

I. Hakan Yetkiner
<http://homes.ieu.edu.tr/~iyetkiner/>

Izmir University of Economics
Department of Economics

The Economics of Turkish Economists: How Do Globalization Affect the Productivity of Turkish Economists?

I. Hakan Yetkiner[†]

Department of Economics, Izmir University of Economics, 35330, Izmir, Turkey

SAMPLE PROPOSAL

[†] E-mail: Hakan.Yetkiner@ieu.edu.tr. I

Proposal (Extended Abstract)

The growing number and frequency of studies on university, department, and economist rankings indicate that this area is becoming increasingly popular among economists. This literature can be attributed to Fusheld (1956). Some of the important contributors, among others, are Cleary and Edwards (1960), Yotopoulos (1961), Siegfried (1972), Niemi (1975), Smith and Gold (1976), Ladd and Lipsett (1979), Conroy and Dusansky (1995), Scott and Mitias (1996), Dusansky and Vernon (1998), Feinberg (1998), Griliches and Einay (1998), and Coupé (2003). Apparently, the aim of all these efforts is not simply to rank researchers, departments, or universities, even though the titles suggest it. The actual aim is to identify the main trends in economics by answering questions regarding which school (of thought) dominates, whether there is any shift in methodology in time, whether scientific research is disseminating or amassing among economists, and so on.

For obvious reasons, most of these studies have focused on economists and departments of economics located in US or in other English speaking countries (see Lucas (1995) and Harris (1990) for non-US, English-speaking studies). There are very few works that look beyond US boundaries. The short list of these studies includes van Damme (1996), Bauwens (1999), Jin and Yau (1999), Kalaitzidakis, Mamunceas, and Sytengos (1999), Combes and Linnemer (2001), and Coupe (2003).

In this study, we go further to the East and study the rankings of economics departments and economists in Turkey. Our ultimate aim is obviously not to determine the most productive economist or the winning department but to analyze one of the latest success stories. In particular, we aim to show that the globalization and the 'market economy' movement in Turkey did fire the skyrocketing scientific productivity of Turkish economists. Firstly, Turkey is one of the earliest economies that onset the globalization process since 24th of January 1980.¹ Since then, the Turkish economy has been increasingly integrating into the world economy. Secondly, Turkish university system has been subject to a significant structural change since the establishment of the very first private university, Bilkent University,

¹ Interested readers may refer to for example a report of Central Bank of Turkey (2002) for a detailed discussion of history of globalization of Turkish economy.

in 1984.² With the gradual entry of private universities into the Turkish education system (especially in late 1990s), the rules of the game in academia has been redefined; Globalization and competition have had unprecedented effects on Turkish higher education. The publication of articles in international journals has become the main criteria for academic promotion and reward, and adopted not only by private but by also public universities. Hence, openness and competition have instituted a new era in scientific research in Turkey.

In this study we undertake preliminary OLS regressions for a cross-section of 80 universities in 2007 to show that trade openness and competition contributed positively to the scientific productivity of Turkish Economists and economics departments in Turkey. Some studies have utilized variations of OLS such as tobit (e.g., Yetkiner, 1998) and logit (e.g., Yetkiner, 2001). If the dependent variable has upper and lower bounds of 1 and 0, regression analysis needs to restrict the dependent variable by using a logit model. In this study, we used tobit model as Yetkiner (1998), because some of our observations for the dependent variable has zero values. The dependent variable is the number of publications per faculty member. The independent variables are the ratio of the sum of imports and exports to GDP as the openness index, the share of private universities in the total number of universities as the competitiveness index, dummy variable for Istanbul, Ankara, and Izmir, number of other universities in the same city, and the establishment year of the University.

We expect to find that all these variables are statistically significant and positive. In particular, a positive and significant openness and competitiveness indices will show that globalization and opening the higher education market into competition are the important factors in the rising productivity of Turkish economists and department of economics in Turkey. We expect also to find out that dummy variable for the largest three cities will be positive and significant. Because we know that a significant percentage of the total number of publications produced in Turkey originate from (the same) four universities, namely, METU, Hacettepe, Bilkent and Koç Universities; two of which are private.

² Though the first private university is established in 1984, most of them are indeed established in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

References

- Bauwens, Luc (1999), "Economic Research in Belgian Universities" (<http://www.core.ucl.ac.be/econometrics/Bauwens/rankings/rankings.htm>).
- Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (2002), "The Impact of Globalization on The Turkish Economy", (<http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/yeni/evds/yayin/kitaplar/global.pdf>)
- Coupé, Tom (2003), "Revealed Performances: Worldwide Rankings of Economists and Economics Departments, 1990-2000", *Journal of the European Economic Association*, vol. 1, pp. 1309-45.
- Cleary, Frank R. and Edwards, Daniel J. (1960), "The Origins of Contributors to the AER", *American Economic Review*, vol. 50, pp. 1011-14.
- Conroy, Michael and Richard Dusansky (1995), "The Productivity of Economics Departments in the US: Publications in the Core Journals." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 33, pp. 1966–1971
- Dusansky, Richard and Clayton J. Vernon (1998), "Ranking of US Economics Departments", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12, pp. 157–170.
- Feinberg, Robert M. (1998), Correspondence. "Ranking Economics Departments", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(4), pp. 231–232.
- Fusheld, Daniel R. (1956), "The Program of American Economic Association Meetings", *American Economic Review*, vol. 46, pp. 642-44.
- Griliches, Zvi and Liran Einav (1998), "Ranking Economics Departments", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12(4), pp. 233–235.
- Harris, Geoffrey (1990), "Research Output in Australian University Economics Departments: An Update for 1984–1988", *Australian Economic Papers*, 29, pp. 249–259

- Jin, Jang and Louis Yau (1999), "Research Productivity of the Economics Profession in East Asia", *Economic Inquiry*, 37(4), pp. 706–710.
- Kalaitzidakis, Pantelis, Theofanis Mamuneas, and Thanasis Stengos (1999), "European Economics: An Analysis Based on Publications in the Core Journals", *European Economic Review*, 43, pp. 1150–1168.
- Ladd, Everett and Lipsett, Seymour (1979) "How Professors Rated Faculties in 19 Fields", *Chronicle of Higher Education*, vol. XX, pp. 6.
- Lucas, R. (1995) "Contributions to Economics Journals by the Canadian Economics Profession, 1981-1990", *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 28 (4), 949-960.
- Niemi, Albert W., Jr. (1975), "Journal Publication Performance during 1970-74: The Relative Output of Southern Economic Departments", *Southern Economic Journal*, vol. 41, pp. 97-106.
- Scott, Loren and Mitias, Peter (1996) "Trends in Rankings of Economics Departments in the U.S.: An Update", *Economic Inquiry*, vol. 34, pp. 378-400.
- Siegfried, John J. (1972), "The Publishing of Economic Papers and Its Impact on Graduate Faculty Rankings 1960-1969", *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 10, pp. 31-49.
- Smith, V. Kerry and Gold, Steven (1976), "Alternative Views of Journal Publication Performance During 1968-71 and 1970-74", *Eastern Economic Journal*, vol. XX, pp. 109-13.
- van Damme, Eric (1996) "Measuring Quality of Academic Journals and Scientific Productivity of Researchers," mimeo, CentER, Tilburg University, The Netherlands.
- Yetkiner, I. H. (1998), "Turkish Universities: A Tobit Analysis", *Turkish Economic Review*, vol. 1, pp. 1-10. (Fictitious)
- Yetkiner, I. H. (2001), "Turkish Universities: A Logit Analysis", *Turkish Economic Review*, vol. 1, pp. 11-21. (Fictitious)
- Yotopoulos, Pan A. (1961), "Institutional Affiliation of Contributors to Three Professional Journals", *American Economic Review*, vol. 51, pp. 665-70.