

Zafer Büyükkececi

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Academic Positions

Research and Teaching Associate

- Assistant Professor of Sociology: Koç University [02/2026 – ongoing]
- Research scientist/post-doctoral associate: Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research [11/2023 – 02/2026]
- Research assistant/post-doctoral associate: University of Cologne, Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology [04/2020 – 11/2023]
- Research assistant: Humboldt University of Berlin, Microsociology [02/2019 – 04/2020]
- Research assistant: University of Bamberg/The State Institute for Family Research, Professorship of Demography [02/2017 – 02/2019]
- Research assistant: Maastricht University, Research Centre for Education and Labour Market (ROA) [05/2015 – 01/2017]

Education

- PhD at the department of microsociology – Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin/Germany. Thesis: Network Effects on Demographic Behavior, Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Anette Fasang, Prof. Dr. Thomas Leopold (2017 – 2021)
 - Won second place in the ECSR Prize for best PhD thesis of 2021 from the European Consortium for Sociological Research
- Master of Science in Sociology (With distinction) – Tilburg University, Tilburg/the Netherlands. Thesis: Income Homogamy Across Time and Countries, Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Gosta Esping-Andersen, Dr. Wilfred Uunk (08/2014 – 02/2015)
- Research Master in Sociology and Demography (GPA: 8,5/10) – Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona/Spain (09/2013 – 06/2014)
- BA in Environmental Engineering – Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul/Turkey (09/2007 – 02/2013)

Publications

Journal Articles

- Buyukkececi, Z., Kühn, M., Haberg, S. E., Ramlau-Hansen, C., & Myrskylä, M. (2026). Subjective biology: how perceived fecundity influences relationship satisfaction and stability. *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 1-25.
- Benson, T. E., Gaml-Sørensen, A., Clemmensen, P. J., Thomsen, A. M. L., Torvik, F. A., Buyukkececi, Z., ... & Ramlau-Hansen, C. H. (2026). Pubertal timing and tempo and depression risk in adolescent boys and girls: A Danish population-based cohort study. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 122020.
- Diffené, L., Leopold, T., Buyukkececi, Z., & Raab, M. (2026). Click, collect, compare: Evaluating a nonprobability web survey for family demography. *Demographic Research*, 54, 1375-1412.
- Çineli, B., & Buyukkececi, Z. (2026). Family breakups beyond childhood: Later-life parental divorce and adult sibling ties. *Journal of Family Research*, 38, 159-177.

- Bedük, S., Fasang, A. E., Harkness, S., Andrade, S. B., Buyukkececi, Z., Helske, S., & Karhula, A. (2026). Insurance against risk? Cost and compensation of job loss in different welfare states. *Socio-Economic Review*, 24(1), 505-527.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2025). Unemployment and parent-adult child relationships: How parental support evolves following job loss. *Social Science Research*, 131, 103227.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2025). Intergenerational relationships after parental divorce: variations by levels of family solidarity. *European Journal of Ageing*, 22(1), 19.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2025). Temporal and Cross-Country (Dis) Similarities in Transition to Adulthood: A Comparison of 23 European Countries. *Population, Space and Place*, 31(2), e70012.
- Buyukkececi, Z., Levanon, A., Fasang, A. E., Kraus, V., & Saburov, E. (2025). Women's Work-Family Trajectories and Earnings by Ethno-Religious Groups in Israel: More Equality in the Public Sector?. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 100659.
- Leopold, T., Raab, M., Becker, C. C., Buyukkececi, Z., & Çineli, B. (2025). Mapping modern kinship networks: First results from the KINMATRIX survey. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 87(2), 478-504.
- Buyukkececi, Z., & Leopold, T. (2024). Parent-Child Relationships Following Grey Divorce: Stronger Ties with Mothers, Weaker Ties with Fathers. *The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, gbae004.
- Buyukkececi, Z., & Çineli, B. (2024). Adult sibling relationships: The impact of cohabitation, marriage, separation, and childbearing. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 86(3), 698-717.
- Leopold, T., Becker, C. C., Buyukkececi, Z., Çineli, B., & Raab, M. (2024). KINMATRIX: A new data resource for studies of families and kinship. *Demographic Research*, 51, 789-808.
- Fasang, A. E., Andrade, S. B., Bedük, S., Buyukkececi, Z., & Karhula, A. (2024). Lives in welfare states: Life courses, earnings accumulation, and relative living standards in five European countries. *American Journal of Sociology*, 130(2), 384-438.
- Buyukkececi, Z., Fasang, A. E., & Kraus, V. (2023). Rising Patriarchy and Declining Economic Opportunity: Life Courses and Social Change in Egypt between 1965 and 2018. *Population and Development Review*.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2023). Neighbourhood effects on early adulthood family life courses: A trajectory-based approach. *Population, Space and Place*, 29(2), e2609.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2021). Does Re-Partnering Behavior Spread Among Former Spouses?. *European Journal of Population*, 37(4), 799-824.
- Buyukkececi, Z., & Engelhardt, H. (2021). On the Relationship between Fertility, Development and Gender Equality: A Comparison of Western and MENA Countries. *Comparative Population Studies*, 46.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2020). Cross-country differences in anxiety and behavioral response to the Covid-19 pandemic. *European Societies*, 1-31.
- Buyukkececi, Z., & Leopold, T. (2020). Sibling influence on family formation: A study of social interaction effects on fertility, marriage, and divorce. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 100359.
- Buyukkececi, Z., Leopold, T., Van Gaalen, R. I., and Engelhardt, H. (2020): Family, Firms, and Fertility: A Study of Social Interaction Effects, *Demography*, 57(1), 243-266.

Books/Book Chapters

- Engelhardt, H., Schulz, F., and Buyukkececi, Z. (2018). Demographic and Human Development in the Middle East and North Africa. Bamberg: University of Bamberg Press.
- Buyukkececi, Z. (2026). Sibling relationships in early and middle adulthood. In *Handbook of the Psychology of Sibling Relationships: Advancing Research and Practice* (pp. 581-606). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Work in Progress

- Buyukkececi, Z. and Querin, F.: Family Instability Across Generations: The Influence of Family Ties and Genetic Predispositions (revised and resubmitted to *Demography*).
- Buyukkececi, Z. and Fasang, A.: The Rising Gap between Normative and Actual Family Life Courses: A Comparison of Young Adults born 1930 to 1983 in 27 European Countries (under review at *Population and Development Review*).
- Buyukkececi, Z., Kühn, M., & Myrskylä, M. (2024). Perceived Fecundity and Childbearing Intentions: A Life Course Perspective (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z.: Unveiling Asymmetric Effects: Acknowledging Gains and Losses in Panel Data Analysis (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z.: Parenting Children with Disabilities: Well-Being and Health Across the Life Course (in preparation).
- Di Nallo, A. and Buyukkececi, Z.: Union dissolution after live and non-live births (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z. and Fasang, A.: (de)Standardization in Women's Life Courses in Turkey (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z.: Education Effects on Work and Family Life Courses: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Turkey (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z.: Educational Attainment as a Catalyst for Women's Empowerment in Turkey: Evidence from the Educational Reform (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z. and Myrskylä, M.: Fecundity Knowledge and Childbearing Intentions (in preparation).
- Buyukkececi, Z. and Fasang, A.: All are Equal, but some Men and Women are more Equal than Others: How family life-courses are related to mid-life income (in preparation).
- Fasang A., Buyukkececi, Z., Bedük, S., Bastholm, Andrade S., Karhula, A.: Apples and Oranges? Comparing Life Course Typologies Across Countries (in preparation).

Teaching

Bachelor Courses

- Maastricht University
 - Theories of Social Order (Summer Semester, 2015), Economic Psychology (Winter Semester, 2016), Economic Sociology (Summer Semester, 2016)
- University of Bamberg
 - Social Demography with Movies (Summer Semester, 2017/Summer Semester, 2018), Population and Society (Winter Semester, 2017-18), An Introduction to Population Studies (Winter Semester, 2018-19)
- Koç University
 - Research Methods in Sociology (Spring Semester, 2025-2026)

Master Courses

- University of Bamberg
 - Research Methods in Demography (Winter Semester, 2018-19)

Doctoral (PhD) Courses

- International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS)
 - Fertility and Health (2024)
 - Fertility, Health, and Institutions (2025)

Graduate Courses (Master+PhD)

- Koç University
 - Quantitative Research Methods (Spring Semester, 2025-2026)

Teaching Assistant

- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Winter School

- Panel Data Analysis (2019)

Projects

- ROA Lifelong Learning (05/2015 – 01/2017)
- Network Effects on Fertility: The Social Contagion of Childbearing in Three Interaction Domains. PI: Henriette Engelhardt. German Research Foundation Grant, 110.000 € (02/2017 – 01/2019)
- Inequality, Early Adult Life Courses and Economic Outcomes at Mid-Life in Comparative Context (EQUALLIVES) PI: Susan Harkness. NORFACE ERA-NET Cofund Grant, 1.430.000 € (02/2019 – 09/2021)
- Uncovering the Kinship Matrix: A New Study of Solidarity and Transmission in European Families (KINMATRIX) (09/2021-10/2023), funded by European Research Council (ERC)
- BIOSFER, funded by European Research Council (ERC)

Voluntary Projects

- Policy paper on youth migration and participation with Young People We Care (YPWC) in Ghana (2013)
- One Child One Three Project with ASODECOM in Burundi (2013)
- English Teacher in a community center, named Mustafa Kemal Toplum Merkezi (2013)
- MAXMINDS: Mentoring for Inclusion and Diversity in Science (2023-2025)

Memberships

- European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR), Population Association of America (PAA), European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), Sequence Analysis Association (SAA)

Journal Reviewer

- Advances in Life Course Research, BMC Public Health, Applied Economics Letters, Cogent Social Sciences, Demography, European Journal of Population, European Societies, European Sociological Review, Ethnography, Family Transitions, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, International Migration, Journal of Biosocial Science, Journal of International Medical Research, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Population Research, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, PLOS ONE, Population Research and Policy Review, Population Review, Population, Space and Place, Population Studies, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Research on Aging, Reproductive Health, Scientific Reports, Social Forces, Society and Mental Health, The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences.

Supervision/Advisor

- Paula Anna Lingscheid (Bachelor's thesis at University of Bamberg): The relationship between education, fertility, and gender equality in Ghana
- Md. Anwer Hossain (PhD dissertation at Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research/University of St. Andrews): How the timing of menopause i) differs across generations and social groups (by socioeconomic or migrant status), and ii) relates to menarche, reproductive history as well as post-reproductive health

- Aijie Zhang (PhD dissertation at Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research/University of St. Andrews): Fertility dynamics and patterns in high-income countries
- Alp Ünal Ayhan (Master's thesis at Koç University): Structural Selection and the Erosion of Democratic Resistance in the Republican Party

References

- Prof. Dr. Anette Fasang
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Leopold
- Prof. Dr. Mikko Myrskylä

Languages

Turkish (native tongue), English (C1), German (B1)