

ONURSAL BAGIRGAN

Özyeğin University
Assistant Professor of Economics

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: onursal.bagirgan@ozyegin.edu.tr
Website: sites.google.com/view/onursal

EMPLOYMENT

Instructor, Özyeğin University	2020 - 2022
Assistant Professor of Economics, Özyeğin University	2022 - present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	2022
M.S. in Economic Analysis, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	2016
M.A. in Economics, Bilkent University	2014
B.S. in Industrial Engineering, Bilkent University	2012

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on the strategic interactions of government and private agents under imperfect environments due to limited commitment and limited enforcement.

- Public Finance
- Macroeconomic Theory
- Applied Theory

WORKING PAPER

Repeated Tax Amnesties

[You can find the last version here.](#)

Abstract: Governments have repeatedly used tax amnesties in recent decades. In this paper, we present a theoretical framework to explain the recurring nature of tax amnesties. We construct a model with strategic interaction between a government and a mass of taxpayers. The government and taxpayers interact repeatedly, and each interaction can result in a tax amnesty. We first show that the self-fulfilling characteristic of tax amnesties may lead to suboptimal outcomes under a lack of commitment. Then, we show that an amnesty can cause another amnesty in the near future by altering taxpayers' beliefs about unobservable government characteristics. Therefore, an economy may fall into a sequence of consecutive tax amnesties through a reputational channel referred to as an "expectation trap." The expectation trap mechanism can explain the series of tax amnesties in some US states that rarely experienced tax amnesties in the past. Our model predicts that four factors can make an economy more vulnerable to the expectation trap: high personal income; high tax rates; low political cost for declaring an amnesty; and low audit rates. We examine US state-level data to test this prediction and show that the states with high personal income and high tax rates use tax amnesties more frequently and repeatedly.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Sustainable Intergenerational Insurance with Money (with William Fuchs)

Abstract: We study the potential role of money and monetary policy on improving intergenerational risk-sharing. Standard studies on redistribution assume perfect enforcement. A government can tax one generation and make transfers to another. However, this is a very strong assumption. We build on the work by Lancia, Russo, and Worrall (2017). We focus on the intergenerational re-distributive policies without any formal enforcement in a 2-period OLG framework. Lack of enforcement implies that it is impossible to tax an old agent. We show that introducing money into the LRW (2017) environment improves risk-sharing. We also show that the government can transfer wealth from old generation to young generation if it creates unanticipated inflation. In this ongoing project, we plan to study the consumers' optimal strategies if they expect such monetary shocks and what would be the effect of such policies if they are anticipated.

TEACHING

Özyeğin University

Macroeconomics (2020 Fall, 2021 Fall, 2023 Spring, 2024 Fall, 2024 Spring, 2025 Fall)

Advanced Macroeconomics (2021 Fall, 2023 Spring, 2023 Fall, 2024 Fall, 2025 Fall)

Growth and Development (2021 Spring, 2022 Spring, 2022 Fall, 2023 Fall, 2025 Spring)

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UC3M Outstanding Teaching Award (2017,2018)

FPI (Ayuda Predoctoral), Ministry of Economics and Competition, Spain

Masters' Scholarship from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Department of Economics

Graduate Scholarship and Tuition Waive from Bilkent University, Department of Economics

Full Undergraduate Scholarship from Bilkent University

PRESENTATIONS

UC3M-CEMFI Macroeconomics PhD Workshop (2016)

UC3M PhD Workshop (2016,2017,2018,2019)

ENTER Jamboree Tilburg (2019)

Max Planck Institute 3rd Workshop in Advances in Political Economy and Public Economics (2019)

Mannheim University Public Economics Seminar (2019)

Ozyegin University Brown Bag Seminar (2021, 2023)

SKILLS

Software Matlab, Stata, L^AT_EX, EViews, Office

Languages Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)

REFERENCES

[William Fuchs](#) (Main Advisor)

UT-Austin, UC3M

wfuchs@gmail.com

[Andres Erosa](#)

UC3M

aerosa@eco.uc3m.es

[Matthias Kredler](#)

UC3M

mkredler@eco.uc3m.es