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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, expected Spring 2008
(Major Fields: Development Economics; Political Economy)

M.Sc. in Economics, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, 1999

B.A. in Economics, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, 1993

Primary Fields

- Development Economics
- Agricultural Economics
- International Economics
- Political Economy

Dissertation

Title: ‘The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Rural Factor Markets in Turkey’

Committee: J. Mohan Rao (chairperson), James Boyce, Michael Ash, Jeannette Wicks-Lim

- Historical analysis of land ownership structure in Turkish agriculture.
- Functional and sectoral analysis of asset and income inequality in rural Turkey.
- Contract choice in Turkish agriculture; the model analyzes how land ownership inequality affects contract choice between sharecropping and fixed rent tenancy.
- Empirical analysis of the impact of land ownership inequality in off-farm labor market participation in rural Turkey.
- Empirical analysis of the relationship between yield per acre and farm size in Turkish agriculture.
- Empirical analysis of the impact of land ownership distribution on factor market functioning in rural Turkey utilizing a unique index of market malfunctioning.

Publications

- “The Determinants of Capital Flight from Turkey, 1971 – 2000” (co-authored with Anil Duman, and Cenk Erkin), in Capital Flight and Capital Controls in Developing Countries. Eds. Gerald Epstein, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005

- “Small is Beautiful: Evidence of Inverse-Size Yield Relationship in Rural Turkey”, in Edited Volume of Annual Conference for Development and Change. Forthcoming, 2008.

Other Papers

- ‘A Portrait of Turkish Agriculture: Inequality Matters’, Chapter in Doctoral Thesis
- ‘The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Contract Choice in Turkish Agriculture’, Chapter in Doctoral Thesis
- ‘The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Labor Market Participation in Turkish Agriculture’, Chapter in Doctoral Thesis
- ‘The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Rural Factor Markets in Turkey’, Chapter in Doctoral Thesis
- ‘The Impact of Volatility of Capital Flight on Women: A Sectoral Study in Banking’, (with Sevinc Rende).

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
January 2003 – January 2006

- Managed Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database for US based corporations

Research Assistant, Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of
Massachusetts, Amherst January 2001 – September 2001

- Managed state level database for K-12 school children; focus on race, class, and gender on test performance

Research Analyst, Hobson Johnson and Associates, Portland, OR February 2000 – July 2000

- Conducted economic and fiscal impact analysis for development projects for rural and urban development in Portland, OR.

Research Interests

- Economic Development and International Economics: Inequality and poverty, asset and income inequality, rural and urban poverty – Middle East and North Africa
- Political Economy of race, class and gender: Gender and land rights in Middle East and North Africa
- Environmental and Resource Economics: Environmental Justice, Sustainable development and

environment

Teaching Experience

Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, at Bucknell University, August 2007-present

Courses

Economic Principles and Problems (Fall 2007), Intermediate Political Economy (Fall 2007)

Instructor in the Department of Economics, at University of Massachusetts, Amherst,
Instructor in the Department of Continuing Education, at University of Massachusetts, Amherst,

Courses

International Economics (Fall 2004), The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets (Winter 2004), Introduction to Macroeconomics (Summer 2003 and Winter 2003).

Teaching Assistant in the Department of Economics, at University of Massachusetts, Amherst,

Courses

The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets (Fall 2003), Introduction to Macroeconomics (Spring 2001, Fall 2002, and Spring 2005), Labor in the American Economy (grader), Introduction to Microeconomics (Spring 2003 and Fall 2005), Introduction to Political Economy (Fall 2000).

Teaching Assistant in the Department of Foreign Languages, at Portland State University

Courses

Introduction to Turkish (Spring 1998 and Fall 1998), Intermediate Turkish (Spring 1998 and Fall 1998).

Teaching Assistant in the Department of Business Administration, at Portland State University

Courses

Basic computer instruction and technical support (Spring 1999).

Workshop Facilitator for the Center for Popular Economics, at University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Workshops

New Haven, CT March 2005- April 2005

- Lead teacher for an intensive workshop on International Economics for Mothers for Justice.
- Lead teacher for an intensive workshop on Economics of War for Mothers for Justice.

New Haven, CT September 2003

- Co-teacher for an intensive workshop on United States Economics for Mothers for Justice.

Holyoke, MA March 2002

- Co-teacher on basic economic literacy for women in labor unions in Western MA.

Worcester, MA, April 2002

- Co-teacher on basic economic literacy for the Association of Haitian women.

Teaching Honors

Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Continuing Education (Winter 2003).

Teaching Interests

Development Economics

- Theories and strategies of development
- Gender and development
- Income and asset inequality and poverty
- Development issues for an agrarian economy: resource allocation, land distribution, rural factor markets, and contract choice
- Economies of the Middle East and North Africa
- Women in the Middle East
- Money and Banking

Resource and Environmental Economics

- Environmental Economics: Political economy of the environment, Environmental justice in the era of globalization

Awards

Dissertation Writing Grant, Institute for Turkish Studies, Georgetown University 2006-2007 Academic year

Dissertation Writing Grant, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Fall 2006

Fellowship, Institute for Policy Dialogue, Brooks Poverty Institute, Manchester University, UK Summer 2006

Fellowship, Cambridge Advance Program on Rethinking Development Economics, Cambridge University, Summer 2005.

Fellowship, Program on Knowledge, Networking and Capacity Building on Gender, Macroeconomics and International Economics, University of Utah, Summer 2003

Excellence in Teaching Award by Continuing Education Department University of Massachusetts, Winter 2003

Nominee for Diversity Scholarship, University of Massachusetts, 2002-2003

International Student Remission Fee Scholarship by Portland State University, 1998-2000

Never Giving Up Award by Portland State Turkish American Student Association for efforts in fundraising for the Turkish Earthquake, September 1999
Turkish Educational Foundation Scholarship by TEV, 1990-1993
American Field Service (AFS) Scholarship by Turkish Cultural Foundation and American Field Service 1988

Seminars and Presentations

Annual Conference for Development and Change, Cape Town, South Africa December 2007

Paper to be presented: 'The impact of landownership inequality on Rural Factor Markets in Turkey'

Annual Conference for Development and Change, Campos do Jordao, Brazil November 2006

Paper presented: 'Small is Beautiful: Evidence of Inverse-Size Yield Relationship in Rural Turkey'

Advanced Graduate Workshop on Poverty, Development, and Globalization, Manchester University, UK, August 2006

Paper presented: 'A Portrait of Turkish Agriculture: Inequality Matters'.

Rethinking Marxism Conference, University of Massachusetts, October 2003

Paper presented: 'The Impact of Volatility of Capital Flight on Women: A Sectoral Study in Banking'.

1st International Conference on Gender and Macroeconomics, University of Utah, June 2003

Paper presented: 'The Impact of Volatility of Capital Flight on Banking Sector in Turkey: A Gender and Class Analysis.'

ASSA Conference, San Diego, January 2003

Paper presented: 'Determinants of Capital Flight in Turkey'.

12th international Feminist Economics Conference, Barbados, June 2003

Paper presented: 'The Impact of Volatility of Capital Flight on Women's Poverty in Turkey'.

Work History

Research Academic Multimedia Specialist- January 1999 – June 2000

Portland State University, Portland, OR.

- Responsible for supporting instructors and users in high technology classrooms.
- Develop and design World Wide Web sites for Portland State University.

Financial Market Dealer- February 1995 – September 1997

Treasury Department, Yapi Kredi Bank, Istanbul, Turkey

- Responsible for managing bank's portfolio in government bonds and bills, and managing bank's portfolio and cash flow in domestic currency, preparing and reporting daily, weekly, and monthly reports as well as conducting market forecasts

Bond Market Dealer and Stock Exchange Broker- February 1994 – February 1995

Investment Banking Trade Desk, Yapi Kredi Bank, Istanbul, Turkey

- Responsible for overseeing the activities of the five main investment desks in their investment decisions for customer portfolios, trading for bank's fixed income portfolio in the Government bonds and bills market

Intern- September 1993 – February 1994

Guven Brokerage House, Istanbul, Turkey,

- Constructed Database, performed statistical data analysis, prepared daily market reports and supported customers

References

Prof. Mohan Rao (Chair)

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Prof. James Boyce

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Associate Prof. Michael Ash

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Prof. Gerald Epstein

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Dissertation Summary:**The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Rural Factor Markets in Turkey**

My dissertation explores the interconnection between land ownership inequality and functioning of rural factor markets in Turkey. It investigates the effectiveness and efficiency of land and labor markets in generating and distributing economic opportunities within agriculture and, thereby, in reducing rural inequality. In addition, my dissertation examines allocative efficiency in Turkish agriculture by testing for an inverse size-yield relationship across farms, and by econometric analysis of the economic and social determinants of participation in tenancy and labor markets. I combine historical, empirical and theoretical investigation to produce an analysis of the functioning of rural factor markets, focusing on the effects of land ownership inequality on rural factor markets in Turkey. The dissertation consists of six core chapters. A brief description of the chapters is as follows:

Evolution of Land Ownership Structure in Turkey from a Historical Perspective

This chapter describes the land ownership structure in contemporary Turkey through a historical lens. It begins with a description of how the socio-economic organization of the Ottoman State leads to the evolution of particular institutions in land ownership structure. Next, it examines the impact of state policies and institutions on the land ownership structure of the young Republic from the 1920s through the 1960s. The chapter then evaluates the attempted land reforms in Turkey and presents a discussion of peasantry in the early years of the Republic. Finally, it examines the role of landed classes and state policies in policy making in agriculture and demonstrates the outcomes of policies regarding the distribution of land ownership in contemporary Turkey.

Descriptive baseline of Existing Inequalities in Rural Turkey

This chapter empirically analyzes existing sectoral (agricultural and non-agricultural) and functional (land, labor, capital) asset and income inequalities in rural Turkey using a heretofore untapped World Bank Survey (QHS) that covers all seven regions, 73 provinces, 389 towns, and 517 villages across rural Turkey for 2002. The chapter focuses on seven different geographical regions in Turkey. The regions vary in terms of their agro-climatic features as well as their level of modern economic development. The analysis delineates the differences in asset and income inequality between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. The chapter further analyzes patterns in other socio-economic indicators related to villager's living standards such as housing structure, educational attainment, access to drinking water, and food and non-food household consumption based on the tenancy type of the household (sharecropper, fixed rent tenant, owner-cultivator, and laborer). The chapter also investigates the relationship between such socio-economic indicators and land ownership inequality. In addition I examine the link between rural factor market participation rates and land ownership inequality. The results of this analysis show that in rural Turkey in general, and in the agrarian sector in particular, income from capital and labor markets is highly unequally distributed. Inequality is higher in areas in which land ownership inequality is also high. Other socio-economic indicators such as education and household consumption are also positively correlated with land ownership inequality. An important finding of this chapter is that there is a clear correlation between land ownership distribution and rural factor market participation in Turkey: On the average, market participation is highest in the regions with the highest land ownership inequality.

Determinants of Land Market Participation in Rural Turkey

This chapter develops a non-linear probit model to examine the determinants of contract choice in Turkish agriculture. Using the 2002 World Bank Survey on rural Turkey the study tests the validity of the agricultural ladder hypothesis for contract choice (between fixed rent tenancy and sharecropping). The

chapter also looks at the impact of female workers in the household on the household's contract choice. I find a negative correlation between adult female workers in the household and the likelihood of engaging in both tenancy types. The study shows significant differences among households who engage in sharecropping and fixed rent tenancy. Those who have more access to credit, are relatively wealthy (whose food intake is higher) and are more integrated into markets are more likely to engage in fixed rent tenancy as opposed to sharecropping. Those who are poorer, have less diversified incomes, have limited access to product and credit markets, own smaller land parcels, and live in villages where ownership of land is skewed have a higher probability of engaging in sharecropping tenancy. In general, land ownership inequality plays an important role in inducing households to participate in both types of tenancies. This impact is much stronger for fixed rent tenancy. I argue that this result may be associated with absentee landlordism, which has become more prevalent in Turkish agriculture in recent years as the adoption of neoliberal reforms has meant the withdrawal of government support for small landowners. Absentee landlords might favor fixed rent tenancy as a means of addressing supervision problems, thus producing the relationship I observe between land ownership inequality and fixed rent tenancy.

Determinants of Labor Market Participation in Rural Turkey

In this chapter I examine factors that shape households' interactions with labor markets. I investigate the impact not only of household asset positions, but also of market structure and other macroeconomic factors, including land inequality, unemployment, and credit availability. I also examine the influence of socio-cultural norms, gender differences, proximity to urban centers, and the nature of agricultural work. First I test whether the assumptions of conventional theory hold for labor markets in rural Turkey by examining evidence of market separation. If family and hired labor are perfect substitutes, as conventional theory would suggest, then shadow wages associated with unpaid family labor and market wages paid to hired labor would not be significantly different, and markets would not, therefore, be separate. Using a Cobb-Douglas production function and controlling for village-level fixed effects, I test whether this relationship holds for rural labor markets in Turkey. I find that shadow and market wages do differ, which suggests that rural labor markets in Turkey do not conform to the conventional theory. This chapter further examines the impact of land ownership inequality on the wedge between the shadow wage and the market wage. I find a positive correlation between land ownership inequality and the discrepancy between the shadow and market wages, which I argue provides evidence of labor market malfunctioning. I further analyze rural labor market participation by examining the determinants of market participation with non-linear probit regression. After controlling for household demographics, wealth, market and macroeconomic variables as well as geographical variation I find that economic factors such as wealth, along with village land ownership inequality seem to be instrumental in determining labor market participation.

Testing for Inverse Size Yield Relationship in Turkish Agriculture

In this chapter I examine the evidence of an inverse size-yield relationship in Turkish agriculture. This is the first empirical study of the relationship between farm size and yield per acre in Turkey. I find a strong inverse relationship between farm size and yield in all regions of Turkey after controlling for household, village and agro-climatic heterogeneity. Using village fixed effects regressions, I also investigate the relationship between farm size and capital, and farm size and labor input per acre and find strong evidence for a negative relationship for both. This chapter further studies the impact of land ownership inequality and land fragmentation on yield per acre and labor input per acre, and finds positive correlations with both. Contrary to claims, land fragmentation results in increased productivity due to its risk-reducing affects. My results support labor-centered theories of the inverse size-yield relationship. Higher degrees of land ownership inequality are associated with greater labor input per acre in general, and family labor input per acre in particular. Thus, higher yields per acre on smaller farms are explained by increased labor input per acre, thus generating the observed inverse size-yield relationship.

The Impact of Land Ownership Inequality on Rural Factor Markets

This chapter develops an analytical model to measure market malfunctioning and constructs market effectiveness indices based on neoclassical assumptions of perfect markets. According to the standard model in economics, competitive markets allow the full utilization of land and labor, and their efficient allocation across alternative uses. This supplies a theoretical as well as a normative benchmark for evaluating economic outcomes in terms of aggregate income and inequality. Using the QHS 2002 dataset, I construct measures of actual outcomes (aggregate income and its distribution) and of predicted outcomes under the standard model. I then compare the two sets of measures to define quantitative indices of the degree of market effectiveness and efficiency in ameliorating inequality. I then test for the connectedness between inequality and markets on three different levels -- province, town, and village -- by regressing outcome measures of inequality on land ownership inequality with controls for infrastructure, population density and proximity to urban centers of economic activity. The result of this investigation shows that for all levels of analysis there is a positive and significant correlation between market malfunctioning and land ownership inequality in rural Turkey.