

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ERF 20th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 22-24, 2014 | Cairo, Egypt

2014

AGENDA



ECONOMIC
RESEARCH
FORUM



منتدى
البحوث
الاقتصادية

ERF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference, a tradition maintained since 1995, has become a unique vehicle for networking among approximately 250 economists from the region and outside it. This year's Annual Conference is very special as it marks the 20th anniversary of ERF. Established in 1993, ERF was created to build strong research capacity in the region. It was one of the first if not the only institution to connect economic researchers from the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

This year's conference is devoted to the theme of "Social Justice and Economic Development." This is a timely topic in light of the significant political transformations in the region. The plenary sessions will feature renowned economists and opinion makers. It will be held in Cairo, March 22-24, 2014 and it is expected to host more than 200 participants.

Besides the plenary sessions, there will be six parallel sessions, where more than 60 papers will be presented under the themes of: macroeconomics, finance, labor and human development, international economics, microeconomics and institutional economics. Parallel session papers are selected on the basis of a rigorous refereeing process in response to an open call for papers, hence their diversity. The closing session celebrates the six winners of what has become a regional certificate of excellence: The Best Paper Award.

Conference Theme

According to many, the absence of social justice is considered one of the main reasons behind the popular uprisings that took place in several Arab countries. Although some of these countries were performing well in terms of economic growth, the majority of citizens did not see an improvement in their living conditions. On the contrary, Arab societies witnessed an increasing concentration of wealth, fewer opportunities and rising corruption. Exclusion, unequal treatment before the law and limited freedoms exacerbated these problems and fueled a strong sense of social injustice. The annual conference will address these questions focusing on what social justice might mean, how different societies were able to bring it about, and what are the lessons from these experiences for Arab countries particularly those in transition.

Plenary Session 1: Alternative Perspectives on Social Justice

This session will examine how understanding of social justice has evolved over time, providing alternative perspectives and citing historical examples. The speakers will address such questions as: is social justice about a process or final outcomes? Is it about a fair (re)distribution of resources or equal opportunity for all irrespective of circumstances? Is it good enough to worry about protecting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society or is it imperative to worry about rewarding efforts? Finally, what can be said about perceptions of inequality as opposed to reality and what are the implications of a growing sense of injustice in a given society?

Plenary Session 2: Models of Social Justice

This session will examine contemporary experiences around the world with respect to the extent to which countries and societies were able to achieve social justice and how this goal was achieved. The speakers will cover the experiences of developing countries like Latin America, Africa as well as Muslim countries. In each case, they will address such questions as: What were the primary reasons why some societies were/are able to attain greater social justice than others? What instruments/policies were used to attain that objective? Are there Islamic norms of social justice and what do they entail? The discussion will go beyond economic justice and economic reasoning to integrate insights from political science and sociology.

Plenary Session 3: Lessons for the Arab Countries in Transition

This session will draw on accumulated knowledge and experience to offer lessons to Arab countries in transition in their quest for greater social justice. The speakers will address such questions as: How socially unjust were/are Arab societies? What brought this about historically? And how these countries may change course in response to the popular demand for greater social justice? The discussion will involve an assessment of past policies and the feasibility (or likelihood) of proposed reforms.

Special Events

Firm-level Export Diversification in the ERF Region

This policy seminar aims to disseminate the main policy messages of a joint World Bank-ERF project that is the first to use a unique cross-country exporter-level dataset to investigate the characteristics of exporters in the MENA. The seminar should provide a platform for the discussion of the findings and their policy implications among relevant stakeholders.

Micro Data Accessibility: Efforts to Impact

The purpose of this parallel session is to showcase and celebrate ERF’s past and tedious efforts in terms of micro data collection as well as promotion of free access to researchers. It is also an opportunity to bring together the users and producers of the data in order to foster this strategic relationship.

Structural Transformation and Jobs in MENA: The Role of Privileges

ERF is happy to offer a venue to disseminate a World Bank report on “Structural Transformation and Jobs in MENA: The Role of Privileges.” Using firm-level data, the report investigates the pattern and drivers of firm dynamics in MENA countries in order to understand structural change and aggregate employment outcomes. Moreover, it focuses on the role of privileges in shaping MENA’s private sector dynamics and whether they suppressed structural transformation in MENA.

At 20, ERF stands tall.

ERF is recognized as the premier regional network and think-tank. It is home for the most dynamic group of researchers. It is the place where new ideas are born and nourished.

And it is open, transparent and inclusive.

*Thanks to these qualities,
ERF is ready to embark on the next 20 years.*



*making
a difference*

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

PARALLEL SESSIONS

09:00 – 13:00 ERF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING) | Al-Fayoum Board Room

09:00 – 12:00

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON TOWARDS A MORAL ARAB CAPITALISM (CLOSED MEETING) | Memphis Salon

PRESENTATION OF THE ISSUE PAPER ON: WHAT IS MORAL CAPITALISM AND HOW DO WE BUILD IT?

Speakers: *Mustapha Nabli* (Economic Research Forum)
Ishac Diwan (Harvard Kennedy School and ERF)

Open Discussion

10:00 – 16:30

POLICY SEMINAR ON EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION IN THE ERF REGION | Thebes Salon

10:00– 11:30 SESSION 1: EXPORTERS IN MENA, SUPERSTARS AND BIG HITS

Chairperson: *Ahmed Galal* (Economic Research Forum)
Opening Remarks: *Shantayanan Devarajan* (World Bank)

Speakers: *Melise Jaud*, Who Are Exporters in MENA?
Caroline Freund, MENA Superstars

Open Discussion

11:30 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:00 SESSION 2: PRODUCT STANDARDS AND TRADE

Chairperson: *Mondher Mimouni* (International Trade Center)

Speakers: *Marion DAVIS*, Standard Harmonization as Export Promotion
Chahir Zaki, Do Product Standards Matter for Margins of Trade in Egypt?
Evidence from Firm-Level Data

Open Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:00 SESSION 3: POLITICAL CONNECTIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Chairperson: *Bernard Hoekman* (European Institute University)

Speakers: *Rana Hendy*, Understanding the Effects of Red-Tape Costs on Firms' Export Performance: The Case of Egypt
Bob Rijkers, All in the Family State Capture in Tunisia

Open Discussion

15:00 – 16:30 SESSION 4: POLICY PANEL

Chairperson: *Mustapha Nabli* (Economic Research Forum)

Speakers: *Samir El Gammal* (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Egypt)
Shantayanan Devarajan (World Bank)
Ahmed Hammad (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Jordan)
Caroline Freund (Peterson Institute for International Economics)

Open Discussion

18:00 – 19:30 THEMATIC LEADERS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING) | Al-Fayoum Board Room



DAY ONE

8:00 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 – 11:30 OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE | Aida Ballroom

Chairperson: *Abdlatif Al-Hamad* (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)

Opening Remarks: *Ahmed Galal* (Economic Research Forum)
Sherine Ghoneim (Economic Research Forum)

Speakers: *François Bourguignon* (Paris School of Economics)
Marc Fleurbaey (Princeton University)
John Roemer (Yale University)

11:30 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 – 13:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Governance of Banking Systems	FINANCE Banking I	MACROECONOMICS Finance and Growth
Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)	Al Farafra (Zamalek Tower 1 st Floor)	Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i>	Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i>	Chairperson: <i>Heba Nassar</i>
Speakers: <i>Canan Yildirim</i>	Speakers: <i>Hatem Salah and Marwa Souissi</i>	Speakers: <i>Adel Boughrara and Samir Ghazouani</i>
Governance Mechanisms and CEO Performance-Turnover Relationship in Turkish Banks	<i>Risque Opérationnel et Allocation du Capital Economique</i>	Threshold Effect of Public Debt on Growth: Evidence From MENA Region
<i>Pejman Abedifar, Iftekhar Hasan, and Amine Tarazi</i>	<i>Mohamed Trabelsi, Ibrahim Elbadawi and Dhuha Fadhel</i>	<i>Sanae Solhi and Sidi Mohamed Rigar</i>
Financial Development and Growth in a Dual Banking System	Bank's Capital Buffers and Business Cycle: Evidence from GCC Countries, 2004-2011	<i>Pérennité Et Efficience Des Institutions De Microfinance Dans La Région MENA</i>
Discussant: <i>Izak Atiyas</i>	Discussant: <i>Wafik Grais</i>	Discussant: <i>Mongi Boughzala</i>

13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Foreign Investment I

Al Fayoum
(Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: *Subidey Togan*

Speakers:
Ghada Tayem

Does Foreign Ownership Increase Firms' Productivity? Evidence from Firms Listed on Amman Stock Exchange

Cagatay Bircan

Foreign Direct Investment and Wages: Does the Level of Ownership Matter?

Discussant:
Khalid Sekkat

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Impact of Macro Variables on Labor Force Participation and Wages

Radames Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Hassan Aly*

Speakers:
Ali Fakh and Pascal L. Ghazalian

Female Labor Force Participation in MENA's Manufacturing Sector: The Implications of Firm-related and National Factors

GholamReza K. Haddad

The Impacts of Tariff and Exchange Rate Regime Reforms on the Wages: Evidence from Iran 2001-2006 Micro Data

Discussant:
Ragui Assaad

MICROECONOMICS

Dryland and Irrigated Agriculture

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Bruce Currie-Alder*

Speakers:
Mohamed Salah Matoussi and Neji Saidi

Financial Constraints Risk Aversion and Sharecropping in Rainfed Agriculture: Application to North West Tunisia

Ali Chebil and Aymen Frija

Impact of Improving Irrigation Water Use Efficiency on the Valorization of Water Resources

Discussant:
Tarek Moursi



DAY ONE

15:00 – 16:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS New Research on Corruption</p> <p>Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mustapha Nabli</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Moamen Gouda and Sang-Min Park</i></p> <p>Religious Loyalty and Acceptance of Corruption</p> <hr/> <p><i>Bedri Kamil Onur Tas</i></p> <p>Efficiency in Public Procurement Auctions</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Economics of National Resource Management</p> <p>Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hala El-Ramly</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Salim M. Araji and Hamid Mohtadi</i></p> <p>Income Transfers and Human Capital: Application to Resource Rich Countries</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mahdi Majbouri</i></p> <p>Estimating the Income Counterfactual for Oil Producing Countries of the Middle East</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i></p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS Foreign Investment II</p> <p>Al Fayoum (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hanaa Kheir-El-Din</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Shima'a Hanafy</i></p> <p>The Determinants of FDI Location in Egypt: A Panel Data Analysis at the Governorate Level</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mouna Gammoudi and Mondher Cherif</i></p> <p>Threshold Effects in the Capital Account Liberalization and Foreign Direct Investment Relationship</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Caroline Freund</i></p>
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16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 – 19:00 RESEARCH FELLOWS' MEETING (CLOSED MEETING) | Radames Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)

20:00 WELCOME DINNER - CELEBRATING THE ERF 20TH ANNIVERSARY | SALON ROYAL

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Tunisian Labor Market during the Arab Spring

Radames Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Aysit Tansel*

Speakers:
Ilham Haouas and Almas Heshmati

The Impact of Arab Spring on Hiring and Separation Rates in the Tunisian Labor Market

Rim Mouelhi and Monia Ghazali

The Employment Intensity of Output Growth in Tunisia and its Determinants

Discussant:
Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur

MICROECONOMICS

Energy and Waste Economics

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Atif Kubursi*

Speakers:
Perrihan Al-Riffai, Julian Blohmke, Clemens Breisinger and Manfred Wiebelt

Harnessing the Sun and Wind for Economic Development? An Economy Wide Assessment for Egypt

Faten Loukil and Lamia Rouached

Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility Comparative Analysis of Packaging Waste Management

Discussant:
Riadh Ben Jelili



DAY TWO

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 2: COMPARATIVE EXPERIENCES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE** | Aida Ballroom

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa* (Egyptian Network for Integrated Development and ERF)

Speakers: *Shantayanan Devarajan* (World Bank)
Mahmoud El-Gamal (Rice University and ERF)
Carlos Eduardo Vélez (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 **ERF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Focusing on the State</p> <p>Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mohamed Trabelsi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Yacine Belarbi, Lylia Sami, and Said Souam</i></p> <p><i>Effets des Ressources Naturelles et des Institutions dans un Régime de Croissance Multiple</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Doaa M. Salman</i></p> <p>The Impact of Economic Freedom on Entrepreneurs' Activities and Economic Growth</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Ishac Diwan</i></p>	<p>FINANCE Financial Markets I</p> <p>Al Farafra (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hala El-Said</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Abla El Khawaga, Mona Esam and Rasha Hammam</i></p> <p>Exchange Rates and Interest Rates: An Empirical Investigation of International Fisher Effect Theory</p> <hr/> <p><i>Wafa Ghardallou and Abdelkader Boudriga</i></p> <p>Financial Development and Democracy: Is the relationship non linear?</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Samir Ghazouani</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Sources of Inflation</p> <p>Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Magda Kandil and Ida A. Mirzaie</i></p> <p>Iran's Inflationary Experience: Demand Pressures, External Shocks, and Supply Constraints</p> <hr/> <p><i>Amr Sadek Hosny</i></p> <p>Is Monetary Policy in Egypt Backward or Forward-Looking?</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Hoda Selim</i></p>
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13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Regional Integration

Al Fayoum
(Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: *Omneia Helmy*

Speakers:
Julian Hinz

The Ties that Bind: Geopolitical
Motivations for PTAs

*Marouane Alaya, Imed Mezghani
and Azzouz Zouaoui*

BRICS vs. MENA Countries: Mapping
out Threats and Opportunities

Discussant:
Raed Safadi

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Sectoral Choice & Mobility

Radames Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Hassan Hakimian*

Speakers:
Osman Zeki Gokce and Insan Tunali

Informality and Labor Market
Mobility in Turkey: Evidence from
Micro Data, 2000-2002

*Moundir Lassassi
and Christophe Muller*

Salaires, Genre Et Choix De Sect-
eurs En Algerie

Discussant:
Touhami Abdelkhalek

MICROECONOMICS

The Nature of Firms

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Alia El-Mahdi*

Speakers:
*Aimée Hampel-Milagrosa, Markus
Loewe and Caroline Reeg*

Which Factors Determine the
Upgrading of Small and Medium-
Sized Enterprises (SMEs)?

*Rawaa Harati and Konstantin
Shamruk*

Firms Informality: A Model and
Empirical Evidence for Lebanon

Discussant:
Mona Said



DAY TWO

14:30 – 16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Political Development and the Welfare System</p> <p>Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Ishac Diwan</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Saad Ansari</i></p> <p>How the Relationship between Government and Society Influenced Status of Welfare in Turkey</p> <hr/> <p><i>Hafez Ghanem</i></p> <p>Governance Reforms to Achieve Social Justice and Inclusive Growth in Egypt</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Abla Abdel-Latif</i></p>	<p>FINANCE Banking II</p> <p>Al Farafra (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Abdelkrim Seghir</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Mahmoud Haddad and Sam Hakim</i></p> <p>Are the Risk Disclosures of Large GCC Banks Meaningful?</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ahmet Faruk Aysan, Bill Francis, Iftekhar Hasan and Cem Onur Karatas</i></p> <p>Macroprudential Policies and Bank Efficiency: Case of Turkey</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Osman Suliman</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Sustainable Investment and Export Promotion</p> <p>Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mahmoud Al Iriani</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Rim Oueghlissi, Patricia Crifo and Marc-Arthur Diaye</i></p> <p>Measuring the Effect of Government SRI on Sovereign Borrowing Cost</p> <hr/> <p><i>Öner Günçavdi and Saime S. Kayam</i></p> <p>Unravelling the Structure of Exports in Turkey: Impediments and Policy</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Mahmoud El-Gamal</i></p>
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16:30 – 18:00 PARALLEL SPECIAL EVENTS

<p>MICRO DATA ACCESSIBILITY: EFFORTS TO IMPACT Radames Salon</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Magued Osman</i> (Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research)</p> <p>Speakers: <i>H.E. Abou Bakr M. El-Gendy</i> (CAPMAS) <i>Hala Abou-Ali</i> (Cairo University and ERF) <i>Shantayanan Devarajan</i> (World Bank)</p>

20:00 – SPECIAL EVENT

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Foreign Investment II

Al Fayoum
(Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: *Sahar Tohamy*

Speakers:
*Martijn Burger, Elena Ianchovichina
and Bob Rijkers*

Risky Business: Political Instability
and Greenfield Foreign Direct
Investment in the Arab World

*Mehmet Balcilar, Riza Demirer
and Shawkat Hammoudeh*

What Drives Herding in Developing
Stock Markets? Relative Roles of
Own Volatility and Global Factors

Discussant:
Bernard Hoekman

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Health and Well Being

Radames Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa*

Speakers:
Salma Zouari and Ines Ayadi

Out-of-Pocket Health Spending
and Equity Implications in Tunisia

Cem Başlevent

The Work-Life Conflict and Well-
Being of Turkish Employees

Discussant:
Jackline Wahba

MICROECONOMICS

Exports, Technology,
and Productivity

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Riadh Ben Jelili*

Speakers:
*Mohamed Ayadi
and Wided Mattoussi*

From Productivity to Exporting or
Vice Versa? Evidence from Tunisian
Manufacturing Sector

*Mohamed Chaffai, Youssouf
Kiendrebeogo and Patrick Plane*

Exports and Heterogeneity of
Technology: A Latent Class Frontier
Approach

Discussant:
Sofiane Ghali

STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS IN MENA:
THE ROLE OF PRIVILEGES | **Verdi Salon**

Chairperson: *Bernard Funck (World Bank)*

Speakers: *Marc Schiffbauer (World Bank)
Ishac Diwan (Harvard University and ERF)*

Discussant: *Izak Atiyas (Sabanci University and ERF)
Erik Berglof (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development)*



DAY THREE

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 3: LESSONS OF EXPERIENCE FOR ARAB COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION** | Aida Ballroom

Chairperson: *Noha El-Mikawy* (Ford Foundation and ERF)

Speakers: *Gouda Abdel-Khalek* (Cairo University)
Georges Corm (Georges Corm Consulting Office and ERF)
Paul Salem (Middle East Institute)
Zafiris Tzannatos (International Labor Organization)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Social Development</p> <p>Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Noha El-Mikawy</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Luca Andriani and Fabio Sabatini</i></p> <p>Trust and Prosocial Behavior in a Process of State Capacity Building</p> <hr/> <p><i>Rayan G. Haykal</i></p> <p>Acceptability of Civil Marriage in A Multidenominational Society</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Hadi Esfahani</i></p>	<p>FINANCE Financial Markets and Financial Development</p> <p>Al Farafra (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Samir Makdisi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Jean-Pierre Allegret and Sana Azzabi</i></p> <p>International Financial Integration, Financial Development and Economic Growth in Emerging and Developing Countries</p> <hr/> <p><i>Walid Mensi and Shawkat Hammoudeh</i></p> <p>Structural Changes, Dynamic Correlations, Asymmetric Volatility Transmission, and Hedging Strategies among International Petroleum Prices and U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Iftekhar Hasan</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Fiscal Policies</p> <p>Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Sherine Al-Shawarby</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Abderrahim Chibi, Mohamed Benbouziane and Sidi Mohamed Chekouri</i></p> <p>The Impact of Fiscal Policy on Economic Activity over the Business Cycle</p> <hr/> <p><i>Okan Eren and Serife Genc</i></p> <p>Government Subsidized Individual Retirement System</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Magda Kandil</i></p>
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13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Trade Policy

Al Fayoum
(Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: *Ahmed Ghoneim*

Speakers:
Marcio Vargas da Cruz
and *Maurizio Bussolo*

Does Input Tariff Reduction Impact
Export Performance? Impact of
Trade Liberalization on Moroccan
Exporting Firms

Jamal Ibrahim Haidar

Sanctions and Trade Diversion:
Exporter-level Evidence from Iran

Discussant:
Chahir Zaki

LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Inequality I

Radames Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Ghada Waly*

Speakers:
Caroline Krafft and *Safaa El-Kogali*

Inequalities in Early Childhood
Development in the Middle East
and North Africa

Aysit Tansel

Inequality of Opportunities
of Educational Achievement
in Turkey over Time

Discussant:
Cem Baslevant

MICROECONOMICS

Water Economics and Policy

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Hala Abou-Ali*

Speakers:
Younes Ben Zaied, Nidhaleddine
Ben Cheikh and *Marie-Estelle Binet*

Threshold Effect in Residential
Water Consumption: Evidence from
Smooth Transition Models

Caroline A Sullivan
and *Hatem Jemmali*

Toward Understanding International
Water Conflicts in MENA Region:
A Comparative Analysis using Water
Poverty Index

Discussant:
Atif Kubursi



DAY THREE

14:30 – 16:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

<p>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Remittances and Public Spending</p> <p>Verdi Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Adel Beshai</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Imene Guetat and Dorsaf Sridi</i></p> <p>Institutional Quality Effect on Remittances in MENA Region</p> <hr/> <p><i>Hadi Esfahani and Seyed Mohammad Karimi</i></p> <p>The Distributional Consequences of Economic Growth and Public Spending Programs in Iran</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Hafez Ghanem</i></p>	<p>MACROECONOMICS Development Issues: Environment and Regional Economies</p> <p>Thebes Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mahmoud Haddad</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Hala Abou-Ali and Yasmine M. Abdelfattah</i></p> <p>Population and Clean Water: Evidence from Arab Countries</p> <hr/> <p><i>Lamia Mokaddem</i></p> <p>Evaluation of Tunisian Regions' Efficiency Using DEA and TOBIT Models</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Sam Hakim</i></p>	<p>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Inequality II</p> <p>Radames Salon (Second Floor of the Palace)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hania Sholkamy</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Hatem Jemmali and Mohamed Amara</i></p> <p>Assessing Inequality of Human Opportunities: A New Approach for Public Policy in Tunisia</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ahmed Shoukry Rashad</i></p> <p>The Catastrophic Economic Consequences of Illness and their Effect on Poverty Estimates in Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Djavad Salehi-Isfahani</i></p>
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16:00 – 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 18:00 PLENARY SESSION 4: AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING | Aida Ballroom

MICROECONOMICS

Firm Production and Location
Decisions

Memphis Salon
(Second Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: *Mohamed Amerah*

Speakers:
Dan Lu and Mehmet F. Ulu

Intermediate Goods, Firm Size
and Import Content of Production

*Mohamed Ayadi
and Wided Matoussi*

Disentangling the Pattern
of Geographic Concentration
in Tunisian Manufacturing Industries

Discussant:
Amirah El-Haddad

FINANCE

Financial Markets II

Al Farafra
(Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: *Mohamed Trabelsi*

Speakers:
*Riza Demirer, Shrikant Jategaonkar
and Ahmed Khalifa*

Is There an Oil Risk Premium in Oil
Exporting Stock Markets? An Asset
Pricing Perspective

Discussant:
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