

# Ali Demir

PhD Candidate in Economics

Applied Microeconomics | Migration, Family and Regional Economics

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Labor and Family Economics, Economics of Migration, Regional and Urban Economics, Housing.

## RESEARCH PROFILE

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PhD candidate in economics specializing in causal inference, migration, family economics, housing and regional inequality. My research uses German longitudinal survey data, regional data linkages and newly digitized historical regional statistics to study how migration and housing markets shape family formation, labor-market outcomes and transitions to adulthood. Methodologically, my work combines panel-data econometrics, instrumental variables, event-study designs, difference-in-differences and historical data construction.

## EDUCATION

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### PhD in Economics

2023–2026 (*expected*)

Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

- Dissertation: *Housing, Migration, and Family Formation: Essays in Empirical Family and Regional Economics* (submitted July 2026; defense expected September-October 2026).
- Advisors: Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Bauer (first advisor), Prof. Dr. Arnaud Chevalier (second advisor).
- Doctoral member, DFG Research Training Group 2484 “Regional Disparities and Economic Policy”.

### M.Sc. in Behavioral and Applied Economics

2021–2023

University of Trento, Italy

- Exchange year in Public Economics, Free University of Berlin, Germany.
- Research stay at Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria.

### B.Sc. in Mathematics

2016–2021

Middle East Technical University, Turkey

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### PhD Researcher in Economics

2023–*expected 2026*

Ruhr University Bochum, Chair of Empirical Economics

- Conduct doctoral research on migration, family formation, housing and regional inequality, combining German microdata, historical regional statistics, causal-inference designs and original OCR-assisted data construction.

### Research Intern

Jul 2022–Oct 2022

Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Cognition and Behavior

- Designed and implemented an oTree-based bargaining experiment on overconfidence, prosociality and motivated beliefs, including experimental workflow, participant decision screens and data-generation structure; the project formed the empirical basis of my M.Sc. thesis.

### Student Research Assistant

Jan 2022–Aug 2022

University of Trento, Department of Economics and Management

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor / Course Designer: Introductory Migration Economics

Winter Semester 2025/26

Ruhr University Bochum, Chair of Empirical Economics

- Designed an English-language bachelor-level seminar with lecture material on migration definitions, migrant selection, Roy model intuition, integration and human capital, Chiswick–Borjas earnings assimilation, empirical designs and labor-market effects.

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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**German Internal Migration: A Marriage Market Perspective.** *Job Market Paper* [draft: June 2026]. Asks whether young, female-skewed East–West migration after German reunification affected divorce rates in receiving West German districts. Assembles a new harmonized district-level panel of divorce, migration, and population statistics for 320 West German districts (1985–2007), digitized from partly non-machine-readable state statistical publications, and instruments cumulative migration exposure with a shift-share design interacting 1961 East-linked settlement shares with a female-weighted East German labor-market push component. Preferred IV estimates imply that a one-standard-deviation increase in predicted exposure reduces annual divorces by roughly 0.26 per 1,000 residents, about 10% of the sample mean. The pattern is consistent with partner-availability adjustment in receiving marriage markets, though filing-side decompositions do not isolate a unilateral channel.

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Housing Security and Family Expansion: Evidence from German Homeownership.** Estimates the effect of homeownership on fertility among West German women using SOEP-Core panel data and a parental-homeownership instrument with district and year fixed effects. Instrument-induced homeownership significantly accelerates the transition from first to second birth, while the corresponding estimate for the cumulative number of children is small and statistically indistinguishable from zero — a pattern consistent with a tempo effect on the timing of second births rather than an increase in completed family size. Estimates are local to women whose housing access responds to intergenerational transmission of ownership and are supported by weak-instrument-robust inference.

**Transition to Adulthood: Local Rents and Leaving the Parental Home.** Links SOEP-Core residence histories to RWI-GEO-REDX quality-adjusted rent indices at the parental-home postal code to study young adults' first exit from the parental home in Germany, with heterogeneity by migration background. The central finding is a sign reversal across the spatial ladder: across locations, higher rents predict faster exit, consistent with high-rent areas being opportunity-rich, whereas within postal codes over time the rent gradient turns weakly negative and statistically imprecise. Bounding exercises rule out large affordability effects on exit timing, and lead–lag placebo tests indicate that part of the residual within-postal-code gradient reflects local trends rather than rents.

## CONFERENCES

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- “Housing and Fertility in Germany.” European Network for Housing Research (ENHR) Annual Conference 2025, *Affordable Housing in Greening Cities*, Grand Paris (Champs-sur-Marne), France, June 2025.

## SKILLS

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<b>Data</b>	SOEP-Core; RWI-GEO-REDX; FDZ secure-enclave workflows; BBSR/INKAR; OCR-assisted digitization of historical regional statistics.
<b>Software</b>	Stata, R, Python, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, oTree.
<b>Languages</b>	Turkish (native), English (fluent), German (B1), Italian (elementary).

## EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

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**Assistant Editor**

behavioraleconomics.com, remote (UK)

*Jan 2022–Oct 2023*

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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- DFG Research Training Group 2484, doctoral funding, 2023–2026
- University of Trento Merit Scholarship, 2021–2023.
- METU Alumni Association Merit Scholarship, 2016–2019.
- Honour Roll, Middle East Technical University, 2016–2017.
- Turkish Educational Foundation Merit Scholarship, 2013–2014.

## REFERENCES

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**Prof. Dr. Thomas K. Bauer**

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**Prof. Dr. Arnaud Chevalier**

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**Prof. Dr. Tobias Seidel**

Mercator School of Management, University of Duisburg-Essen, Duisburg, Germany

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