Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists in the World

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Abstract
This research note presents the research rankings of Turkish economists in the world using RePEc database as of January 2014. The long-run research ranking data running from 2003 to 2013 are utilized to identify the research success of Turkish economists working at universities and institutions all over the world.

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Introduction

Ranking economic institutions and economists with different purposes seems to be getting easier and more reliable due to recent improvements in information technology which provides extensive databases for researchers. Within these databases in economics, RePEc (Research Papers in Economics http://ideas.repec.org) is the largest bibliographic database with over 6000 journals and series and offers over 1 500 000 items of research which can be browsed or searched and over 1 3000 000 items which can be downloaded in full text.

As a voluntary organization, RePEc was established in 1992 with the aim of disseminating all kinds of economics research papers. As of January 2014, RePEc has around 39000 registered economists from over 75 countries. RePEc presents extensive research statistics on different aspects of economists, economic institutions by monthly in addition to quarterly and annual frequencies. Recently, RePEc has started to produce the research ranking statistics with decade frequency and these ranking statistics are based on 34 different criteria.

The RePEc database has been utilized extensively in recent studies by several researchers to identify and rank economists and economic institutions; see for example: Chang and McAleer (2013), Tol (2013a and 2013b), Zimmermann (2013), Halicioglu (2013 and 2011) Gibson et al. (2012), Seiler and Wohlrabe (2011), Dezhina and Dashkeev (2008), Mishra (2008), Novarese and Zimmermann (2008), and Kim et al. (2007).

Zimmermann (2013) discusses the pros and cons of the RePEc ranking methodology in comparison to other methodologies in the literature and argues that its methodology is sound and its reliability will improve further as its coverage extends. This note argues that out of several research ranking frequencies, the data obtained from the longest data span should reveal the most reliable research rankings for the economists and institutions.

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As of January 2014, RePEc revealed the research ranking statistics for 34 different criteria over the period 2003-2013 for almost 39 000 economists. These statistics also present RePEc rankings of institutions and economists in terms of the top 5%, the top 10, the top 25%, according to each individual criterion in addition to the average of 34 criteria.

The research ranking place of Turkish economists is presented in Table 1 using the RePEc top 5% list based on the average of 34 criteria. The top 5% list also reveals the exact place of an individual economist amongst 39 000 researchers but this situation is not possible if an economist is ranked above 5% list such as the top 5% and higher.
## Table 1: Research Ranking Place of Turkish Economists 2003-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>RePEc Ranking</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>The place PhD and year obtained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Daron Acemoglu</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Department of Economics, MIT</td>
<td>LSE, UK, (1992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Asli Demirgüc-Kunt</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Ohio State University, (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ayhan Kose</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>University of Iowa, (1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sebnem Kaleli-Ozcan</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>Department of Economics, University of Maryland</td>
<td>Brown University, (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Ferda Halicioglu</td>
<td>1557</td>
<td>Department of Economics, Yeditepe University, Turkey</td>
<td>Istanbul University, (1996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Erdal Tekin</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td>Department of Economics, Georgia State University</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Selahattin Imrohoroglu</td>
<td>1769</td>
<td>Department of Finance and Business, University of Southern California</td>
<td>University of Minnesota, (1988)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** own evaluations from [http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.all10.html](http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.all10.html) accessed on 07/02/2014.

According to Table 1, only 17 Turkish economists are listed in the top 5% of the RePEc research ranking. Out of these Turkish economists, Daron Acemoglu ranked the top place being the 3rd best research economist who is also regarded as the most likely Turkish economist to be awarded the Nobel Prize winner in the future. Out of these 17 Turkish economists only two of them are working for Turkish Universities, Bilkent and Yeditepe, respectively. It should be noted that they are private universities. The majority of those Turkish economists are in US universities apart from two economists, one is in the UK and another in Spain. 

Only 2 of the 17 Turkish economists are working for the top international organizations such as World Bank and IMF but they seem to be very research active in economics.

Out of 17 Turkish economists, only one of them, Ferda Halicioglu, holds PhD from a Turkish University and his PhD thesis is in Turkish, whilst the rest of them obtained their PhDs from top US universities.

Dani Rodrik is the oldest PhD holder (1985) whereas Refet Gurkaynak is the youngest PhD holder (2004).
Concluding Remarks

This brief research note tried to identify some common characteristics of the research success of Turkish economists in the world using the RePEc database. It seems crystal clear that the research success of Turkish economists is related to the PhD degrees obtained from reputable US universities. Turkish Universities should improve substantially their PhD programmes in economics if they want to produce top performing research economists. It is also evidently clear that these PhD programmes should be offered in English. Unfortunately, there are less than a handful of universities in Turkey able to offer PhD programmes in English. In order to reverse the brain drainage of Turkey, the Turkish government should design new policies to provide incentives for those economists who wish to return to Turkish Universities.

References


