



Project on Resilient, Green and Transformative Development in Asian Belt and Road Countries

Integrated Policy Strategies for a Sustainable Future of Türkiye

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TEPAV Building, Conference Room,

TOBB Economics ve Technology University, Ankara

Speaker bios

Güneş Aşık is an Assistant Professor of Economics at TOBB Economics and Technology University in Ankara. She previously worked at the Undersecretariat of Treasury of Turkey, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and interned at several international organizations including the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Her research interests include development and labour economics, in particular impact evaluation of employment and social policies. She currently conducts research on the impact of green and digital transformation in Turkish labour markets. Güneş Aşık holds a MA degree in International Development (MPA-ID) from Harvard University and a PhD degree in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Stephanie Blankenburg leads the Economic Cooperation and Integration amongst Developing countries (ECIDC) Branch at UNCTAD. She joined UNCTAD in 2015, previously heading its Debt and Development Finance Branch. Prior to joining UNCTAD, Stephanie was Senior Lecturer in Economics at the School of Oriental and African

Studies (SOAS) in London (UK) for 15 years and a research fellow at the ESRC Business Centre in the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University (UK) prior to her move to SOAS. She has also worked as a government advisor in Venezuela (2007-2008) and is an Associate Editor of the Cambridge Journal of Economics, following over a decade as a full member of the editorial board until 2015. She is co-author of two monographs on the theory and practice of neoliberalism. Other areas of research and publication include issues in development finance, the political economy of industrial policy in developing countries, the evolution of multinational corporations and the history of economic thought. She holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University.

Jeronim Capaldo is Senior Economist at UNCTAD. He works with macroeconomic models to project the global impact of emerging policy trends. He has contributed to policy debates in the areas of trade, industrial development, inequality and climate.

Evren Dilekli started his career at the Turkish Treasury in 1997 where he most recently served as the Acting Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department (2010-2013). He then served as a resident Board Member at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London (2013-2017). Later, he joined AIIB where he led a team that developed the Bank's first 10-year Corporate Strategy. Since July 2021, Evren is serving as AIIB's local representative in Turkey responsible for business development and relationship management with clients and the Government. Evren holds a Master degree on International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Özge İzdeş is a full-time faculty member at İstanbul University-Cerrahpaşa, International Trade Department. She is also a faculty member of the Women's Studies Center at İstanbul University and an affiliated instructor in the Gender Studies program, designing lectures and advising dissertations on Gender and Economic Development. She received her PhD in Economics from the University of Utah, USA, where she specialized in development economics and acquired a certified specialty in feminist economics and labour economics. Her academic work focuses on gender and economics, more specifically on economic crises and gendered employment outcomes, the relationship between unpaid-paid labour, employment-oriented inclusive growth, and decent work. Recently, Özge İzdeş's research project with Emel Memiş titled "Elderly Care in a Non-caring Economy: How Far is a Caring Society" is awarded the Routledge Inclusive Economics Prize which is an annual prize announced for the first time in 2023. Additionally, she is experienced in capacity building in gender-equitable economic and social policy at the global, regional, and national levels. She consulted various projects supported by UNDP, UN Women and the EU by developing training materials and delivering trainings on gender mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting to government officials and policymakers. . In 2016, she edited and co-authored "The UN Women Gender and Economics Training Manual" published by UN Women and used as

the resource book in global, regional and national level trainings of the institution. She is an active member of the International Working Group on Gender, Macroeconomics, and International Economics (GEM-IWG), the Initiative for Women's Labor and Employment (KEIG), the Gender Equality and Monitoring Association (CEİD), and the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) networks, which focus on gender equality and economics.

Bora Kat received his BSc (2002), MSc (2005) and PhD (2011) degrees all from the department of Industrial Engineering, Middle East Technical University (METU, Ankara, Turkey). He worked as a research assistant at the same department between 2002 and 2006. He studied dynamic scheduling of multi-class base-stock controlled stochastic inventory systems in MSc and Energy-Economy-Environment Modeling in PhD. He was a post-doctoral researcher at the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, Boston, USA) as a Fulbright scholar in 2016-2017 and was a visiting researcher at the Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW, Mannheim, Germany) in the last quarter of 2024. As a part time lecturer, he has been teaching environmental economics at METU ESS (Earth System Science) Program and supervising graduate students since 2012. His main research interests are large-scale energy-economy-environment models, applied general equilibrium models and input-output models for economic assessment of environmental policies, modeling electricity day ahead markets, generation expansion planning (GEP) models and operations research in energy sector.

Ulaş Karakoç is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Kadir Has University in Istanbul, where he has been teaching since 2020. He earned his PhD in Economic History from the London School of Economics and Political Science, following his studies in Mathematics and Economics at Bogazici University. His research focuses on agricultural economics, development economics, and economic history. His current research investigates sustainable agriculture adoption among farmers and develops prediction models for crop yields using historical agronomic and climate data for Türkiye.

Özgür Orhangazi is professor of economics at Kadir Has University in İstanbul. He received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2006. He taught at Roosevelt University in Chicago (2006-2011), was an invited researcher at the Central Bank of Venezuela (2009), a visiting scholar at the Political Economy Research Institute in Amherst (2017), and a visiting professor at University Paris 13 (2018). He also taught classes at Boğaziçi University, City University of New York, University of Seoul and served as graduate faculty at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. He published extensively on financialization, financial and economic crises, and alternative economic policies. His recent research focuses on concentration and monopolization in the US economy and financial fragility and crises in Turkey and other developing economies.

Güven Sak holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from the Middle East Technical University and M.A. degree from University of East Anglia. He worked as a senior researcher at the Capital Markets Board of Turkey, as a faculty member of the Department of Public Finance at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University and as an external founding member of the Monetary Policy Council of the Central Bank of Turkey. He became Professor of Public Economics in 2003. In 2006, he was transferred to the newly established TOBB University of Economics and Technology. He was the founding Managing Director of the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) in 2004 which is the first and only economic policy think tank in Turkey. Güven Sak, writes on economic issues for *Nasıl Bir Ekonomi*.

Erol Taymaz is a Professor of Economics at Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey). He graduated from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (METU) in 1982. He received his M.S. degree in Economics at METU (1985), and Ph.D. degree in Economics at Case Western Reserve University, USA (1989). He worked as a Research Engineer at Aselsan Electronics Industries (Ankara, 1982-85), Research Assistant at CWRU (Cleveland, 1985-89), and Research Fellow at Industrial Research Institute (IUI, Stockholm, 1989-92). He is at the Department of Economics of the Middle East Technical University since 1992. His current research interests include economics of technology and innovation, industrial, technology and innovation policy, industrial dynamics, firm demography, small business economics, economics of labor markets, microsimulation modeling, and data science. He is a member of the Science Academy.

Burcu Ünüvar started her career at investment banking in 2004 and worked as the Senior Economist at Is Investment until 2013. Following her investment banking career, she joined Bilkent University as a full time academic at the Department of Economics.

In April 2017 she joined TSKB as the Chief Economist and the Head of Economic Research Department. As of August 2023, she was promoted to the Director position while also continuing her research as the Chief Economist, coordinating macroeconomic content regarding markets and development themes, with a focus on ecosystem crisis.

Ms Ünüvar holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, MSc Degree in Applied Economics and Finance from Denmark and USA, and a PhD in Economics. On a related front, she continues her research as a non-teaching academic focusing on monetary policy, central bank communication and green central banking.

Ebru Voyvoda has been a faculty member in the Department of Economics in Middle East Technical University since Fall 2004. She received her MA and PhD degrees from Economics at Bilkent University. She was a post-doc researcher at the University of Utah, Department of Economics in 2003-2004. She was a visiting researcher at the Center for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim in 2011–2012 and conducted a project on the intergenerational impacts of environmental policies. In 2015–2016 she was

affiliated with UNCTAD, the Division of Globalization and Development Strategies, where she worked on industrialization and structural transformation in developing economies. Her research focuses on applied modeling for policy analysis, energy-environment-economics modeling and contemporary issues in economic policy.

A. Erinç Yeldan, Professor of Economics at Kadir Has University. He is one of the executive directors of the International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs), New Delhi; and serves as a member-elect of the International Resource Panel of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). He is also a member-elect of the Science Academy (Bilim Akademisi) in Turkey.

Dr Yeldan received his Ph.D. from University of Minnesota, USA, and joined the Department of Economics at Bilkent in 1988. During 1994/95 he was a visiting scholar at the University of Minnesota, and during 2007/2008 he was a Fulbright scholar at University of Massachusetts, Amherst and at Amherst College. Dr. Yeldan's recent work focuses on development macroeconomics, vulnerability and fragmentation of labor markets, de-industrialization, and economics of climate change, and on empirical, dynamic general equilibrium models.