Cagin Keskin

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Citizenship: Turkish

Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (KRTK), Budapest 2026–present

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, CERGE-EI (Charles University and the Czech Academy of Sciences), Prague 2020–2026
Thesis: *Essays on Firm Scope, Intangibles, and Production Networks*
Defence Date: 1 December 2026

Visiting Ph.D. Student, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona Fall 2025
Hosts: Isaac Baley and Edouard Schaal

M.Sc. in Applied Statistics, Izmir University of Economics 2020
Thesis: *Trivariate Binomial Distributions and Trivariate Order Statistics*

B.Sc. in Economics and **B.A. in Business Administration** (double major), Izmir University of Economics 2018

Research Fields

Firm Dynamics, Innovation and Growth, Production Networks, International Trade

Working Papers

Firm Scope and Innovation: The Role of Intangibles
CERGE-EI Working Paper No. 811 · Latest version · Working paper version
AMES-CSW Best Paper Award 2026, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, Abu Dhabi

This paper examines how the composition of intangible investment and the direction of innovation jointly shape long-run growth. I develop an endogenous growth model where firms choose between vertical and horizontal innovation while allocating investment across R&D and firm-specific intangibles—brand value and organizational capital. The model is disciplined by a set of firm-level empirical regularities documenting how productivity, markups, and intangible composition vary systematically with firm scope (the number of sectors a firm operates in). As firms expand across sectors, they reallocate investment from knowledge capital toward firm-specific intangibles. This shift endogenously raises entry barriers and suppresses creative destruction. The calibrated model shows that standard size-based policies are inefficient because they fail to distinguish between vertical and horizontal innovation. In contrast, scope-dependent policies more effectively address intangible-driven externalities, leading to higher rates of creative destruction and long-run growth.

Capital Injection in the Production Network (with Paolo Zacchia)
Draft, September 2026 · PDF

Using Turkish administrative firm-to-firm transaction data, we study how acquisitions affect target firms and their production networks. We find that acquisitions increase intangible intensity but have no consistent effects on conventional performance measures. Network consequences depend on acquirer origin: domestic acquisitions strengthen existing relationships, while foreign acquisitions promote outsourcing and diversification. We attribute these differences to variation in firms' relationship capability.

Artificial Intelligence, Data and Creative Destruction
Draft, November 2026 · PDF

Artificial intelligence (AI) can codify tacit knowledge, but what it codifies inside a firm is that firm's own knowledge. I build and calibrate an endogenous growth model in which data govern how far firms implement AI, and implementation substitutes capital for labour and relaxes the span of control. Because these gains rise with data, which are lost on exit, AI entrenches large incumbents: doubling its

potential raises growth by only 0.26 percentage points. Requiring firms to release their data after a few years turns them into public, accumulating knowledge and outperforms research and entry subsidies on welfare, at no fiscal cost.

Work in Progress

Public Procurement and Misallocation in Production Networks

Camps, Consensus, and Growth

Data and the Direction of Innovation

Honours and Awards

AMES-CSW Best Paper Award (USD 1,000), Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society 2026

CERGE-EI Research Stay Grant (∼USD 4,500), for the UPF research visit 2025

Research Experience

Researcher, ERC CZ project LL2319, CERGE-EI 2023–2025

'Hierarchical networks and their microeconomic origins' (PI: Paolo Zacchia), funded by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Presentations

2026 Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society (Abu Dhabi), Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (online), IEA 21st World Congress (Belgrade), JIE Summer School in International Economics (Milan, poster), ANETI Lab Seminar (Budapest), KRTK (Budapest)*, European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Warsaw)*

2025 CREI Macroeconomics Lunch Workshop (Barcelona), CERGE-EI Macro Workshop (Prague)

* scheduled

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Mathematics (Preparatory Semester), CERGE-EI 2024

Teaching Assistant, Applied Microeconometrics (second-year Ph.D. course), CERGE-EI 2023

Other Professional Activity

Reviewer, EAYE Annual Meeting (European Association of Young Economists) 2027

Schools and Training

JIE Summer School in International Economics, Bocconi University, Milan

Economics of Ideas, Science, and Innovation (online Ph.D. short course), Institute for Progress

Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy, CIMS, University of Surrey

Skills

Programming	R, Julia, Python, LaTeX; working knowledge of Stata and MATLAB
Data	Hungarian administrative data (KRTK Databank)
	Turkish administrative firm-to-firm data (Ministry of Industry and Technology)
Languages	Turkish (native), English (fluent)

References

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