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Education

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (*Fall 2001-Spring 2006*)

PhD in Economics (Dissertation Title: Oil Greasing the Wheels: When do Natural Resources Become a Blessing?)

Masters of Arts in Economics (June 2003)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY: WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (*Fall 1997-Spring 1999*)

Masters of Public Affairs with concentration in Economics and Public Policy (June 1999)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (*Fall 1994-Spring 1997*)

Bachelor of Arts in Economics with High Distinction

Professional Experience

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (*Fall 2006-present*)

Assistant Professor

Acting Chair (*Spring 2011*)

Chair (*Fall 2012-present*)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (*Fall 2003, Spring 2004*)

Assistant in Instruction, Research Assistant

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY: WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (*Fall 2000, Spring 2001*)

Lecturer, Research Assistant

Grants and fellowships

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Non-Communicable Disease Prevention (NCDP), travel grant to attend the World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH) in Singapore, March 2012.

American University of Beirut/United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees grant "Assessment of living conditions of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon," co-principal investigator (PI: Jad Chaaban), October 2011.

American University of Beirut Research Board grant "Income inequality and the composition of public debt," July 2011.

International Development and Research Center (IDRC) grant "Generating evidence to support policies for raising taxes on tobacco products in Lebanon," co-principal investigator (PI: Rima Nakkash), July 2011.

American University of Beirut/United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency grant "Poverty of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon: Analysis and Targeting," co-principal investigator (PI: Jad Chaaban), July 2010.

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs "The Economics of Tobacco in Lebanon: An Estimation of the Social Costs of Tobacco Consumption," joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, March 2010.

Lebanon National Center for Scientific Research "The poverty and equity implications of a rise in the VAT tax in Lebanon," joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, January 2009.

Economic Research Forum-Global Development Network research grant "Cash Transfers in Polarized Societies: The Case of Lebanon," joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, December 2008.

Junior Faculty Research Grant, American University of Beirut, Fall 2008

University Research Board Seed Grant, American University of Beirut, "Relative Deprivation, Inequality and Mortality: Evidence from South African Micro Data", January 2007.

Honors:

Best Research Paper on Institutions and Economic Development, December 2007, Economic Research Fund, Cairo Egypt

Finalist, 2007 Annual Global Development Awards Competition, January 2008, Global Development Fund, Brisbane Australia (unable to compete for the Medal)

Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching 2004, Princeton University

Philip Hitti Prize for Academic Excellence 1997, American University of Beirut

Nadim Khalaf Award in Economics 1997, Department of Economics, American University of Beirut

Professional activities:

Conference presentations

"Income inequality and the composition of public debt," Economic Research Forum 17th Annual Conference, Antalya, Turkey, March 2011, and 9th Conference of the Eurasia Business and Economics Society, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, January 2013.

"One pack for one dollar: raising tobacco taxes in Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban and Rima Nakkash, World Conference on Tobacco or Health, March 2012, Singapore.

"Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic approach," Middle East and North Africa Health Policy Forum's 2nd annual conference, June 6 - 8, 2010, in Amman, Jordan.

"Natural resources and economic diversification: an emerging research agenda," Pre-conference workshop on Natural Resources and Economic Diversification at the 16th Annual Conference of the Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

"The poverty and equity implications of a rise in the Value Added Tax: a microeconomic simulation for Lebanon," 15th Annual Conference: Equity and Economic Development, Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

"Natural Resources, Institutions and Growth," 14th Annual Conference: Institutions and Economic Development, Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

Workshop trainer

"Analyses of the effect of tobacco taxation on consumption and government revenue in Lebanon," workshop organized by the Tobacco Control Research Group at the American University of Beirut and the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, Beirut, Lebanon, February 2012.

"Lebanon's economic challenges: political instability and job creation," workshop organized by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Beirut, Lebanon, February 2012.

"Cost of Environmental Degradation Methodology," World Bank workshop, Beirut, Lebanon, June 2009.

Academic talks and public lectures

"One pack for one dollar: using taxes to curb the smoking epidemic in Lebanon," joint seminar of the Center for Research on Population and Health and the Department of Economics, AUB, May 17, 2012.

"Generating evidence for raising taxes on tobacco," a lecture delivered at the Grand Serail with Jad Chaaban and Rima Nakkash, AUB Tobacco Control Research Group, April 4, 2012.

"Health equity in Lebanon: what can we learn from a household survey?" Middle East Studies Program, Brown University. April 2011.

"Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic approach," Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB, April 2010.

"Oil greasing the wheels: when do natural resources become a blessing?" Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, Fall 2009.

"A microeconomic analysis of the poverty and equity implications of a rise in the VAT tax in Lebanon," Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Project, Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, Beirut Lebanon, Spring 2009.

"Oil, Institutions & Growth in the Middle East," Institute for the Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Center for International Studies, Princeton University, spring 2007.

"Lebanon: the Current Deadlock," Institute for the Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Center for International Studies, Princeton University, spring 2007.

"Income, Inequality and Health: The Case of South Africa," Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB, spring 2007.

Referee:

Journal of Microsimulation, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Oxford Economics Papers, Middle East Development Journal, World Politics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, National Council for Scientific Research, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Issam Fares Institute (AUB), University Research Board (AUB).

Professional affiliations

Princeton Alumni Schools Committee: Chair for Lebanon and Syria, fall 2007-present.

Lebanese Economic Association: Founding member, secretary fall 2006-fall 2009.

Economic Research Forum: research associate, December 2008-present.

Social Inequalities in Health Working Group (AUB): Founding member, fall 2007-present.

Tobacco Research Working Group (AUB): Member, spring 2010-present.

Publications:

"Poverty and the livelihoods of UNHCR refugees in Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban, Karin Seyfert, Gheed el Mekawi, forthcoming at the Refugee Survey Quarterly, 2013.

"The political economy of attracting public funds: the case of Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban, International Journal of Development and Conflict, Vol 2, No. 1, 2012.

"Natural-Resource Wealth: Elbow Grease or Fuel for Poverty," Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics (JITE), 2011, 167(3), 536—556.

"Income inequality and the composition of public debt," ERF Working Paper AC-032, 2011.

"Socio-economic survey of Palestine refugees in Lebanon" available at <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011012074253.pdf>

"Who Pays? Out-of-pocket health spending and equity implications in the Middle East and North Africa," with H. El Gazzar, F. Raad, C. Arfa, A. Mataria, J. Chaaban, D. Salehi-Isfahani, S. Fesharaki, M. Majbouri, HNP Discussion Paper, November 2010, The World Bank, Washington DC.

"The Role of Sectarianism in the Allocation of Public Expenditure in Post-War Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban, International Journal of Middle East Studies, volume 42 (2010), issue 04, pp. 637-655.

"The impact of a rise in VAT on equity and welfare in Lebanon: a microeconomic assessment," with Jad Chaaban, Volume: 2, Issue: 1 (June 2010), Middle East Development Journal, 2010, 121-138.

"Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic analysis," with Jad Chaaban and Firas Raad, International Journal for Equity in Health, 2010, 9:11.

"Relative deprivation and mortality in South Africa," Social Science & Medicine 70 (2010), pp. 720-728

"How Lebanon has weathered the storm," with Aslı Bâli, Middle East Report, Fall 2009, 252: 30-33

"Oil Greasing the Wheels: When do Natural Resources Become a Blessing?" 2008, in Institutions and Economic Development: Selected Papers from the 14th Annual Conference, Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt, 355-388 and Economic Research Forum working paper number 439

Book review for "The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures: Economics, Education, Mobility and Space" for Al-Raida, No. 120-121, fall 2008

Work in progress:

"The effect of taxation on tobacco consumption in Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban, Rima Nakkash and Hala Alaouie, under review at Tobacco Control.

"Poverty and the livelihoods of UNHCR refugees in Lebanon," with Jad Chaaban, Karin Seyfert, Gheed el Mekawi, under review at the Refugee Survey Quarterly.

"The economic costs of tobacco on the Lebanese economy," with Jad Chaaban and Nadia Naamani, under review at Substance Use and Misuse.

"Income inequality and the composition of public debt," under review at the Journal of Income Distribution.

"The effect of taxation on tobacco consumption in Lebanon," with Hala Alaouie, Jad Chaaban and Rima Nakkash, in progress.

"Contesting relative deprivation: a multidisciplinary theoretical and historical critique," with Afamia Kaddour, in progress.

"Power-sharing, service delivery and economic policy for development in post-conflict: the case of Lebanon," with Samer Frangie, in progress.