

# MERVE SANCAK

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 10/2021- Lecturer, Institute for International Management, Loughborough University  
London, UK
- 01-09/2021 Lecturer in Globalisation, De Montfort University, UK
- 2019-2021 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute,  
Sheffield University, UK

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

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- 2013-2018 Ph.D. in Economic Sociology; University of Cambridge, UK
- 01-08 2015 Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of International Relations; El  
Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2010-2011 M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy; University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
- 2005-2010 B.A. in Economics; Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
- B.Sc. in International Relations; Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008 Visiting Student, Bocconi University, Milan

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Published

#### Monograph

- 2022 *Global Production, National Institutions, and Skill Formation*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

#### Peer-reviewed journals

- 2023 Why do national skill systems vary? The state's role in skill system institutions for maintaining growth models. *New Political Economy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2023.2279077> (Open Access, Online First)
- 2022 The varying use of online supplier portals in auto parts-automotive value chains and its implications for learning and upgrading: The case for the Mexican and Turkish suppliers. *Global Networks*, 22(4). <https://doi.org/10.1111/glob.12348>
- 2020 Partisan politics of skills in middle-income countries: Insiders, outsiders and the vocational education system of Turkey. *Competition & Change*, 24: 3-4, 291-314, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1024529419888430>
- 2018 When politics gets in the way: domestic coalitions and the making of skill systems, *Review of International Political Economy*, 25:3, 340-363, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2018.1455062>, with Isik D. Özel.
- 2018 "Ulrich Jürgens, Martin Krzywdzinski, The new worlds of work: Varieties of work in car factories in the BRIC countries, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2016; xvii, 345 pp.: ISBN 9780198722670, £ 55.00 (hbk) translated by Pete Burgess." *Competition & Change*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1024529417752264>

#### Book Chapter

- 2024 Immigrants and Refugees in the Skill Systems of Late Industrialising Countries, In *Skills and Values: The Political Economy of Education in Latin America*, ed. JA Bogliaccini, A Madariaga. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming)
- 2020 "Finding skills: skilling strategies of local auto-parts suppliers in Mexico and Turkey" in Alex Covarrubias V., Sigfrido Ramirez (eds.), *The new frontiers and geographies of the world automobile industry. Trends and Challenges*. Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 429-453.

## **In progress**

“National-populist fixes to the middle-income trap: The politics of developmental bottlenecks in the Turkish and Hungarian automotive industries”, under review, with Gabor Scheiring and Tamas Geroacs

“Vocational training - a pathway for refugees' inclusion in the labour market? Lessons from Syrian refugees in Tarsus, Turkiye”, with Vildan Tasli

“The National & the Global: Towards a new synthesis of International Political Economy and Comparative Capitalism”, with Gerhard Schneider

“The Global South in International Political Economy journals: an ongoing ‘blind spot’, with Burak Tansel

## **Blog posts and media**

2023 “How Erdoğan framed his science and tech ‘great achievements’ as part of election campaign”. *The Conversation*. 26 May 2023. <https://theconversation.com/how-erdogan-framed-his-science-and-tech-great-achievements-as-part-of-election-campaign-206029>

2020 “Supplier–Buyer Relations: Automotive Value Chains and Upgrading Prospects of Mexican and Turkish Suppliers”. *LSE Middle East Centre Blog*.  
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mec/2020/05/28/mediterranean-production-networks-and-the-export-economies-of-north-africa/>

2020 “Restrictions to immigration and work in the UK construction industry”, Blog Series on Brexit, the Conservative Majority and the UK Political Economy, *SPERI Blog*, February. Available on: <http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/2020/02/19/restrictions-to-immigration-and-work-in-the-uk-construction-industry/>

2019 “Reading the results of the 2019 local elections in Turkey”, *SPERI Blog*, September. Available on: <http://speri.dept.shef.ac.uk/category/blog/>

2018 “Skills for development: the contrasting experiences of Mexico and Turkey”, *GlobalDev Blog*. Available on:  
<http://globaldev.blog/blog/skills-development-contrasting-experiences-mexico-and-turkey>.

## **Policy Research**

2023 “Report: Challenges of and opportunities for the employment of refugees in late industrialising countries”, prepared in collaboration with the participants of the International Workshop on Refugees’ Employment and Integration, London, UK. Available on: <https://blog.lboro.ac.uk/london/uncategorised/international-workshop-on-refugees-employment-and-integration>

2013 “Turkey National Needs Assessment of State School English Language Teaching”, British Council and TEPAV: Ankara (with Ozen, E., Alpaslan, I. B., Cagli, A., Ozdogan, I., Dizman, A. O., Sokmen, A.). Available on:  
<https://www.britishcouncil.org.tr/en/programmes/education/research>

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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2023	Loughborough University Joint Fund
2022	British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grants
2018	Japanese Award for Outstanding Research on Development; Global Development Network.
2017	Early Career Researcher Workshop Award; the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Lyon, France.
2016	PhD Funding; Cambridge Political Economy Society

- 2014 PhD Funding; Mexican Government Scholarship; the Mexican Agency for International Development
- 2014 Fieldwork Grant; the University of Cambridge
- 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Best MSc Thesis by the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, the University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.
- 2010 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, in the ranking of Department of International Relations, by Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2010 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, in the ranking of Department of Economics, by Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2010 Jean Monnet Scholarship; the Delegation of the EU to Turkey
- 2010 Postgraduate Student Grant; Koç University
- 2009 Summer Course Scholarship; The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 2008 Erasmus Mundus Programme Scholarship; the European Commission through Koc University
- 2005-2010 Vehbi Koç Scholar (award given to students with high GPA)
- 2005 Koc University Full Merit Scholarship

## TEACHING AND SUPERVISING

### PhD supervision

- 05/2022-12/2023 Nicos Moushouttas, Worker Cooperatives as Alternative Economies within Capitalism: Organisational Variation and Democratic Decision-Making (completed)
- 09/2023- Melike Bozkurt, The Strategy Shaped within the Framework of Authoritarian Neo-Developmentalism: The “New Turkey” and the “National Technology Initiative” in Comparative Perspective
- 09/2023- Arbnor Bajraliu, Industry 4.0 Development in the Era of Re-Globalisation and the Role of Institutions, Political Orientation and Global Value Chain Transformation

### Undergraduate and Master’s courses

- 10/2021- **Module Leader** for *International Business and Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies* (M.Sc.) & for *Institutional Foundations of Capitalism and Entrepreneurship* (M.Sc.) at the Institute for International Management, Loughborough University London
- 01-08/2021 **Module Leader** for *Introduction to Globalisation* (first year undergraduate) & **Module Leader** for *Globalisation* (MA), Department of Politics, People and Place, De Montfort University
- 09-12/2020 **Seminar Tutor** for *The Political Economy of Global Capitalism* (second year undergraduate), Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield
- 2016-2018 **Seminar Tutor** for *Global Social Problems and Dynamics of Resistance* & **Seminar Tutor** for *Global Capitalism*, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge, UK
- 08/2016 **Lecturer** for *Introduction to Economics*. FLE Summer School, Cambridge, UK
- 2008-2010 **Teaching Assistant** for *Principles of Economics* (first year undergraduate) & **Teaching Assistant** for *History of Turkish Revolution* (second year undergraduate), Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey.

### Guest Lectures

- 2023 Invited Guest Lecturer for the module titled “World Economy and Development” (M.Sc.) at School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London (25<sup>th</sup> October 2023).
- 2020 Lecturer and Seminar Convener; “Development” for the *Introduction to Comparative Politics* module, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield (13 March 2020).
- 2018 “Global *capitalism* or models of *capitalisms*?”, within *Paper 0: Neglects of Neoclassical Economics* series organised by the Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism,

- University of Cambridge, UK; 20 November. (*mix of undergraduate and postgraduate students*) Available on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eU-JiBqqHCc>
- “Understanding Political Economy in Emerging Economies through the Varieties of Capitalism Perspective”, Department of International Relations, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey; 2 May. (*MA students*)
- 2016 “The Global Economy: a ‘world-system?’”, Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK; 15 February. (*BA students*)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT**

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### **Leadership and Professional Service**

- 11/2022- Interdisciplinary Research Priority Lead for Social, Economic and Institutional Development, Loughborough University London
- 10/2022- Deputy Chief Programme Director for MSc Courses at the Institute for International Management, Loughborough University London
- 09/2022- Loughborough University Senate Member
- 05/2022- Loughborough University London EDI committee member
- 10/2021- Member of the Development & Social Change Working Group, Loughborough University London
- 2/2019-2021 Co-leader, Corporate Power & Global Economy research stream, SPERI
- 2020-2021 Co-leader, ECR Network of SPERI & Department of Politics and International Relations
- 2018-2019 Member, Darwin College Education and Research Committee
- 2018-2019 Co-organiser of the Darwin College Lunchtime Humanities and Social Sciences Research Seminar Series (every Tuesday throughout the academic year)
- 2018 Co-organiser of the *Political Economy* sub-section in the Sociology Department 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, the University of Cambridge (on 12-13 November)
- 2018- present Reviewer for the *Socio-Economic Review*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Turkish Studies*, *Competition & Change*, *Regulation & Governance*

### **Engagement and Impact**

- 2023 Lead Organiser for the International Workshop on Refugees’ Employment and Integration, where participants involved academics within and beyond the UK, business representatives, non-governmental organisations and policymakers to discuss the issues around refugees’ employment, 16 June 2023, Loughborough University London
- 05/2023- Commentator for Al Jazeera English
- 2023 Invited keynote speaker at Skills for a Just Transition Conference on 11-12 May 2023, organised by International Labour Organisation, University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg and University of Education Zurich.
- 2019-2021 Engagement with the OECD for restructuring their concept of inclusive growth
- 2017 Invited speaker for “International Conference on Employment, Education and Social Inclusion Issues Turkey” organised by the Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Directorate of the European Union and Financial Assistance on 25-26 September (the conference was cancelled later by the Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy due to the political turmoil).
- 2016 Invited speaker for “El sistema de formación profesional dual en Alemania y en México” (The Dual Education and Training System in Mexico and German) organised in the context of *Año Dual México-Alemania* (the Dual Year Mexico-Germany) including numerous German and Mexican institutions on 16-17 November.
- 2014 Advising the Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, which is an organisation part of the United Nations Development Programme, for their projects regarding skills and development.

## **Membership to professional organisations**

2014- Member of Society for the Advancement of Socio Economics (SASE), European International Studies Association (EISA), American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Education Politics and Policy group within it, International Political Economy Group (IPEG) within the British International Studies Association (BISA), Network of Studies in the political economy of Latin America (REPAL) and the Network for Studies on Innovation and Work in Mexican Automotive Industry (ITIAM)

## **OTHER RESEARCH**

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2012-2013 Research Associate at the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), Ankara, Turkey.  
Conducted policy research for ministries and other public institutes.

02-08/2012 Research Intern in the UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, Istanbul, Turkey.  
Conducted policy research for the centre's development projects.

2011-2012 Part-time Researcher at St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.  
Conducted academic research on the UK NHS Foundation Trust hospitals.

2007-2010 Part-time Research Assistant at Koc University, Turkey.  
Assisted academic research of the faculty via content analysing media resources.

## **CONFERENCES**

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### **Conference and panel organisation**

2024 Main organiser for SASE Mini-Conference titled "Connecting Global Capitalism and National Capitalisms", SASE 2024 Meeting, University of Limerick, 27-29 June.

2023 Main organiser for SASE Mini-Conference titled "Connecting the Dots between Global Capitalism and National Capitalisms in a Transitional World Order", SASE 2023 Meeting, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, 20-22 July.

2022 Main organiser for SASE Mini-Conference titled "Connecting the Dots between Global Capitalism and National Capitalisms", SASE 2022 Meeting, University of Amsterdam, 9-11 July.

2020 Co-convener for the panel "State Capitalism in and Beyond China: The politics and instruments of state involvement in a comparative perspective", SASE 2020 Meeting; Online; 18-20 July.

2019 Co-organiser, "Beyond the crisis? Global capitalism in the 2020s" conference, SPERI; British Academy, London; 8 November.

2019 Co-convener, "We are IPE- or are we? A roundtable discussion", BISA IPEG Conference; Kings College London; 2-3 May.

2018 Co-convener, Darwin College Lunchtime Humanities and Social Sciences Research Seminar Series (every Tuesday throughout the academic year).

### **Invited**

2022 International Workshop "Skills and Values. The Political Economy of Education in Latin America", 4-5 April, Santiago de Chile, Chile.

2020 "Varieties of digitalisation in global value chains: Online platforms and learning prospects of Mexican and Turkish auto parts suppliers", at the workshop titled "North Africa's role in the Global Economy: Implications and Limitations"; LSE Middle East Centre; 17<sup>th</sup> January.

2019 "Standardisation and Digitalisation in Global Value Chains and Learning for Local Suppliers from Developing Countries" at workshop on Digitalization, value chain

- governance and divisions of labour; Weizenbaum Institut, Berlin, Germany; 20-21 March.
- 2015 “Political Economy of Skill Formation”, Darwin College, Lunchtime Seminar Series, Cambridge, UK; 24 November.  
 “Understanding the Mexican and Turkish political economy through the systems of technical training in the automotive industry”, Department of International Relations, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey; 12 November.  
 “¿Cómo sucede la producción de tecnología-media en los mercados de trabajo poco calificados? Complementariedades institucionales del sistema de habilidades en las empresas locales proveedoras automotrices en México y Turquía” (How is skilled production made possible in low-skill labour markets? Institutional complementarities of skill generation in local automotive supplier firms in Mexico and Turkey), Department of International Relations, El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico; 11 August.
- 2011 “Hospital Investment Funding Reform Germany: Pressures, Policy Reforms, Outcomes.”, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, the University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; 8 December.

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

- 2022 “The illiberal politics of the middle-income trap: Developmental bottlenecks and hegemonic tensions in Turkey and Hungary”, 15<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference on International Relations, 1-4 September, Athens, Greece.
- 2022 “Skill Formation Systems in Late Industrialisers: The Role of National and Global Level Labour Supply and Demand” and “The Dominant Role of the State in Skill Formation in Middle Income Countries: The Clash between Accumulation and Legitimacy in Mexico and Turkey”, 34<sup>th</sup> Annual SASE Meeting, 9-11 July, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2021 “The National & the Global: Towards a new synthesis of International Political Economy and Comparative Capitalism”, Virtual SASE Conference, 2-5 July.
- 2020 “Instruments of the state in capitalist structures: State involvement in economic, political and social realms in Mexico and Turkey”  
 “Economic Assets or Political Scapegoats? Immigrants in the Capitalist Systems of the UK, Germany and Turkey in comparison” at the 32nd Annual SASE Conference, 18-20 July.
- 2019 “The ‘state’ of institutional complementarities in late industrialisers: case of Mexico and Turkey” at the WINIR Symposium on Global Capitalism and its National Varieties in an Era of Crisis, 16-18 December, Loughborough University London.  
 “National Institutions, Skilling Strategies and Development Prospects in Mexico and Turkey” at the 31st Annual SASE Conference, 27-29 June, The New School.
- 2018 “Finding skills in middle-income countries: the role of the state in Mexico and Turkey” at 2018 APSA Annual Meeting- Democracy and Discontents in panel titled *Political Economy of Skills Formation*, August 30-September 2, Boston.  
 “Finding Skills in Transition Economies: the case of technical skills in the Mexican and Turkish Automotive Industries” at the 18th Global Development Conference, 22-23 March, New Delhi.  
 “Partisan politics and vocational education to kill two birds with one stone” at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual SASE Conference, 27 June-1 July, University of Lyon; within the panel titled “Political Economy of Skill Formation and the Middle-Income Trap”.  
 “Standardised and Digitalised Supplier-Buyer Relations and Learning for Local Suppliers: The Case of Local Auto-Parts Suppliers in Mexico” at the 29th Annual SASE Conference, 27 June-1 July, University of Lyon; within the mini-conference titled Transnational Governance of Global Production in a New Era of Information Sharing: Prospects and Challenges for Labour, Business, and the Environment.

- 2016 “Neoliberalism, social policies and partisan politics: the case of vocational education and training system in Turkey” at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual SASE Conference, 24-26 June, University of California, Berkeley.  
 “Skill-Gap, Middle-Income Trap and the External Actors: A comparative look at labor market in Turkey and Mexico” at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual SASE Conference, 24-26 June, University of California, Berkeley.  
 “Skill-Gap, Middle-Income Trap and the External Actors: A comparative look at labor market in Turkey and Mexico” at the REPAL (Red de Economía Política de América Latina) 2016 Conference, 10-11 June, MIT, Boston.
- 2015 “The state or the business? The role of the state and business’ participation in vocational training in Mexico and Turkey” at the 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Mexican Association of Labour Studies (Asociación Mexicana de Estudios del Trabajo), 5-7 August, Aguascalientes.
- 2014 “Who you sell to matters: comparing the labour training characteristics of firms from 15 emerging economies according to their economic relations with the US and Germany” at the Conference on the Transformation of Latin American Social Policy: Dynamics, Institutions and Outcomes, 3 November, University of Bath.  
 “Understanding the political economy of vocational education and training in Turkey: enthusiasm for social or liberal reasons?” at the International TPES (Turkish Political Economy Society) Conference, 12 December, Koc University, Istanbul.

## **OTHER SKILLS**

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### **Software**

STATA, R, ATLAS.ti.

### **Languages**

Turkish (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), German (intermediate), Serbian (fluent).