

Ahmet Gulek

<http://economics.mit.edu/grad/agulek>

agulek@mit.edu

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – MIT

PhD. Student in Economics

Aug. 2019 – Present

Cambridge, MA, USA

M.A. Economics, Koc University, 2019

B.S. Mathematics, Koc University, 2017

B.A. Economics, Koc University, 2017

Lycée de Galatasaray, 2013

Fields of Interest

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Industrial Organization, Econometrics

Working Papers

Driving While Hungry: The Effect of Fasting on Traffic Accidents

Abstract: I study the impact of fasting on traffic accidents by exploiting the institutional feature that, in Turkey, working hours are not adjusted during Ramadan. This allows traffic to remain unaffected by Ramadan during the rush hour. I find that driving while fasting at rush hour is associated with a significant increase in road traffic accidents. Consistent with these results being due to fasting, I show that the increase in accidents is greater when there is an exogenously longer fast due to daylight savings time and in more devout provinces where more people are likely fasting. Using existing survey evidence on fasting rates in Turkey, I conclude that fasting increases the probability of an accident by 25%, which is smaller than the effect of driving while intoxicated, but larger than the effect of mild sleep deprivation.

Work in Progress

Role of Informality in Forced Migration: Evidence from the Syrian refugees in Turkey

Abstract: Policymakers often argue that not giving work permits to migrants can protect formal native employment. I evaluate this hypothesis by studying the impact of Syrian refugees on the Turkish natives' employment outcomes. The key to my analysis is that the overwhelming majority of refugees did not have work permits and therefore could only work in the informal sector. I show that refugees lower native employment not only in the informal sector but also in the formal sector. The latter effect is partly driven by firms' declining incentives to enter the formal sector.

Technical Skills, Activities, and Interests

Programming Languages: Matlab, R, STATA

Languages: Turkish (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

Interests: Basketball, Tango Argentine, Salsa, Fitness, Chess