

**WORKSHOP AND POLICY SEMINAR ON  
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE ERF REGION  
OCTOBER 27-28, 2013  
TUNIS, TUNISIA  
HOTEL NOVOTEL TUNIS MOHAMED V**

**CONTEXT**

Almost three years after the 2010 popular uprisings, the ERF region's double transition, political and economic, remains complex. Most importantly, political and economic transformations can interact in ways that will be more potent than in the past, and which can produce good or bad economic and political outcomes.

In response to these recent political changes, the Economic Research Forum (ERF) launched a call for papers under the research theme of "Political Economy of Transformation in the Arab World". Under this competition and after a peer-review process, ERF selected 6 out of 16 research proposals.

The selected papers tackle a multitude of issues that should provide a better understanding of the interests and influence of a few powerful groups whether they are domestic such as the rulers and their crony capitalists, or foreign colonialists driven by their geopolitical interests in the region and how all these actors have interacted to shape past political and economic outcomes and/or settlements. Other questions explored pertain to the impact of domestic politics on fiscal decentralization and fiscal accountability and disclosure and the impact of authoritarianism on governance outcomes. Finally, the performance of economic policies of transitional governments (mainly Islamists) is also assessed. All these issues are addressed either in single country or in regional contexts.

This research is the outcome of the thirteenth Round of the Regional Research Competition supported by the Global Development Network (GDN) in addition to other invited contributions.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the workshop is to provide a platform for discussing the draft papers and their preliminary findings among authors and experts in order to improve the final output. The workshop is also intended to promote interaction between researchers with interest in the topic.

**AGENDA**

The workshop will convene for one day, gathering around 30 participants. Two papers will be presented in each session, followed by comments from designated discussants and open discussion from the floor. Each session will last for 1 hours and 30 minutes divided as follows: the presenters will speak for 20 minutes each, the two discussants for 10 minutes each. The remaining 30 minutes will be devoted to open discussion. The Workshop will be administered in English.

**The Workshop will be followed by a policy seminar on The Performance of the Tunisian Economy in light of the Ongoing Political Transformations.** The Seminar will also look into the potential reforms needed to enhance macroeconomics, growth, improved public service, and inclusion.

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AGENDA

| Day 1       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30-09:00 | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 09:00-11:00 | SESSION 1<br><b>Moderator &amp; Welcoming Remarks:</b> <i>Ishac Diwan</i> , Harvard Kennedy School & ERF<br><b>Speakers:</b> <i>Sami Atallah</i> , Rise and Fall of Representative Institutions in Egypt, Sudan, Levant, and Iraq: Role of Geopolitics and Local Elite Interests<br><br><i>Hadi Esfahani</i> , What Drove Changes in Political Settlement in Iran and Turkey?<br><br><b>Discussants:</b> <i>Ishac Diwan</i> , Harvard Kennedy School & ERF<br><i>Hasan Ersel</i> , Sabanci University & ERF<br>Open discussion |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11:30-01:00 | SESSION 2<br><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Aboubakr Jamaï</i> , Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH & lakome.com<br><b>Speakers:</b> <i>Ishac Diwan</i> , Crony Capitalism in Egypt<br><br><i>Ragui Assaad</i> , Making Sense of Arab Labor Markets: The Enduring Legacy of Dualism<br><br><b>Discussants:</b> <i>Eberhard Kienle</i> , CNRS Paris/IEP Grenoble<br><i>Adeel Malik</i> , Oxford University<br>Open discussion                                                                                                                     |
| 01:00-02:00 | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 02:00-03:30 | SESSION 3<br><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Mongi Boughzala</i> , University of Tunis El Manar & ERF<br><b>Speakers:</b> <i>Lobna Abdel Latif</i> , Are Improvements in Fiscal Transparency in Egypt Endogenous to Fiscal Outcomes?<br><i>Mehmet Serkan Tosun</i> , Political Economy of Decentralization in the Arab Countries<br><br><b>Discussants:</b> <i>Izak Atiyas</i> , Sabanci University<br><i>Sami Atallah</i> , the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies<br>Open Discussion                                                    |
| 03:30-03:45 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

- 03:45-04:30**    **SESSION 4**
- Moderator:**    *Samir Ghazouani*, High Institute of Accounting & Business Administration (ISCAE, Manouba, Tunisia)
- Speakers:**    *Eberhard Kienle*, After Authoritarianism: Economic and Social Policies in Tunisia and Egypt
- Pierre-Guillaume Méon and Khalid Sekkat*, A time to Throw Stones, a Time to Reap: How Long Does it Take for Democratic Reforms to Improve Institutional Outcomes?
- Discussants:**    *Mustapha Nabli*, Former Governor of the Central Bank- Tunisia & ERF  
*Mohamed Goaid*, University of Tunis
- Open discussion
- 04:30-05:00**    **Closing remarks:** *Ishac Diwan*, Harvard Kennedy School & ERF
- DAY 2**
- 08:30-09:00**    **Registration**
- 09:00-11:00**    **SESSION 5**
- Moderator:**    *Ishac Diwan*, Harvard Kennedy School & ERF
- Speakers:**    *Mustapha Nabli and Hakim Ben Hammouda*, The Political Economy of the Arab Revolutions  
*Adeel Malik*, Was the Middle East's Economic Descent a Legal or Political Failure? Debating the Islamic Law Matters Thesis
- Discussants:**    *Jacob Kolster*, African Development Bank  
*Hadi Esfahani*, University of Illinois & ERF
- Open discussion
- 10:30-11:00**    **Coffee Break**
- 11:00-01:00**    **POLICY SEMINAR ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY IN LIGHT OF THE ONGOING POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS**
- Moderator:**    *Mustapha Nabli*, Former Governor of the Central Bank- Tunisia & ERF
- Speakers:**    *To Be Announced*
- 01:00-02:00**    **Lunch**