

Elif Başaran

PhD Candidate in Economics

Pennsylvania State University,
Department of Economics,
University Park, PA, 16802

Email: efb5398@psu.edu
Phone: +1(814)308-2389

Education

- **PhD in Economics**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park 2020-2026 (expected)
- **MA in Economics**¹, Koç University, Istanbul 2018-2020
- **Study Abroad**, American University, Washington D.C. 2017-2018
- **BS in Industrial Engineering, BA in Economics**, Koç University, Istanbul 2013-2017

Research Fields

Development Economics, International Trade, Labor Economics, Regional Economics

Working Papers and Projects

1. Refugees, Amenities, and the Skill Premium (*Job Market Paper*)

This paper examines the economic impacts of a large-scale migration using the case of Syrian refugee influx into Türkiye. I first provide evidence showing reduced incomes for natives, rising housing rents, and out migration from refugee exposed regions. Then, using a dynamic spatial general equilibrium model and incorporating endogenously evolving regional amenities, I explain dynamic migration choices of the natives and predict the evolution of economic outcomes under counterfactual policy scenarios.

2. Minimum Wages, VAT, and Export Market Participation: The Case of Mexico (*Third Year Paper*)

This study disentangles the effects of a minimum wage increase and a value added tax reduction on Mexico's export participation. Using a Difference-in-Differences design and firm-level microdata, I estimate the impact of this policy bundle on exports, focusing on the U.S.-Mexico trade. The paper highlights the interplay between labor costs and tax incentives in shaping international competitiveness.

Academic Activities

- **Presenter** at NYSEA Annual Conference 2025 (upcoming)
- **Presenter** at International Economics Research Seminar, Pennsylvania State University
- **Panelist** for Career in Academic Research in Economics, Pennsylvania State University
- **Co-organizer** of Women in Economics Workshop, Pennsylvania State University
- **Research Assistant** for Kala Krishna, Elisa Giannone, and Shoumitro Chatterjee

¹Coursework completed; thesis defense postponed due to Covid lockdown (Spring 2020).

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

- **Instructor**, Economics Department, Pennsylvania State University
- **Teaching Assistant**, Economics Department, Pennsylvania State University
- **Graduate Assistant**, PSU Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring (URFM)
- **Peer Educator**, Koç University's Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT)

Work Experience

1. **Short-Term Temporary**, World Bank, Washington D.C. Fall 2022
 - Conducted trade data analysis for the East Asia and Pacific Chief Economist Unit.
 - Evaluated the impact of U.S.-China trade war using an event study framework.
2. **Supply Chain Logistics Excellence Intern**, Unilever, Istanbul Summer 2016
 - Designed a product flow map for over 20 international warehouses using Tableau Software.
 - Collaborated with warehouse representatives to analyze and optimize data-driven logistics.

Honors and Awards

- **Ed Green Graduate Fund Recipient**, Pennsylvania State University Nov 2025
- **Finalist**, World Bank Group Young Professionals Program Dec 2024
- **Invitation and Travel Grant**, CSWEP Mentoring Workshop by AEA Nov 2022
- **Sena Eken Schieber Economics Award**, Turkish Philanthropy Funds Mar 2020
- **Vehbi Koç Scholar Honor Award**, Koç University May 2017
- **Merit Scholarship**, Koç University Aug 2013
- Top 1% Ranking, **Turkish National University Entrance Exam** July 2013

Skills

- **Economics**: Dynamic and Spatial Modeling, General Equilibrium Analysis, Policy Evaluation
- **Programming**: Stata, R, Python, Matlab, $\text{\LaTeX}$, MySQL, GAMS, Tableau, Microsoft Office
- **Languages**: Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), French (Basic)

References

James Tybout
Professor of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
jxt32@psu.edu

Bradley Setzler
Associate Professor
of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
bqs5754@psu.edu

Ewout Verriest
Assistant Professor
of Economics
Pennsylvania State University
ewout@psu.edu