Simay Aydeniz

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Education

M.A., Economics, Koç University — Expected Jun 2027
GPA 4.00/4.00. Thesis advisor: Prof. Kamil Yılmaz.
Thesis: "Maritime Access and Spatial Price Adjustment in Indonesia"
Graduate coursework: Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Econometrics; Mathematics for Economists (proof-based: real analysis, optimization theory, multivariable calculus, linear algebra).

B.A., Economics and B.A., Business Administration (double major), Koç University — Jun 2025
Summa cum laude. GPA 3.99/4.00 overall; Department Top Student Award.
Quantitative coursework: Calculus; Linear Algebra; Statistics; Econometrics

Research Interests

Development economics; international and intranational trade; spatial and regional economics; political economy.

Research Papers

Solo-Authored

Maritime Access and Spatial Price Adjustment in Indonesia. M.A. thesis, in progress.
Indonesia's subsidized Sea Toll shipping program cut the half-life of bilateral food-price gaps from 2.04 to 1.17 months, although realized maritime costs fell only 7.4%. Monthly shipping network for 2013–2019 rebuilt from AIS vessel-tracking data; least-cost routing; stacked dynamic difference-in-differences.

The Liquidity Cost of Trust: Bilateral Trust, Trade Finance and the Persistence of the 2008–09 Trade Collapse. Accepted for presentation at the 2027 AEA Annual Meeting.
Trust works as implicit credit: trusting exporters ship on open account and carry the financing, so after August 2007 exports of time-intensive goods fell more in high-trust country pairs, a gap still open in 2010. Payment-contract model; trust for 197 country pairs measured from European Parliament speeches with a transformer classifier; event study.

Sparse Replacement Networks and Marginal Spatial Substitution: Example from Banking Hubs in England.
Shared banking hubs do not restore the coverage lost to branch closures, yet they become the nearest access point for about 170,000 residents. Counterfactual spatial network (with and without hubs) built from geocoded closures, hub locations, ward-level population, and 32,000+ access points.

Co-Authored

Partisan Identity and Inflation Expectations: Evidence from a Political Shock in Türkiye (with Selva Demiralp). Revise & Resubmit, *Economics Letters*. SSRN 7610843.
A political event that struck mid-survey in March 2025 raised households' one-year-ahead inflation expectations by about 18 percentage points, more among opposition supporters, and the partisan gap lasted about a year. Natural experiment comparing respondents interviewed before and after the event; balance and placebo-date tests.

The Political Economy of Locally Costly Development: Renewable Energy Infrastructure Siting (with Mehmet Ali Demir)
Hydropower plants in Türkiye are sited in incumbent-leaning localities, where the electoral cost of local opposition is modest. GIS comparison of each built plant with feasible alternative sites along the same river.

Competition for Labor in the Age of AI (with Merih Angın and Mehmet Ali Demir).

Research Experience

Prof. Kamil Yılmaz — Sep 2025–present
Research assistance and M.A. thesis research: reconstructed Indonesian maritime networks from AIS vessel-tracking and official route records; computed schedule-adjusted least-cost shipping paths; estimated dynamic spatial price adjustment.

Prof. Tanju Yorulmazer — Feb–Jun 2026
Supervised independent research: designed and carried out the project behind the solo-authored banking-hubs paper.

Prof. Selva Demiralp — Jun 2023–Jul 2026

Principal research assistant, Koç University Household Inflation Expectations Survey: cleaned, coded, and analyzed every wave of a monthly household panel (44,000+ interviews); co-authored the resulting paper.

Assoc. Prof. Merih Angın — Oct 2023–Jul 2025

Research assistant: applied BERT-based text classification, text annotation, and GIS methods in comparative political economy research; co-authored the resulting paper.

Prof. Burhan Can Karahasan — Jan 2025–Jun 2026

Research assistant on the TÜBİTAK-funded Multidimensional Poverty Index in Türkiye project: cleaned nationally representative longitudinal household data from the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC).

Also assisted Asst. Prof. Ömer Faruk Sözbir (2024–25), Prof. Mehmet Emin Arda (2023–24), Asst. Prof. Görkem Aksaray (2022).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC — Jan 2027 (accepted)
The Liquidity Cost of Trust: Bilateral Trust, Trade Finance and the Persistence of the 2008–09 Trade Collapse

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Boston — 2026
Populism and Economic Nationalism in the Global AI Race

Turkish Economic Association (TEA) Conference, Istanbul — 2026
Political Siting and Electoral Backlash in Green Investment: Evidence from Turkey

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago — 2026
Political Siting and Electoral Backlash in Green Investment: Evidence from Turkey

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Koç University — 2022–present

Calculus; Statistics; Intermediate Macroeconomics; Intermediate Microeconomics; Introduction to Econometrics; Turkish Economy; Financial Accounting.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Special M.A. Scholarship, Koç University–TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum (sole recipient) — 2025
Full Scholarship, M.A. in Economics, Koç University — 2025–present
Top Student Award in the Department, Koç University — 2025
Outstanding Talent Medallion, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye — 2025
TÜBİTAK Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships
Vehbi Koç Honor Award, Koç University — 2024
Conference Travel Grants, American Political Science Association and Koç University — 2026
Full Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies, Koç University — 2020–2025
Sakıp Sabancı Education Award — 2020

METHODS, SKILLS, AND LANGUAGES

Methods	Causal inference (difference-in-differences, event studies, synthetic control, randomization inference); panel-data econometrics; spatial and network analysis (GIS, least-cost routing, satellite imagery, AIS vessel-tracking data); text-as-data (BERT-based classification); survey design
GRE	Quantitative 169/170
Software	Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, SPSS, Qualtrics, LaTeX
Languages	Turkish (native); English (fluent); German (elementary)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING, EXPERIENCE, AND SERVICE

Summer School on Macro, Money, and Finance, Princeton University — May–Jun 2026
Economics Mentoring Program, selected participant — Jul 2026–present
Summer Intern, Ministry of Treasury and Finance of the Republic of Türkiye — Aug–Sep 2024
Intern, Ekol Logistics (Jul–Oct 2023) and QNB Finansbank (Jan–Mar 2023) — 2023
Coordinator, Education Volunteers Project; Incoming Student Mentor, Koç University — 2022–2023