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EDUCATION

Tilburg University

Ph.D. in Economics, *Cum laude* 2019-2024

Advisors: Burak Uras, Christoph Walsh

Committee: Fabio Braggion, Pinar Keskin, Quamrul Ashraf, Steven Nafziger

Tilburg University

M.Sc. Economics, *with Distinction* 2017-2019

Barcelona School of Economics

M.Sc. Specialized Economic Analysis 2013-2014

Pompeu Fabra University

M.Sc. Management 2012-2013

Boğaziçi University

B.A. Economics 2007-2011

VISITING POSITIONS

Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, September–December 2023
Visiting Scholar

Department of Economics, Harvard University, January–July 2022
Visiting Scholar

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Economic History, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

Convicts and Comrades

Tilburg University CentER Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2023

Abstract: What role did coerced labor play in establishing the first labor unions? This paper introduces a model where the representative firm employs convict labor, reproducing the empirical patterns observed in the data. As a result, workers face reduced wages, and firms see heightened profits. In response, workers organize, form unions, and initiate strikes. I use an instrumental variable approach to demonstrate that, at the turn of the 20th century, Black convict labor significantly boosted white union growth, strikes, and membership in the Southern United States. My empirical findings further suggest that this influence has persisted as counties with a history of heavy dependence on convict labor continue to display higher rates of union membership in the present day.

Firms and Unions

with Burak Uras

Abstract: Is firm growth always positively linked to higher wages? How does technological progress affect the relationship between firms and labor unions? This paper offers the first analysis to explain this interplay, reproducing the empirical patterns observed in the data. We introduce a general equilibrium model showing how firm growth, driven by general-purpose technologies, initially raises both firm size and wages. Beyond a firm-size threshold, firms transition to labor-substituting technologies, like automation, due to their ease of scalability, which, contrary to the predictions of neoclassical growth models, results in stagnating wages despite further firm growth. The progression to automation is delayed in industries with entry barriers. The increased ease of substituting labor diminishes the union-extractable rents, reducing the benefits of unionization. By incorporating automation's impact, we revise the view of unions as rent-seeking entities, offering a novel perspective on how automation reshapes union rents and labor dynamics.

The Legacy of School Shootings: The Long-Term and Intergenerational Effects

Tilburg University CenterER Best Graduate Student Paper Award, 2022

Abstract: In recent decades, countless US students have been on school grounds during shootings. This paper examines the long-term and intergenerational effects of school shootings on earnings, educational attainment, and geographic mobility. I find that exposure to a school shooting decreases survivors' hourly wage by 20.8% and that this effect persists over their lifetime. Furthermore, I show that the effect of school shootings lasts beyond the initially treated and has detrimental effects on their children. I find that having shooting-exposed parents decreases children's hourly wage by 18.8%.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Tilburg University CenterER Best Graduate Student Paper Award	2023
NWO-TISEM Incentive Grant	2023
Tilburg University CenterER Best Graduate Student Paper Award	2022
TISEM International Research Visit Scholarship	2022

SKILLS

Programming/Statistics: R, STATA, Python

Languages: Turkish (Native), English (Bilingual Proficiency), Dutch (Limited Working Proficiency), Spanish (Elementary Proficiency)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Seminar and Conference Presentations

2024 (incl. scheduled): NBER Summer Institute, London Business School, Georgia State University and University of Maryland, Wageningen University, University of Lucerne, Tilburg University, Williams College

2023: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Boston University, Northeastern University, Applied Young Economist Webinar, Williams College Brown Bag Seminar, Tilburg University Economics Seminar, LSE/Bocconi Economic Analysis Seminar, Development & Economic History Research Group (Tilburg University), Cologne FRESH Meeting 2023, ECONtribute WIMLEEH Workshop (Bonn University), Warwick PhD Conference, ENTER Jamboree (Mannheim University), HEC Paris Economics PhD Conference, Workshop on the Economics of Crime (LSE/Northeastern)

2022: North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society; Harvard University (Seminar in Labor Economics), IZA Summer School in Labor Economics, Toulouse University (Applied Microeconomics Seminar), Tilburg University (Applied Microeconomics Seminar and Graduate Students' Society Seminar Series)

2021: Barcelona School of Economics (Labor Economics Summer School), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ENTER Network Seminar), Tilburg University (Economics Department Internal Seminar and Behavioral and Experimental Group Seminar), Université Libre de Bruxelles ECARES (Economics Department Internal Seminar)

2020: Successfully Navigating Your Economics PhD Mentoring Workshop organized by Jennifer Doleac and Maya Rossin-Slater, Tilburg University (Graduate Students' Society Seminar Series)

Referee Service

Review of Economic Studies
European Review of Economic History
Journal of Macroeconomics
Review of Economics of the Household

Services

Co-founder, Development Economics and Economic History Research Group	2021 - 2024
Faculty Council Member, TiU International	2021 - 2022
Seminar Organizer, European Network for Training in Economic Research	2020 - 2022
Seminar Organizer, Graduate Students' Society	2020 - 2022
Ph.D. Representative, Graduate Students' Society	2019 - 2020
Mentor, Graduate Students' Society	2019 - 2023
Student Representative, Graduate Students' Society	2017 - 2019

TEACHING

Ph.D. Microeconomics 3, Tilburg University	2020 - 2023
B.Sc. Public Sector Economics, Tilburg University	2020 - 2023
B.Sc. Macroeconomics for EOR, Tilburg University	2020 - 2021
Ph.D. Microeconomics 1, Tilburg University	2019 - 2020
B.Sc. Thesis Supervision, Tilburg University	2019 - 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

Business Analyst, Sharp Electronics	2015 - 2016
Research Assistant for Gabrielle Fack, Barcelona School of Economics	2013 - 2014