

Sebnem Sahin, PhD

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PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong expertise in CGE model applications to sustainable development, climate change economics and resilience.
- Sound background in global, regional, and country specific policy and project analyses including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Turkey, North Macedonia, Georgia, Jordan, Ethiopia, Guyana, etc.
- Excellent communication skills in Turkish, English, and French.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Regional Economist, CGE Modeler

UNDP, RBEC - IPSA

May 2022 - present

Lead investigator working on the regional ripple effects from the Ukraine war. Developed economy-wide Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model-based analyses for Serbia, Cyprus, and Azerbaijan to capture the socio-economic impact of the Ukraine War. Presented the results in high level meetings in Cyprus from the lens of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lead Regional Economist, CGE Modeler

July 2019 - present

UNDP, Afghanistan Office - IPSA

Developed a CGE model to support Afghan decision makers macro-fiscal and trade policies including the impact of the regime shift in August'15, recovery from the Corona Virus Pandemic, Climate resilience, SDG attainment, regional trade, and social protection policies for recovery.

Senior Environmental Economist, Term Staff or Consultant

The World Bank, Washington D.C.

Water Global Practice

2022

Lead investigator on a global survey regarding irrigation subsidies and investment needs in the water sector. Developed econometric analysis based on the survey results as a background paper to the upcoming publication "Detoxing Development".

Europe and Central Asia Region, West Africa and the Middle East Units

2018-2021

Developed economic analysis to support Macro-Trade GP's P4Rs for Jordan and Senegal. Macro-economist leading the analysis for the first climate change adaptation strategy for Bulgaria; Climate Resilient Green Growth studies for Georgia and Turkey; an Assessment of Climate Change Impact on the Sava River Basin. Delivered CGE training as regard to climate adaptation to Ministry experts.

MENA Chief Economist Unit

2017

Core team member and co-author for "Blueprint for Recovery and Reconstruction in Yemen" and "Peace and Recovery in the Middle East". Developed CGE analyses for several conflict countries and the regional ripple effects of war in MENA.

South Asia Region, Environment, Climate Change, and Agriculture Units

2010-2016

Lead investigator and team leader for strategic analytical work on green and climate resilient growth for India Bangladesh; Sri Lanka; and cross-border river basins in South Asia entitled "Low Water High Growth" report. Analyzed subsidy removal and its impact on the poor in Bangladesh and Pakistan using CGE. Focal point for benchmarking and analysis in sustainable development and climate to support country partnership documents. Delivered CGE training at the Madras School of Economics to students, academics and Ministry experts.

Africa Region, Macro-Fiscal Management Unit

2009

Developed Growth Accounting and Growth Diagnostics analysis for Sao Tome and Principe as part of the Country Economic Memorandum.

Finance, Economics and Urban Department

2008

Analyzed the economic impacts of climate shocks on health using valuation techniques and economy-

wide analyses on intra-regional and global trade. Drafted papers and book chapters conducted joint research with the UN- ISDR, "Natural Hazards, Un-Natural Disasters". Delivered training on the economics of disaster risk reduction.

Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Urban unit 2007
Developed an analytical tool to forecast the fiscal impact of extreme events, which was used by the WBG, IADB, and IMF staff and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility in pricing catastrophic risk insurance premiums and funding needs for disaster recovery.

Development Economics, Prospects Group March 2006
Member of the modelling team working on the Global Economic Prospects (2007).

Economist October 2004 - February 2006

OECD, Paris, Environment Directorate

Co-author of the OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030 (2008). Member of the modelling team working on the OECD global CGE model and climate indicators.

EDUCATION

Université Sorbonne, Paris, PhD in Economics (with honors) February 2004

PhD Thesis: A Sustainable Development Policy Discussion for Turkey on Green House Gas Emissions within a Regional Computable General Equilibrium Model (CGE): TURCO

LANGUAGES

Turkish (native), English (excellent) and French (excellent). Spanish (beginner).

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

GAMS, GEMPACK, E-Views, Gauss, R, Octave, ARC-GIS, Excel. Run-GTAP and GEMSIM.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLICATIONS

UNDP (2023), Afghanistan: Socio-Economic Outlook 2023-2022.

UNDP (2022), Afghanistan: Socio-Economic Outlook 2021-2022.

UNDP (2021), Economic Instability and Uncertainty in Afghanistan after August 15: A rapid Appraisal.

The Asia Foundation and Biruni Institute (2021), Cost of Non-Cooperation Between South and Central Asia: Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities.

UNDP (2020), Potential Impact of the Corona-virus Pandemic on SDG Attainment.

UNDP (2020), Afghanistan Socio-Economic Impact Assessment: Note II.

UNDP (2020), Afghanistan Corona-virus Impact Assessment: Note I.

How Much Would Bangladesh Gain from the Removal of Subsidies on Electricity and Natural Gas? With Marinos Tsigas, Govinda Tmilsina, and Sheoli Pargal. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No 8677. 2018.

Bulgaria Ministry Environment and Water: Macroeconomic Implication of Climate Change Analysis. 2018.

Handbook of Sustainable Development in Asia. Chapter 6. Routledge. New York. 2018.

Economic Contribution of the Fisheries Sector: Short- and Long-Term Perspectives for Sri Lanka. With William Lane, Tolga Cebeci, Badri Narayanan, and Indu Hewawasam. Journal of Indian Ocean Rim Studies, 2018 Vol. 1, Issue 2.

Blueprint for Recovery and Reconstruction in Yemen. The World Bank. 2017.

Low Water High Growth in the South Asian Economies. The World Bank. 2017.

A Firm Level Decomposition of Energy Consumption in Turkish Manufacturing Industry. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No 8211. 2017.

Managing Natural Coastal Natural Wealth in Sri Lanka for Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods. The World Bank. 2017.

“Economic and Land Use Impacts of Improving Water Use Efficiency in Irrigation in South Asia”. 2016. With Farzad Taheripour, Tom Hertel, Badri Narayanan, Anil Markandya and Bijon Mitra, Journal of Environmental Protection. No, 7. pp 1571-1591. 2016.

Georgia Country Environmental Analysis: Institutional, Economic, and Poverty Aspects of Georgia’s Road to Environmental Sustainability. Environment and natural resources global practice country environmental analysis. The World Bank. 2015.

“How to Go Green: A General Equilibrium Investigation of Environmental Policies for Sustained Growth with an Application to Turkey's Economy”. With Erinc Yeldan and Aziz Bouzaher. Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences, March 2015, Volume 8, Issue 1, pp 49–76.

Agricultural Policies and Trade Paths in Turkey. With D. F. Larson, W. Martin, and M. Tsigas, World Economy. 2016.

“Agricultural Policies and Trade Paths in Turkey”. With Don Larson, Will Martin, and Marinos Tsigas. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, No 7059. 2014.

Reforming Electricity Subsidies in Pakistan: Measures to Protect the Poor. With Thomas Walker, Mohammad Saqib, and Kristy Mayer. World Bank Policy Paper Series on Pakistan. No: PK 24/12. 2014.

Evaluation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union. The World Bank. 2014.

Turkey - Green Growth Policy Paper. The World Bank. 2012.

Greening India’s Growth. With A. Markandya, M. Muthukumara, and A. Sagar. The World Bank. 2012.

Natural Hazards, Un-natural Disasters. UN-World Bank Joint Publication on the Economics of Effective Prevention. The World Bank. 2010.

OECD Environmental Outlook to 2030. OECD. 2008.

AWARDS

Best team awards: The World Bank SAR-VPU (2015 and 2016), MENA and EFI VPUs (2017).

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

GTAP: Data contributor, Session Chair, Session Lead, Presenter, member since 1997.

International Association of Energy Economics: Member and webinar presenter.

Howard University: PhD Evaluation Committee member.

Bay Atlantic University: Adjunct professor in environmental sciences and economics.

REFERENCES

Marinos Tsigas, United States International Trade Commission, Former Lead Economist. GTAP CGE Modeler. Free-lancer.

Zafiris Tzannatos, Former World Bank and ILO, Lead Economist and Director. Senior Consultant - UNDP.

Craig Meisner, The World Bank, Senior Environmental Economist, Global Lead - Climate Change.