# Burak Eskici

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## Fields of Interest

Quantitative methods, ML and Data Science, Generative AI, Data Systems, ML Ops, Financial Analysis, Start-up Valuation, Governance, and Organizational Behavior.

## Education

- **Ph.D. in Sociology, Harvard University – Cambridge, MA, 2014**
  - *Areas of specialization:* Quantitative Research methods, Modeling, Computational Social Science
  - *Thesis:* Institutional and Cultural Roots of Industrial Development in Modern Turkey
  - *Committee*: Orlando Patterson, Filiz Garip, Jason Beckfield
- **A.M. in Sociology, Harvard University – Cambridge MA, 2011**
  - *Thesis:* Multiple Paths to Development: Clustering Analysis of Semi-Developed Countries
- **M.S. in Industrial Engineering, Bogazici University – Turkey, 2009**
  - *Thesis: The Dynamics of Publication and Citation Networks in Academia*
- **B.S. in Industrial Engineering, Bogazici University – Turkey, 2006**

## Academic Positions

- Teaching Assistant Professor, **Lehigh University** Jul 2024 – present
- Co-Director, Computer Science and Business Program, **Lehigh University** Jul 2024 – present
- Adjunct Faculty, **Lehigh University** Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- Visiting Professor, **University of Seoul, Seoul Korea** Summer 2016
- Senior Lecturer, **Harvard University** Jul 2014 – Jun 2016
- Research Assistant, **Harvard University** 2008 – 2013
- Teaching Fellow, **Harvard University** Sep 2010 – Dec 2012

## Experience

- Researcher, **The World Bank** Mar 2022 – Jun 2024
  - Responsible for overseeing a research and monitoring/evaluation portfolio focused on digital development, especially building ID systems, digital payment infrastructures, and data sharing frameworks within developing countries. Successfully delivered a range of analytical products, including sophisticated big data solutions, comprehensive management dashboards (involving both backend and frontend architecture), randomized control trials, and thorough statistical analysis. My responsibilities encompass various tasks, such as research design, proficient data analysis (utilizing STATA, R, and Python), adept visualization (using R and Python), drafting of research papers and policy briefs, and providing technical guidance and executive education to government agencies in client countries for capacity building.
- Co-Founder and COO, **Earnie Inc.** Jun 2021 – Jun 2024
  - Spearheaded the development of a cutting-edge algorithmic trading platform. This tool empowers users to create, back-test, and implement their trading strategies using AI-driven stock selection engines. These engines are intelligently designed based on knowledge graphs, exploiting the relationship data in company networks. The platform seamlessly integrates with brokerage

accounts for automated real-time trading. This approach revolutionizes the accessibility and effectiveness of algorithmic trading for users across the spectrum of trading experience.

- Research Program Director, **University of California San Diego (UCSD)** Oct 2018 – Jun 2024
  - Managed multiple research portfolios and coordinating teams with a combined budget of $21 million (approximately $2.1 million per year); accountable for talent management and team productivity, financial management and donor engagement, policy ramifications, and collaboration with university administration; worked closely with Karthik Muralidharan, Tata Chancellor's Chair of Economics at UCSD, to ensure seamless integration of research efforts, policy impact in India, and strategic alignment with department goals.
  - Overall portfolio published articles in esteemed journals such as Econometrica, Review of Economics and Statistics (ReStat), Quarterly Journal of Economics (QJE), American Economic Review (AER), Journal of Political Economy (JPE), and AEJ: Applied Economics.
  - Senior lecturer specializing in executive education programs, with expertise in data analysis, data visualization, and quantitative research methods. Additionally, a strong focus on instructing in the areas of financial inclusion, fintech, and digital development within low- and middle-income countries.

- Program Director, **J-PAL, Delhi, India** Aug 2016 – Oct 2018
  - Led end-to-end execution of research projects guided by principal investigators Karthik Muralidharan, Paul Niehaus, and Sandip Sukhtankar, ensuring the overall quality of the research portfolio. This encompassed high-level planning, day-to-day operational oversight, meticulous quality control on field surveys, and hands-on leadership in analysis, documentation, and communication.
  - Managed stakeholder relationships, supervised the teams and talent, conducted financial budgeting, facilitated fund-raising efforts, and nurtured donor relations.
  - Served as a senior lecturer in JPAL's executive training team, delivering lectures on topics such as monitoring and evaluation, fintech and market development, and impact evaluation.

## Papers and Presentations

- Burak Eskic and Ashwin Nair. 2023. "*Digital Public Services: The Development of Biometric Authentication in India."* In: Madon, T., Gadgil, A.J., Anderson, R., Casaburi, L., Lee, K., Rezaee, A. (eds) Introduction to Development Engineering. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86065-3_20
- Filiz Garip, Burak Eskici, and Ben Snyder. 2015. *"Network Effects in Migrant Remittances: Evidence from Household, Sibling and Village Ties in Nang Rong, Thailand."* American Behavioral Scientist 59(9): 1066-1082.
- Burak Eskici. 2012. *"Multiple Paths to Development: The Analysis of 23 Recently (Semi) Developed Countries".* American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, USA.
- Burak Eskici, Filiz Garip, and Ben Snyder. 2011. "Peer Effects in Migrants' Remittances: Evidence from Sibling Networks in 51 Rural Thai Villages", 31st Sunbelt Social Networks Conference, FL, USA
- Burak Eskici and Burak Turkgulu. 2007. "Modeling the Dynamics of Avian Influenza Epidemics and Possible Pandemics", International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Proceedings, Boston, MA, USA.
- Burak Eskici and Burak Turkgulu. 2007. "Multi-scale Modeling of Avian Influenza Epidemics", Multi-scale Modeling in Anylogic 6 with Health Examples Workshop, International System Dynamics Conference (ISDC) Proceedings, Boston, MA, USA.

## Honors and Awards

- Led the grant applications to the following large scale programmatic funding:
    - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, research support grant in education policy at the University of California San Diego, 2022 ($1,800,000)
    - New Venture Fund, research grant to Program on the Indian Economy at the University of California San Diego, 2021 ($2,000,000)
    - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, founding grant to the Program on the Indian Economy at the University of California San Diego, 2019 ($2,995,473)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, founding grant to the Program on the Indian Economy at the University of California San Diego, 2019 ($2,995,473)
- Dillon Fellowship Fund, Harvard University, 2008 ($78,000)
- 22nd rank (140,000 students) in the Turkish National Graduate Entrance Exam (LES) (GRE like), 2005
- 1st rank (1,420,000 students) in the Turkish National University Entrance Exam (ÖSS) (SAT like) 2001
- 2nd rank in the National Olympiad of Informatics (IOI), 1999
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBİTAK) Travel Grant, 2007, ($1,250)
- TUBİTAK Fellowship for Graduate Students, 2006-2008, ($25,000)
- European Union Erasmus Fellowship, 2005, ($3,000)
- Bogazici University High Achievement Fellowship, 2001-2006

## Skills

- R, Python, Java, SQL, STATA, Survey CTO, Tableau, C, C++, MS Office