



**ERF 15th Annual Conference
“Equity and Economic Development”**

**Cairo, Egypt
November 23–25, 2008**

Draft Agenda

November 23, 2008: Day One

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 11:30	Opening and Plenary 1: Evolution and Determinants of Inequality Chairperson: <i>Abdelatif Al-Hamad</i> (AFESD) Opening Remarks: <i>Ahmed Galal</i> (ERF) <i>H.E. Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi</i> (Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen) Speakers: <i>Jeffrey Sachs</i> (Columbia University) – Video <i>Jean-Yves Duclos</i> (Laval University) <i>Mohamed Lahouel</i> (Dubai School of Government)
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:30	Parallel Sessions 1
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:30	Parallel Sessions 2
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 – 19:00	Research Fellows Meeting (<i>closed meeting</i>)
20:00	Welcome Dinner

12:00 – 13:30

Parallel Sessions

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Politics, Geography and Growth Siwa	FINANCE Firm Finance and Stock Exchange Sanctions Al Farafra	MACROECONOMICS Monetary Transmission Mechanisms and Banking Thebes Salon	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS Impact of Service Liberalization and Trade Facilitation Al Fayoum	LABOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Gender and Labor Markets Memphis Salon	MICROECONOMICS Implications of VAT and R&D on Poverty and Firms Al Baharia
Chairperson: Taher Kanaan Speakers: Hasan Ersel and Fatih Ozatay The EU or National Reform Process: Does the Political Acceptability Depend on Alternative Financing Schemes?	Chairperson: Abdullah Al-Kuwaiz Speakers: Lahcen Achy and Jawad El Otmani Understanding Financial Structure of Non Listed Firms in MENA: Panel Data Approach Applied to Moroccan Firms	Chairperson: Samir Makdisi Speakers: Adel Boughrara and Samir Ghazouani Is There a Bank Lending Channel of Monetary Policy in Selected MENA Countries? A Comparative Analysis	Chairperson: Jamel Zarrouk Speakers: Saoussen Ben Romdhane EU-Tunisia Association Agreement Welfare Impact of Liberalizing Mode 4	Chairperson: Heba Handoussa Speakers: Christine Binzel and Ragui Assaad Pathways to Marriage in Egypt: How Young Men's Marriage Trajectories Are Constrained by their Labor Market Experiences	Chairperson: Mouna Cherkaoui Speakers: Nisreen Salti and Jad Chabaan A Microeconomic Analysis of the Poverty and Equity Implications of a Rise in Value Added Tax in Lebanon
Oliver Parent and Abdallah Zouache Determinants of Growth in Africa and Middle East: How to Implement Geographical Features and Institutional Factors? Discussant: James Robinson	Sam Hakim and Manochehr Rashidian Properties, Linkages, and the Impact of Sanctions on the Tehran Stock Exchange Discussant: Samir Ghazouani	Mongi Boughzala and Dhafer Saidane Monetary Transmission Mechanisms: What Makes A Banking System more Efficient? Discussant: Ibrahim Elbadawi	Chahir Zaki Does Trade Facilitation Matter in Bilateral Trade? Discussant: Bernard Hoekman	Marwan Khawaja, Rozzet Jurdi, Shireen Assaf, and Joumana Yeretzian Unmet Need for the Utilization of Women's Labor: Findings from the Three Community Study in Outer Beirut Discussant: Daniel Egel	Zouhour Karray and Mohamed Kriaa Innovation and R&D Investment of Tunisian Firms: A Two Regimes Models with Selectivity Correction Discussant: Azzeddine Azzam

15:00 – 16:30

Parallel Sessions

INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS Moral Hazard, Rent Seeking and Reform Siwa	FINANCE Macroeconomics and the Efficiency of Banks Al Farafra	MACROECONOMICS Monetary Policy and Crises Thebes Salon	INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS Trade, Externalities and Diversification Al Fayoum	LABOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT Education and Employment Memphis Salon	MICROECONOMICS Intellectual Property Rights Al Baharia
Chairperson: <i>Hasan Ersel</i> Speakers: <i>Canan Yildirim</i> Moral Hazard, Corporate Governance, and Bank Failure: Evidence from the 2000-2001 Turkish Crises	Chairperson: <i>Mohamed Lahouel</i> Speakers: <i>Ihsan Isik and Ali F. Darrat</i> The Effect of Macro Economic Environment on Productive Performance in Turkish Banking	Chairperson: <i>Fatih Ozatay</i> Speakers: <i>Bedri Kamil Onur Taş and Selahattin Togay</i> Optimal Monetary Policy for Postwar Iraq	Chairperson: <i>Subidey Togan</i> Speakers: <i>Sofiane Ghali and Zouhour Karray</i> Trade and R&D Externalities: Impact on the Cost of Production of the Tunisian Manufacturing Sector	Chairperson: <i>Ali Abdel Gadir Ali</i> Speakers: <i>Fatma El-Hamidi</i> Education-Occupation Mismatch and the Effect on Wages of Egyptian Workers	Chairperson: <i>Heba Nassar</i> Speakers: <i>Iftekhhar Hasan and Nada Kobeissi</i> Innovations and Intellectual Protection Rights: An Empirical Investigation in the MENA Region
<i>Brahim El Morchid</i> Recherche de Rente et Processus de Réformes Politiques et Institutionnelles dans le Monde Arabe : la leçon Marocaine Discussant: <i>Imed Limam</i>	<i>AbdelKhalek Touhami and Sanae Solhi</i> Efficiencie et Productivité des Banques Commerciales Marocaines: Approche non Paramétrique Discussant: <i>Bassem Kamar</i>	<i>Ahmet Atil Asici</i> Exchange Rate Regime Choice and Currency Crises Discussant: <i>Ibrahim Saif</i>	<i>Mohammad Chemingui and Faten Y. Jabsheh</i> The Role of Trade Policies Reform on Economic Growth and Diversification in an-Oil Based Economy: The Case of Kuwait Discussant: <i>Khalid Sekkat</i>	<i>Mona Amer and Véronique Simonnet</i> Labor Market Transitions in Egypt: the Impact of the First Employment Status Discussant: <i>Massoud Karshenas</i>	<i>Ines Ayadi, Housseem Eddine Chebbi and Younes Boujelbene</i> Investigating Generic and Brand Name Pharmaceutical Market Shares and Prices in Tunisia Discussant: <i>Heba Handoussa</i>

November 24, 2008: Day Two

9:00 – 11:00 **Plenary 2:** Policies for Equitable Distribution of
Income and Opportunity

Moderator: *Ibrahim Elbadawi (The World Bank)*

Speakers: *Ritva Reinikka (The World Bank)*
Ragui Assaad (University of Minnesota)
Djavad Salehi-Isfahani (Virginia Tech)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:00 – 16:00 ERF Board of Trustees Meeting (*closed meeting*)

11:30 – 13:00 **Parallel Sessions 3**

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 17:30 **Parallel Meetings**

18:00 – 19:00 ERF Journal (MEDJ) Editorial Board Meeting (*closed meeting*)

11:30 – 13:00

Parallel Sessions

Institutional Economics Corporate Governance, Risk and Negotiation Outcomes Siwa	Finance Determinants of Bank Performance Al Farafra	Macroeconomics Regional Employment, and Fiscal Processes Thebes Salon	International Economics Trade Policies, Jobs, and Exports Al Fayoum	Labor & Human Development Poverty and Economic Growth Memphis Salon	Microeconomics Business Environment and Productivity Al Baharia
Chairperson: <i>Hassan Hakimian</i> Speakers: <i>Hamadi Matoussi</i> International Corporate Governance and Finance: Legal and Cultural Explanations	Chairperson: <i>Mine Cinar</i> Speakers <i>Said Gattoufi, Sameh Sakr, and Mohammed Omran:</i> Tracking the Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions on the Efficiency of Commercial Banks in MENA Countries Using a Malmquist Index Based Approach	Chairperson: <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i> Speakers: <i>Yacine Belarbi and Abdallah Zouache</i> Regional Employment Growth and Spatial Dependencies in Algeria (1998 - 2005)	Chairperson: <i>Adel Beshai</i> Speakers: <i>Novella Bottini and Michael Gasiorek</i> Trade and Job Reallocation: Evidence for Morocco	Chairperson: <i>Insan Tunali</i> Speakers: <i>Mohamed Ayadi and Mohamed Amara</i> Spatial Patterns and Geographic Determinants of Poverty in Tunisia	Chairperson: <i>Azzeddine Azzam</i> Speakers: <i>Riadh Ben Jelili and Mohamed Goaid</i> Entry, Exit, Resource Reallocation and Productivity Growth in Tunisian Manufacturing Industries
<i>Manel Hadriche Sahnoun and Mohamed Ali Zarai</i> Effect of Auditee Business Risk, Audit Risk and Auditor Business Risk on Auditor Auditee Negotiation Outcomes Discussant: <i>Hadi Esfahani</i>	<i>Brahim Mansouri and Said Afroukh</i> La Rentabilite Des Banques et Ses Determinants: Cas Du Maroc Discussant: <i>Wafik Grais</i>	<i>Amir Kia and Norman Gardner</i> Analyzing the Fiscal Process Under a Stochastic Environment: Evidence From Egypt Discussant: <i>Ali Abdel Gadir Ali</i>	<i>Nergiz Dincer and Magda Kandil</i> The Effects of Exchange Rate Fluctuations on Exports: A Sectoral Analysis for Turkey Discussant: <i>Raed Safadi</i>	<i>Abdelhamid Elbouhadi, Abdelkader Elkhider and El Mustapha Kchiri</i> La croissance économique est-t-elle pro pauvre au Maroc? Une tentative d'explication par l'approche monétaire et l'approche non monétaire Discussant: <i>Ragui Assaad</i>	<i>Tidiane Kinda, Patrick Plane, Marie-Ange Véganzonès-Varoudakis</i> Productivity and Technical Efficiency in MENA Manufacturing Industry: The Role of the Business Environment Discussant: <i>Khalid Sekkat</i>

14:30 – 17:30 **Parallel Meetings**

<p>Special Event PANEL ON YOUTH TRANSITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST Memphis Salon</p>	<p>PANEL ON PROMOTING TRADES IN SERVICES IN THE MENA REGION Thebes Salon</p>	<p>Labor and Human Development Returns to Human Capital and Growth</p>	<p>Microeconomics Structural Change and the Use of Natural Resources</p>
<p>Chairperson: <i>Navtej Dhillon</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Djavad Salehi-Isfahani and Daniel Egel</i></p> <p>Youth Transitions to Employment and Family Formation in Iran: Evidence from the School to Work Transition Survey</p> <p><i>Ragui Assaad</i></p> <p>Pathways from School to Work for Egyptian Youth</p> <p><i>Nader Kabbani</i></p> <p>Youth Transitions to Employment in Syria: Evidence from the School to Work Transition Survey</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Paul Schultz</i></p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Raed Safadi</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Mohamed Marouani, Novella Bottini and Laura Munro</i></p> <p>Trade Restrictiveness Indices and Tax Equivalent in Selected MENA Countries</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Bernard Hoekman</i></p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Susan Joekes</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Subidey Togan and Mohamed Lahouel</i></p> <p>Liberalization in the Transport, Telecom and Financial Services</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Khalid Sekkat</i></p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Hana Kheir-El-Din</i></p> <p>Speaker: <i>Raed Safadi</i></p> <p>Synthesis, Policy Implications and Open Discussion</p> <p>Discussants: <i>Samiha Fawzy</i> <i>Mustapha Nabli</i></p>	<p>Al Fayoum</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Gouda Abdel-Khalek</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Jeffery Nugent and Mohamed Saleh</i></p> <p>Intergenerational Transmission and Returns to Human Capital and Changes Therein over Time</p> <p><i>Ghazi Boulila, Chaker Gabsi, and Mohamed Trabelsi</i></p> <p>Is Growth Pro-Poor in Tunisia? Evidence from a Panel of Region</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Jackline Wahba</i></p>	<p>Al Baharia</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Lyn Squire</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Ebru Voyvoda</i></p> <p>Sources of Structural Change, its Impact on Interdependence and Productivity Dynamics:</p> <p><i>Gholamreza Soltani and Mahmood Saboohi</i></p> <p>Economic and Social Impacts of Groundwater Overdraft: The Case of Iran</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Mohamed Matoussi</i></p>

November 25, 2008: Day Three

- 9:00 – 11:00 **Plenary 3:** The Political Economy of Equality and Inequality
Moderator: *Lyn Squire* (ERF)
Speakers: *James Robinson* (Harvard University)
Galal Amin (American University in Cairo)
Ali Abdel Gadir (Arab Planning Institute)
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Parallel Sessions 4**
- 13:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break
- 15:00 – 16:00 **Plenary Session: Closing and Award Ceremony**
Moderator: *Ahmed Galal* (ERF)
Speakers: *Ibrahim El Badawi* (World Bank)
Hadi Esfahani (Illinois University)
Heba Handoussa (The American University in Cairo)
Bernard Hoekman (World Bank)
Djavad Salehi-Esfahani (Virginia Tech)

11:30 – 13:00

Parallel Sessions 4

<p>Institutional Economics Incentives, Theft and Conflicts</p> <p>Siwa</p>	<p>Finance Bank Efficiency and Asset Allocation</p> <p>Al Farafra</p>	<p>Macroeconomics Globalization, Inflation Targeting and Stock Exchange</p> <p>Thebes Salon</p>	<p>International Economics Monetary Unions</p> <p>Al Fayoum</p>	<p>Labor & Human Development Family Planning and Social Behavior</p> <p>Memphis Salon</p>	<p>Microeconomics Knowledge Management and Firm Efficiency</p> <p>Al Baharia</p>
<p>Chairperson: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Wided Mattoussi and Paul Seabright</i></p> <p>Cooperation Against Theft: A Test of Incentives for Water Management in Tunisia</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Samy Ben Naceur, Hichem Ben-Khedhiri and Barbara Casu</i></p> <p>What Drives the Efficiency of Selected MENA Banks? A Meta-Frontier Analysis</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Mongi Boughzala</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Fatih Özatay, Erdal Özmen, and Gülbin Şahinbeyoğlu</i></p> <p>Does Globalization Undermine the Efficiency of Inflation Targeting?</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Abdulrazzak Alfaris</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Rosmy Jean Louis, Faruk Balli and Mohamed Osman</i></p> <p>Monetary Union Amongst Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC) Countries: Does the Symmetry of Shocks Extend to the Non-oil Sector?</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Paul Schultz</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Djavad Salehi-Isfahani</i></p> <p>Family Planning and Rural Fertility Decline in Iran: A Study in Program Evaluation</p>	<p>Chairperson: <i>Medhat Hassanien</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Rim Mouelhi</i></p> <p>Impact of the Adoption of Information and Communication Technologies on Firm Efficiency in the Tunisian Manufacturing Sector</p>
<p><i>Mehmet Tosun and Serdar Yilmaz</i></p> <p>Centralization, Decentralization and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Mustapha Nabil</i></p>	<p><i>Mazin Al Janabi</i></p> <p>Asset Allocation with Liquidity-Adjusted Market Risk Modeling: Empirical Relevance to Emerging GCC Financial Markets</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Izak Atiyas</i></p>	<p><i>Sam Hakim and Mahmoud Haddad</i></p> <p>Irrational Exuberance on the Saudi Stock Exchange</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Mine Cinar</i></p>	<p><i>Mohamed Ben Abdallah and Zouheir Bouchaddakh</i></p> <p>On the Optimality of the Maghreb Area: An Analysis of the Macroeconomic Shocks</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Magda Kandil</i></p>	<p><i>Meltem Dayioğlu, Murat G. Kırdar and İsmet Koç</i></p> <p>The Impact of Schooling on the Timing of Marriage and Fertility: Evidence from a Change in Compulsory Schooling Law</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Insan Tunali</i></p>	<p><i>Abdelfattah Triki and Samiha Mjahed</i></p> <p>Knowledge Management Practices in The Business Context</p> <p>Discussant: <i>Tarek Selim</i></p>