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Academic Positions:

Oct. 2010-present Visiting Scholar, Economics Department, Rice University, Houston, USA.

2010-present Lecturer (Assistant Professor) of Finance and Economics, Durham Business School, Durham University, UK.

2008-2010 Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics, University of Texas at Dallas, USA.

Education:

2006-2010 Ph.D. Public Policy and Political Economy (Economics)
University of Texas at Dallas, School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences;

2004-2006 Master of Science in Applied Economics
University of Texas at Dallas, Department of Economics;

1998-1999 Master of Arts in International Political Economy
University of Warwick, UK, School of Social Sciences;

1990-1995 Bachelor of Commerce and Business Administration (Major: Accounting)
Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt, Faculty of Foreign Trade;

Research Interests:

Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Islamic Finance, Development Economics, Public Policy

Grants and Awards:

2009 Research Assistantship, James Baker III Institute of Public Policy, Rice University;
Graduate Student Honorarium, Southern Economic Association Conference;
Bursary, AfrEA-NONIE-3ie Impact Evaluation Conference in Cairo, Egypt

2006-2010 Graduate Student Scholarship, University of Texas at Dallas;
Teaching Assistantship, Department of Economics (2008-2010);
Research Assistantship, Texas Schools Project (2006-2008)

2004-2005 Fulbright Pre-Doctoral Grant, University of Texas at Dallas

1998-1999 British Chevening Scholarship, University of Warwick, UK

1997 Fulbright Grant, Diplomatic Training, Washington D.C.

Published Papers:

“Bank-Insured RoSCA for Microfinance: Experimental Evidence in Poor Egyptian Villages.” (with Mahmoud El-Gamal et al.). *Games and Economic Behavior*. Under Review.

“Experiments in Islamic Microfinance.” (with Rachel Croson). *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. Revise and Resubmit.

“Before or After the Bell: School Context and Neighborhood Effects on Student Achievement.” (with Paul Jargowsky) in Eugene Birch and Susan Wachter, eds., *How Place Matters? The Effects of Neighborhood and Location*. 2010. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Federal Reserve Board and Penn Institute for Urban Research.

Working Papers:

“Bank-Insured RoSCA for Microfinance: Experimental Evidence in Poor Egyptian Villages” (with Mahmoud El-Gamal, Dean Karlan and Adam Osman). *Baker Working Paper*. May 2011. James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy. Rice University. Houston, USA.

“Before or After the Bell?” (with Paul Jargowsky). *CALDER Working Paper*. August 09, 2010. Urban Institute. Washington D.C. USA.

Work in Progress:

Impact of Social Capital on Microfinance Schemes: A Field Experiment in Fayoum, Egypt (with Mahmoud El-Gamal).

Can Dynamic Cross-Reporting Increase the Efficiency of Islamic Microfinance Products?

Teaching Experience:

2011 Islamic Finance for master’s students; Behavioral Finance for MBA, Durham University

2010 Foundations of Finance for undergraduates; MBA Economics, Durham University

2010 Teaching Assistant (Advanced Research Design, Social Statistics), University of Texas-Dallas

2008-2010 Principles of Microeconomics, University of Texas-Dallas (Undergraduate – Instructor)

2006 Principles of Economics, Midwestern State University, Texas (Online Course – Instructor)

Professional Affiliations:

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Economic Science Association, Southern Economic Association, Egyptian Diplomatic Club, World Affairs Council.

Conference Papers and Invited Presentations:

8th International Conference on Islamic Economics and Finance, Qatar Foundation, Dec. 2011, Qatar
“Efficiency of Islamic Finance Contracts: Microfinance Experiments.”

1st Annual Symposium on Empirical Research in Islamic Finance, Aston Business School, December 2011, Birmingham, UK
“Behavioral Islamic Finance”

Annual International Meeting of the Economic Science Association, July 2011, Chicago, USA
“Bank-Insured RoSCA for Microfinance: Experimental Evidence in Poor Egyptian Villages.”

European Economic Association 25th Annual Conference, August 2010, Glasgow, UK
“Experiments in Islamic Microfinance: Moral Hazard in Islamic Finance Contracts.”

The African Econometric Society 15th Annual Conference, July 2010, Cairo, Egypt
“Experimental Studies of Alternative Islamic Microfinance Models.”

Southern Economic Association 79th Annual Conference, November 2009, San Antonio, USA
“Access to Credit for Micro-Entrepreneurs using Islamic Finance: An Experimental Approach.”

AfrEA-NONIE-3ie Conference on Perspectives on Impact Evaluation: Approaches to Assessing Development Effectiveness, March 2009, Cairo, Egypt.
“Impact Evaluation of Islamic Microfinance using Laboratory Experiments.”

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia conference on “Reinventing Older Communities: How Does Place Matter?”, March 2008, Philadelphia.
“Before or After the Bill? School Context and Neighborhood Effects on Achievement (with Paul Jargowsky).”

Departmental and Professional Service:

2011 Deputy Director, Centre for Behavioral Economics and Finance

2010 Referee, Journal of Economic Development and Culture

2011 Co-organizer, 1st Annual Symposium on Empirical Research in Islamic Finance, Aston Business School, December 2011, Birmingham, UK

Dissertation Supervision:

Doctoral: Saeed Binmahfouz and Hashem Alnemer, Durham Business School, Finance

Master’s: 3 MSc Finance and 9 MA Finance and Financial Management, Durham Business School

Undergraduate: 15 Finance and Accounting and 5 Economics, Durham Business School

Previous Employment:

1997-2004 Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

1997-1998 Diplomatic Attaché, Institute of the Diplomatic Studies.

1998-1999 Diplomatic Attaché, Cabinet of Assistant Minister for African Affairs.

1999-2000 Diplomatic Attaché, Trade Negotiator-COMESA (Common Market for the Eastern and Southern Africa) Department.

2000-2002 Third Secretary, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Egyptian Embassy in Bangui, Central African Republic.

2002-2004 Third Secretary, Chief of Cabinet of Deputy Assistant Minister for European Union. Special assignment National Crisis Management Group on Iraqi War (2003).

1996-1997 Human Resources Analyst, Department of the Human Resources, Coca Cola International, Cairo, Egypt.

Languages:

Arabic (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

References:

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Rice University
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Professor Catherine Eckel
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