

2017

# REGIONAL COOPERATION PEACE & DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES & LESSONS FOR MENA

ERF 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2017 | Amman, Jordan

Conference Program

ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH  
FORUM



منتدى  
البحوث  
الاقتصادية

# ABOUT ERF

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## Our Mission

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) is a regional network dedicated to promoting high quality economic research to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

## Our Objectives

Established in 1993, ERF's core objectives are to build strong research capacity in the ERF region, to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

## Our Activities

To achieve these objectives, ERF carries out a portfolio of activities. These include mobilizing funds for well conceived proposals; managing carefully selected regional research initiatives, collecting and sharing micro data and providing training and mentoring programs to junior researchers. It also includes organizing seminars and conferences based on research outcomes; and publishing research output through multiple channels including working papers, books, policy briefs and perspectives, Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) and a newsletter – Forum.

## Our Network

The ERF network comprises a distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT), accomplished researchers from the region and highly dedicated head-office staff. A not-for-profit organization, the Forum is supported by multiple donors, both regional and international.

## Contact Information

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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# ERF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference has become the premiere regional event for economists of the Middle East, where new ideas are born, nourished and promoted; where the community of researchers meet and where excellence is celebrated. This year's conference will be held in Amman, Jordan, March 18-20, 2017. The main theme of the plenary sessions is "Regional Cooperation, Peace and Development: Issues and Lessons for MENA."

Besides the plenary sessions, which will feature world renowned economists, social scientists and policy makers, there will be six to seven parallel sessions daily. Parallel sessions will include the presentation of more than 50 papers under the themes of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Economics, Finance, Labor and Human Development, and Institutional Economics. In addition, there will be two special plenary sessions, the first of which will showcase the work done by ERF on the research project "The Economics of Life Course Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa". The second session will feature the launch of two new ERF books, "Understanding and Avoiding The Oil Curse in Resource Rich Arab Economies," and "The Middle East Economies in Times of Transition". As always, the closing session will be devoted to celebrating the six winners of what has become a regional mark of excellence: The Best Paper Awards.

## Conference Theme

Despite the strong interdependencies between the countries of the region in terms of migrant labor and remittances, as well as capital flows, there are virtually no strategic region-wide or sub-regional initiatives for promoting economic cooperation between them. Regional public goods, such as supra-national economic policy institutions, regional infrastructure and regional peace, have been a huge backbone for development in other developing regions. Unfortunately, political differences and narrow-minded nationalism have often complicated such efforts in MENA, which, to mention two examples, perhaps explain the dysfunction of the Maghreb Economic Grouping and the conflicts over rights and use of transnational watercourses.

Notwithstanding the fact that virtually the entire scholarship community tends to subscribe to the views regarding the importance of regional cooperation and regional public goods, including regional peace, to economic development at the country level within a region; these issues stand to be debated. For example, some might question the validity of the claim that reciprocal regional trade liberalization might be superior to unconditional unilateral trade liberalization. Also, assuming that regional cooperation is important for economic development from a country-specific perspective, there remains the question of which approach is best suited for promoting and sustaining meaningful economic integration within and between regions. Moreover, the relationship between region-wide conflicts as a regional 'public bad' and regional economic cooperation needs to be better understood and articulated to the specific regional context in question.

The three plenaries would, therefore, address three major themes. First, why might regional cooperation, and especially regional economic blocks, be good for development? Second, how best can such regional initiatives and the associated regional public goods be built? Third, what are the reasons behind the lackluster performance of economic cooperation and the lack of adequate regional public goods, most notably, regional peace, in MENA, and what is the ensuing development cost to the region?

## *Plenary Session 1: Why are Regional Economic Blocks and Regional Public Goods Important for Development?*

As discussed above, there is a wide consensus among scholars and practitioners alike regarding the importance of regional economic blocks in promoting deeper economic integration within and between regions. They expand economic space of otherwise fragmented and relatively small economies and hence promote investment, economic interdependence and growth within regions, which in turn mitigates proneness to conflicts and promotes regional peace. However, the presumed dominant welfare and development benefits of regionalism hinge on second best arguments that might be specific to regional and global conditions; hence, the case for regional approaches to public development policy needs to be argued and discussed. There is also an active debate regarding whether success and sustainability of regional blocks hinge on primarily targeting economic and political policy coordination, so that deeper economic integration becomes feasible; or, whether building Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and regional infrastructure projects should come first. The latter would promote the required political commitment for developing broad-based regional policy coordination, which would then allow deeper economic integration to take root and become sustainable. The speakers in this plenary will address the cluster of issues associated with why regional economic cooperation and re-

gional public goods are important from a country-specific development perspective. Among other relevant issues, the speakers will ask questions such as: what is the economic and political concept of a 'region' and what do we mean by 'regionalism'? from a country-specific development perspective, what are the relative advantages and drawbacks of relying on regional objectives? how might regional economic blocks promote reciprocal trade, policy harmonization, regional infrastructure and conflict resolution? how successful have broad regional coordination approaches been in promoting deeper trade and overall economic integration? or, instead, how has the latter spearheaded broader and more robust regional coordination?

### *Plenary Session 2: How Has Regional Cooperation Evolved in Practice?*

This question should cover all forms of regional economic cooperation and should address a myriad of issues related to the scope, sequencing and institutional aspects of regional economic cooperation. However, it is useful to take the case of RTAs as an intensive form of regional cooperation to assess different experiences and institutional designs of regional economic initiatives across the world. RTAs have been the centerpiece of regional cooperation initiatives, with many developing countries pursuing them for more than five decades now. However, RTAs have lost some of their appeal with the advent of global multilateral trade initiatives -even though the pendulum might be swinging their way now that the global economic crisis and the ensuing slowing demand from major global markets have started to impact growth in the developing world. With the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks stalled, RTAs might offer an alternative approach to increase trade, spur stronger economic growth and lower unemployment rates in participating countries. However, whether or not RTAs could deliver these goals remains to be seen and several issues need to be considered.

In particular, the speakers would need to address several questions in this context, including: what are the misgivings and qualifications associated with the concepts and experiences of RTAs? what are the similarities and contrasts between major RTAs in the world (EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, COMESA, MERCOSUR, MAGREHB, GCC...etc.) in terms of objectives, institutional design features, sequencing, political commitments,...etc.,? how realistically could RTAs ameliorate global economic slowdown and promote regional growth?; and, what role have RTAs had in preventing conflicts and promoting regional peace?

### *Plenary Session 3: Regional Cooperation in MENA: A Story of High Hopes, Stagnation and Setbacks*

Unfortunately, the MENA region experience with regional cooperation presents a classic case of perhaps overambitious initiatives that eventually gave way to stagnation and, more recently, to major setbacks due to region-wide security problems. It is important to appreciate the role of design features that historically affected the success of the region's RTAs, most notably those associated with promoting regional integration under essentially closed national economies during most of the post-colonial era. However, it could be argued that political differences among the region's countries and the recent eruptions of conflicts that engulfed the entire region have become the main culprit militating against meaningful region-wide economic cooperation. Therefore, the overarching question concerning MENA should be: how might the region find an approach to resolving its looming conflicts that would also embed a reciprocal-symbiotic relationship between regional peace and supranational economic gains? The received scholarly literature, as well as country and regional experiences, suggest that such feedback effects do exist between conflicts as a regional 'public bad' and development failure at the regional level. On one hand, weak regional economic cooperation lowers the opportunity cost of peace for individual countries in a region; while conflicts, once they happen, make economic cooperation harder, if not impossible, to achieve.

Against this backdrop, the speakers in this session will be addressing a host of issues, such as: Is the MENA region different in terms of its regional cooperation experiences and why?; what has been the cost of failures to promote stronger regional cooperation, not only in terms of economic development but also in terms of the proneness to conflicts and insecurity?; what lessons could be learned from other regional experiences, especially with regard to the challenge of building a self-reinforcing approach to resolving conflicts and promoting regional cooperation?

### Conference Venue

- Intercontinental Amman | Islamic College Street | Amman 11180 | Jordan | Tel: +(962) 646 41 361

### Travel Arrangements

- In case of any delay in your departure, please send a message or call +2 0100 884 4995 to re-book your hotel reservation and arrange for your airport pickup.
- Upon your arrival in Amman, "Meet and Assist" services will be provided by a representative from our travel agency, **"Travel Master."** The representative will be holding an ERF sign. In case you miss your airport pickup, please contact **Ms. Hadeel Hasan +962 79 5294813**
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants (about 45 minute-trip).
- Concerning departure, please check out and be ready three hours before your flight's departure time. A **"Travel Master"** representative will meet you at the hotel lobby.
- Authors who need to sign their contracts and/or collect their ticket reimbursement will need to kindly go to the Dana secretariat room (2nd Floor).

### Hotel Accommodation

- Participants will be residing at: Intercontinental Amman | Islamic College Street | Amman 11180 | Jordan | Tel: +(962) 646 41 361
- A block of rooms has been reserved at this hotel for all participants attending the conference.
- To speed up the check-in process, please advise the check-in clerk that you are with the **Economic Research Forum (ERF) Group**.
- Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and international), room service, use of the mini-bar, and alcoholic beverages.
- Free internet is available for all in-house guests.

### Meals

- Group lunches will be served at Intercontinental Amman (**The Atrium restaurant**) for participants from March 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> and are covered by ERF.
- For participants arriving on March 16 and/or departing on March 22, please have your meals at **The Atrium restaurant**.
- The Welcome Dinner will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at the **"Bourj Al Hamam"**, Intercontinental Amman Hotel.
- You are invited to attend a Gala dinner on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at the **"Kan Zaman"**. Buses will be ready at the Intercontinental Amman Hotel gates at 7:30 pm.

### Kindly note that

- All conference papers and the agenda are now available online at [www.erf.org.eg](http://www.erf.org.eg).

# PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

17 March

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

09:00 – 13:00

ERF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Gerasa Meeting Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

09:00 – 17:30

WORKSHOP ON VULNERABILITY IN THE MENA REGION: FORTHCOMING PROJECTS  
UNDER THE LABOR MARKET AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THEME (BY INVITATION ONLY)

Ayla Meeting Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:00

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Gerasa Meeting Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

16:00 – 19:30

THEMATIC LEADERS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)

Nebo Meeting Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

# DAY ONE

8:00 – 9:00 **REGISTRATION** | Al Riwaq Foyer

9:00 – 11:30 **OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: WHY ARE REGIONAL ECONOMIC BLOCKS AND REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT?** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Abdlatif Al-Hamad* (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)  
Welcome Remarks: *Ibrahim Elbadawi* (Economic Research Forum)  
Opening Remarks: *Ibrahim Saif* (Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan and ERF)  
Speakers: *Amre Moussa* (Former Secretary General of League of Arab States and Former Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt)  
*Jaime De Melo* (FERDI and University of Geneva)  
*Louis Goodman* (American University in Washington)

11:30 – 12:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

12:00 – 13:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<b>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS</b> Searching for Solutions to Institutional Problems in Turkey	<b>FINANCE</b> Financial Markets	<b>MACROECONOMICS</b> Energy Prices, Financial Structures, and Economic Performance
<b>Ayla (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>	<b>Zara (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>	<b>Badiya (Ground Floor)</b>
Chairperson: <i>Ishac Diwan</i>	Chairperson: <i>Jamal Zarrouk</i>	Chairperson: <i>Ali Al Sadek</i>
Speakers: <i>Ali T. Akarca</i>	Speakers: <i>Ghada Tayem</i>	Speakers: <i>Uchechukwu Jarrett, Kamiar Mohaddes and Hamid Mohtadi</i>
Economic voting under single-party and coalition governments	To bank or not to bank: The determination of cash holdings & credit lines	Oil price volatility, financial institutions and economic growth
<i>Bedri Kamil Onur Tas</i>	<i>Nader Naifar, Syed Jawad Hussain Shahzad and Shawkat Hammoudeh</i>	<i>Salim Araji, Vladimir Hlasny, and Vito Intini</i>
Collusion detection in public procurement with limited information	The impact of major oil, financial and uncertainty factors on sovereign CDS spreads	Targeting debt in Lebanon: A structural macro-econometric model
Discussant: <i>Gamal Ibrahim</i>	Discussant: <i>Walid Mensi</i>	Discussant: <i>Magda Kandil</i>

13:30 – 15:00 **LUNCH**

15:00 – 16:30 **SPECIAL EVENT: THE ECONOMICS OF LIFE COURSE TRANSITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Ragui Assaad* (University of Minnesota and ERF)  
Speakers: *Caroline Krafft* (St. Catherine University)  
*Irene Selwaness* (Cairo University and ERF)  
*Hanan Nazier* (Cairo University and ERF)  
Discussant: *Kathryn Yount* (Emory University)

16:30 – 17:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

17:00 – 19:00 **RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)** | Ayla (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

20:00 **WELCOME DINNER** | BOURJ AL HAMAM RESTAURANT (INTERCONTINENTAL JORDAN HOTEL)



<p><b>INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS</b> Trade and Market Power</p> <p>Gerasa (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Mongi Boughzala</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Mohamed Chemingui and Mehmet Eris</i></p> <p>Trade integration and business cycle synchronization</p> <hr/> <p><i>Inma Martínez-Zarzoso, Hendrik W. Kruse and Leila Baghdadi</i></p> <p>Standards and market power: Evidence from Tunisia</p> <hr/> <p>Discussant: <i>Chahir Zaki</i></p>	<p><b>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b> Labor Mobility &amp; Wages</p> <p>Nebo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Ilham Haouas</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Nelly El-Mallakh and Jackline Wahba</i></p> <p>Return migrants and the wage premium</p> <hr/> <p><i>Belal Fallah</i></p> <p>The economic response of rural areas to local supply shock</p> <hr/> <p>Discussant: <i>Radwan Shaban</i></p>	<p><b>LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b> Human Capital Investments &amp; Wages</p> <p>Pella (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Ragui Assaad</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Jenny Liu, Sepideh Modrek &amp; Maia Sieverding</i></p> <p>The effects of political unrest on youth human capital accumulation in Egypt</p> <hr/> <p><i>Aysit Tansel</i></p> <p>Returns to education in Turkey: IV estimates from a developing country</p> <hr/> <p>Discussant: <i>Murat Kirdar</i></p>	<p><b>MICROECONOMICS</b> Firm productivity and political instability</p> <p>Pre-function room (Ground Floor)</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Touhami Abdelkhalek</i></p> <p>Speakers: <i>Samer Matta</i></p> <p>The microeconomic impact of political instability</p> <hr/> <p><i>Mohamed Chaffai and Patrick Plane</i></p> <p>Firm productivity and export status in the Egyptian environment</p> <hr/> <p>Discussant: <i>Nancy Benjamin</i></p>
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# DAY TWO

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 2: HOW REGIONAL COOPERATION EVOLVED IN PRACTICE?** | Al Riwaq Ballroom  
(Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Samir Makdisi* (American University of Beirut and ERF)  
Speakers: *Andre Sapir* (Solvay Brussels School of Economics & Management)  
*Jan Willem Gunning* (Free University, Amsterdam)  
*Abdalla Hamdok* (UNECA)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

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

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

## INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

Cross Country Political Economy

Ayla (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Abla Abdel-Latif*

Speakers:  
*Amr Hosny*

Political stability, firm characteristics  
and performance

*Reham Rizk and Ricardo Nogales*

Revisiting the middle class myth

Discussant:  
*Adeel Malik*

## FINANCE

Oil and Finance

Zara (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Simon Neaime*

Speakers:  
*Walid Mensi, Shawkat Hammoudeh,  
Syed Jawad Shahzad & Rami Zeitun*

Oil and foreign exchange market tail  
dependence and portfolio implications  
for MENA

*Khalid M. Kisswani & Mohammad I.  
Elia*

Do oil prices affect Kuwait sectoral stock  
prices

Discussant:  
*Mine Cinar*

## MACROECONOMICS

Financial Repercussions of the Arab  
Spring

Badiya (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Kamiar Mohaddes*

Speakers:  
*Hany Abdel-Latif & Bazoumana Ouattara*

FDI response to political shocks: What  
can the Arab Spring tell us?

*Jamal Bouoiyour, Refk Selmi and Amal  
Miftah*

Relationship between remittances and  
macroeconomic variables in an unstable  
context

Discussant:  
*Diaa Noureldin*

13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:30 – 16:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

## INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

Financial Sector Institutions  
& Performance

Ayla (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Mustapha Nabli*

Speakers:  
*Houcem Smaoui and Mohsin Khawaja*

The determinants of sukuk market  
development

*Magda Kandil and Minko Markovski*

The impact of ownership on corporate  
performance

Discussant:  
*Ida Mirzaie*

## FINANCE

Banking

Zara (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Mahmoud El-Jafari*

Speakers:  
*Mohamed Chaffai*

Technology gap and managerial efficiency

*Tammuz H. Alraheb, Christina Nicolas  
and Amine Tarazi*

Institutional determinants of bank capi-  
tal ratios

Discussant:  
*Wafik Grais*

## MACROECONOMICS

Empirical Evidence on Determinants of  
(and Impediments to) Economic Growth

Badiya (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Hassan Hakimian*

Speakers:  
*Fatma M. Utku-İsmihan*

Knowledge, technological catch-up and  
economic growth

*Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla*

Parallel market for foreign exchange in  
Sudan

Discussant:  
*Hoda Selim*

### INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

#### MENA Countries and Market Factors

Gerasa (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Omneia Helmy*

Speakers:  
*Rihab Bellakhal , Sonia Ben Kheder and Houda Haffoudhi*

Institutional and market factors driving renewable energy development in MENA region

*Fida Karam and Chahir Zaki*

Why Can't MENA Countries Trade More?

Discussant:  
*Wasseem Mina*

### LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

#### Women Empowerment and Child Health

Nebo (2nd Floor)

Chairperson: *Massoud Karshenas*

Speakers:  
*Ahmed Elsayed and Rania Roushdy*

Women's economic and social empowerment

*Seyed M. Karimi*

Pre-birth exposure to Ramadan, height, and the length of gestation

Discussant:  
*Meltem Dayioglu-Tayfur*

### MICROECONOMICS

#### Water management and scarcity

Pre-function room (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Hala Abou-Ali*

Speakers:  
*Abdelkader Bouslama and Mohamed Salah Matoussi*

Hydro-economic modelling of an exhaustible & transboundary groundwater

*Aymen Frija, Mariem Makhoul, Ali Chebil and Chokri Thabet*

Potential adaptations of the Tunisian agricultural sector to water scarcity

Discussant:  
*Atif Kubursi*

### INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

#### FDI and Growth

Gerasa (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Raed Safadi*

Speakers:  
*Wasseem Mina*

The race to the top: Institutional clusters and world FDI shares

*Hanan Abouel Farag & Mohamed Sayed Abed*

The impact of foreign capital inflows on economic growth in Egypt

Discussant:  
*Fadia Hassan*

### LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

#### Impact of International Migration

Nebo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Abdulrazak Al-Faris*

Speakers:  
*Jonas Bausch, Paul Dyer, Drew Gardiner, Jochen Kluge, and Sonja Kovacevic*

The impact of skills training on financial behavior & educational choice of youth

*Bruno Crépon, Bastien Michel, Ghada Barsoum and William Parienté*

Evaluating the effects of entrepreneurship education in Egypt

Discussant:  
*Djavad Salehi Isfahani*

### MICROECONOMICS

#### Wage Differences and Inequalities in Tunisia

Pre-function room (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa*

Speakers:  
*Mohamed Amara, Wajih Khallouli & Faicel Zidi*

Public-private wage differentials in Tunisia

*Hatem Jemmali*

What drive regional economic inequalities in Tunisia?

Discussant:  
*Kabbashi Suliman*

# DAY THREE

9:00 – 11:00 **PLENARY SESSION 3: REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MENA: A STORY OF HIGH HOPES, STAGNATION AND SETBACKS** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Ahmed Galal* (Former Minister of Finance, Egypt and ERF)  
Speakers: *Raed Safadi* (Dubai Department of Economic Development and ERF)  
*Catherine L. Mann* (OECD)  
*Bernard Hoekman* (European University and ERF)

11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

<b>INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS</b> Political Economy of Religion Ayla (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)	<b>FINANCE</b> Bank Lending and Credit Growth Zara (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)	<b>MACROECONOMICS</b> Fiscal Policy in Macroeconomic Policy Frameworks Badiya (Ground Floor)
Chairperson: <i>Majid Al-Moneef</i> Speakers: <i>Kristin Fabbe and Steve Monroe</i>  In the shadows? Informal enterprise and the state in Jordan  Discussant: <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i>	Chairperson: <i>Mouna Cherkaoui</i> Speakers: <i>Khamis Al-Yahyaee and Ahmed Al-Hadi</i>  Family ownership concentration, outside board directorships, and board nomination committees  <i>Mahmoud Arayssi</i>  Financial development and economic growth under uprisings  Discussant: <i>Samir Ghazouani</i>	Chairperson: <i>Sultan Abou-Ali</i> Speakers: <i>Assil El Mahmah and Magda Kandil</i>  Fiscal consolidation and UAE vision 2021  <i>Sara B. Alnashar</i>  Egypt's government spending multiplier  Discussant: <i>Mahmoud El-Gamal</i>

13:00 – 14:30 **LUNCH**

14:30 – 16:00 **SPECIAL EVENT: CELEBRATING ERF BOOKS LAUNCH** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Heba Handoussa* (Egyptian Network for Integrated Development and ERF)  
Speakers: *Ahmed Galal*, *The Middle East Economies in Times of Transition*  
*Ibrahim Elbadawi*, *Understanding and avoiding the oil Curse in Resource Rich Arab Economies*  
Discussants: *Shanta Devarajan* (The World Bank)  
*Hadi Esfahani* (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

16:00 – 16:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

16:30 – 17:30 **PLENARY SESSION 4: AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING** | Al Riwaq Ballroom (Ground Floor)

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS**  
Effects of Sanctions  
Gerasa (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson:  
*Bassam AbuAl-Foul*

Speakers:  
*Julian Hinz*

Friendly fire: Third country effects of sanctions

Discussant:  
*Bernard Hoekman*

**LABOR & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Job Search & Active Labor Market Programs  
Nebo (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Maha Rabbat*

Speakers:  
*Moundir Lassassi and Ibrahim Alhawarin*

Job search intensity and the role of social networks in finding a job in Arab countries

*Ali Souag and Ragui Assaad*

Labor market program and informality in Algeria

Discussant:  
*Jackline Wahba*

**MICROECONOMICS**  
MSEs and Social Insurance

Pre-function room (Ground Floor)

Chairperson: *Najib Harabi*

Speakers:  
*Walid Merouani, Nacereddinne Hammouda and Claire El Moudden*

Don't they care about their future?

*Lahcen Achy and Rafik Selim*

Micro and small enterprises in Egypt: Access to finance and job creation dynamics

Discussant:  
*Amirah El-Haddad*

**MICROECONOMICS**  
Conflict and Revival

Pella (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

Chairperson: *Samir Makdisi*

Speakers:  
*Shogher Garabed Ohannessia*

Conflict in Yemen and child malnutrition

*Maleke Fourati*

Envy and the Islamic revival: experimental evidence from Tunisia

Discussant:  
*Shanta Devarajan*

# PLENARY & SPECIAL SESSIONS SPEAKERS BIOS

*Organized alphabetically by last name*



**Abdulatif Al-Hamad** is director general and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Research Forum (ERF); trustee at the Arab Planning Institute; member of the International Finance Corporation Banking Advisory Board Group (World Bank); member of the Board of the Kuwait Investment Authority, chairperson of the Development Committee Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks; and member of the Board of Directors of BlackRock. Since the early 1960s, he has been highly active in promoting economic and social development, particularly in the Arab world. He served as the chairperson of the United Bank of Kuwait (1966-1981); and executive director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1972-1981). He was Kuwait's minister of finance and minister of planning (1981-1983). Al-Hamad has also served on numerous commissions and boards, including the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (1982-1991) and the Commission on Global Governance (1992).



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# PLENARY & SPECIAL SESSIONS SPEAKERS BIOS

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**Catherine L. Mann** is OECD chief economist and head of the economics department since October 2014. She has enjoyed a distinguished career in the public sector and academia. Following 20-plus years in Washington DC, she was the Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance at Brandeis University and from 1997-2011 was a Senior Fellow and visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Earlier Ms. Mann served in many high-profile positions at the World Bank and the Federal Reserve Board as a Senior Economist. She is a US citizen and holds a PhD in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Harvard University. Her research spans two main topics – global imbalances and globalization of technology and services. She has authored or co-authored seven books, 60 articles, and numerous shorter pieces and testimony.



**Amre Moussa**, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the U.N (1990-1991), Foreign Minister of Egypt (1991-2001), Secretary General of the League of Arab States, (2001-2011). Moussa ran for President of Egypt after the 25th of January Revolution, then was elected in the Constitutional Committee 2012 and led the Liberal members' efforts for a more liberal Constitution. Moussa then founded the Congress party. He was the convener of the initial meeting of the Egyptian opposition (National Salvation Front) against the Presidential dictatorial constitutional decree in 2012 that caused it to be retracted. Moussa was among the leaders who strongly supported the June 30th revolution that deposed ex-president Morsi. Moussa was then elected Chairman of the 2013 "50 member Committee" which drafted the existing Constitution of Egypt. He was awarded several orders and decorations Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Brazil, Argentina, Germany and Ecuador.



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**Kathryn Yount, PhD**, is Asa Griggs Candler chair of Global Health and Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health and Department of Sociology at Emory University. She is jointly appointed in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education as well as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. A social and family demographer trained at Johns Hopkins University, she has more than 20 years of experience conducting large-scale, mixed-methods studies on women's and children's health, women's empowerment, and gender-based violence in settings in Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States. Dr. Yount has led or collaborated on more than 30 research grants from federal agencies (NIH, NSF, CDC), multilateral agencies (USAID, WHO, World Bank, UNDP), governments overseas (DfID), and private foundations (Mellon, Sloan, Qatar National Research Fund) and has authored more than 140 publications in top venues in the social sciences and public health.

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