

Post-doctoral fellowship at Koc University, Istanbul, Turkiye.

A two-year postdoc position in the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) funded project entitled Political behaviour of the Turkish Multinationals (MNCs) between 2000 and 2024 in International Relations Department and Research Center for Globalization, Peace and Democratic Governance, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkiye.

The Department of International Relations, College of Economics and Administrative Sciences, and Koc University Research Center for Globalization, Peace and Democratic Governance, invite candidates to apply for a two-year postdoctoral position in the TUBITAK Project on non-market behavior of the Turkish manufacturing MNCs.

An eligible candidate may start immediately. Deadline for application is 31 December, 2024.

Introduction

Drawing on an interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives and comparative qualitative case analyses, this Project proposal aims to investigate unexplored question on how Turkish Multinational Corporations (TMNCs) respond to multiple challenges posed by geopolitical risks, political regime change, government change or policy changes that generate uncertainty (e.g. Brexit), and with what effect. It specifically focuses on resilience and political skills *in action* of the non-financial TMNCs to protect and advance their economic interests in host countries and regions. It focuses on TMNC political behavior across various countries and regions with special reference to ‘political resilience’; the organizational capacity to take effective actions to respond to increasing uncertainty of rising from geopolitical and/or host-country/region-specific political risks. In doing so, this Project aims to explore political actions of TMNCs that enhance their ability to deal with political risks and protect their economic interests. Specifically, it focuses on 1) political behaviors of the largest TMNCs; 2) drawing on context and process specific comparative case study analyses, it compares a TMNC’s political behavior within and across countries over time; 3) it aims to offer a novel theoretical framework that could be extended to analyze political behavior of other developing country MNCs. Thus, unlike quantitative analyses that considers mostly political risk and behavior of developed country MNCs in the context of entry decision, this *Project takes interactions among multiple structural, institutional and agency-level interrelated factors that in motivate and empower TMNCs political action*. This Project seeks for the answers of the two main questions: how do TMNCs respond

to political risks within and across countries over time? How do interactions among multiple and interdependent structural (e.g., political regime, administrative traditions, culture), institutional (e.g., regulations and policies) and agential-level (e.g., state, firm, public, managers, politicians, bureaucrats) causal factors motivate and enable TMNC political behavior, with what effect? How can we explain similarities and divergences in political actions across TMNC responses? Are the government policy and firm performance affected by the political actions? Regarding its theoretical novelty, it aims to offer an integrative framework that would be extended to understand the political behavior of developing country MNCs. The analyses of the empirical material should be grounded in SIA framework (Bakir, 2022a,b) and relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks in the International Political Economy and International Business literatures on MNC non-market behavior.

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be working closely with the Project Investigator, Professor Caner Bakir. It requires deep theoretical insight and experience with qualitative empirical research. The postdoc will involve research design and implementation including literature review, conducting and analyzing in-depth interviews in Turkish in Turkiye, developing theoretical models that explain the results, as well as manuscript preparation and publication. This is full-time research with no teaching responsibility.

Your required competencies

- Ph.D. in related field (politics, public policy, international political economy, or international business).
- Excellent command of Turkish and English.
- Demonstrate competence in context and process sensitive qualitative research, preferably peer-reviewed publications within these fields.
- Be able to conduct independent research, to think critically and creatively, and carry out research in a structured manner.
- Preferably have experience with communicating your research results to professional and academic audience.

Terms of the Fellowship

The fellowship award is for two years, beginning anytime from December 1st, 2024 onwards.

The fellowship includes TL27,000 monthly stipend (net); a monthly meal card; and the University's group health insurance plan. The fellow is expected to be a full-time

researcher at the University working closely with Professor Caner Bakir. There will be no teaching obligations unless separate arrangements are made in exceptional cases.

Applicants must have earned their Ph.D. degree from an accredited university before their fellowship starts.

Application Process

Candidates are expected to hold a Ph.D. at the time of appointment. Interested applications should submit the following documents in English to cbakir@ku.edu.tr

- 1) A one-page cover letter, briefly describing your interest and relevant research experience;
- 2) A Curriculum Vitae.
- 3) A statement of research interest
- 4) A transcript; and the latest diploma
- 5) Two (2) letters of recommendation.