the Youth in the MENA Region (with B.C. Karahasan), The Economic Research Forum (ERF) grant no.2019-011. Budget: USD 5,000
- [2] State-Business Relations, Financial Access and Firm Performance in the MENA region (with B.C. Karahasan), The Economic Research Forum (ERF) grant no.2017-144. Budget: USD 6,000
- [3] Economic Geography, Growth Dynamics and Human Capital Accumulation in Turkey: Evidence from Regional and Micro Data (with B.C. Karahasan), The Economic Research Forum (ERF) grant no.2017-120. Budget: USD 6,000
- [4] A Spatial Analysis of Health Inequalities in Turkey: Linking geography, healthcare access and health outcomes (with B.C. Karahasan), The Economic Research Forum (ERF) grant no.2015-145. Budget: USD 11,860

AWARDS

- [1] The Effect of Paid Leave of Absence Legislation on Living Kidney Donation in the United States, Young Scholars Prize, Bilkent University Faculty of Law, 2014
- [2] [The Economic Costs of Separatist Terrorism in Turkey](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), *Ibn Khaldun Prize*, Middle East Economic Association, 2013
- [3] Organ Trafficking and Optimal Law Enforcement, Distinguished Paper Award, Turkish Institute for Police Studies, 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

| | |
|---|--|
| Quant. Methods for Economists II - Spring 26 | Economics Seminar II - Spring 23 |
| Causal Data Science - Fall 23-25 | Causal Inference - Fall 16, 18, 19, 21 - Spring 14, 16 |
| Game Theory - Spring 19-25 | Intermediate Microeconomics - Fall 12, 19 |
| Law and Economics - Fall 19-25 | Probability and Statistics II - Fall 13-16, 19-21 |
| Causality - Fall 20 | Probability and Statistics I - Spring 12-15, 20, 21 |
| Health Economics - Spring 20-23 | Econometrics I - Fall 11 |
| Economics Seminar I - Fall 23, 24 | Econometrics II - Spring 12 |

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] [The topography and sources of multidimensional poverty in Turkey](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), Economic Research Forum (ERF) working paper no. 1374, December 2019
- [2] [Rethinking Presidentialism and Democratic Survival in a Causal Framework](#)
- [3] [Economic Geography, Growth Dynamics and Human Capital Accumulation in Turkey: Evidence from Regional and Micro Data](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), Economic Research Forum (ERF) working paper no.1233, October 2018
- [4] [Self-Rated Health and Primary Care Utilization: Is selection into healthcare endogenously determined?](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), Economic Research Forum (ERF) working paper no.1079, April 2017
- [5] [Access to Healthcare, Utilization and Health Outcomes in Turkey](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), Economic Research Forum (ERF) working paper, no.1089, May 2017
- [6] [Thirty Years of Conflict and Economic Growth in Turkey: A Synthetic Control Approach](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), LSE Europe in Question Discussion Paper Series (LEQS) No. 112, June 2016
- [7] A Dynamic Model of Supply of Kidney Transplants and Waiting Lists, 2014
- [8] Health Reform in Turkey (with N.G. Bilgel, *in Turkish*), 2013
- [9] Health Expectations in Turkey. Are they Far to Reach? (with N.G. Bilgel), 2013

COMMENTS AND BRIEFS

- [Human capital and regional disparities in Turkey](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), The FORUM - ERF policy portal, 2018
- [Estimating the economic cost of Turkey's PKK conflict](#), (with B.C. Karahasan), London School of Economics and Political Science, European Politics and Policy (LSE-EUROPP) Blog, 2016
- [The Economic Perils of a Political Armed Conflict](#) (with B.C. Karahasan), Changing Turkey, 2015

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- [Mass Forced Displacement and Incarceration: A Comparative Case Study using Augmented Synthetic Controls](#)
- [Causal Interpretability of Treatment Effects in Spatial Panel Models](#)
- The Clash of Causal Titans: Pearl vs. Rubin
- Regression Discontinuity Design as an Election Forensic Tool: Evidence from the 2015 Turkish General Elections

PROJECT PROPOSALS IN PROGRESS

- Data-driven Democracy: Enhancing Electoral Integrity Through Forensic Analysis (DATDRIVDEM)
- 25 Years of Synthetic Control: A Meta-Scientific Exploration of Methodological Practice (METASYNTH)

REFEREEING

| | |
|--|---|
| BMC Health Services Research (2025) | Health Policy (2014, 2018) |
| International Journal of Health Planning and Management (2024) | Health Economics (2017) |
| Empirical Economics (2023) | Clinical Transplantation (2017) |
| Journal of Applied Econometrics (2022) | Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (2017) |
| Social Indicators Research (2021) | World Development (2016) |
| European Economic Review (2021) | Defence and Peace Economics (2016) |
| Research in Law and Economics (2020) | Journal of Neurosciences in Rural Practice (2015) |
| Finans Politik & Ekonomik Yorumlar (2019) | Health Sociology Review (2014) |
| Journal of Health Economics (2015, 2019) | Applied Economics (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014) |
| Advances in Life Course Research (2018) | Clinical Medicine Insights (2014) |
| | Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law (2010, 2012) |

INVITED SEMINARS

- Spatial Variation in Infant and Neonatal Mortality in Turkey, Marmara University, department of economics, Istanbul Turkey, December 2018
- The Economic Costs of Separatist Terrorism in Turkey (with B.C. Karahasan), Istanbul Bilgi University, department of economics, Istanbul Turkey, February 2014
- The Economic Costs of Separatist Terrorism in Turkey (with B.C. Karahasan), Middle East Technical University, department of economics, Ankara Turkey, March 2013
- Waiting Lists, Waiting Times and the Supply of Transplants: Theory and Evidence, Marmara University department of economics, Istanbul Turkey, March 2013
- The Impact of Compensation Legislation on Living Organ Donation: Evidence from the US, University of Konstanz department of economics, Konstanz Germany, October 2012
- The Impact of Compensation Legislation on Living Organ Donation: Evidence from the US, Middle East Technical University, department of economics, Ankara Turkey, June 2011

BROWN BAG SEMINARS

- Altruism, Donor Supply and Deceased Organ Recovery in Turkey, MEF University, Department of Economics, November 2023
- Causal Identification in Social Sciences using Observational Data, MEF University, Department of Economics, October 2024

WORKSHOPS

- 2013 Main Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference, June 24-28, 2013, Northwestern University Law School, Chicago USA

EVENTS ORGANIZED

- Applied Microeconomics and Policy Workshop, June 9, 2022, Department of Economics, MEF University, Istanbul, Turkey

THESIS SUPERVISION

- External Examiner for: *Law and Economics of Human Trafficking* by Ulla Saar, European Master in Law and Economics (EMLE), University of Haifa, Israel, 2011
- External Examiner for: *A Causal Mediation Analysis on Education, Wages and Post-School Investment* by Hande Kul Gelal, Ph.D in Economics, Marmara University Turkey, 2023

SKILLS

Software/Programming: Stata, R, \LaTeX , GeoDa, MGWR, TETRAD, Causal Fusion.

Language: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (fluent)

IELTS (2015): S: 9.0 - L: 8.5 - R: 8.0 - W: 8.0 - Overall: 8.5/9

REFERENCES

Available upon request.