

Rana CÖMERTPAY

Research Associate

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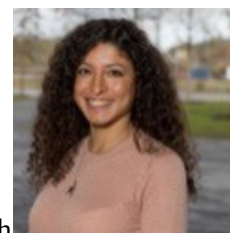
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Born July 1, 1989

Nationality: Belgian, Turkish



Personal Statement

- ◇ Hard-working, motivated, and reliable researcher with a PhD in economics.
- ◇ Field Interests: Development economics, migration economics (in particular forced displacement), the economics of conflict, and political economy.
- ◇ Proven ability to work in a team with intercultural awareness, analytical skills, and a strong work ethic.
- ◇ Confident at presenting at conferences, teaching, and engaging with academic and non-academic audiences.

To know more about me, you can have a look at the series by Research Luxembourg where I was recently featured: *In Conversation with Our Young Researchers & Women [& Girls] in Science 2025 – Rana Cömertpay, Research associate in Economics.*

References

Luisito Bertinelli, Associate Professor.

Department of Economics and Management | University of Luxembourg.

Email: luisito.bertinelli@uni.lu

Anastasia Litina, Associate Professor.

Department of Economics | University of Macedonia.

Email: anastasia.litina@uom.edu.gr

Jean-François Maystadt, Professor.

Institute of Economic and Social Research | UCLouvain.

Email: jean-francois.maystadt@uclouvain.be

Ongoing Research

- ◇ Empirical research on the causal impact of vocational training for youth and women employment in Senegal.
 - **Work in Progress:** Impact of Vocational Training on Youth and Female Employment: Evidence from Senegal (with Michel Tenikue). In the framework of the *Development Policy Impact Analysis Unit* hosted by LISER in cooperation with J-PAL Europe and the Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs (Luxembourg MFA).
- ◇ Empirical research on the role of aspirations and constraints in shaping youth mobility decisions.
 - **Work in Progress:** *Global Minds Fund 2025 – RCT on Youth Aspirations & Mobility Constraints in Casamance* (Co-Investigator, with Ghent University, UASZ, JogJëf, CCA, LISER). Preparatory phase ongoing; field intervention scheduled for January 2026.
- ◇ Empirical research on conflict, female autonomy, and intra-household decision-making.
 - **Work in Progress:** Conflict Exposure and Women's Decision-Making: Evidence from DHS and ACLED (with Cansu Oymak). Ongoing data construction and empirical design.
- ◇ Empirical research on Internet access, mobility, and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - **Work in Progress:** Internet Access and Migration Patterns: Subnational Evidence from Senegal (with Frédéric Docquier, Michel Tenikue, and Alexander Yarkin). DSS Seed Grant obtained to purchase *Collins Bartholomew's 2G/3G/4G/5G data*.

◇ Empirical research on migration and demographic/cultural changes in European OECD countries.

- **Working Paper:** Cömertpay, R., Irmen, A. and Litina, A. (2019). Individual Attitudes Towards Immigration in Aging Populations. *CESifo Working Paper Series* 7565.

Past Research

◇ Empirical research on the consequences of a change in ethnic diversity for ethnic attachment, capital, public goods, and conflict for long-term development in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Published Paper:** Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R. and Maystadt, JF. (2025). Ethnic diversity and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from refugee-hosting areas. *Journal of Development Economics*, 172, p. 103393.
 - **Previous Policy Research Discussion Paper:** Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R. and Maystadt, JF. (2022). *Refugees, Diversity and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 10052 Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.
Under the call for project “Preventing social conflict and promoting social cohesion in forced displacement contexts” sponsored by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the World Bank, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

◇ Empirical research on the determinants of mobility and socio-economic integration of refugees (e.g. Syrian) after resettlement in receiving societies (e.g. Türkiye).

- **Published Paper:** Beine, M., Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R., Litina, A. and Maystadt, JF. (2021). A Gravity Analysis of Refugee Mobility Using Mobile Phone Data. *Journal of Development Economics*, Elsevier, vol. 150(C). p. 102618.
- **Published Chapter:** Beine, M., Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R., Litina, A., Maystadt, JF and Zou, B. (2019). Chapter 22. Refugee Mobility: Evidence from Phone Data in Turkey. In Salah, A.A., Pentland, A., Lepri, B., Letouze, E. (Eds.), *Guide to Mobile Data Analytics in Refugee Scenarios* (pp. 433-449). Springer International Publishing. Under the call for a big data challenge “Data for Refugees Turkey” organized by Türk Telekom in collaboration with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey and Boğaziçi University: Access to a large dataset of anonymized mobile phone usage of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

◇ Empirical research on the political economy of media and protests in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions.

- **Published Paper:** Angelini, L., Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R. & Maystadt, J.-F. (2026). The impact of foreign media on political mobilization during the Arab Spring. *World Development*, 199, p. 107218.
 - **Previous ERF Working Paper series:** Angelini, L., Bertinelli, L., Cömertpay, R. and Maystadt, JF. (2024). The Impact of Independent Media on Political Mobilization during the Arab Spring. *Economic Research Forum*, ERF

◇ Empirical research on migration and demographic/cultural changes in European OECD countries.

- **Published Paper:** Cömertpay, R., Irmen, A. and Litina, A. (2024). Attitudes towards Women in Aging Populations. *Economics Bulletin*, AccessEcon, vol. 44(4), pages 1326-1332..

Education and Experience

Research Associate

Labour Market

Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

Supervisors: Frédéric DOCQUIER, Michel TENIKUE

November 2022–Present (28 months)

Post-Doctoral Researcher

Department of Economics and Management (DEM)

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

Supervisors: Andreas IRMEN, Anastasia LITINA

November 2021–October 2022 (1 year)

PhD in Economics

The defense held and degree obtained on September 7, 2021

November 2017–October 2021 (4 years)

Department of Economics and Management (DEM)
Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
Advisor: Luisito BERTINELLI

Visiting Researcher

November 2020–June 2021 (6 months)

Institut of Economic and Social Research (IRES)
Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences and Communication, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.
Director: Jean-François MAYSTADT

5th Summer School in Advanced Economics: Causal Inference, Potential Outcomes, and Difference-in-Differences Estimation by Prof. Dr. Jeffrey M. Wooldridge
July 2023 (2 weeks)
the University of Ioannina and University of Piraeus, Spetses, Greece.

Utrecht Summer School

July 2019–August 2019 (2 weeks)

Utrecht University, Netherlands.

Micro-econometrics Summer School

June 2018–July 2018 (2 weeks)

Barcelona School of Economics, Spain.

Master in Economics and Finance - Research Track

September 2016–September 2017 (1 year)

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg. Good, avg. score 14.4/20.

Master of Science in Economics and Finance

September 2012–September 2014 (2 years)

HEC Management School-ULiège, University of Liège, Belgium. Distinction.

Erasmus Program

October 2012–March 2013 (6 months)

Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, Universität Hohenheim, Germany. Good.

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management

September 2008–September 2012 (4 years)

HEC Management School-ULiège, University of Liège, Belgium. Good.

Theses

PhD thesis: “Essays on the Economics of Forced Displacement and Conflict” (2017–2021).

Advisor: Luisito BERTINELLI

Defense Committee: Michel BEINE (Chair), Conchita D’AMBROSIO (Vice-Chair), Luisito BERTINELLI (Supervisor), Anna Maria MAYDA (Georgetown University), Çağlar ÖZDEN (The World Bank)

Master Thesis: “The Impact of Aging on Attitudes towards Immigration” (2016–2017).

Supervisors: Andreas IRMEN, Anastasia LITINA

Master Thesis: “The Transfer Pricing in the Pharmaceutical Industry” (2013–2014).

Supervisor: Axel GAUTIER

Readers: Joseph THARAKAN, Daniel SCHLECK

Awards

◇ Wim Meeusen Prize 2022 awarded by the University of Bari Aldo Moro for the best paper presented by a young scholar: “*Refugees, Diversity and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa*”.

◇ Excellent Thesis Award 2021, Doctoral School of Economics, Finance and Management.

◇ Research Award for Best PhD Student 2020, Faculté de Droit, Economie et Finance.

◇ The Pierre Werner 2020 Award for academic achievement, originality, and potential of research work and its impact in promoting the ideals of the Fondation Pierre Werner.

◇ The Economist Club Luxembourg Prize for the Best Master Thesis in Economics and Finance 2017 for Master Thesis “The Impact of Aging on Attitudes towards Immigration”.

Teaching

Lecturer

02.2025–Present

Development Economics.

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Prepared ten 3-hour classes, organized and graded group works, prepared, invigilated, and graded exams.

Guest Lecturer

11.2021–12.2021

Econometric Methods for Causal Inference.

Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion (FSEG), Université des Sciences Sociales et de Gestion de Bamako, Mali.

◇ Prepared four 3-hour classes and supported master's degree thesis.

Teaching assistant

10.2020–12.2020

Introduction to Econometrics, Professor Konstantinos TATSIRAMOS.

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Prepared ten 1.5-hour classes.

Teaching assistant

03.2019–06.2024

Macroeconomics I, Associate Professor Arnaud BOURGAIN.

Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Prepared ten 1.5-hour classes, organized and graded group works, prepared, invigilated, and graded exams.

Teaching assistant

10.2018–12.2018

Econometrics 1, Associate Professor Luisito BERTINELLI.

Master of Science in Finance and Economics, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Prepared seven 2-hour classes, prepared homework, prepared, invigilated, and graded exams.

Teaching and Research assistant

10.2013–10.2014

Executive & Team Management in an International Context, Professor Jocelyn ROBERT.

Master of Science in Human Resources Management, University of Liege, Belgium.

◇ Prepared classes and graded group works and final assignments while investigating literature on the international mobility of executives in small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Other Academic Experience

Student Representative

10.2018–9.2021 (36 months)

Doctoral School of Economics and Finance,

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Co-organize academic and social events, attend biannual council meetings, create and edit the bi-monthly newsletter "Discover Your Colleagues" within the department.

Research Assistant

04.2017–08.2017 (4 months)

Department of Economics and Management (DEM),

Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Supported an empirical research project focusing on aging, migration, and cultural attitudes: systematized and combined micro-datasets (WVS, EVS, ESS, etc), collected and cleaned data, created a database, contributed to all tasks related to project completion.

Volunteer Administration Assistant

09.2009–09.2011 (24 months)

Cercle des Étudiants en Sciences Economiques de Liège,

HEC Management School-ULiège, University of Liège, Belgium

◇ Co-organized academic and social events to disseminate the department's missions and strategy.

Workshops and Conferences

Seminar: "The Impact of Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) on Youth Employment in Senegal". UCLouvain, Institute of Economic and Social Research (IRES), Brussels, Belgium, 15 April 2025.

ERF 30th Annual Conference: "Tragedies of Regional Conflicts and Promises of Peacebuilding". Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) and Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRESS), Rabat, Morocco, 21-23 April 2024.

1st Welfare & Policy Conference: "Individual and collective responses to a troubled world". Society for Research on Welfare and Policy (WAP) and the Bordeaux School of Economics, Bordeaux, France, 4-5 May 2023.

Workshop sur l'Impact des Politiques de Développement: Coopération entre le Luxembourg et le Sénégal. Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, 30 March 2023.

4th Development Economics Workshop: "African economies in the face of crises and resource mobilization". Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Bénin, 23-24 March 2023.

Official Mission in Senegal, led by Ministry of Economics Franz Fayot, chaired by S.A.R. Grand-Duc Héritier and organized by the Embassy of Luxembourg in Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, 22-25 February 2023.

2022 The Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC) Annual Meeting. University of California, Berkeley, United States, 14-15 October 2022.

2022 The Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC) Annual Meeting. University of California, Berkeley, United States, 14-15 October 2022.

Economics of Global Interactions. Bari, Italy, 4-6 September 2022.

3rd EBRD & King's College London Workshop on the Economics and Politics of Migration. EBRD HQ. London, United Kingdom, 16-17 June 2022.

17th Annual Workshop of the Households in Conflict Network (HiCN): "Conflict, Migration, and Displacement". The University of Göttingen. Göttingen, Germany, 11-12 October 2021.

14th Conference on Migration and Development. Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER) and the University of Luxembourg. Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 9-10 September 2021.

Conference on Forced Displacement. Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD), Harvard Kennedy School. Copenhagen, Denmark, 17-18 January 2020.

NetMob 2019 Conference. Oxford University. Oxford, United Kingdom, 8-10 July 2019.

Junior Economist Workshop on Migration Research. ifo Institute Center of Excellence for Migration and Integration Research. Munich, Germany, 4-5 July 2019.

Migration Workshop. The Doctoral Training Unit on Migration, Inequalities and Labor Markets, University of Luxembourg. Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 3 April 2019.

Data For Refugees (D4R) Challenge Workshop and Award Ceremony. Boğaziçi University. Istanbul, Turkey, 21 January 2019.

Workshop on Culture and Comparative Development. Centre for Research in Economic Analysis, University of Luxembourg. Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 12-13 December 2018.

8th Annual International Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries. OECD Conference Center. Paris, France, 10-11 December 2018.

Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) Europe 2018. Centre for Research in Economic Analysis, University of Luxembourg. Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 6-8 April 2018.

Other Professional Experience

Volunteer Strategic Advisor 12.2024–Present (3 months)
Professors Without Borders.

◇ Train and report to the team and other NGOs on monitoring, and impact evaluation. Prepare and teach courses related to data and economics to students in higher education in developing countries.

International Project and Finance Assistant 05.2015–06.2016 (13 months)
Inova Consultancy, Sheffield, United Kingdom.

◇ Contributed to bid writing, conducted interviews and focus groups, engaged stakeholders, collected data for reports, presented results to various audiences, prepared and supervised project finances and grants for audit and funding bodies, liaised with local and European academic, private, public and non-profit partners, organized and attended meetings across Europe, drafted guides and training materials for pilot facilitators, participants, and policy-makers.

Junior Auditor 12.2014–03.2015 (4 months)
Grant Thornton Lux. Audit S.A, Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

◇ Validated consolidation perimeters and consolidation package, contacted and visited clients to receive required documents for audit, prepared account reconciliations and analytical reviews, used internal audit software, attended and wrote minutes of conference calls with managers, partners, and clients.

Tax and Compliance Intern 09.2013–11.2013 (3 months)
Grant Thornton Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey.

◇ Filled tax and V.A.T. returns, verified tax compliance requirements and payrolls.

Languages

French (mother tongue), Turkish (mother tongue), English (fluent at work), German (intermediate), Luxembourgish (beginner).

Skills

Proficiency: Data Analysis and Statistical Software: STATA, Geographic Information System for working with maps and geographic information: ArcGIS, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Outlook and Google applications.

Independent use: Multi-paradigm Numerical Computing Software: MATLAB, Programming Language and Software Environment for Statistical Computing: R, Statistical Package for Econometrics: GRETL, Info-graphics, Reports and Presentations: Piktochart & Content Management Systems: Moodle, WordPress.

Basics: Web pages: HTML, Programming: JavaScript and Database Management: MySQL.

Hobbies

Sports: Swimming (licensed, participation in open water swimming events).

Music: Solfège and Saxophone (Certificate from Academy of Music Saint-Nicolas, Liège, Belgium).