

MALIK CURUK

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Academic Appointments

Bogazici University, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor

2014-2016 Tilburg University, Department of Economics
Post-doctoral Researcher

Education

2011-2014 Ph.D. in Economics, Tilburg University
Fields: Economic Growth, International Trade, Environmental Economics, Economic History

2009-2011 Research Master in Economics, Tilburg University

2002-2007 B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, Bogazici University

Research

Structural Transformation and Technological Progress

Abstract: This paper documents two important regularities on the composition and direction of technological progress over the course of development. First, TFP growth rates decline in agriculture and manufacturing and weakly increase in services as per capita-income grows, which leads to the convergence of TFP growth in manufacturing and services. This observation constitutes a puzzle for the theories of structural transformation focusing on non-balanced TFP growth given the increasing pace of structural transformation at higher levels of development. Second, the rate of quality growth has been larger in services relative to manufacturing in the post-war U.S. economy and the discrepancy has been increasing over time. I present a multi-sector endogenous growth model which can explain these trends together with the salient features of structural transformation. Our analysis suggests that over the last decades quality growth has become the main source of technological progress, welfare improvements related to the expansion of the service sector are underestimated, and a large industrial sector is not a prerequisite for fast economic growth.

Intersectoral Labor Reallocation in the Short-Run: The Role of Occupational Similarity (with G.Vannoorenberghe) (R&R at *Journal of International Economics*)

Abstract: This paper shows that intersectoral labor reallocation is substantially affected by the similarity of the occupational mix of industries within a local labor market. We develop a theory-based measure of occupational similarity between industries and show how geographic proximity to industries using similar occupations raises the ability of an industry to respond to aggregate shocks. Using data on the employment growth of region-industry pairs in the U.S., we confirm empirically that an industry's employment responds more to nationwide changes in regions where other industries using similar occupations are located. Imputing U.S. data to our model, we show that the short-run gains from trade resulting from terms of trade movements are significantly lower than in a model where workers move freely between occupations and regions. We also find that the sensitivity of employment to economic shocks differs widely across U.S. industries, from a low sensitivity in agriculture to a high sensitivity in wholesale trade.

Oil Trade and Climate Policy (with S. Sen) (CESifo Working Paper No. 5285)

Abstract: It has been argued that a depletable resource owner might optimally increase near-term supply in response to environmental policies promoting the development of alternative resources, which might render climate policy ineffective or even counterproductive. Using data on crude oil exports this paper provides strong evidence supporting this hypothesis, which is robust to various econometric issues and endogeneity concerns. It documents that oil exporters decrease prices and increase quantity of oil exports in response to increases in R&D intensity on renewable energy technologies in importer countries. We further show that (i) these findings are mainly driven by the exporters with higher dependence on oil revenues; (ii) exports of coal, which is in abundant supply, are not significantly affected by the changes in R&D intensity of importer countries; and (iii) the Armington elasticity of oil is about 2.4. Besides having important implications for the effectiveness and design of climate policy, these results underscore the role of

dependence on oil revenues of the oil exporters and economic/political diversification incentives of the importer countries in the oil markets.

Malthus Meets Luther: The Economics Behind the German Reformation (with S. Smulders) (*CESifo Working Paper No. 6010*)

Abstract: The Reformation provided a powerful source of legitimacy for secularization of governance and enabled the regional authorities to change the institutional structure to eliminate the inefficiencies under the prevailing (Catholic) regime. We investigate this idea in a simple model of regime change and show that the regions where the prevailing institutions are less appropriate, i.e. poorer regions with greater economic potential, should have been more likely to adopt the Reformation. Using detailed data on religious denominations, city characteristics and exogenous measures of agricultural potential, we empirically confirm this hypothesis for the cities in the 16th century Holy Roman Empire. This finding points to an economic rationale of the adoption of Protestantism as a vehicle of institutional change.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

Invited Speaker:

Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, 2016)
Erasmus University (Rotterdam, 2016)
Purdue University (Indianapolis, 2016)
Free University of Brussels (Brussels, 2016)
East Anglia University (Norwich, 2016)
Utrecht University (Utrecht, 2016)
TOBB (Ankara, 2016)
Kadir Has University (Istanbul, 2016)
CESifo Area Conference, Energy and Climate Economics (Munich, 2014)

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

Royal Economic Society Conference (Manchester, 2015)
Research in International Economics and Finance (Zurich, 2014)
European Trade Study Group Conference (Munich, 2014)
European Economic Association Congress (Toulouse, 2014)
Economic Growth Workshop (Warwick, 2014)
European Economic Association Congress (Malaga, 2012)
Economic Development Workshop (Tilburg, 2012)
Enter Jamboree (Stockholm, 2013)
European Trade Study Group Conference (Leuven, 2012),
Ghent University (2012)
Tilburg University (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Professional Service

Referee for *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *European Economic Review* (x2), *Economic Inquiry*

Personal

Born: May 18, 1984. Turkish citizen. Married with one child.