

MEVLUDE AKBULUT-YUKSEL

(December 2008)

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EDUCATION:

PhD in Economics University of Houston, expected in May 2009 (with Distinction (3.95/4.00))
Dissertation Title: “Long-Term Effects of Shocks Experienced in Early Childhood”
Advisors: Aimee Chin (co-advisor), Adriana Kugler (co-advisor), Chinhui Juhn

MA in Economics University of Houston, 2006
Summa cum laude (3.94/4.00)

BS in Economics Middle East Technical University, Turkey, 2004
with minor in Magna cum laude
Mathematics

FIELDS OF INTEREST: Labor Economics, Development Economics, Health Economics and Economic History

AFFILIATIONS: Research Affiliate, IZA, Bonn, Germany, March 2008-present

WORKING PAPERS:

- “The Long-Run Effects of Warfare and Destruction on Children: Evidence from World War II”
(**JOB MARKET PAPER**)
presented at HICN’s 4th Annual Workshop, Yale University, December 2008
NEUDC, Boston, November 2008
IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development May 2008
IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Germany, May 2008
- “Intergenerational Transmission of Health among Immigrants: A Comparison across Different Health Systems” (with Adriana Kugler, UH), University of Houston Mimeo, May 2007
presented at Royal Economic Society Conference, Warwick, UK, March 2008
- “The Effect of English Proficiency among Childhood Immigrants: Are Hispanics Different?”
(with Hoyt Bleakley, University of Chicago GSB and Aimee Chin, UH), University of Houston Mimeo, March 2008
presented at IUPLR Second Biennial Conference (Siglo XXI), Austin, TX, April 2007
- “Left Behind: Child Human Capital Accumulation in the Midst of HIV” (with Belgi Turan, UH)
presented at Society of Labor Economists Meetings (SOLE), NY, May 2008
15th World Congress of the IEA, Istanbul, Turkey, June 2008
- “Does Compulsory Schooling Attendance Affect Schooling and Earnings? Revisited”,
University of Houston Mimeo, January 2007

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

- “The Intergenerational Effects of Parental Schooling on Children’s Health Outcomes: Evidence

from a Large Scale Education Program in Indonesia” (with Javier Baez, World Bank)

- “Risk and Trust Attitudes, Locus of Control and WWII Destruction” (with Mutlu Yuksel and Zhong Zhao)
presented at IZA Workshop: Behavioral Labor Economics, Germany, October 2008
- “Compulsory Schooling Laws and Child Labor: Evidence from Developing Country Context”
- “Language Human Capital and Health Outcomes of Childhood Immigrants”

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Research Visit, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany, January-September, 2008

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Houston, for Prof. Aimee Chin, January 2006-June 2008, working on NIH-funded project entitled “The Effect of English-Language Skills on the Children of Immigrants”

Teaching Fellow (Sole Instructor), Department of Economics, University of Houston

- Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2007
- Principles of Macroeconomics, Spring 2007

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Houston

- Graduate Econometrics II, Fall 2006
- Graduate Econometrics I, Spring 2006
- Graduate Microeconomics I, Fall 2005

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

- Introduction to Econometrics II, Spring 2004
- Introduction to Econometrics I, Fall 2003

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS:

- IZA Research Visit Grant, January-September, 2008
- Graduate Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston, 2004– present
- Cullen Supplemental Fellowship, University of Houston, 2004– 2006
- Stipend Fellowship, Middle East Technical University, Turkey, 2000-2004

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Households in Conflict Network (HICN)’s 4th Annual Workshop, Yale University, December 2008 (**Presenter**)
- Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), Boston, November 2008 (**Presenter and Discussant**)
- BREAD/CEPR/University of Verona Summer School in Development Economics, Italy, June 2008 (**Selected with Fellowship; Declined**)
- 15th World Congress of the International Economic Association, Turkey, June 2008 (**Presenter**)

- Fifth IZA Annual Migration Meeting (AM²) and Topic Week, May 2008 (**Discussant**)
- 11th IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Germany, May 2008 (**Presenter**)
- Society of Labor Economists Meetings (SOLE), New York, May 2008 (**Presenter**)
- Third IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development, Morocco, May 2008 (**Presenter**)
- Royal Economic Society Conference, Warwick, United Kingdom, March 2008 (**Presenter**)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

- IZA Workshop on Intergenerational Transmission of Socioeconomic Outcomes: Identifying the Underlying Mechanism, Germany, October 2007
- American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2007
- NBER Summer Institute, Labor Studies Meeting, Cambridge, MA, August 2006

REFeree:

International Journal of Manpower

RELATED SKILLS:

Computer Skills: Stata, Gauss, WinRats, SAS, SPSS, Eviews, Microfit, Minitab

Language Skills: English (fluent), Turkish (native), German (basic)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Society of Labor Economists

REFERENCES:

- *Aimee Chin (co-advisor)*, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77204-5019 Phone: (+1) 713-743-3761; Email: achin@uh.edu.
- *Adriana Kugler (co-advisor)*, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77204-5019 Phone: (+1) 713-743-3832; Email: adkugler@central.uh.edu.
- *Chinhui Juhn*, Henry Graham Professor of Economics, Graduate Co-Director, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77204-5019 Phone: (+1) 713-743-3823; Email: cjuhn@central.uh.edu.
- *Rebecca Achee Thornton (Teaching Reference)*, Clinical Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Director, Department of Economics, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77204-5019 Phone: (+1) 713-743-3820; Email: rthornton@uh.edu.

RESEARCH SUMMARY:

- **“The Long Run Effects of Warfare and Destruction on Children: Evidence from WWII”**
(JOB MARKET PAPER)

Abstract: During World War II, over one-half million tons of bombs were dropped in area raids on German cities, destroying about one-fifth of the total housing stock nationwide. This paper provides causal evidence on the long-run consequences of large-scale war destruction on the educational attainment and health status of German children. I combine a unique dataset on “city”-level destruction in Germany caused by Allied Air Forces bombing during WWII with individual survey data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP). My identification strategy exploits the plausibly exogenous city-by-cohort variation in the intensity of WWII destruction. My findings suggest significant, long-lasting detrimental effects on the human capital formation of Germans who were school-aged during WWII. First, these children had 0.3 fewer years of schooling on average in adulthood, with those in the most hard-hit cities completing 1.2 fewer years. Second, these children were about half inches shorter and had lower self-reported health satisfaction in adulthood. These results survive using alternative samples and specifications, including controlling for migration and instrumenting for WWII destruction, where instrumental variable is distance to London. Moreover, a control experiment using older cohorts who were not school-aged during WWII reveals no significant city-specific cohort trends in schooling. An important channel for the effect of destruction on educational attainment appears to be the destruction of schools and the absence of teachers.

- **“Intergenerational Transmission of Health among Immigrants: A Comparison across Different Health Systems”** (with Adriana Kugler, University of Houston, IZA and NBER)

Abstract: The research on education points to significant inter-generational transmission which likely contributes to the inter-generational transmission of earnings and income. This paper addresses the question of whether another form of human capital, health, also provides similar insight in understanding mobility of earnings. Using NLSY, we first present new evidence on inter-generational transmission of health outcomes including weight, height, the body mass index, depression and asthma for both natives and immigrants. We show that both native and immigrant children inherit a prominent fraction of their health status from their parents. Next, we also find that mother’s education decreases child’s weight and the body mass index for natives, while single motherhood increases weight and BMI of children for both natives and immigrants. Taken together, these findings suggest that along with inter-generational correlation in education, persistence in health also contributes to the inter-generational transmission of economic status.

- **“The Effect of English Proficiency among Childhood Immigrants: Are Hispanics Different? (with Hoyt Bleakley, University of Chicago GSB and NBER, and Aimee Chin, University of Houston and NBER)**

Abstract: We test whether the effect of English proficiency differs between Hispanic and non-Hispanic immigrants. Using 2000 U.S. Census microdata on immigrants who arrived before age 15, we relate labor market, education, marriage, fertility and location of residence variables to their age at arrival in the U.S., and in particular whether that age fell within the “critical period” of language acquisition. We interpret the observed difference in outcomes between childhood immigrants arriving during the critical period and those arriving later (adjusted for non-language-related age-at-arrival effects using childhood immigrants from English-speaking countries) as an effect of English-language skills and construct an instrumental variable for English-language skills. We find that both Hispanics and non-Hispanics exhibit lower English proficiency if they arrive after the critical period, but this drop in English proficiency is larger for Hispanics. The effect of English proficiency on earnings and education is nevertheless quite similar across groups, which suggests that English proficiency is a key variable in understanding differences across these groups. On the other hand, the effects of English proficiency on social outcomes, such as marriage, fertility and enclave residence, are attenuated for Hispanics.

- **“Left Behind: Child Human Capital Accumulation in the Midst of HIV” (with Belgi Turan, University of Houston)**

Abstract: The research on education has established that there is a strong correlation between parent’s human capital and that of their children in the US and the European countries while the childhood environment is also essential in forming child’s future human capital. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa has altered the childhood environment for recent cohorts that could influence human capital investment and, consequently, the intergenerational mobility of education and health status across generations. Using recent rounds of Demographic and Health Surveys for ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa which provide individual HIV status, this paper attempts to estimate the extent of the intergenerational transmission of education across generations in Africa and how mother’s HIV status and local HIV prevalence rate affect the intergenerational transmission coefficient. We find that the transmission coefficient in educational attainment for thirteen sub-African countries is relatively smaller than developed country estimates. Our results show that children of HIV positive mothers are more mobile. We incorporate different health and education variables to examine whether our results are sensitive to the choice of dependent variable, and show that it is not the case. Moreover, we find evidence that local HIV prevalence hinders intergenerational transmission of education across generations. The findings of this paper are in

accord with the existing literature stating the detrimental impact of HIV/AIDS on accumulation of human capital and underlining the importance of combat against HIV/AIDS, which must be a first order policy concern as epidemic has impacts beyond current generation.

- **“Risk and Trust Attitudes, Locus of Control and WWII Destruction” (with Mutlu Yuksel, IZA and Zhong Zhao, IZA)**

Abstract: In this paper, we investigate the relationship between catastrophe and psychological dimension of human being. In particular, we examine the long-term impacts of World War II destruction on risk and trust attitudes and locus of control of German population. We exploit rubble per capita resulting from World War II at *Raumordnungsregionen* (Regional Policy Regions) level as our measurement of the World War II destruction. The measurements of trust attitude, risk attitude and locus of control are taken from 2003, 2004, and 2005 waves of German Socio-Economic Panel, respectively. Our preliminary results suggest that World War II destruction has significant negative impact on the trust attitude even after nearly 60 years.