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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Editors

Assoc. Prof. M. Veysel Kaya
Dr. Patrycja Chodnicka-Jaworska

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University of Washington Rome Center

13-15 November 2018
Rome, ITALY



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University of Warsaw, POLAND

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CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dr. İmdat Dogan

Dr. İmdat Doğan holds an MBA degree in Finance & Investment; and PhD degree in Banking and Finance. He has worked at investment bank; and investment management firms; in New York City such as Goldman Sachs Co., Deutsche Bank Asset Management, Prudential Equity Group and BlackRock Inc. on a full-time and consultant basis. Dr. Doğan is an expert on portfolio investments; in different asset classes, private equity and venture capital funds; in technology and energy sectors.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Konrad Gunesch
American University in the Emirates

“Special thanks to conference chair and keynote speaker”

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Professional Social Support and Burnout Syndrome among Teachers

Irena Smetackova

*Prof, Charles University, Czech Republic
irena.smetackova@pedf.cuni.cz*

Abstract

A social support is important protective factor against a chronic stress which can cause a burnout syndrome. The social support can be considered as a specific coping strategy. Within teachers occupation, the professional social support is the crucial factor especially, because teachers work in strongly individualized settings with lack of communication with colleagues. Our research was focused on the level of burnout syndrome among grammar schools teachers and its correlation with social support. Our research was designed as mix-methodology, including quantitative survey (N=2394) and case studies at 12 grammar schools (N=232). In survey, a correlation design was used with three instruments: 1) Shirom-Melamed Burnout Scale, 2) ENRICHD SSI, 3) SVF78. The results show a significant correlation between burnout syndrome and social support and also between burnout syndrome and coping styles. In the paper, the results will be discussed in more details with practical and theoretical consequences.

Keywords: Burnout syndrome, social support, coping strategies, teachers

Preference of Mathematics and Family Background

Irena Smetackova

*Prof, Charles University, Czech Republic
irena.smetackova@pedf.cuni.cz*

Abstract

The math is important area of schooling and it works as a crucial factor for career choice. To build the equal opportunities in career choice and thus the ways how to improve students' attitudes toward school math need to be found. The attention is usually paid to didactic practices in the math lessons. The external factors are underestimated, at least in the Czech context. That is why we study the role of family background in establishing of students' attitudes toward math. In our study, the preference of the math and the feeling of competency in the math among students were compared to their family background. The family background was considering as the education of parents and the significance of math in occupation of parents. The relationships between those two variables and the attitudes toward math was searched in the study. The participants were 1.383 Czech students of grammar schools from 4th to 9th grade. The analyses show that students significantly differ both in the preference of math and in the feeling of mathematical competency with regard to the family background. The deep patterns in data and the main findings will be showed in the paper. The recommendation toward school mathematics will be discussed too.

Keywords: Math, grammar school, preference, competence, family background

An Investigation of Pre-Service Teachers' Self Esteem and Subjective Well-Being*

Emel Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
emelarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Zeliha Tras

*Assoc. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
ztras@konya.edu.tr*

Coskun Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
coskunarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Abstract

The purpose of the present research is an investigation of pre-service teachers' self esteem and subjective well-being. The sample was formed with 223 male, 269 female, a total of 492 students studying 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year at various departments of faculties, who were selected. Data were collected using Rosenberg self-esteem scale (Rosenberg,1965; Cuhadaroglu,1986), subjective well-being scale (Tuzgol Dost, 2005) and personal information form. To analyze the data, Pearson conduct moment correlations, and simple linear regression analysis technique were used. As a result of the study, it was found that there was a significant positive relationship between self-esteem and subjective well-being. Besides, it was found that self-esteem significantly explain subjective well-being

Keywords: Self-esteem, subjective well-being and pre-service teachers'

* This study was supported by the Scientific Research Coordinationship of Necmettin Erbakan University

Investigation of Social Connectedness in Terms of Personality Traits*

Coskun Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
coskunarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Emel Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
emelarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Zeliha Tras

*Assoc. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
ztras@konya.edu.tr*

Abstract

The purpose of the present research is investigating whether university students' personality traits predict their social connectedness at a significant level. The sample was formed with 221 male, 280 female, a total of 501 students studying 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year at various departments of these faculties, who were selected. Students' ages range between 18 and 38, and the average is 22.16. Data were collected using Adjective Based Personality Scale (Bacanlı, İlhan & Arslan S., 2009), social connectedness scale (Duru, 2007) and personal information form. To analyze the data, Pearson conduct moment correlations, and multiple regression analysis technique were used. As a result of the study, it was found that there was a significant positive relationship between social connectedness and extraversion, openness to experiences, agreeableness and responsibility. Also it was found that there was a negative relationship between social connectedness and neuroticism. Besides, it was found that personality traits significantly explain social connectedness

Keywords: Personality traits, social connectedness and university students

* This study was supported by the Scientific Research Coordinationship of Necmettin Erbakan University

University Students' Life Satisfaction and Social Support*

Zeliha Tras

*Assoc. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
ztras@konya.edu.tr*

Emel Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
emelarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Coskun Arslan

*Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
coskunarslan@konya.edu.tr*

Abstract

The purpose of the present research is an investigation of university students' life satisfaction and social support. The sample was formed with 194 male, 328 female, a total of 522 students studying 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year at various departments of faculties, who were selected. Students' ages range between 18 and 36, and the average is 22.11. Data were collected using life satisfaction scale, perceived social support scale and personal information form. To analyze the data, Pearson product moment correlations, and multiple regression analysis technique were used. As a result of the study, it was found that there was a significant positive relationship between perceived social support (family, friend and teacher) and life satisfaction. Besides, it was found that perceived social support (family, friend and teacher) significantly explain life satisfaction.

Keywords: life satisfaction, social support and university students

* This study was supported by the Scientific Research Coordinationship of Necmettin Erbakan University

Investigation of the Attitudes of Special Education Teachers for Computer Aided Education*

Erkan Efiltili

*Asst. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
efilti71@gmail.com*

Ahmet Naci Coklar

*Assoc. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
ahmetcoklar@hotmail.com*

Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate the attitudes of teachers who received special education to computer-aided education. The attitudes of the teachers towards computer aided education were examined according to gender, frequency of computer use in daily life, level of professional seniority, marital status and age. The study group of the study consisted of 100 special education teachers who are 49 female and 51 male teachers in the schools of Ministry of National Education and special education and rehabilitation centers in the province of Konya in 2017-2018 education year. To determine the attitudes of special education teachers to computer assisted education "Attitude Scale to Computer Assisted Education" developed by Arslan (2006) was used. According to the results obtained from the study: The attitude point of the special education teachers about Computer Assisted Education (CAE) does not show a significant difference according to the gender variable and their marital status. There is a significant difference in the frequency of computer use. According to the mean scores of the teachers participating in the research, the average level of positive attitude towards performing CAE was 1-5 years in those with 1-5 years of service. According to the age variable, the group with the highest average is between 23-30 age group. This group has developed a high level of positive attitude towards CAE. The age range of 31-38 group developed a normal attitude towards CAE. The group with a 39-46 age group developed a low positive attitude.

Keywords: Special Education Teachers, Computer, Education

* This study was supported by the Scientific Research Coordinationship of Necmettin Erbakan University

Opinions of the Qualifications of Teacher Candidates about the Sexual Development of People with Mind Disabilities*

Erkan Efilti

*Asst. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
efilti71@gmail.com*

Sabahattin Ciftci

*Assoc. Prof, Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkey
sciftci@konya.edu.tr*

Abstract

In this study, the opinions of the mentally disabled teacher candidates who will be responsible for the education of mentally disabled individuals on the level of knowledge and skills related to sexual development of mentally disabled individuals were investigated. Case study pattern from qualitative research models was used in this study. Study group special education section 3. and 4. a total of 152 students, 82 girls and 70 boys, are among the class students. In order to determine the opinions of teacher candidates on sexual development of mentally disabled individuals, 4 open-ended questions were prepared by taking expert opinions. Data collected were evaluated according to the descriptive analysis method. In the present study, it was observed that teachers responded under seven headings: sexual education, sexual identity, sexual development, sexual orientation, social harmony, cleanliness and care, self-protection. Who should inform people with mental disabilities about their sexual development? A great majority of parents answered the question, followed by teachers and experts in the form of answers. What sources do you learn about sexual development of mentally disabled individuals? A great majority of the written sources (books, articles, theses), some of them gave school classes, conferences, observations, friends and internet answers. An important part of the answer is that I do not get information on this issue

Keywords: Special education, disabled teacher candidates

* This study was supported by the Scientific Research Coordinationship of Necmettin Erbakan University

On the Critical Approach of the Magazine “Molla Nasreddin”

Taskin İsgoren

Ph.D. Sahne Tozu Theatre, İzmir, Turkey

Email: taskiniscoren@hotmail.com

Abstract

“Molla Nasreddin” was a critical periodical, which was first published in 1906. The magazine was edited by the famous intellectual Azerbaijani writer Jalil Mammadguluzadeh. The magazine was published in three different cities and periods: First in Tbilisi between 1906 and 1917; in Tabriz only in 1921; and lastly in Baku between 1922 and 1931. “Molla Nasreddin”, consisting of critical writings and illustrations managed to reach the large masses, not only in Tbilisi and Azerbaijan, but also all around the Caucasia and Muslims world. “Molla Nasreddin” was extraordinary influential with its severe critical writings and illustrations such as discussions, satiric poems, telegrams, stories, feuilletons, anecdotes, cartoons and caricatures. So “Molla Nasreddin” was the first revolutionary magazine in the press history of Azerbaijan. Hence it also became one of the most important magazines of Turkish press history. The name “Molla Nasreddin” was inspired by Nasreddin Hodja known as the humoristic and wise character of Anatolia in 13th century. So the magazine likewise criticized things with an acerbic sense of humour. It especially criticized the religious hypocrisy and the obscurant movements in the society. The magazine, which satirized the authoritarian governments and leaders in the near east, was also opposed to the colonial policies of the western countries. The magazine “Molla Nasreddin”, which supported rationalization in social and politic problems, often attracted people’s attention to the difference between Azerbaijani society and western societies. In this article, it will be evaluated the critical attitude that “Molla Nasreddin” maintained. In this regard it will be examined, in its three terms, how subjects were handled with illustrations and satiric writings like poems or narratives. As a conclusion it will be revealed how the authors managed to satirize things and in what aspects the manner of “Molla Nasreddin” remained as an important magazine for Azerbaijani literature.

Keywords: *Azerbaijani Literature, Molla Nasreddin, Magazine*

A Picture of Well-Being, as Presented by Children and Young People in Latvia

Anita Stasulane

Daugavpils University, Latvia

anita.stasulane@du.lv

Abstract

The article reports on study that examined the meaning and significance allocated to well-being by young people in Latvia. The children well-being is fundamental to society, but very little comparative research is being done in order to ascertain what are the best approaches to stimulate the well-being of young generation. To promote well-being among children and young people in Europe, in recent years, two research projects addressed the issue of a longitudinal study for children and Young People: EU's FP7 project Measuring Youth Well-Being (MYWeB) and H2020 project The European Cohort Development Project (ECDP). MYWeB aimed to provide a balanced approach to assessing the feasibility of a European longitudinal study, and ECDP is developing a European survey called EuroCohort that would supply comparative data on well-being among a number of EU member states and countries beyond the European Union. To develop the instruments to measure children's and young people's well-being, their own views and opinions about what they'd like the researchers to ask them had to be taken into account, as well as the way in which the survey should be conducted. The article presents results from the field work which was undertaken with the goal of finding out the meaning and significance that children and young people allocate to well-being in Latvia. Individual and focus group interviews provided an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the method for obtaining the data and to find out potential difficulties in undertaking longitudinal research.

Keywords: Well-being, children and young people, longitudinal study

Endogomist Marriage and its Consequences in Sindh: A Case Study of District Sanghar

Hamida Narijo

*Assistant Professor, University of Sindh, Jamshoro
hnarijo@hotmail.com*

Muhammad Abdullah Avais

*Doctoral research scholar, University of Sindh, Jamshoro
abdullahavais77@yahoo.com*

Abstract

The marriages between cousins or close relatives are now widely known as Endogomist marriages. From ancient time to to-date, such marriages are being celebrated in almost all over the world and especially in historic cultures. As the culture of Sindh has its own history from 5000 BC and the tradition of Endogomist marriages is still alive in different areas and tribes of Sindhi communities. Like other ancient societies, the greed of power, importance to culture, caste, creed and language are basic factors which may call fueling factor to alive this traditional marriage system in Sindh. Although many Hindus are residing in Sindh, Pakistan and cousin marriage is prohibited in Hinduism, but Islam does not prohibit cousin marriage. Which is also a big factor behind prolongation of Endogomist marriages. The main objective of this research is to find out causes behind Endogomist marriages in Sanghar District, Sindh. Therefore, for this qualitative study 12 married women were identified through snowball sampling technique. To find out the firsthand knowledge regarding the topic, only those women participants were interviewed whose marriages were based on Endogamy. From the collection of data, 02 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted and the results shows that the greed of power and lands are a major factor behind cousin marriages in selected areas. Furthermore, due to illiteracy, the respondents were unaware regarding health-related issues of Endogomist marriages. Therefore, government should sensitize the people regarding bad genetical effects of continuous cousin marriages and a law for blood screening of couples before marriages must be implemented.

Keywords: Consanguinity; Caste; Superiority; Culture; Sanghar District; Sindh

Processes of Resilience in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus Type 1

Barbora Mesárošová

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
barbora.mesarosova@uniba.sk*

Katarina Ludrovská

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
katarina.ludrovaska@uniba.sk*

Lubica Konrádová

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
lubica.konradova@uniba.sk*

Abstract

Diabetes mellitus is currently one of the most widespread chronic diseases which introduces considerable life adversity and mean significant life loss. It is associated with a group of acute or long-term physical complications, but also with psychological problems. This study explored the association between personal resilience, coping strategies, emotional distress (depression, anxiety and stress) and attachment style in patients with diagnose diabetes mellitus 1 with respect to their glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c). We embedded our study in dynamic models (social-ecological theory) of resilience interpretation, which emphasizes the understanding of the processes within the culture and context, and understanding the results of mutual interaction of people and the environment. Model of methodology was conceived as an integrated research design. We have tested the following issues: 1) negative significant relationship between the level of resilience and the level of distress experience; 2) the differences between three levels of resilience with respect to three types of distress and HbA1c; 3) positive relationship between resilience and adaptive coping strategies and negative relationship between resilience and avoidance strategies. Another aim of our study was to examine processes of resilience in chronically ill patients by visual methods. A sample of 57 participants with diabetes 1 completed two resilience scales (Wagnild-Young and Connor-Davidson resilience scales), the COPE scale of coping strategies, DASS-42 measuring emotional distress, ECR scale and reported HbA1c data. We asked a part of the participants (N=20) to make 5 photographic images and to add a brief description relating to the subject of: „Diabetes for me is ...“. We have identified following protective factors: personality, relationship, social, cultural, physical and ecological factors. Applying visual methods has allowed us to perceive the lives of our participants from their own perspective and thus capture important factors of resilience. We have also achieved significant relationships between resilience and the overall distress and its individual types. The relationship between resilience and HbA1c has not been demonstrated, which could be probably attributed to the rather large heterogeneity of the research sample. Between the level of resilience and the coping strategies, a significant relationship was reflected in a problem-oriented, emotional and social support strategy. Different levels of monitored physiological parameters (HbA1c) have been confirmed in patients with diabetes depending on the type of relationship.

Keywords: Resilience. Diabetes mellitus type 1. Coping strategies. Distress. Attachment types.

Attachment, Resilience and Glycosylated Hemoglobin in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus Type 1

Lubica Konrádová

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
lubica.konradova@uniba.sk*

Barbora Mesárošová

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
barbora.mesarosova@uniba.sk*

Katarina Ludrovská

*PhD, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
katarina.ludrovska@uniba.sk*

Abstract

The number of chronically ill patients is rising every year, and the possibility of preserving adequate quality of life is a challenge for doctors, patients and psychologists as well. The aim of the study is to refer about relationship between attachment style, medical parameter diabetes compensation and resilience. Researchers have repeatedly confirmed the link between attachment and self-care in the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus. The application of Bartholomew's attachment styles model to the context patient - healthcare providers relationship allows to understand associations between the attachment styles and psychic variables (self-esteem, self-knowledge, resilience) and the medical parameters of the disease, too. Different levels of monitored physiological parameters (HbA1c) have been confirmed in patients with diabetes depending on the type of relationship. We verify these findings on a research sample of young Slovak diabetics (N = 47). We used the ECR Close Relationship Questionnaire, the Connor-Davidson Scale of Resilience, and the observed levels of glycosylated hemoglobin as the monitored medical parameter of diabetes. Small differences in levels of monitored physiological parameters (HbA1c) have been confirmed in patients with diabetes depending on attachment style. The HbA1C levels for the different attachment styles are similar and are at the level of unsatisfactory disease compensation. The observed trend in levels difference is consistent with the results of other studies. DM1 patients with a secure attachment style have significantly higher resilience values than those with insecure attachment styles. The lowest values of resilience were associated with dismissive attachment style.

Keywords: Attachment style. Glycosylated Hemoglobin. Resilience.

Knowledge and Discourse on Critical Thinking: A Relational Perspective

Asma Melouah

University of Medea, Algeria

University Algiers 2, Algeria

melouah.asma@univ-medea.dz

Abstract

Contemporary discussions have presented critical thinking as a core outcome expected of university education. Mostly framed within a Western cognitive approach, existing conceptions of critical thinking favour the centrality of developing skills in reasoning while they fall short of extending it beyond the realms of argumentation and logic. To be sure, such efforts simply allude to some sort of abstract universality in thinking, yet what is neglected is how such mode of thinking relates to culture and context in general, and in particular, to relational and contextual realities shaping the meaning and development of critical thinking. Using the lens of Bourdieu's theory, this paper expounds on the importance of developing a relational approach to critical thinking. In concert with this approach, it seeks to examine how social and power relations in a non-Western context interfere with the construction of knowledge and discourse on this subject. Inquiring into this issue, that is how critical thinking is conceived epistemologically and pedagogically, requires going beyond rational, abstract generalizations to situating the subject in relation to the social dimension and constitutive fields in which knowledge of this subject is relationally constructed and its discourse is formed and transformed through power relations and ideological positioning. Specifically, using a qualitative case study approach informed by teacher interviews and class observations, this paper explores the conceptions and pedagogical practices of critical thinking in the field of English language education in one higher education institution in Algeria. This paper highlights how such conceptions and practices are structured, maintained and reproduced and where they emanate from and how they become operationalised. In the final section, this paper concludes with some observational suggestions regarding critical thinking development and implementation in the context of English language education in Algeria.

Keywords: Critical thinking (CT); conceptions; English as foreign language (EFL); relationality; relational epistemology; pedagogic discourse.

The Fiscal Effects of Economic Immigration on Subnational Government Finance in Poland

Marzanna Poniatowicz

*Professor, University of Bialystok, Poland
m.poniatowicz@uwb.edu.pl*

Agnieszka Piekutowska

*Ph.D. University of Bialystok, Poland
piekutowska@uwb.edu.pl*

Abstract

The aim of the paper is to analyze the effects of economic immigration on subnational government finance (SNG) in Poland. Understanding the contribution of immigrants to local/regional finances is crucial when analyzing the development of destination regions. The goal to achieve is to answer the following research question: what are the fiscal effects of immigration on SNG budgets' revenues and expenditures. To answer this question, the regression model (OLS) was used. The analysis refers to the years 2007-2016. In this respect, data from the Statistics Poland - referring to budget revenues and expenditures of communes, cities of district status, districts and voivodeships - were used. As far as immigration statistics are concerned, data from the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy were used. The results indicate an increase in both revenues and expenditures of SNG as a result of immigration. Such results can be explained *inter alia* by the nature of migration - research were focused on economic immigration and - in the light of the literature review - the level of employment of foreigners is one of the determinants shaping the fiscal effect of immigration. Furthermore, the effect of economic immigration on SNG budgets' revenues and expenditures depends on the structure of this budget. This explains differentiated results of the analysis of the impact of immigration on SNG in different countries. In Poland, the positive correlation between immigration and SNG revenues can be associated with a high share of subnational governments in personal income tax revenues (for instance, in 2018, the share of communes in PIT revenues was at the level of 37.98 %, in case of districts it was 10.25 %, and voivodeships - 1.6 %). This tax is one of the main category of SNG revenues.

Keywords: Economic immigration, Subnational government finance, Budgets' revenues and expenditures.

JEL Classification: F22, H72.

Self-Regulation in Financial Industries Regulating the Members or the SRO?

Silvester Van Koten

*Assoc. Prof, University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic
slvstr@gmail.com*

Abstract

Regulatory investigations by Self-Regulatory organizations (SROs) in financial industries have been recognized to usually be cheaper than investigations by the government. However, in practice, oversight by an SRO is mostly still supplied with forms of governmental oversight. The government may exert oversight over the SRO itself, a construction referred to as "meta-regulation" or "co-regulation", or over the members of the SRO. Indeed, the overall performance of SROs has been mixed and theoretical models show that SROs have incentives to set lax standards or cover up detected violations. However, some research indicate that meta-regulation, oversight of the SRO itself, may nonetheless not be necessary in some settings. Using a costly-state-verification model, DeMarzo et al. (2001; 2005) show that when the government implicitly threatens to perform additional investigations of the SROs members, a relatively "good" outcome can be established as an equilibrium. In this "good" outcome, the SRO chooses to follow high performance standards in order to pre-empt any of the (relatively costly) governmental investigations. As a result, no costly governmental investigations of the SRO's members take place, and no meta-regulation of the SRO is necessary. I extend this model to include plausible settings where the actual rigor of oversight by the SRO can be verified only ex-post. I show that in such settings, the SRO may have incentives to announce stricter regimes than it effectively implements and that, as a result, a "bad", Pareto-inefficient outcome is established as an equilibrium. In the "bad" outcome, the SRO relinquishes all oversight to the government. The predictions of this model are supported by experimental tests. The "good" equilibrium can be re-established as an equilibrium with sufficient meta-regulation of the SRO. The results thus indicate a continuing need for meta-regulation in these settings. This form of meta-regulation may be of a relatively light-handed nature, limited to verifying and sanctifying that the SRO implements its announced policies.

Keywords: Self-regulatory organizations, meta-regulation, co-regulation, regulation, governmental oversight, simultaneous versus sequential games

Methodological Issues in Estimating the Impact of Exchange Rates on International Trade

Aleksandra Djordjevic
University of Belgrade, Serbia
aleksandra@ekof.bg.ac.rs

Abstract

The scope of empirical literature that deals with the analysis of the impact of exchange rates on international trade, indicates the diversity of methodological approaches used to empirically investigate the relationship between changes in exchange rates and international trade flows. As the empirical literature has evolved, a number of central issues have appeared. Having in mind that these issues may impact on the results of the analysis and interpretation of the effects of changes in exchange rate on trade flows, their detailed consideration allows for the selection of the most adequate methodological framework for the purpose of each specific research. One of the starting dilemmas is the selection of the type of data, whereby the choice between aggregated and disaggregated trade data is considered. The nature of the data used in the research partly determines the model to be used for examining the impact of exchange rates on trade, where the choice of specification and estimation techniques depend on both the type of data and the aim of the research. In literature, the analysis of the impact of exchange rates on international trade usually involves examining the effects of exchange rate volatility on exports, whereby, one of the main issues in quantifying the effects of this variable, is the selection of the measure that most adequately reflects the uncertainty and adjustment costs to which firms are exposed when changes in exchange rates occur. In order to choose the appropriate volatility measure, different techniques for measuring volatility will be presented, considering in the same time methodological dilemmas related to the choice between nominal or real, as well as bilateral or effective exchange rates. Besides volatility, another aspect of the impact of exchange rates on trade, which is gaining momentum from the beginning of the 21st century, refers to exchange rate misalignment. Bearing in mind the absence of a universally accepted method of precise determination of the equilibrium exchange rate, an important methodological issue, which is going to be considered, is choosing a measure of exchange rate misalignment. In order to improve the analysis of effects of exchange rate volatility or/and misalignment, many authors have expanded the model of international trade by including additional variables, meeting with methodological issues regarding the choice of explanatory variables that will be included in the model. Hence, variables that are usually included in the model with the aim of better identification of the effects of the exchange rate on trade, will also be presented. The appropriate choice for each of the considered concerns is crucial in formulating the methodological framework for an empirical analysis of the effects of exchange rate changes on international trade.

Keywords: Exchange rates, international trade, volatility, misalignment

Valuing Improved Power Supply Reliability for Manufacturing Firms in South Korea: Results from a Choice Experiment Survey

Hyo-Jin Kim

Prof, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea

Seung-Hoon Yoo

*Prof, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea
shyoo@seoultech.ac.kr*

Abstract

The outage of electricity may cause considerable economic damages to industrial sectors. In particular, this is the case for South Korea since the industry is the main consumer of electricity (56.3% of total electricity consumption). Thus, the electricity authorities demand information about the value of improved power supply reliability for the manufacturing sector to reflect them in planning electricity supply. This article aims to measure the value using a specific case of South Korean manufacturing firms. The choice experiment (CE) approach is adopted for this purpose. The selected four attributes are duration of interruption, the season of interruption, the time of day, and the day of the week. The value trade-off works among the four attributes and price attribute were demanded and successfully completed in the nationwide CE survey of 1,148 manufacturing firms. The firms revealed statistically significant willingness to pay for decreasing the duration of interruption, avoiding interruption during day time (am 9 to pm 6) rather than off-day time (pm 6 to am 9), and preventing interruption during weekday rather than weekend. For example, they accepted 0.02% increase in electricity bill for reducing one minute of interruption during electricity outage, 2.98% increase in electricity bill for avoiding interruption during day time rather than off-day time, and 1.60% increase in electricity bill for preventing interruption during weekday rather than weekend. However, they put no importance on the season of interruption. These results can be useful for policy-making and decision-making regarding improving electricity supply reliability.

Keywords: Power supply reliability; electricity; manufacturing industry; choice experiment; willingness to pay

Premium for a Commodity Produced Using Renewable Energy: The Case of Smart Phone

Ju-Hee Kim

Prof, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea

Ga-Eun Kim

Prof, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea

Seung-Hoon Yoo

Prof, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea

Abstract

Abating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have already become a crucial issue around the world. The average global temperature has increased by 0.85 in the past 133 years (1880–2012) due to the GHG emissions, according to current trends, the global mean temperature is expected to rise by 2.6 to 4.8 °C at the end of the 21st century and the sea level to rise by 45 to 82cm. According to Greenpeace, an international environmental group, 80% of the GHG emissions occur the production phase of electronic devices. In 2014, New York city declared Renewable Energy 100% (RE100) campaign to turn energy used by companies into renewable energy. As a results, 128 companies worldwide, including Google, Facebook, Amazon, and IKEA, have joined the RE100 campaign. RE 100 is the company's commitment to operating all of its facilities using 100% renewable energy. Although the production costs and prices of a commodity produced using renewable energy are higher than those of conventional one, the use of the commodity produced using renewable energy can lead to better environmental outcomes. Thus, the consumers' preferences for commodity produced using renewable energy should be investigated to understand the potential of markets with commodity produced using renewable energy. This study attempts to examine the consumers' preference or willingness to pay (WTP) a premium for commodity produced using renewable energy using a specific case study of a smart phone, which is a common electronic device in South Korea. For this purpose, a contingent valuation survey of 1000 Korean consumers was conducted in August 2018. We used a one-and-one-half-bounded dichotomous choice question to derive the additional WTP responses and a spike model to analyze zero additional WTP responses. The mean additional WTP a premium for the smart phone produced using 100% renewable energy is estimated to be KRW 11,699 (USD 10.5), which is statistically meaningful at the 1% level. This value amounts to 1.6% of the price of a conventional smart phone (KRW 750,000 or USD 673.9) and can be interpreted as the external benefit of a smart phone produced using 100% renewable energy. We can conclude that Korean consumers are ready to pay a significant premium for smart phones produced using 100% renewable energy. Moreover, we examined the consumer's characteristics that affect the probability that the person will be willing to pay a premium for a smart phone produced using 100% renewable energy and found that it would be effective to set high-income, highly-educated, and male consumers as marketing targets.

Keywords: Renewable energy; consumer preference; willingness to pay; premium; contingent valuation

Cheating on Paris Agreement: An Empirical Approach

Chiara Curcio

PhD, Sapienza University, Italy

chiara.curcio@uniroma1.it

Abstract

The Paris Agreement is the largest coalition in the history of Environmental Governance and with the greater number of countries with binding emission-reduction commitments. Anyway, some issues put some criticism on the effective cooperative nature of the agreement. The aim of this paper is twofold: from one hand, I exploit the game-theoretic nature of the Paris Agreement, from the other hand, I investigate the socio-economic determinants of potential cheaters to the Agreement. I proceed with a two-steps analysis. First, I assess the cooperative nature of the Paris Agreement by applying the methodology suggested by Murdoch and Sandler (1997) to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In the second step, I give a definition of cheating for what concern the Paris Agreement and I run a Probit model on the variable in order to identify the socio-economic drivers of cheating.

Keywords: Climate Change, IEAs, Paris Agreement, Game Theory

Innovative Marketing Strategies in the Sustainable Tourism Businesses

Marisa Ciarlo

LUISS Guido Carli University, Rome, Italy

Alessandro Grop

CNR, Rome, Italy

Simone Sassetti

La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

Vittoria Cavazza Isolani

Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Jacopo Testa

La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

Abstract

The objective of this paper is to identify innovative marketing strategies to implement sustainable tourism. Starting from an analysis of the tourism industry, the transversal principles of the context are outlined, in order to identify the innovative strategic lines to promote, develop and encourage sustainable tourism, that is able not only to create profitability for tourism organizations, but also capable to respect the environment and the quality and efficiency policies. After identifying the innovative development strategies, which aim at achieving the set objectives and the definition of quality, also given by environmental certifications, we provide the analysis of best practices, an example of successful organization in the sustainable tourism sector, to concretely provide the key elements that allow a company to achieve a competitive advantage in the sector, pursuing its objectives of profitability, quality and efficiency.

Keywords: Management, Tourism Sustainable, Strategies, Key Performance Indicators, Research.

Identifying and Ranking the Factors Affecting the Lean Manufacturing Deployment for Promoting Public Affairs (Case Study: Industrial -Manufacturing Companies in Public Sector)

Gholam Reza Taleghani

*Prof, Faculty of Management, Public Administration, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran
gtalghani@ut.ac.ir*

Ali Ghafary

MSc. Graduated Student, MBA, University of Tehran, Iran (alighafary@ut.ac.ir)

Abstract

Globalization and the increasing level of global competition in recent decades have had a significant impact on industries and organizations so that management science experts, during the last few decades, have focused on creating, developing, and implementing mechanisms through which the level of productivity and product quality are improved, leading to reduced costs. This leads to company survival in global markets. Based upon many experts, Lean Manufacturing (LM) is one of the inevitable and essential requirements of companies. This article aims to identify and rank the factors affecting the LM deployment in industrial-manufacturing companies in Mashhad, Iran. A descriptive survey was performed. Judgmental and convenience sampling method was employed. The statistical population consisted of 280 household appliance industrial-manufacturing companies in Mashhad, Iran. Cochran's formula was used for sampling. Considering the error level of 0.5 and success rate of 0.5, the sample size consisted of 162. In order to compensate the possible loss, 25% more questionnaires were forwarded to participants using simple, random sampling method. Eventually, a total of 184 questionnaires were analyzed. Exploratory factor analysis was used to analyze the data and identify the factors affecting the lean manufacturing deployment. We identified five factors: Human resources, supply chain management, Total Quality Management (TQM), leadership, and organization. The factors were prioritized using Wang and Chen Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process (FAHP) and the opinions of 10 experts (Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of 10 manufacturing and industrial household appliance companies in Mashhad, Iran). The results showed that supply chain management (weight of 0.25) was the first factor. TQM was the last factor with weight of 0.15.

Keywords: Lean Manufacturing, Lean Manufacturing Elements, Factors affecting Lean Manufacturing, Exploratory Factor Analysis, Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process (FAHP).

The Path to Green Growth in Morocco: The Agri-Food Industry

Belyazid Rihab

*Abdelmalek Essaadi University, Morocco
belyazidrihab@gmail.com*

Abstract

Defined as "*fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the environmental resources and services upon which our well-being depends.*" (TOWARDS GREEN GROWTH -FOLLOW PROGRESS - OECD 2011, p9), green growth has emerged to bring about improvements in human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and resource scarcity.

In this context, the transition to greener growth in Morocco has gradually been strengthened over the years by taking steps towards development and environmental protection through strategies and policies. investments and the development of smart sustainable development that values natural capital. Morocco has committed under the reign of HM King Mohammed VI in a proactive environmental approach in all sectors. Agriculture is one of the jewels in Moroccan industry. The agri-food sector follows naturally, but, given its incredible potential, it is not yet sufficiently valued and exploited. It is faced with the challenges of modernizing the production and distribution methods of the various sectors and making greater use of agricultural resources while protecting the natural capital of exhaustion. Aware of this situation, the kingdom has embarked on a strong development approach as part of an approach that brings together sustainable development, economic growth and natural resources. Thus, and to make this transition a success, a wide network of programs, agreements and contracts (national and international) in collaboration with the relevant ministries has been programmed to support the integration of the agri-food sector into a development framework respecting the overall in its entirety. This situation highlights the need to examine the path that Morocco has followed in order to put in place a sustainable development strategy integrating green growth into the agri-food sector. This article presents an overview of green growth in Morocco as it highlights the high royal guidelines programs for strengthening the agri-food industry. This mobilization of the State and all the actors is supported by the taking account of new development assets in the various current and new strategies, in accordance with the High Royal Directives that have been implemented since the beginning of the 2000s. This article will aim to answer three major questions:

- What is the framework for green growth in Morocco?
- Agribusiness, a strategic sector that is not valued enough?
- What are the strategies for strengthening the agri-food industry in Morocco in the context of green growth?

Keywords: Green growth, development, agri-food sector, natural capital and High Royal Directives.

The Evaluation of Place that Altered After Urban Renewal Within the Context of Neighborhood Relations: The Example of TOKI on Kars Digor Road

Mehmet Demir

PhD Candidate, Kafkas University, Turkey

mehmetiron@gmail.com

Abstract

The studies that analyze the impact of Urban Renewal on the neighborhood relations have demonstrated that the neighborhood relations of the people who live on the slum area are negatively impacted when they adapt an apartment lifestyle. However, the studies have mostly concentrated on the negative results of spatial change. Also, since the people on the study come from different places, they have not previously been in any neighborhood relation for the most part. In other words, in order to analyze the impact of spatial change on neighborhood relations in a more appropriate manner, it is a must to work with the people who were previously in a neighborhood relationship with each other. In this study, the manifestation of the pre-mentioned deficiency constitutes the subject of the study and also its originality as well. Within the context of the study it is initiated to conduct the studies of face-to-face questionnaire and deep interview with the people who reside in Kars TOKI Digor. Within the framework of this study, the outputs attained from the fieldwork will be interpreted.

Keywords: Urban Renewal, Neighborhood Relations

Local Government's Environmental Management Limitations

Cihan Kaymaz

PhD, Kafkas University, Turkey

cihankaymaz@kafkas.edu.tr

Abstract

As stated in the Environmental Law No. 2872 (Article 3), the Ministry and the local governments are obliged to pave the way for participation where the environmental right can be used in the formation of environmental policies. Environment-based environmental management (Article 2) is defined as the application of policies and strategies determined at local, regional, national and global levels. In this respect, local government's environmental management and strategies are determined by a structure which's supervision is provided and boundaries drawn by central government's listing method notably by Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation in accordance with principle of legality and integrity in administration at the national level in Turkey. Local government's environmental management and strategies are in concordance with international agreements, conferences and international organizations. Within the structure determined by the global and national level, it is very difficult for local governments to create a participatory environment for social actors. On the other hand, as stated in Article 127 of the Constitution, another feature of local governments is the spatial limitation on the fulfillment of local common needs. This means that if a public service is not one of the local common needs it will be outside the scope of the local government's mandate. However, due to spatial limitations in terms of spontaneity, environmental management and strategies are out of the role of local administrations. There are also a number of factors that impede the fulfillment of the duties of local governments in addition to their spatial limitations. Concordantly, this study aims to draw a frame for the impacts of the local government's limitation on environmental management practices in Turkey. In line with this objective, the impacts of the local government's limitation on environmental management practices was assessed with examples from Turkey.

Keywords: Local Governments, Environmental Management, Environment.

Naturel Resources as Bloc Currency for Infrustructure Development in Africa: Reflection on Ecowas Integration

Oboshi Agyeno

*PhD, University of South Africa, South Africa
agyenoj@unisa.ac.za*

Abstract

Natural resources had played a fundamental role in the structural and physical development of Africa. The significance of natural resource endowment to human development and the future growth and integration of Africa is still apparent. The management of natural resources is therefore particularly relevant to Africa where many countries experience low human development outcomes and given the high degree of dependence of many African economies on commodity exports and fiscal revenues (UNDP, 2011). Over the last decades, natural resources have enabled some countries to transformed their economies, promote regional cooperation and improve the livelihood of its people. As for many other countries, natural resources have led to civil wars and violent conflicts with enormous consequence on poverty, integration and sustainable development. Countries under the ECOWAS have been working assiduously to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), increase competitiveness and integrate the sub-regional market and its people with minimal success. This is due to among other factors, the insufficient infrastructure development that could facilitate and enable people to people exchanges and a bourgeoning regional market. Insufficient infrastructure development has also contributed to the stagnation of the sub regional economy which has encouraged albeit illegally, the migration of a large number of people from the region into Europe in search of better livelihood and opportunity. ECOWAS can engage directly in natural resource governance of the sub-region through the “bloc currency” model of regional development. The bloc currency is an asset or fund that is used as a means for payment/exchange with natural resources, or proceeds derived from it. The bloc currency can be applied to infrastructure development of ECOWAS to enhance connectivity, interaction and integration of the sub region, as well as to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Keywords: Natural resources, Bloc currency, Infrastructure development, Integration

**Estimation of VAT Data Set Using a Regression Model
~ Case of Albania ~**

Elsa Dhuli

*Albanian Institute of Statistic, Albania
edhuli@instat.gov.al*

Abstract

As the today important issue in official statistics is the use of administrative data especially for enterprises the problems that they carry over are visible. One of the administrative sources to be used for Short term Statistics for enterprises is the VAT data file. The Net sales variable is the most important variable that could derive from VAT data file. The VAT data reported from Tax authority are structured in three situations based on net sales threshold: monthly report for units which are part of VAT regime and realize higher than 8 MLN ALL net sales per year, quarterly report of those who realized between 2 to 8 mln ALL and annually reported units are those who realize less than 2 mln ALL per year. The question what editing or imputation method is tested in our case is hypothetically. As the advantages of using VAT data are made evident for their effectiveness, completeness in coverage, time reduce, etc they provide incompleteness in data or faced problems when we estimate monthly or quarterly net sales. The detection of suspicious value, small or big, unit's errors or existence of negative values is investigated in quarterly period of VAT data file in another paper. The estimation of VAT data is done by using different imputation method. The regression calculated for row and clean VAT data after the different imputations methods used has no changes from original distribution.

Keywords: VAT data set, estimation, regression, Albania

Legal aspects of the Schengen Agreement and the Schengen Convention

Artūrs Gaveika

*Rezekne Academy of Technologies, Rēzekne, Latvia,
e-mail: argavs@inbox.lv*

Abstract

The Republic of Latvia became a full member of the European Union thus also envisaging the future accession of Latvia in 2007 to the Schengen Convention which was signed in 1990. Accession to the EU was confirmation to the reforms that have been made in the period of restored independence of Latvia in order to relaunch the principles of democracy, market economy and free movement of persons. Latvia continues to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the EU's home affairs and justice policy, not only within the EU and the Schengen area, but also beyond its borders, contributing to the foreign policy of common EU's security. The regulatory framework for free movement of persons which is based on the Schengen Agreement and the Schengen Convention is included in many EU primary and secondary legislative acts. Harmonization and the balance of the free movement of persons as a significant human rights regulatory framework with the regulatory framework of the EU's external border regime must be achieved at a level and scope that ensures both respect for human rights, legal order and security of EU Member States as well as respect for international law. The article uses a comparative method, examining the opinions of many lawyers and the relevant regulatory and analytical method, analyzing the regulatory framework and interpretation. The article uses a comparative method, examining the opinions of several lawyers and the relevant normative regulatory acts by analytical method, analyzing the content and interpretation of the regulatory framework. This research has been carried out by EU financial support in the project "1.1.1. Specific support to increase the research and innovation capacity of Latvian research institutions and the ability to attract external financing by investing in human resources and infrastructure". Action 1.1.1.2 "Post-doctoral research support". Research project "The EU's external border security, Latvian internal security Nr.1.1.1.2./VIAA/1/16/127" (Figure1.)

Keywords: The Schengen Agreement, the Schengen Convention, the free movement of persons, border agreements.

JEL Codes: K33

System Justification, Social Stereotypes and Satisfaction in Eastern-Europe: Comparison Involving Hungary and Romania

Attila Balla

*Eötvös Lorand University, Hungary
balla.attila@outlook.com*

Abstract

This research addresses system justification tendencies in the Hungary and in Romania and its relationship with social stereotypes and life satisfaction. While there are some previous researches regarding system justification theory in Hungary, this is the first research about this topic in Romania. According to system justification theory, there is a general social psychological tendency to rationalize the status quo, and it has the potential to make people more satisfied. One way to idealize the existing social arrangements is by maintain complementary stereotypes, which ascribe compensating virtues to the disadvantaged and corresponding vices to the advantaged groups. Three convenience samples were taken: Hungarian from Hungary (N=1348), Hungarian from Romania (N=191) and Romanian (N=112). All participants were asked to rate eight different representations of different social groups (eg. engineers, officers, homeless people) with an eight-item attribute list measuring competence and warmth. The system justification motivation and life satisfaction of the participants were also measured We validate the system justification and social stereotype scale in both language with factor analysis. Multilevel models revealed that the motivation to justify the system was associated with the participants' tendency to complementary stereotyping. Their satisfaction with life also predict their level of system justification and complementary stereotyping. There is no considerable difference between the Hungarian, the minority Hungarian and the Romanian sample, which implies that system justification approach in Romania is similar than in the other countries of the former Eastern Bloc.

Keywords: System justification, Complementary stereotypes, Satisfaction with life, Eastern Europe

Governance Hierarchy, Tournament Competition, and Local Fiscal Policies: New Evidence from China

Jing Zhang

*Prof, Renmin University of China, China
zhangjingecon@gmail.com*

Abstract

Over the last several decades, China's remarkable economic growth has been attributed to its meritocratic governance hierarchy, which specifically combines political centralization and regional economic, fiscal, and administrative decentralization (Maskin, Qian, and Xu 2000; Qian, Gerard, and Xu 2006; Qian and Xu 1993; Xu 2011). In this political and economic arrangement, through absolute personnel control and promotions, the central government creates tournament competition among local governments based on their economic growth. Yet, direct empirical evidence of this mechanism (tournament competition) and how it works is rather limited. To provide such evidence, this study examines the recent Province Directly Governing County (PDGC) reform, a unique change in China's governance structure that allows counties to circumvent prefectures and interact directly with corresponding provinces in fiscal matters. In this way, the PDGC reform partially flattens the country's governance hierarchy and intensifies its tournament competition among county governments by increasing the number of local governments measured against each other (before the reform limited to others in the same prefecture but after to others in the same province), thereby broadening local government competition. Reviewing a large fiscal dataset of more than 1,600 counties from 2000 to 2007, we empirically present local tournament competition by identifying the causal effects of the flattened governance hierarchy as a result of the PDGC reform on county governments' expenditure policies. Our results show that the reform increased county government spending, especially spending on capital construction. Such effects are stronger in counties facing a greater escalation of competition from the reform (i.e., competing against more local governments). On the other hand, there are relatively weak spillover effects on the -non-reform- counties when there is a reform county in the same prefecture. As expected, the PDGC reform does not affect non-reform counties that do not have reform neighbors in their province because the tournament competition they face remains the same as before. Finally, we also find one-year-ahead anticipatory and cumulative effects on local expenditure policies resulting from reform implementation.

Keywords: Governance hierarchy, decentralization, tournament competition, local expenditure policy

Financial and Socio-Economic Aspects of NGOs: Analysis of Mediterranean Region

Imdat Dogan

*Independent Researcher
imdatdogan@yahoo.com*

Esra Ulukok

*Research Assist., Kirikkale University, Turkey
esraulukok@kku.edu.tr*

Hacer Akin

*Master's Student, Gazi University, Turkey
hacerakn@gmail.com*

Abstract

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) or so called Non-profit organizations (NGO) play an important role in financial, economic and social assistance along with support and services outside the state in all countries. In this study, NGOs of the Mediterranean Region are examined in terms of various socio-economic aspects and it is aimed to make future predictions within the framework of causality considering the data of regional provinces. We have concluded that the NGOs operating in the Mediterranean region of Turkey, similar to the figures in general, cannot reach the desired level as they have experienced difficulties in getting finance and setting up good corporate governance structure relative to developed economies. It has been also found that there are very different levels and number of NGO structures among the provinces as there is no harmonization in the region. In terms of revenue generation or getting financing, the region's NGOs fall far below the country's average.

Keywords: NGOs, CSOs, Non-Profit Organizations, Corporate Governance, Mediterranean Region

Work-Family Conflict and Workaholism in Organizations: Demographic Differences

Esra Ulukok

*Research Assist., Kirikkale University, Turkey
esraulukok@kku.edu.tr*

Imdat Dogan

*Independent Researcher
imdatdogan@yahoo.com*

Hacer Akin

*Master's Student, Gazi University, Turkey
hacerakn@gmail.com*

Mahmut Saylikay

*Kirikkale University, Turkey
mahmut210@gmail.com*

Abstract

Workaholism is the state of being willing to do a lot of work in the workplace. The work-family conflict, on the other hand, involves the conflict between the work role requirements and the family role requirements of the personnel in the workplace. Workaholism can, in this respect, be fueling the work-family conflict in some cases. In this study, the relationship of workaholism and work-family conflict for finance and accounting professionals are examined. The results of the study reveals that there is not a significant relationship between the workaholism level of the participants and the work-family conflict but also the family-work conflict. Another finding demonstrates that there is no difference between the level of work-family conflict and age, working time, marriage period, number of children, income amount and participation in social life.

Keywords: Workaholism, Work Addiction, Work-Family Conflict

A Review of Regional Innovation Systems and Economic Growth in Selected Countries

Onur Bilgin

*Research Asst, Kirikkale University, Turkey
onurbilgin@kku.edu.tr*

M. Veysel Kaya

*Assoc. Prof, Kirikkale University, Turkey
mveyselkaya@yahoo.com*

Abstract

In this paper, firstly, the concepts of National Innovation System (NIS) and Regional Innovation System (RIS) were examined both historically and conceptually. Then technology development capacity or innovation capacity of Turkey, South Korea and Germany were analyzed through various data of the Regional Innovation System. According to the RIS data, Turkey is positively differentiated from other countries in establishing science parks. But there are still deficiencies in knowledge generation and exploitation process in these parks and compared to the others, the number of universities in Turkey is still inadequate.

Keywords: National Innovation System, Regional Innovation System, Technology

Income Distribution in Turkish Economy

Onur Bilgin

Kirikkale University, Turkey

Prof. H. Bayram Isik

Kirikkale University, Turkey

Abstract

Income distribution inequality in Turkey is discussed frequently in recent years as in the world. This paper analyzes income distribution in Turkey by using individual, functional, sectoral and regional data. Individual income distribution has improved slightly in recent years. The Gini coefficient decreased from 0.440 in 2002 to 0.405 in 2017. However, the sources of this improvement should be analyzed carefully. Some studies consider transfer expenditures as the reason for this improvement. When functional income distribution is analyzed, it is seen that salary income has increased steadily, from 35.8% in 2002 to 48.9% in 2017. On the other hand, the share of other income types decreased. For example, the profits of entrepreneurs have decreased from 24.2% to 19.6% in these years. In terms of sectoral distribution, productivity in the agricultural sector should be increased and policies supporting rural income should be implemented. When the regional income distribution is examined, it is seen that the lowest income region is generally the Southeast region. The purpose of this study is to make a current analysis of income distribution in Turkey and to present a policy recommendation to improve income distribution.

Keywords: Income distribution, personal income, inequality, functional income distribution

**What About China's Dream of Escaping from Middle Income Trap?
A Critical Approach in the Context of Being Superpower
between the Years 2000-2018**

M. Veysel Kaya

*Assoc. Professor, Kirikkale University, Turkey
mveyselkaya@yahoo.com*

Abdülkadir Tıǧlı

*PhD Candidate, Kirikkale University, Turkey
abdulkadirtigli@yahoo.com*

Abstract

Countries with per capita GDP, in the developing countries category, known as in the middle income trap countries in literature. This circumstance is a chronic and negative status that economic growth is not reflected in households. The PRC, which is the second largest economy around the world, according to real GDP data; has just reached to 1000 USD as per capita GDP at the beginning of 2000s. Although its rapid growth rates until recently, PRC, which has been the export-based manufacturing power; currently, its per capita level is between 8000-9000 USD. In this context, the PRC is in the track of developing countries, not in the developed countries. According to the increasing production need, the people that migrate from rural regions to the industrial production cities, are being employed at minimum wage rates, which are variable between states of China, differentiated from 180 USD to 330 USD. The planned economic system enforced by the central government, reveals an unplanned vision in the face of labor costs. According to its economic size, the PRC, is mostly argued whether being a super power or not, can not close the gap between the growth and division. PRC is not only in middle income trap, but also a country, where interregional income distribution inequality is experienced intensively. Although the PRC has experienced many progress in technology purchasing and value added good manufacturing recently, the fact that it has not escaped from middle income trap, is controversial to being superpower.

Keywords: Middle income trap, superpower, socialist market economy, interregional income distribution inequality

JEL Classification: E24, H44, N15.

Worker Heterogeneity and the Popularity of the Minimum Wage Institution

George Economides

Prof, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

Thomas Moutos

Prof, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece
tmoutos@aueb.gr

Abstract

This paper analyzes long run outcomes resulting from adopting a binding minimum wage. The model distinguishes between workers of heterogeneous ability, and capitalists who do all the saving, and it entails – relative to the perfectly competitive benchmark - large output and employment losses (among the lowest-ability workers) from the imposition of moderately binding minimum wages. These effects arise not only because firms respond to the wage increase – relative to the static perfectly competitive benchmark – by moving upwards along a given labour demand curve, but also due to inward shifts of the labour demand curve as savers respond to decreases in the (net of taxes) rate of return on their savings by saving less, thus reducing the economy’s steady-state capital stock. Nevertheless, and despite the large, long-run, declines in aggregate output, consumption, and the capital stock implied by this model, MW legislation can be beneficial for large segments of employed workers, as long as they do not have to provide generous welfare support to the low-ability workers that the MW prevents them from finding employment.

Keywords: Minimum wage; capital accumulation; heterogeneity; unemployment.

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Web:

www.rsepconferences.com

E-mail:

info@rsepconferences.com
rsepconferences@yahoo.com