About ERF

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 the ERF Policy Portal - The 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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Telephone: 00 202 333 18 600 - 603 Fax: 00 202 333 18 604
Email: erf@erf.org.eg
Website: http://www.erf.org.eg
The Economic Research Forum’s (ERF) Annual Conference, a tradition maintained since 1995, has become the premier regional event for economists of the Middle East; where new ideas are created and disseminated, where the community of researchers meet, and where excellence is celebrated. This year’s conference is very special as it marks the anniversary of the ERF, which was established in 1993 to build a strong research capacity in the region. It was one of the first institutions to connect economic researchers from across the region.

This year’s conference is held under the theme of Knowledge, Research Networks, and Development Policy. Hosted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, it will be held throughout 10-12 March 2019 in Kuwait City, Kuwait. This is a timely topic in light of the significant political, social, and economic transformation currently witnessed in the region, and it is also highly relevant to ERF’s celebration of its achievements, aspirations, community, and partners. The plenary sessions will feature world-renowned economists and thought leaders to provide valuable, thought-provoking ideas and viewpoints to take forward the region’s agenda towards economic growth and sustainable development.

The design of this year’s conference will be different from previous years. There will be four main plenary sessions, and two special panels, which will feature prominent economists, social scientists, and policymakers. This year, a number of special events will be held in celebration of the ERF’s anniversary. The plenary sessions will feature a larger number of diverse papers across cross-cutting critical themes selected on the basis of a rigorous refereeing process in response to an open call for papers. The closing plenary session will celebrate the winners of what has become a regional certificate of excellence: The Best Paper Award. The ceremonial gala dinner will be an opportunity to express the gratitude and acknowledgement of the ERF’s founding members and management, and to the ERF prestigious community of researchers who have enriched the ERF with their valuable contributions.

Conference Theme

Countries in the MENA region face a myriad of lingering and emerging development challenges, ranging from achieving sustained job-creating growth to meet the youth bulge and dealing with climate change and environmental degradation, to building peace and reconstructing societies and economies coming out of conflicts. The answer has been and will continue to be strong institutions and good governance. However, in the emerging increasingly digitalized global economy, MENA, like other developing regions, should deploy whatever institutional capacity it has to promote meaningful knowledge- and innovation-based development policy. As an economic development model, Knowledge Economy is based on the creation, transfer, and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. It hinges on four pillars: economic and institutional framework, educated and skilled population, innovation systems, and dynamic information infrastructure. These four pillars are necessary to create knowledge that needs to be transformed into products valued by the MENA markets to promote growth, create jobs, and increase welfare. Although some countries in the region have adopted concrete plans towards building knowledge economies and have started to invest in these four pillars, more work needs to be done, especially for those who have yet to take the first preliminary steps.

Networks, such as social networks, firm networks, and research networks, are major players in the Knowledge Economy, where they expand information and technologies and catalyze ideas and resources. For instance, social networks are widely used in the current economic literature given their importance in understanding the behavior of individuals and their decisions. In turn, this facilitates the implementation of policies that would effectively impact individual behaviors. Firms and research networks allow for the production and dissemination of knowledge as well as the creation of new jobs, which is crucial for the MENA region in light of its high level of structural unemployment, especially among youth.

Therefore, governments and other stakeholders in MENA countries should view the research network as a centerpiece of the eco-system of the envisaged knowledge economy that can achieve sustainable job-creating growth in the emerging technology- and knowledge-intensive global economy.

Plenaries, Panels, and Special Sessions

Three plenaries are planned to address the following issues: first, Knowledge, Economic Research Networks and Development Policy; second, The Role of Knowledge in the Process of Innovation in the New Global Economy; and third, Job-creating Growth in the Emerging Global Economy. Another special plenary highly relevant to the ERF’s anniversary asks the question of which schools of thought have dominated economic research and policymaking in MENA and how they evolved over time. In addition, the first panel documents the emerging role of the ERF in partnership with statistics offices in the region as a premier repository of labor, households, and other micro datasets from the region. The second panel addresses the role of the new ERF research agenda in tackling new challenges faced by the region. Finally, there will be a special session on the Faces and Voices from the ERF Community reflecting on their past experiences with the ERF and their aspirations for the future.

Plenary Session 1: Knowledge, Economic Networks, and Development Policy

The use and application of knowledge along with the expansion of information and communication technologies, known as the Knowledge Revolution, are a major source of economic development. However, MENA countries lag behind other countries in this regard, given the low investment in education, information infrastructure, and research and development. Thus, economic networks connecting firms with researchers, universities, and other stakeholders as policymakers and international organizations allow for the creation, transfer, and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. This knowledge may lead to the emergence of new industries or the reform of existing ones, which will therefore result in creating jobs, increasing growth, and achieving sustainable development.

This panel aims to tackle the process of moving forward on the path towards a knowledge economy by answering the following questions:

- What are the main barriers facing the MENA region?
- What are the main lessons to learn from the International community?
ERF Annual Conference

- What is the role of existing research networks, such as the ERF, in catalyzing knowledge and achieving sustainable development?
- What is the likely future direction of development research in the new era of digitalization, big data, and GVCs, and how should development research networks, such as the ERF, shape their future research agenda?

Plenary Session 2: The Role of Knowledge in the Process of Innovation in the New Global Economy

In a new global economy witnessing a knowledge revolution, investment in intangible assets has become the main characteristic of the Knowledge Economy. This intangible economy is driven by proprietary knowledge, ideas, and innovation. Although characterized by high upfront costs as well as high risks, these intangible investments pave the way for low marginal costs and large potential returns and rewards to strategic behavior.

Therefore, this panel will discuss the following questions:
- What are the main conditions needed for intangible investment?
- What are the main channels needed to produce knowledge and transform it into innovation in the MENA region?
- What is the institutional framework needed to incentivize the creation of patents and proprietary knowledge?
- How can we achieve a balance between protecting intellectual properties and protecting consumers against the power of innovative firms? What role should governments play on the national, regional, and global scales?

Plenary Session 3: Job-Creating Growth in the Emerging Global Economy

A knowledge- and innovation-based economy requires young educated and skilled population able to utilize current knowledge to create new ideas that can be transformed into new products valued by the market. Innovation Networks such as “cluster” or “milieu innovateur” include innovative firms, universities, and other institutions. Created locally or globally, these networks are prime sources of knowledge creation and innovation. New ideas are therefore transferred and diffused between the different members of the network; consequently, creating new jobs to absorb new entrants to the labor market.

Therefore, this panel will attempt to answer the following questions:
- How might the emerging digitized global economy and GVCs, among others, affect the development strategies for MENA and other developing countries, including regarding:
  o The relative effectiveness of manufacturing and services as enablers of job-creating growth
  o The role of knowledge and innovation in shaping public policy and development strategies in general
- How might the collaboration between innovative firms and universities solve the existing mismatch between the outputs of the educational system and the needs of the labor market?
- What are the main challenges faced by the MENA region to invest in skilled and educated human capital? And what is the role of early childhood education in developing the skillsets needed for new jobs?
- How will governments react to the unemployment created by the disappearance of jobs due to the emergence of new technology and knowledge?

Special Plenary: Schools of Thought and Economic Research and Policymaking in MENA

This special plenary deliberates the schools of thought that dominated the economic sphere in MENA. The discussions, which are based on a region-wide survey of economists, aim to apprehend how economic policies are and have been designed in MENA. Given the recent political and economic changes in the region, it is important to understand how the schools of thought play a role in shaping public policies as well as overall development strategies.

Panel 1: From Data to Policy – Rewarding Partnership with Statistics Centers in the Region

This special plenary will convene the heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from the region, as well as researchers and policymakers, to celebrate the achievements of the ERF Open Access Micro Data Initiative (OAMDI), and to showcase the ERF data collection and harmonization efforts made possible through the strategic cooperation with NSOs. The session will also highlight the value of sharing micro data and emphasize the research-to-policy link.

Panel 2: ERF in the Emerging New Normal and the Changing Nature of Works

The ERF is a research network that generates and disseminates knowledge addressing the main challenges faced by the MENA region. These challenges include large scale violence and civil wars, inequality, employment, climate change, environmental damage, and subsidies and social justice.

However, in the emerging global context of technological progress and innovation changing the nature of work and the dramatic decline in oil prices known as the New Normal, these challenges will remain, and new challenges will appear. Although innovation is known to transform living standards, it may be the reason behind widespread unemployment as John Maynard Keynes warned in 1930. However, recent research, for example, the new World Development Report 2019 The Changing Nature of Work showed that technology will provide “opportunities to create new jobs, increase productivity, and deliver effective public services. Through innovation, technology generates new sectors and new tasks.”

Against this backdrop, this panel will reflect on the quarter century of ERF research and policy outreach, including the first two years of the current ERF Strategy 2017/2021, and explore the future direction of the ERF, accounting for ideas from a wide and diverse group of ERF researchers; policy makers from the region; and partners from the development and knowledge community.
**General Information**

**Conference Venue**
The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development,
P.O. Box 21923 Safat 13080 | Kuwait | Tel: +(965) 2495 9300.

**Travel Arrangements**
In case of any delay in your departure, please send a message or call +(20) 12 2743 9154 to inform contact person in charge of visas and to reschedule your airport pickup.

Upon your arrival in Kuwait, you will be met by a representative from the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development who will be carrying your original visa.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants.

**Hotel Accommodation**
Participants will be residing at: Four Points Sheraton | Fahd Al Salem Street | Kuwait City, 13060 | Kuwait | Tel: +(965) 2242 2055 | Fax: +(965) 2448 032/34. To speed up the check-in process, please advise the check-in clerk that you are with the Arab Fund Group.

Free internet is available for all in-house guests. Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and long distance), room service, or use of the mini-bar.

**Meals**
Daily breakfast is covered by ERF for conference participants and will be served at Asseef International Restaurant | Second Floor | Four Points Sheraton.

For participants arriving March 8 and/or departing March 13, you are invited to have your meals at Asseef International Restaurant | Second Floor | Four Points Sheraton. Please remember to sign the bill and indicate your room number.

During the conference period (March 10 – 12), group lunches are hosted by the Arab Fund at the premises of the Arab Fund Headquarters. Any lunches at the hotel on those dates will be charged to participants.

The Welcome Dinner on March 10, will take place at 8:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel | Crystal Ballroom. You are invited to attend the Gala Dinner scheduled for March 11 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel | Crystal Ballroom.

Any individual plans for dinners on March 10 and 11 will be charged to the participants.

**Transportation**
The trip from The Four Points Sheraton to the Arab Fund Headquarters takes approximately 10 minutes. Buses will be available to and from the hotel to the conference venue at 7:30 a.m. on the first day of the conference March 10 and at 8:00 a.m. on March 11 and 12, 2019.

**Departure**
It is most important that you check out and be ready in the lobby three hours before your departure time.

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**Pre-Conference Events**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>ERF Advisory Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting)</td>
<td>Al-Shamiyah Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Asseef International Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 16:30</td>
<td>ERF Future Research Directions – A Brainstorming Session (Closed Meeting)</td>
<td>Al-Shamiyah Ballroom</td>
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Please note the following telephone numbers for emergency contacts while in Kuwait:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ajeel Al-Mutoutah</td>
<td>24959238 - 90886417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Aziz Al-Ohafeeri</td>
<td>24959239 - 97260777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Maan Al-Kaed</td>
<td>24959235 - 99163001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Hani Fayed</td>
<td>24959240 - 99049854</td>
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<td>Mr. Hassan Abu Melhem</td>
<td>24959259 - 98765556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Hossam Omar</td>
<td>24959300 - 99701693</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Mervat El-Howary</td>
<td>24959304 - 97206833</td>
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#### DAY ONE

**10 March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: KNOWLEDGE, ECONOMIC NETWORKS, AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY</strong></td>
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<td>Main Conference Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Abdalatif El-Namad (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)</td>
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<td><strong>Welcome Remarks</strong> Ibrahim Elbadawi (Economic Research Forum)</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Speaker</strong> Paul Collier (University of Oxford)</td>
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<td>Xavier de Souza Briggs (Ford Foundation)</td>
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<td>Hafiz Ghanem (World Bank)</td>
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<td>Barbara Shenstone (IDRC)</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>12:00 – 13:30</td>
<td><strong>PARALLEL SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session 1</strong> OIL PRICE, STOCK MARKETS AND FINANCE</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong> Macroeconomic Policy and Uncertainty</td>
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<td><strong>Session 3</strong> Trade, Investment and the Neighbors</td>
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<td><strong>Session 4</strong> Labor Market Issues: Policies, Youth and Education</td>
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<td><strong>Session 5</strong> Economic Development Issues: Social Characteristics &amp; Polarization</td>
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<td><strong>Session 6</strong> Growth Productivity and Structural Change</td>
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<td><strong>Session 7</strong> Health, Nutrition and Social Welfare</td>
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<td>13:30 – 15:00</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>15:00 – 16:30</td>
<td><strong>SPECIAL PLENARY: SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING IN MENA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Karima Korayem (Al-Azhar University)</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Speakers</strong> Mahmoud Mahfehidin (World Bank)</td>
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<td>Rana Hendy (Doha Institute)</td>
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<td>Kabbashi Suliman (University of Khartoum)</td>
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<td>Hassan Hakimian (University of London)</td>
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<td>Mohamed Marouani (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)</td>
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<td>Almukhtar Al-Abri (Sultan Qaboos University)</td>
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<td>Mine Cinar (Loyola University)</td>
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<td>Nidal Sabri (Birzeit University)</td>
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<td>16:30 – 17:00</td>
<td><strong>COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>17:00 – 18:30</td>
<td><strong>RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)</strong></td>
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<td>20:00</td>
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<td><strong>OIL PRICE, STOCK MARKETS AND FINANCE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Siddig Sath</td>
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<td><strong>MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND UNCERTAINTY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Mahmood Mohaddess</td>
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<td><strong>TRADE, INVESTMENT AND THE NEIGHBORS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LABOR MARKET ISSUES: POLICIES, YOUTH AND EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS &amp; POLARIZATION</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Raimundo Soto</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL WELFARE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairperson</strong> Maha El Rabbat</td>
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09:00 – 11:00

PLenary Session 2: The Role of Knowledge in the Process of Innovation in the New Global Economy | Main Conference Hall

Chairperson: Shireen Al-Azzawi (Santa Clara University)
Keynote Speaker: Rohinton Medhora (Centre for International Governance and Innovation)
Panelists: Hassan Ali (Nile University), Shahtoosh Farboust (College of William & Mary), Albert G. Zeufack (World Bank)

11:00 – 11:30
Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00
Parallel Sessions

Session 1: Micro Finance and Credit
Session 2: Monetary Policy and Exchange Rates
Session 3: Trade, Investment & Environmental Quality
Session 4: Women Empowerment and Gender Issues
Session 5: Trade & Investment: The Wider Picture
Session 6: Islamic Banking & Finance: Issues and Evidence
Session 7: Civil Wars: Causes and Consequences

13:00 – 14:30
Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00
Panel 1: From Data to Policy - Rewarding Partnership with Statistics Centers in the Region | Main Conference Hall

Chairperson: Ibrahim Elbadawi (ERF)
Presenters: Yasmine Fahim, Ibrahim Elbadawi

16:00 – 16:30
Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:00
Special Session: Faces and Voices from ERF: Reflecting on Past Experiences and Future Aspirations | Main Conference Hall

Chairperson: Heba Handoussa (Egypt Network for Integrated Development)
Presenters: Yousef Al-Ebraheim (The Amiri Diwan, Kuwait), Mustapha Nabili (Former Central Bank of Tunisia)

20:00
Gala Dinner: ERF 25th Anniversary | Crystal Ballroom - Sheraton Kuwait Hotel
Master of Ceremony: Ahmed Ghoneim (Cairo University)
11:00 – 11:30 Parallel Sessions

Session 1: Social Media and Economic Development
- Presenter: Houda Boubaker
- Discussant: Christine Muller
- Speaker: Sarah El Khishin

Session 2: Labor Market and Econometrics
- Presenter: Dorsaf Sridi and Wafa Ghardallou
- Discussant: Paul Maqdisi
- Speaker: Seyed M. Karimi and Golnaz Taghvatalab

Session 3: Agricultural Economics
- Presenter: Ibourk Aomar and Tayeb Ghazi
- Discussant: N. Nergiz Dincer and Ayca Tekin-Koru
- Speaker: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Session 4: Trade and Finance
- Presenter: G. Gulsun Akin, Ahmet Faruk Arkan, Sajad Ebrahimi, Sajad Ebrahimi
- Discussant: Aysit Tansel
- Speaker: Ameen Yameen

Session 5: Energy Economics
- Presenter: Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky
- Discussant: Houda Boubaker, Eric Girardin & Christophe Muller
- Speaker: Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky

Session 6: Monetary Policy
- Presenter: Sajad Ebrahimi, Ali Ebrahimnejad & Mahdi Rastad
- Discussant: Chehrzad Nazari
- Speaker: Sajad Ebrahimi

Session 7: Macroeconomic Policy
- Presenter: Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky
- Discussant: Houda Boubaker, Eric Girardin & Christophe Muller
- Speaker: Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky

14:30 – 16:00 ERF in the Emerging New Normal and the Changing Nature of Work


Chairperson: N. Nergiz Dincer and Ayca Tekin-Koru

Discussant: Ibourk Aomar and Tayeb Ghazi

16:00 – 16:30 Award Ceremony and Closing Session

Chairperson: Ibrahim Elbadawi (ERF)

Speakers:
- Jeffrey Nugent - Institutions & Macroeconomic Policies in Resource-Rich Arab Economies
- Mongi Boughazla - The Tunisian Labor Market in an Era of Transition
- Adeel Malik - Crony Capitalism in the Middle East
- Ragui Assaad - Jordanian Labor Market: Between Fragility and Resilience
- Shernine Ghoneim - ERF Policy Portal - The Forum

Thank You, Infidels! Social Welfare and Islamic State Recruitment

Moamen Gouda, Shimaa Hanafy & Marcus Marktanner

Democracy, Personal Freedom, Islamic State Fighters

Moamen Gouda, Shimaa Hanafy & Marcus Marktanner

Stochastic Growth Model and the Role of Shocks to Trend in the MENA Region

Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky

The Informalization of the Egyptian Economy (1998 – 2012): A Factor in Growing Wage Inequality?

Amirah El-Haddad and May Gadallah

Moamen Gouda and Marcus Marktanner

The Impact of Mass Media on Voting Behavior: The Cross-Country Evidence

Walid Merouani
Abdlatif 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 ERF; trustee and vice chair of the Global Partnership for Education; member of the International Financial Corporation Banking Advisory Board (World Bank); board member of the Kuwait Investment Authority; chairperson of the Development Committee Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks; and board member of BlackRock. Since the early 1990s, he has been highly active in promoting economic and social development in the Arab world. He served as chairperson of the United Bank of Kuwait (1968-1981) and executive director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1972-1981). In addition, he was a member of the board of directors of the 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).

Touhami Abdeljalil is a professor of higher education at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA) in Rabat, Morocco. He has worked as a consultant for numerous national and international organizations in Morocco as well as several Arab and francophone African countries including the World Bank, UNESCO, PRVOI, UNICEF. Currently, he serves as a consultant on economic development issues and women’s studies. He has many research publications in refereed academic journals and presented research papers in different scientific conferences. He is currently the vice chair of the board of trustees of the Arab Gulf States Institute, Washington D.C., and a member of the ERD board of trustees since 2014.

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Shireen Alzawahawi is a lecturer in the economics department of the Leavel School of Business, Santa Clara University, USA, and an ERD research fellow. Her research focuses on poverty and inequality, labor economics, and international trade, with special emphasis on the MENA region. She has published in several refereed journals including Economics Letters, Economic Modelling, International Review of Economics and Finance, International Review of Applied Economics, and OPEC Energy Review. Alzawahawi was awarded the Outstanding Academic Award by Santa Clara University in 2011.
Organized alphabetically by last name

**Plenary & Special Sessions Speakers Bios**

**Xavier ("Xav") de Souza Briggs** is Vice President for US Programs at the Ford Foundation. He oversees the Foundation's domestic programming for Civic Engagement and Government, Creativity and Free Expression, Future of Work(ers), Just Cities and Regions, Technology and Society, Mission Investments and Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice. He is a former professor of Sociology and Urban Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s. An award-winning author, commentator and educator, he has led groundbreaking research in economic opportunity, democracy and governance, segregation, and racial and ethnic diversity in cities and metropolitan regions. From January 2009 to August 2011, Briggs served as Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. Earlier in his career, Briggs served as a Community Planner in the South Bronx, a Policy Adviser and R&D Director at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a Faculty Member in Public Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Briggs holds an Engineering degree from Stanford University, an MPA from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Sociology and Education from Columbia University.

**Mouna Cherkaoui** is a professor of economics at Mohamed V University Faculty of Law, Economics and Political Science in Rabat Agdal since 1989. She previously served as the minister of higher education and scientific research. Cherkaoui was a member of the Advisory Committee on Economic Research and Policy Analysis on gender (GERPA) of the World Bank. She was invited as a teacher and researcher to many universities and conducted research and consultations for various national and international organizations such as UNCTAD, UNDP and the World Bank. Her research focuses on topics related to macroeconomics, financial markets, economic development and migration. She also coordinated a number of research projects related to international trade, pro-poor growth and migration. She received her PhD in economics from Arizona State University. Cherkaoui is an ERF research fellow and a member of the Arab Development Portal Strategic Advisory.

**Mine Cinar** has taught in Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, and Bogazici Universities, and was a research fellow in the University of Wisconsin, the Poverty Institute, and Northwestern University, MESD. She is director of the Center for International Business at Loyola University, Chicago. She has received grants from Fulbright-Hays, the Ford Foundation, the Population Council, and the SSRC. Cinar has published works on different aspects of economic development, finance, and gender. She is the former president of the Middle East Economics Association and is the editor of the online proceedings journal. Cinar holds a master's degree from Vanderbilt University and received her PhD from Texas A&M University.

**Paul Collier** is a professor of economics and public policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. His research covers fragile states, restoring growth in African economies, the politics of group psychology for development, migration and refugees, urbanization in poor countries, and the crisis in modern capitalism, which is the subject of his most recent book, The... Read full bio. He received his knighthood in 2014 for his services in promoting research and policy change in Africa, and has been listed as one of the 100 most influential public thinkers in five of the past ten years.

**Ishac Diwan** is the chair d’excellence monde arabe at Paris Sciences et Lettres, and visiting professor at SJP, Columbia University. His research focuses on topics related to the political economy of the Middle East, development and growth in Africa, financial flows, and domestic and global trade issues. He received his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an ERF research fellow and a member of the ERF board of trustees.

**Ibrahim Eldawadawi** is managing director of the ERF. Earlier, he served as director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009. Before that, he was lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. He was the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Environmental Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and was the chair of the board of the Arab Planning Institute. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern Universities.

**Noha El-Mikawy** is a representative of the Ford Foundation’s MENA office in Cairo. Her work concentrates on issues in inclusion, social, economic, and cultural rights; independent arts and culture; and local philanthropy, and was the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Environmental Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and is a member of the advisory board of the UNDP’s Oslo Governance Center in Norway. Between 1999-2005, she led comparative research on the role of MENA universities, in the search for Development Research Centers (DRCs) in the region. Before that, she lectured on politics of the Middle East at the American University in Cairo, Free University of Berlin, and Ersanlion-Nuremberg University in Germany. El-Mikawy holds a PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been a visiting professor at the University of Mannheim, the National University of Singapore, and the American University in Cairo.

**Shahrzad Fardoust** is a research professor at the Global Research Institute at the College of William and Mary. From 2008 to 2011, he was director of strategy and operations, Development Economics, the World Bank. His previous positions at the World Bank included senior advisor to the director-general of the Independent Evaluation Group, and senior economic adviser to the senior vice president and chief economist. He is co-editor of and contributor to Post Crisis Growth and Development: A Development Agenda for the G20 (World Bank, 2011); and Towards a Better Global Economy: Policy Implications for Global Citizens Worldwide in the 21st Century (Oxford University Press, 2016). He is a member of the SovereignNet Advisory Council at Tufts University; member of the Expert Advisers group for the European Investment Bank; Global Development Network project; non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute, Washington, DC; and member of Millennium Challenge Corporation’s, Economic Advisory Council. Fardoust obtained his PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Hafiez Ghanem** is vice president of the World Bank for Africa since July 2018. A development expert with over 35 years of experience, Ghanem leads an active regional portfolio consisting of over 600 projects and operations valued at over $77 billion. Prior to his appointment, Ghanem served as vice president and director general of the World Bank for the MENA region (2015-2018), overseeing the World Bank’s engagement with 20 countries. Leading up to this, he was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development Program. He also served as the assistant director-general at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2007 – 2012). He has many publications in professional and other media outlets and was a member of the core team that produced the World Bank’s 1995 World Development Report. He holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in economics from the American University in Cairo and a PhD in economics from the University of California, Davis.

**Ahmed Ghoneim** is currently a professor in the faculty of economics and political science at Cairo University and a non-resident fellow at the ERF for Arab Countries, Iran, Turkey, and the Center for Social and Economic Research in Poland. He is a consultant to several international and national organizations including the World Bank, WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). He holds a PhD in economics and has published widely in trade policy, trade in services, regional trade integration, and political economy, among others. He held different policy-oriented positions, among which was his role as advisor on foreign trade issues to the minister of foreign trade and advisor to the minister of industry on foreign trade issues and international agreements. In 2014, he was appointed cultural counsellor for Egypt in Berlin and Vienna and head of the student mission in Germany, Austria, and a number of European countries.

**Sherine Ghoneim** is director of communications and policy outreach at the ERF. Prior to that, she was director of the Global Development Network Office and director of GDNet, a knowledge hub that brings together and communicates policy-relevant research from the Global South. She has more than 15 years of experience in the field of knowledge networks and research communications capacity building. Ghoneim holds a PhD in information management (The Management School, Imperial College, UK), an MSc in Management (Boston University, London Campus), and a BA in economics from the American University in Cairo. Her research areas of interest include digital technologies, e-government, e-business, ICT and development.
Hassan Hakimian is director of the London Middle East Institute and a reader in economics at SOAS, University of London. His research focuses on MENA’s political economy, inclusive growth, and the economics of Arab uprisings. He is co-editor (with Parvin Alizadeh) of Iran and the Global Economy: Petro Populism, Islam and Economic Sanctions (Routledge, 2014). He is a founding member and currently president of the International Iranian Economic Association (IIEA) and a member of the Advisory Committee of the ERF. Since 2003, he has been the founder and series editor of the “Routledge Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa” series.

Heba Handoussa is founder of the Egyptian Network for Integrated Development (ENID) since 2012. She was the lead author of the Egypt Human Development Report (EHRD) 2010, which was the best report across over 30 countries, as well as the lead author and director of the ERF for Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey. Handoussa taught at the American University in Cairo and has consistently served as an advisor to the Egyptian government. She has served on the board of international and regional research-related institutions including CEDE, IFPRI, UNRISD and WBI Advisory Board of the World Bank. She was selected to become a member of the World Bank Chief Economist’s Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) in 2015.

Rana Hendy is an assistant professor at the Development Economics Program of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. Between 2013 and 2016, Hendy was an assistant professor of economics at the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University. Before that, she was an economist at the ERF. Hendy received her PhD in 2010 in labor and demographic economics from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her main research interests are labor, gender, and development economics. She published works in Applied Economics and the International Journal of Educational Development, among other peer-reviewed journals. She also contributed to four Oxford University Press volumes about Labor Markets in Arab economies.

Nader Kabbani is director of research at the Brookings Doha Center. He previously served as director of research and policy at the Slaitech Foundation from 2012 to 2017. Prior to that, Kabbani was the director of research at the Syria Trust for Development. Earlier, he was an economist at the food and rural economics division in the Economic Research Service in the United States. Kabbani’s research interests include labor economics, development economics, and profit management. He was a guest lecturer at the Georgetown University Global Executive MBA Program from 2015 to 2018 and is currently a member of the Middle East Economics Association. He is also the president of the board of trustees of Masayar Foundation in Lebanon. Kabbani has a PhD and MA in economics from Johns Hopkins University. He also holds an MA in public management and organizational behavior from CA State University in Sacramento. He is an ERF research associate.

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Karima Korayem worked as a consultant to the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Sub-Regional Resource Facility for the Arab States (UNSRF-AS), United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), United Nations, the Social Commission for West Asia (UN-ESCWA), UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, and others. She is a visiting scholar at several universities in the United States (Illinois, Urbana; Rutgers; UCLA) and a scientist in the IBM-Cairo Scientific Center in charge of modeling and econometric research. Korayem is also a consultant at the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar, Senegal. She has a PhD in economics from McMaster University, Canada.

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Barbara Shenstone is regional director of Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the Middle East and North Africa, based in Amman, Jordan. She joined IDRC in 2018 and previously worked for NGOs and in various senior leadership positions with the United Nations, including as director and head of office for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), supporting the humanitarian aid effort reaching Syria from Turkey in DRC Congo, and for UNRWA, managing its operations in the West Bank. Shenstone brings to IDRC more than 25 years of experience in international development work, often in conflict-affected and fragile contexts and with a wide range of government, multi-lateral and non-governmental organizations. She started her career as a journalist before moving into working for INGOs, and holds an MA in international relations (conflict analysis) from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.


Mohamed Trabelsi is a senior economist at the Middle East Center for Economics and Finance at the IMF. Prior to that, he was a senior economist at the Dubai Economic Council. Trabelsi was also an associate professor of economics at the Institut des Hautes Études Commerciales de Carthage from 2006 to 2009, and was a visiting professor at United Arab Emirates University in 2010. His research interests include development economics, macroeconomics, and macroeconomics. He is a member of the Société Canadienne de Science Économique (SCSE) and the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA). Trabelsi holds a PhD and MA in economics from the University of Tunis El Manar. He is an ERF research fellow.

Albert G. Zeufack is chief economist for Africa at the World Bank. Prior to his appointment in 2016, he was practice manager in the macroeconomics and fiscal management global practice and leader of the World Bank-wide community of practice for the management of natural resources rents. His main research interest is in the micro-foundations of macroeconomics. Zeufack joined the World Bank in 1997 and has held several positions in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia regions. Between 2008 and 2012, on leave from the World Bank, he was the director of research and investment strategy/chief economist for Khazanah Nasional Berhad, a Malaysian Sovereign Wealth Fund. Zeufack received his PhD in economics from CEERD, the University of Clermont-Ferrand (France) where he taught before joining the World Bank. He holds a master’s degree in economic analysis and policy from the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon) and has received executive education from Harvard University and Stanford University. In 2016, Jeune Afrique nominated him as one of the “50 Africans who mattered in 2016.”

All Rashed is statistics manager at the ERF and a lecturer at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport and the American University in Cairo. He was previously a senior statistician, data analyst, and researcher at the Poverty, Gender and Youth Program at the Population Council. His work includes economic consultant, data analyst, and technical assistant at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and an economist and data analyst at the Ministry of Finance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His research interests and publications are in multiple disciplines including social, economics, education, industry, labor and human resource economics, and poverty and income distribution, with a regional focus on the MENA region. His recent research focuses on labor market analysis, job quality and social protection, work, and socio-economic status of family. He has published papers and conference proceedings. Rashed received his MSc, BSc, and PhD in statistics from Cairo University.
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