ONUR ALTINDAĞ

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Department of Economics, Bentley University
Citizen of Türkiye and the United States.

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Professional Experience

2026 – 2029 Bentley University, Gibbons Research Professor.
2024 – 2025 On leave visiting Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.
2023 – Bentley University, Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure).
Parental leaves in 2023 and 2025.
2017 – 2023 Bentley University, Assistant Professor of Economics.
2016 – 2017 Harvard University, David E. Bell Postdoctoral Fellow.
2012 – 2016 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Research Assistant.
2008 – 2009 FactSet (Paris), Financial Data Quality Analyst.

Education

2010 – 2016 City University of New York, Ph.D. in Economics.
2007 – 2008 University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, M.A. in Economics.
2001 – 2007 Galatasaray University, B.A. in Economics.

Affiliations

2025 – IZA@LISER Network, Research Fellow.
2024 – Bahçeşehir University, Adjunct Professor.
2024 – J-PAL/IPA Humanitarian Protection Initiative, Invited Researcher.
2023 – J-PAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative, Invited Researcher.
2023 – Hopkins Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services Center, Research Affiliate.
2021 – 2024 IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Research Affiliate.
2020 – Households in Conflict Network (HiCN), Research Affiliate.
2019 – ERF Economic Research Forum, Research Fellow.
2017 – 2020 Visiting Scholar, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies.

Fields of Interest

Economics of Health and Aging · Social Protection and Economic Security · Public Policy

Ongoing Projects

Living with Dementia: Mental Health and Mortality Effects on Spouses.
Altindag, O., Barstad, A., Greve, J., Truskinovsky, Y.

Family Spillovers of Dementia.
Altindag, O., Greve, J., Truskinovsky, Y. (2025).
NBER Working Paper No. 34635.
Revise and resubmit, Review of Economics and Statistics.

Friction at the Door: A Nationwide Experiment on Outreach Channels and Worker Formalization.
with Jade Siu, Diloá Athias, and Olivier Sterck.

Business Networking and Social Cohesion: Experimental Evidence from Türkiye.
with Lydia Assouad, Ceren Baysan, Carlos Molina, and Miray Omurtak.

Published and Forthcoming Papers: Economics

Geographic Poverty Targeting in Social Protection Programs: Evidence from a Nationwide Policy Experiment.
Altindag, O., O'Connell, S.D., Achour, R. (2026).
Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, accepted.

Public Health Policy at Scale: Impact of a Government-sponsored Information Campaign on Infant Mortality in Denmark.
Altindag, O., Greve, J., Tekin, E. (2024).
Review of Economics and Statistics.

The Short-lived Effects of Unconditional Cash Transfers to Refugees.
Altindag, O., O'Connell, S.D. (2023).
Journal of Development Economics.

Mental Health Costs of Lockdowns: Evidence from Age-specific Curfews in Turkey.
Altindag, O., Erten, B., Keskin, P. (2022).
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.

Another Day, Another Visit: Impact of Arkansas' Mandatory Waiting Period for Women Seeking an Abortion by Demographic Groups.
Altindag, O., Joyce, T. (2022).
Journal of Public Economics.

Targeting Humanitarian Aid Using Administrative Data: Model Design and Validation.
Altindag, O., O'Connell, S.D., Sasmaz, A., Balcioglu, Z., Jerneck, M., Foong, A.K. (2021).
Journal of Development Economics.

Do Refugees Impact Voting Behavior in the Host Country? Evidence from Syrian Refugee Inflows in Turkey.
Altindag, O., Kaushal, N. (2021).
Public Choice.

Blessing or Burden? The Impact of Refugees on Businesses and the Informal Economy.
Altindag, O., Bakis, O., Rozo, S. (2020).
Journal of Development Economics.

Does Classroom Time Matter?
Joyce, T., Crockett, S., Jaeger, D.A., Altindag, O., O'Connell, S.D. (2015).
Economics of Education Review.

Published Papers: Health, Population and Policy

Impact of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccination on Hospitalizations and Human Capital: Evidence from Copenhagen School Health Records.
Altindag, O., Greve, J., Tekin, E. (2025).
Vaccines.

Information on Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine in the Copenhagen School Health Records Register.
Altindag, O., Andersen, M., Baker, J., Greve, J., Tekin, E. (2025).
Scandinavian Journal of Public Health.

Effects of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion on Subjective Well-Being in the US Adult Population, 2010–2016.
Kobayashi, L., Altindag, O., Truskinovsky, Y., Berkman, L. (2019).
American Journal of Public Health.

Can Nonexperimental Methods Provide Unbiased Estimates of a Breastfeeding Intervention? A Within-Study Comparison of Peer Counseling in Oregon.
Altindag, O., Joyce, T., Reeder, J.A. (2019).
Evaluation Review.

On Measuring and Reducing Selection Bias With a Quasi-Doubly Randomized Preference Trial.
Joyce, T., Remler, D.K., Jaeger, D.A., Altindag, O., O'Connell, S.D., Crockett, S. (2017).
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.

Judicial Bypass for Minors Seeking Abortions in Arkansas Versus Other States.
Altindag, O., Joyce, T. (2017).
American Journal of Public Health.

Son Preference, Fertility Decline, and the Nonmissing Girls of Turkey.
Altindag, O. (2016).
Demography.

Telephone Peer Counseling of Breastfeeding Among WIC Participants: A Randomized Controlled Trial.
Reeder, J.A., Joyce, T., Sibley, K., Arnold, D., Altindag, O. (2014).
Pediatrics.

Policy Reports

Impact Evaluation of Behaviourally Informed Awareness Campaigns to Expand Social Security Coverage in Jordan: Findings from Firm-Level Data.
International Labour Organization (2025). Research team: Sterck, O., Siu, J., Athias, D., Altindag, O., Nastasi, S., Haidar, A., Moughabghab, M., McClanahan, S.
ILO report, Geneva · doi:10.54394/BWOO9132.

What Drives Social Security Registration? Experimental Evidence from Behavioural Interventions in Jordan's Estidama++ Programme.
International Labour Organization (2025). Same research team.
ILO Brief, December 2025 · doi:10.54394/CYFI1732.

Grants and Competitive Contracts

Total funding as PI or Co-PI between 2018 – 2027: $3,088,712

2025 – 2027 Independent Research Fund Denmark.
Award amount: $417,631. Role: Co-PI.

2024 – 2027 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Insight Grants.
Award amount: $195,503. Role: Co-PI.

2023 – 2025 Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Displaced Livelihoods Initiative.
Award amount: $153,505. Role: Co-PI.

2019 – 2024 Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), Peace and Recovery Program.
Award amount: $29,766. Role: Co-PI.

2018 – 2023 UNHCR & WFP. Design and Evaluation of Targeted Humanitarian Assistance.
Competitive contract $693,655. Role: Co-PI.

2022 – 2023 Bentley University, Health Thought Leadership Network.
Award amount: $5,000. Role: PI.

2022 – 2023 Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services (HEADS) Center.
Award amount: $24,152. Role: PI.

2021 – 2022 Bentley University, Research Council.
Award amount: $7,000. Role: PI.

2020 – 2021 Northeastern University, The College of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Development Initiative.
Award amount: $8,000. Role: Co-PI.

2019 – 2020 Bentley University, Research Council.
Award amount: $7,000. Role: PI.

2018 – 2024 Novo Nordisk Foundation.
Award amount: $1,543,500. Role: Co-PI.

2018 – 2019 Bentley University, Faculty Affairs Committee.
Award amount: $2,500. Role: PI.

2018 – 2019 Bentley University, Health Thought Leadership Network.
Award amount: $1,500. Role: PI.

Awards and Fellowships

2026 – 2029	Gibbons Research Professorship. Bentley University.
2025	Graduate of the Last Decade Award. City University of New York, The Graduate Center.
2016 – 2017	David E. Bell Postdoctoral Fellowship. Harvard University, T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
2014 – 2016	Zicklin's Online Learning and Evaluation Initiative Fellowship. City University of New York, Baruch College.
2010 – 2014	Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship. City University of New York, The Graduate Center.

Teaching Experience

2017 –	Bentley University Introduction to Econometrics Intermediate Price Theory Mathematical Statistics Principles of Microeconomics
2011 – 2014	Baruch College, City University of New York Statistical Analysis for Economics and Finance

Consulting Experience

2024 – 2025	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jordan.
2023 –	International Labour Organization (ILO), Jordan.
2018 – 2024	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Lebanon.
2018 – 2024	UN World Food Programme (WFP), Lebanon.

Languages

Human	Turkish (native), English, French.
Computer	R, Stata

Non-Academic Interests

CMAS Divemaster ($\star\star\star$), NAUI Nitrox Diver
Marathoner, proud member of the Somerville Road Runners

Presentations and Seminars *(includes scheduled)*

2026: NBER Economics of Health Program Meeting, NBER Health and Healthcare Variations across the Population, NBER Summer Institute Aging, NBER Coordinating Center on the Economics of AD/ADRD Prevention, Treatment, and Care Annual Meeting, Georgia Tech, ILO Workshop on Informality and Social Protection.

2025: Harvard CPDS, Northeastern, Tufts, Wellesley, Brandeis, Forced Displacement Working Group.

2024: VIVE Workshop on Health Innovations, Brown, CUNY Graduate Center, Advances in Field

Experiments at LSE, World Bank, UVA Batten.

2023: WFP Impact Evaluation Forum, VoVRN, Hopkins HEADS Center, ASHEcon, Tufts, Northeastern, World Food Programme, Deakin, Ohio State.

2022: Southern Economic Association, APPAM, UNHCR Lebanon, Galatasaray, UMass Amherst, Research Conference on Forced Displacement.

2021: Georgia Tech, American University, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, EEA Congress, Erasmus, ERF, BREAD, Bentley, TOBB.

2020: PHS Workshop, NBER Health Economics, Bentley, MEAA, UConn, UNHCR, Boğaziçi-TOBB-Hacettepe Joint Seminar, PAA, Emory, Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement.

2019: RIEME, Harvard CPDS, PAA, iHEA, IZA Annual Migration Meeting.

2018: RIEME, USC Marshall, Boğaziçi, Rockwool Foundation, VIVE, Midwest Economics Association (SOLE).

2017: RIEME, Harvard CPDS, Bentley, EEA, PAA, Koç, iHEA.

2016: Galatasaray, Boğaziçi, Sabancı, Koç, Bilgi, TOBB, Auckland, Bentley.

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Public Health, BMJ Open, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Demography, The Economic Journal, Economics & Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, European Economic Review, Feminist Economics, Government and Opposition, Health Economics, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Education, Journal of Economic Geography, The Journal of the Economics of Ageing, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy, The Journal of Politics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, PLOS ONE, PS: Political Science & Politics, Public Choice, Review of Economics of the Household, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, World Development.