

Kardelen Cicek

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Education

American University <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> Dissertation: <i>Tax Policy, Capital, and Retirement: Essays on Macroeconomic Policy Design</i>	May 2027 (Expected)
George Washington University <i>M.A. in Applied Economics and Data Science</i> Data Science GPA: 4.0	2021
Kadir Has University <i>M.A. in Economics</i>	2019
Pamukkale University <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	2017

Research Interests

Macroeconomics; Public Finance

Working Papers

“Tax Incentives in Retirement Accounts: Is There a Growth–Inequality Trade-off?”

Job Market Paper

Studies the macroeconomic effects of introducing tax-deferred retirement accounts into an economy without tax-favored retirement saving. Using a heterogeneous-agent model calibrated to U.S. data, the paper finds that tax deferral increases capital accumulation and output while also raising wealth inequality because the benefits of tax-favored saving are unevenly distributed across households.

“Distributional Impacts of Inflation Accounting for Behavioral Effects and Real Assets”

IMF Working Paper 26/22, International Monetary Fund, February 2026

With Marcos Poplawski-Ribeiro, Julieth C. Pico-Mejia, and Alberto Tumino.

Research in Progress

“AI and Optimal Fiscal Policy Design”

Research in Progress

With Ignacio Gonzalez-Garcia and Joshua Sack (American University).

“The Impact of Pension Policy Reforms on Labor Market Outcomes in Mexico”

Research in Progress

With Ignacio Gonzalez-Garcia (American University).

Professional Experience

International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC

July 2022–July 2026

Research Analyst, Fiscal Affairs Department

- Developed macroeconomic and fiscal policy analysis and analytical tools in support of country policy reviews.
- Prepared the Weekly Food and Energy Prices Monitor, tracking commodity prices and fuel-price pass-through across countries; produced analytical estimates and presentations for senior management.
- Prepared wage-bill, budget, and macroeconomic projections for country missions, and contributed to public spending reviews and analytical annexes of Article IV country reports.
- Contributed to analytical chapters of the IMF's *Fiscal Monitor* (April 2023 and April 2025) and produced country-level pension and health expenditure projections for publication in the report.

World Bank, Washington, DC

October 2020–June 2022

Short-Term Consultant, Health, Nutrition and Population, Europe and Central Asia Region

- Developed fiscal-space and domestic-resource-mobilization frameworks for Moldova and Georgia, incorporating government revenue, tax structures, and macroeconomic developments; prepared analyses of public spending efficiency in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- Conducted debt sustainability, fiscal risk, and vulnerability assessments for countries in the region.
- Conducted empirical analysis of macro-financial developments in countries in the Caucasus.
- Analyzed excise taxation, VAT, and customs duties, and assessed the feasibility of new excise tax schemes.

Research Assistant Experience

George Washington University, Washington, DC

February 2020–December 2020

Research Assistant to Prof. Graciela L. Kaminsky and Prof. Maggie X. Chen

Teaching and Executive Training

IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), Kuwait

February 2026

Co-Instructor, Reforming Fuel Subsidies

IMF Africa Training Institute (ATI), Mauritius

June 2025

Co-Instructor, Reforming Fuel Subsidies

- Delivered executive-level training to government officials on the design and implementation of fiscally sustainable fuel subsidy reforms; developed course materials, country case studies, and analytical exercises.

Pamukkale University, Türkiye

Spring 2015

Teaching Assistant, Econometrics II (EKNM 319) and Statistics II (EKNM 202)

Contributions to Policy Work

- “The Returns to Education,” with Alberto Tumino and Zsuzsa Munkacsi. Annex 2 in *IMF Engagement on Education Spending in Surveillance and Program Work. IMF Technical Notes and Manuals* 2025/007, April 2025.
- IMF, *Fiscal Monitor*, April 2025, Chapter 2: “Public Sentiment Matters: The Essence of Successful Energy Subsidies and Pension Reforms.”
- IMF, *Fiscal Monitor*, April 2023, Chapter 2: “Inflation and Disinflation: What Role for Fiscal Policy?”
- IMF, *Kingdom of the Netherlands: 2024 Article IV Consultation—Press Release and Staff Report*.
- Kolovich, L. L. and M. Newiak (2024), *Gender Equality and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*. International Monetary Fund.
- Bisca, P. M., Chau, V., Dudine, P., Espinoza, R. A., Fournier, J.-M., Guerin, P., Hansen, N.-J. H., and Salas, J. (2024), *Violent Crime and Insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Macroeconomic Perspective*. IMF Departmental Paper Series.
- Britt, C. and D. Egerer (2024), “Exploring the Role of Public Expenditure in Advancing Female Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality.” *IMF Working Paper* 2024/108.

Conferences and Seminars

2026 56th Eurasia Business and Economics Society (EBES) Conference, Istanbul; IMF Institute for Capacity Development Departmental Seminar; IMF Fiscal Affairs Departmental Seminar; IMF Western Hemisphere Departmental Seminar.

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- Second Best Paper Award, 56th Eurasia Business and Economics Society (EBES) Conference, July 2026, for “Distributional Impacts of Inflation Accounting for Behavioral Effects and Real Assets.”
- Sena Eken-Schieber Economics Scholarship, Turkish Philanthropy Funds, for Ph.D. studies in Economics, 2022–2024.
- Sena Eken-Schieber Economics Scholarship, Turkish Philanthropy Funds, for M.A. studies in Economics, 2019–2021.
- George Washington University Economics Master’s Program Fellowship, 2019–2021.
- Kadir Has University Economics Master’s Program Fellowship, 2017–2019.

Technical Skills and Languages

Programming	Stata, R, Python, MATLAB
Data Visualization	Tableau
Data Science	Data Mining, Data Warehousing, Machine Learning
Languages	Turkish (Native), English (Fluent), Russian (Beginner), German (Beginner)

Academic References

Ignacio Gonzalez-Garcia — Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, American University. ignacio@american.edu

Thomas Husted — Professor, Department of Economics, American University. husted@american.edu

Marcos Poplawski-Ribeiro — Resident Representative in Nigeria, International Monetary Fund. mpoplawskiribeiro@imf.org