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*Worldviews and Intergenerational Altruism:
A Comparison of Turkish People Living in
Turkey and Germany*

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Outline

1. **Introduction**
2. Related literature
3. Data and Model
4. Analysis
5. Conclusion

Introduction: Intergenerational Altruism

- Standard models of intergenerational altruism (Barro 1974, Becker 1974): no conflicts of interest between parent and child; child's utility is an argument in the parent's utility function.
- Intergenerational altruism models of cultural transmission of preferences (Bisin and Verdier 2001, Akabayashi 2006, Doepke and Zilibotti 2008 and 2014, Bhatt and Ogaki 2012): this may not be true; parents intentionally affect children's endogenous preferences
 - Child's time discount factor is endogenous; parent evaluates child's lifetime utility with a different discount factor

What do we do?

- In order to measure such conflicts of interest between parent and child, we use data from unique national surveys we conducted in Germany and Turkey, and a hypothetical survey question.
- We examine **how worldviews affect altruistic economic behavior** and present empirical evidence on **the impact of worldviews on intergenerational altruism of Turkish people**
- In our data, **Turkish people in Turkey** and **Turkish people in Germany** have strikingly different attitudes for intergenerational altruism
- We find that the following factors explain this difference:
 - **Some worldview beliefs**
 - **Confidence about worldview beliefs**

Tough Love and Spoiling Love

- We use a survey question about parenting that can be interpreted as **spoiling love** and **tough love** (Bhatt and Ogaki, 2012).
 - In the model, the parent thinks that the child should attain a certain level of time discount factor (endogenous and affected parent's transfer to the child that determines the child's childhood consumption)
 - If the level is high, parent has tough love. But, parent is tempted to spoil the child.
 - If the level is low, the parent has spoiling love.
- Tough love: parent allows child to suffer in the short-run when there are long-run benefits including personal development, e.g., more patience
- Spoiling love: parent believes that he/she should remove child's suffering in the short-run

Related literature (cont'd)

Classifications of parenting style:

- Baumrind (1967): widely used in developmental psychology
(i) authoritative (ii) authoritarian (iii) permissive
- Doepke and Zilibotti (2017): based on economic incentives & constraints
 - Permissive**: allows child to make free choices
 - Authoritative**: attempts to induce child's preferences that parent views as more likely to bring success in the future
 - Authoritarian**: restricts child's preferences or imposes parent's own preferences on child
- Doepke and Zilibotti use a question in WVS, asking respondents to pick from a list of qualities children can be encouraged to learn at home: (i) obedience, (ii) hard work, (iii) independence and imagination.
- **Tough love** is similar to authoritarian parenting; **spoiling love** is similar to permissive parenting
- Japanese parents are more permissive, less authoritative than American parents

Related literature

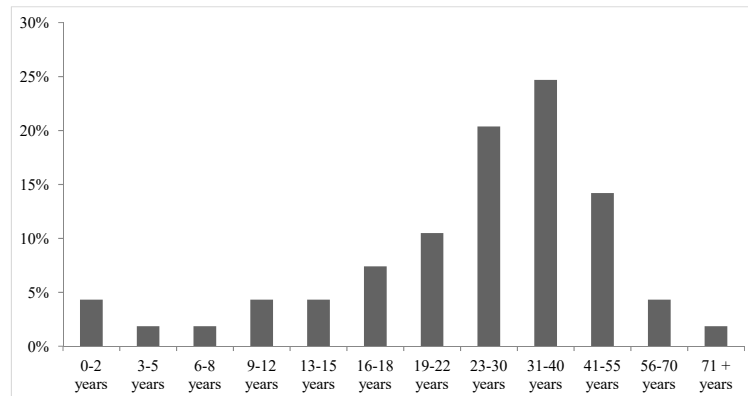
Classifications of parenting style:

- Nishimura and Yagi (2016):
 - Supportive: high trust, giving high autonomy
 - Tiger: giving less autonomy, strict, high norm
 - Indulgent: high trust, not strict
 - Uninvolved: not strict, low norm
 - Abusive: not giving autonomy, low trust, strict
- Children raised by supportive parents had higher scores in wellbeing, income and educational attainment; performed better in marriage rate and desired number of children.

Data

- **Nationwide survey in Turkey** (Jul-Sep 2011)
 - Funded by TUBITAK (project no. 110K319)
 - 13 provinces, face-to-face, interviewed
 - 3,180 questionnaire forms collected, 1,717 usable for analysis
 - Sunni Muslim: 83.3%, Alevi Muslim: 8.0%, other Muslim: 2.5%, Christian: 0.4%, others: 5.2%.
- **Germany surveys:** Two online surveys (Sep 2011, Nov 2011), a survey conducted during an economic experiment in Dresden (Oct 2010)
 - Recruited from an online panel of approx. 90,000 people
 - Email sent to 4,291 potential participants, 1,019 responded
 - October 2010 survey: only Turkish people, 139 respondents
 - We used data for Turkish participants in the online surveys: based on the answer "Turkish" in response to the question "Which language did you mainly speak at home when you were under six years old?" We classify them as **Turkish people in Germany**.

Frequency distribution for Turkish respondents in Germany:
number of years the respondents have lived in Germany



Tough/spoiling love question in the survey

Imagine that you have a 2-year old child that has high fever and is in pain. The child's doctor to whom you trust tells you that both fever and pain are harmless. He can give you a medicine that cures the sickness but slightly weakens the child's immune system when the child becomes 50 years old. What would you do? **(X ONE Box)**

1. I would give the medicine to the child if the sickness is known to last for one day. **(SPOILING LOVE)**
2. I would give the medicine to the child if the sickness is known to last for two days.
3. I would give the medicine to the child if the sickness is known to last for one week.
4. I would give the medicine to the child if the sickness is known to last for one month.
5. I would not give the medicine to the child. **(TOUGH LOVE)**

Probit Regressions

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta R_i + \gamma R_i + \delta_1 CNF_S_i + \delta_2 CNF_N_i + \theta W_i + \varepsilon_i$$

- Dependent variable (Y): Binary variable tough love / spoiling love
- Independent variables
 - Worldviews (W)
 - Confidence about worldviews (CNF_S & CNF_N)
 - Self-reported level of religiosity (R): from 1 to 5
 - Time preferences (impatience & debt aversion)
 - A vector of individual characteristics: socio-demographic variables (age, gender, education, income, having children)

Measuring worldviews and confidence

We use the following questions about **worldviews**:

GROUP 1: Scale 1, 2, ..., 5 (1: doesn't hold true at all, 5: particularly true):

- I hope to live as simple a life as possible.
- I will never be robbed.
- I always keep my promises.
- I know much about politics.
- I have a good memory.
- I believe that what is written in science books is right.

Measuring worldviews and confidence (cont'd)

GROUP 2: Scale 0, 10,..., 90, 100 (0: totally disagree, 100: I totally agree)

- If, because of an accident, you suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personal development.
- If, because of an accident, people suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personality development.
- I believe human beings evolved from other living things.
- All living things are created by God.
- The afterlife exists.
- Heaven exists.
- Hell exists.
- A person may be reincarnated as another person.
- Spiritual beings such as God, Buddha, gods, or angels exist.
- When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you are watched by God or other spiritual beings.
- When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you will be rewarded by God or other spiritual beings.
- When you conduct bad behavior and no one else knows about it, you are watched by God or other spiritual beings.
- When you conduct bad behavior and no one else knows about it, you will be punished by God or other spiritual beings.

Spiritually-directed and non-spiritually directed confidence

- We construct two confidence variables:
 - **Spiritually directed confidence**
 - We give score 1 if answer to a Group 1 question is 1, otherwise 0 pts
 - We give score 1 if answer to a Group 2 question is 90 or 100, otherwise 0 points (reversed for evolution question)
 - We then add up the scores
 - **Non-spiritually directed confidence**
 - We give score 1 if answer to a Group 1 question is 5, otherwise 0 pts
 - We give score 1 if answer to a Group 2 question is 0 or 10, otherwise 0 points (reversed for evolution question)

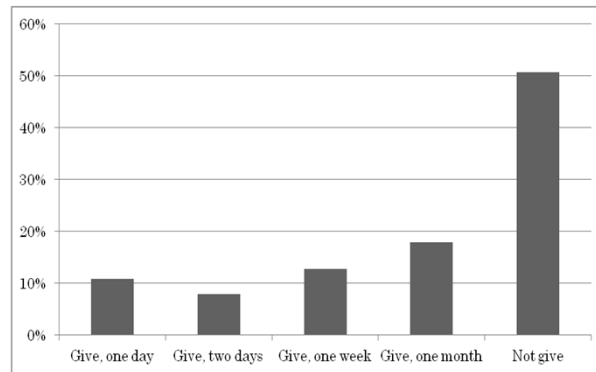
Summary Statistics: Turkey vs. Germany

	TURKEY		GERMANY	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
I want to live as simple a life as possible.	3.99	1.20	2.95	1.14
I will never be robbed.	2.74	1.15	2.99	1.01
I always keep my promises.	3.89	1.05	4.09	0.70
I know much about politics.	2.99	1.15	3.83	0.78
I have a good memory.	3.54	1.04	3.29	1.01
I believe that what is written in science books is right.	3.33	1.03	3.38	0.80
If, because of an accident, you suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personality development.	89.06	22.53	33.6	28.4
If, because of an accident, people suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personality development.	87.94	23.57	32.9	28.4
I believe human beings evolved from other living things.	12.08	30.79	77.0	26.7
All living things are created by God.	98.56	9.75	40.4	36.1
The afterlife exists.	97.95	11.33	45.5	36.7
Heaven exists.	98.25	10.31	42.5	37.5
Hell exists.	98.10	11.13	27.7	31.0
A person may be reincarnated as another person.	16.49	35.32	30.1	32.5
Spiritual beings such as God, Buddha, gods, or angels exist.	98.67	9.30	47.3	36.5
When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you are watched by God or other spiritual beings.	98.41	10.14	42.4	36.5
When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you will be rewarded by God or other spiritual beings.	96.08	15.19	36.8	33.5
When you conduct bad behavior and no one else knows about it, you are watched by God or other spiritual beings.	98.11	11.48	40.7	35.7
When you conduct bad behavior and no one else knows about it, you will be punished by God or other spiritual beings.	94.60	17.57	32.0	31.1

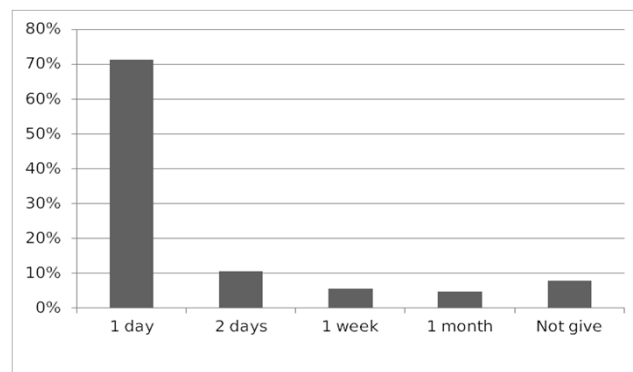
Summary Statistics: Turkish people in Turkey and in Germany

	Turkey		Germany		Turkish in Germany	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
I hope to live as simple a life as possible.	4.1	1.2	3.5	1.5	3.4	1.3
I will never be robbed.	2.7	1.2	3.6	1.4	3.2	1.2
I always keep my promises.	4.0	1.1	4.3	0.8	4.3	0.7
I know much about politics.	3.0	1.2	3.6	1.2	3.5	1.2
I have a good memory.	3.6	1.1	4.2	0.9	4.1	0.9
I believe that what is written in science books is right.	3.4	1.1	3.6	1.0	3.5	0.9
If, because of an accident, you suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personality development.	88.3	24.6	43.8	33.4	43.3	33.7
If, because of an accident, people suffered pain, there is meaning in that pain such as personality development.	87.0	26.0	42.9	33.2	42.0	33.2
I believe human beings evolved from other living things.	12.1	30.8	65.4	36.5	63.8	36.7
All living things are created by God.	98.6	9.8	63.6	37.0	62.6	36.6
The afterlife exists.	98.0	11.3	81.3	37.0	80.6	34.2
Heaven exists.	98.3	10.3	91.4	25.5	91.5	25.4
Hell exists.	98.1	11.1	82.1	36.1	80.7	35.8
A person may be reincarnated as another person.	16.5	35.3	55.6	48.9	54.0	48.8
Spiritual beings such as God, Buddha, gods, or angels exist.	98.7	9.3	75.9	39.9	75.5	38.1
When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you are monitored by God or other spiritual beings.	98.4	10.1	83.4	33.3	82.1	33.0
When you conduct good behavior and no one else knows about it, you will be rewarded by God or other spiritual beings.	96.1	15.2	84.4	33.4	82.5	33.2
When you conduct bad behavior and no one else knows about it, you are monitored by God or other spiritual beings.	98.1	11.5	86.3	31.4	85.2	31.5

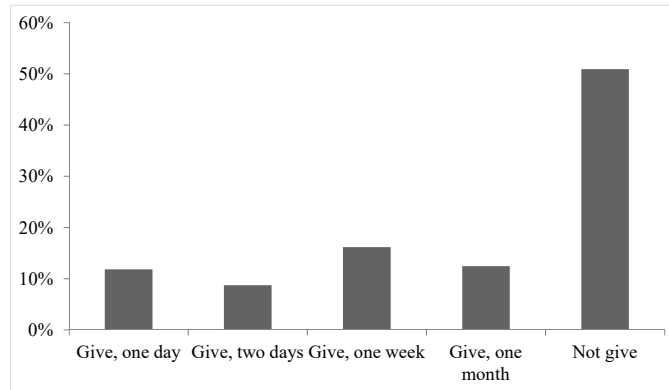
Frequency distribution: fever question (Germany, all respondents)



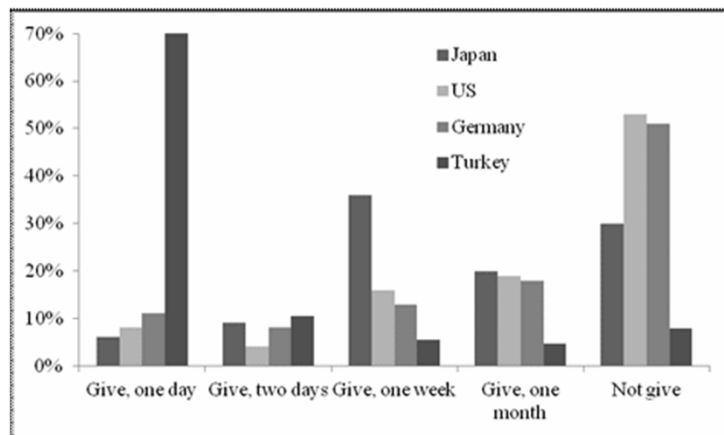
Frequency distribution: fever question (Turkey)



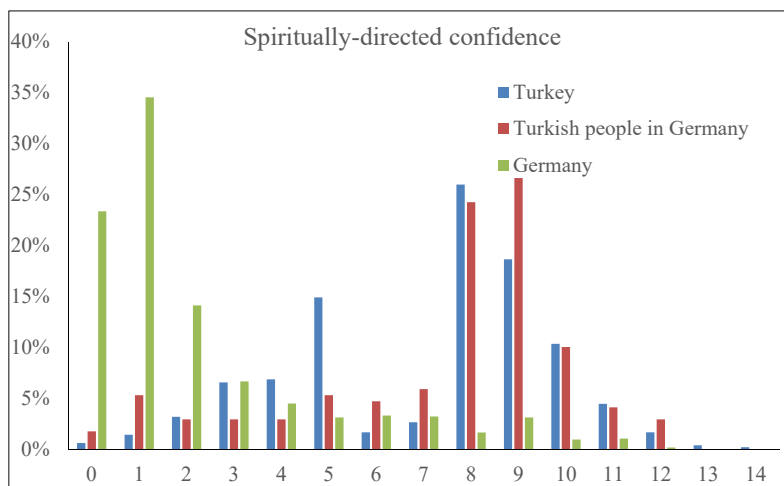
Frequency distribution: tough love (Turkish respondents in Germany)



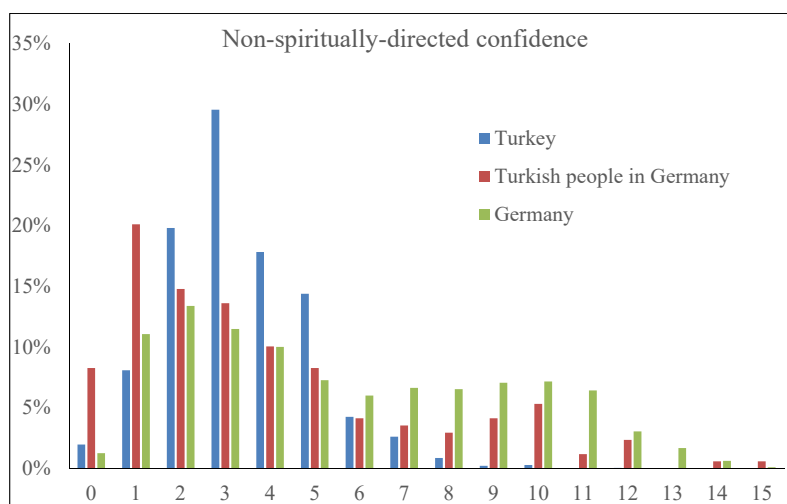
Comparison of Turkey, US, Japan, Germany



Spiritually directed confidence



Non-spiritually directed confidence



Probit Regressions

- Dependent variable: “spoiling love”
- We ran ordered probit regressions.
- Reported results are marginal effects.
- We focus our attention on worldviews and confidence.
- We first run a baseline ordered probit regression without worldviews. Then, we add worldview variables one at a time and re-run the probit regressions.

Probit results

Dependent variable: “spoiling love”

The results are marginal effects. The figures in brackets are standard errors.

*** p < 0.01, ** p < 0.05, and * p < 0.1.

In all regressions the number of observations is 1316.

CNF_S and CNF_N refer to spiritually-directed confidence and nonspiritually-directed confidence, respectively.

Religious	0.049
	(0.031)
Male (dummy variable)	0.020
	(0.049)
Age	-0.003*
	(0.001)
Education	-0.001
	(0.005)
Children (dummy variable)	0.058
	(0.044)
Marital status (dummy variables)	
Married	-0.136
	(0.162)
Never married	-0.061
	(0.180)
Divorced	-0.333*
	(0.186)
Employment (dummy variables)	
Employed	0.085**
	(0.039)
Housewife	0.196**
	(0.081)
Student	0.065
	(0.056)
Unemployed	0.152*
	(0.090)
Impatience	-0.002
	(0.007)
Debt aversion	0.005
	(0.003)
Income	-0.002*
	(0.001)
Years spent in Germany to age ratio	-0.476***
	(0.087)
Spiritually-directed confidence	-0.016**
	(0.008)
Nonspiritually-directed confidence	-0.008
	(0.007)
Observations	1316
Pseudo R-squared	0.747
Log likelihood	0.119

Probit results (cont'd)

Worldview questions	Worldview	Religious	CNF S	CNF N
Belief in evolution	-0.0020** (0.0004)	0.0372 (0.0312)	-0.0167** (0.0078)	-0.0066 (0.0073)
Belief in creation	0.0027*** (0.0010)	0.0365 (0.0314)	-0.0205*** (0.0080)	-0.0057 (0.0073)
Belief in reincarnation	-0.0016*** (0.0004)	0.0397 (0.0312)	-0.0128* (0.0077)	-0.0116 (0.0073)
Suffering is good for self	0.0010 (0.0006)	0.0423 (0.0313)	-0.0169** (0.0078)	-0.0074 (0.0072)
Suffering is good for others	0.0002 (0.0006)	0.0472 (0.0312)	-0.0163** (0.0077)	-0.0077 (0.0072)
Good deeds are watched	0.0021** (0.0010)	0.0426 (0.0311)	-0.0219*** (0.0083)	-0.0036 (0.0075)
Good deeds are rewarded	0.0005 (0.0008)	0.0464 (0.0311)	-0.0177** (0.0081)	-0.0067 (0.0074)
Bad deeds are watched	0.0026*** (0.0009)	0.0413 (0.0311)	-0.0234*** (0.0083)	-0.0033 (0.0074)
Bad deeds are punished	0.0003 (0.0008)	0.0474 (0.0311)	-0.0170** (0.0080)	-0.0072 (0.0073)
Belief in God	0.0025** (0.0010)	0.0416 (0.0311)	-0.0227*** (0.0083)	-0.0030 (0.0075)
Belief in afterlife	0.0020** (0.0010)	0.0425 (0.0311)	-0.0203*** (0.0081)	-0.0046 (0.0074)
Belief in heaven	0.0033*** (0.0011)	0.0388 (0.0313)	-0.0227*** (0.0082)	-0.0026 (0.0075)
Belief in hell	0.0031*** (0.0010)	0.0374 (0.0313)	-0.0230*** (0.0082)	-0.0030 (0.0074)
I want to live a simple life	0.0547*** (0.0115)	0.0277 (0.0316)	-0.0155** (0.0078)	-0.0066 (0.0073)
I will never be robbed	-0.0157 (0.0117)	0.0472 (0.0309)	-0.0164** (0.0077)	-0.0081 (0.0072)
I will always keep promises	0.0341*** (0.0135)	0.0371 (0.0314)	-0.0161** (0.0077)	-0.0079 (0.0072)
I know a lot about politics	-0.0156 (0.0120)	0.0500 (0.0309)	-0.0166** (0.0077)	-0.0069 (0.0072)
I have a good memory	0.0166 (0.0134)	0.0445 (0.0311)	-0.0168** (0.0078)	-0.0082 (0.0072)
Science textbooks are true	0.0127 (0.0136)	0.0499 (0.0309)	-0.0161** (0.0078)	-0.0080 (0.0072)

Conclusion

- In our data, Turkish people in Turkey and Turkish people in Germany have strikingly different spoiling love attitudes.
- The substantial part of this difference can be explained by the differences of these two groups in
 - spiritually-directed confidence
 - worldview beliefs, e.g., evolution, reincarnation and wanting to live a simple life

Conclusion (cont'd)

- When a person has more nonspiritually-directed confidence, then the person is less likely to show spoiling love
 - Possible interpretation: the person is more likely to pray for no immune system problems after the child grows up; more likely to think that he/she should not give the medicine.
- When a person assigns a higher subjective probability in evolution, then the person is less likely to show spoiling love
 - Possible interpretation: the person is less likely to believe in the prayer above and therefore is more likely to think that he should not give the medicine.