

LEILA BAGHDADI

Personal Details

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Positions

2023-: Senior Economist (ETC), MENA Chief Economist Office, World Bank
2020-: Full Professor of Economics, ESSECT, University of Tunis
2017-2019: Elected Scientific Council Member, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis
2015-2020: Associate Professor of Economics, University of Tunis
2015-2019: Chair of International Political Economy, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis
2014-: World Trade Organization Chair Holder, University of Tunis
2011-2014: Assistant Professor, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis, Tunisia
2011-2014: Scientific Council Member, Tunis Business School, University of Tunis
2009-2010: Assistant Professor, University of Jendouba, Tunisia
2008-2009: Full Time Consultant, United Nations Development Programme, Tunisia
2008: Visiting Fellow (6 months), Research Department, FAO, Rome, Italy
2007-2008: Marie Curie Fellow, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy
2007: Market Analyst Consultant (6 months), International Trade Centre, Geneva, Switzerland
2006: Consultant (6 months), Research Department, World Trade Organization
2006: PhD Fellow (6 months), World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
2003: Assistant Lecturer, University of Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, Paris, France

Education

2014: Diploma, Habilitation to supervise research, University of Tunis
2003-2008: PhD in International Economics, University of Paris 1 Sorbonne, Paris, France
2002-2003: DEA (M.A.) in International Economics, University of Paris 1 Sorbonne, Paris, France
2001-2002: Maîtrise (BA) in Economics: With distinction,
University of Aix–Marseille III - University of Tunis El Manar (Exchange Program),
Aix-en-Provence, France

Awards

2017: Best Paper Award in International Economics, Economic Research Forum Annual Conference
2014: World Trade Organization Chair, University of Tunis
2014: International Exchange Alumni Member of the month for July 2014, United States Department of State
2007-2008: Marie Curie Fellowship, European Commission
2006: World Trade Organization PhD Fellowship
2002-2006: Excellence Research fellowship, Government of Tunisia
2001-2002: Scholarship, PACA Region, France

Invited Professor

University of Evry, France; National School of Statistics and Information Analysis, Rennes, France; French National Institute for Agricultural Research, Rennes, France

Policy Work

- 2019-2023: Executive Board Member, Central Bank of Tunisia
2017-2021: Member, Council of Economic Analysis, Presidency of the Government, Republic of Tunisia

Other Professional Activities

- 2022-: Elected Member, Board of Trustees, Economic Research Forum, Egypt
2022: Member, Commission on Stabilization and Reforms in MENA, Finance for Development Lab and Economic Research Forum
2022-: Resource Person, African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
2021-2023: Steering Committee Member, Regional Research Network of MENA Central Banks
2019-2022: Advisory Committee Member, Economic Research Forum, Egypt
2019-2023: Consultative Scientific Council Member, Tunisian Institute of Competitiveness and Quantitative Studies, Ministry of Economy and Planification, Government of Tunisia
2019-2023: Member, Ad hoc commission for post doctorate habilitation, University of Tunis
2019-: Research Fellow, Economic Research Forum, Egypt
2020-2021: Member, A Framework Approach: Making Prevention a Reality, Center of Human Rights and Global Justice, New York University School of Law
2018-2019: Core Member, North Africa Dialogue, Chatham House, United Kingdom
2017-: Associate Committee Member, Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies
2014-2017: North African Bureau of Economic Studies (NABES) Senior Fellow, Tunisia

Other Professional Experience

Consulting with Millenium Challenge Corporation, World Bank, World Trade Organization, African Development Bank, International Trade Centre, International Labor Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Development Program, International Food Policy Research Institute, Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et Informations Internationales (CEPII), exposure to entrepreneurship with International Visitor Leadership Program, US Department of State, Professional Fellow, University of Michigan/US Department of State

Publications

- Medini A., Baghdadi L., "COVID-19 shock on supply chains: evidence from a developing country", Journal of Industrial and Business Economics, 2024
- Siewers L., Martinez-Zarzoso I. and Baghdadi L., "Global value chains and firms' environmental performance", World Development, 2023
- Cruz M., Baghdadi L., and Arouri H., "High growth firms and trade linkages: Imports do matter", Small Business Economics, 2022
- Kruse H., Martinez-Zarzoso I. and Baghdadi L., "Standards and political connections: Evidence from Tunisia", Journal of Development Economics, 2021
- Baghdadi L., Ben Kheder S. and Arouri H., "Assessing the performance of the offshore regime in Tunisia", Journal of Economic Integration, 2019
- Baghdadi L., Ben Kheder S., Arouri H., "Impact of NTMs on firms in Tunisia", Review of Development Economics, 2019
- Ben Slimane M. and Baghdadi L., "How internationalization affects firms' growth in the MENA region? A quantile regression approach", Economics Bulletin, 2019
- Rijkers B., Arouri H. and Baghdadi L., "Are Politically Connected Firms More Likely to evade Taxes? Evidence from Tunisia", World Bank Economic Review, 2016

- Rijkers B., Baghdadi L., and Raballand G., “Political connections and tariff evasion: Evidence from Tunisia”, *World Bank Economic Review*, 2015
- Baghdadi L., Bellakhal R. and M-A. Diaye, “Financial participation: does the risk transfer story hold in France?”, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 2013
- Baghdadi L., Martinez-Zarzoso I. and H. Zitouna, “Are RTA agreements with environmental provisions reducing emissions?”, *Journal of International Economics*, 2013
- Baghdadi L. and A. Chepeta, “Migrant associations, Trade and FDI”, *Annals of Economics and Statistics*, Volume 97-98, 2010
- Baghdadi L. and M. Jansen, “Effects of temporary immigration on prices of non-traded goods and services”, *Journal of Economic Integration*, 2010

Books, reports and studies

- Baghdadi L., Miniaoui H., (2022), "Impact des politiques de commerce et d'investissement sur l'emploi productif et décent: Rapport pays pour la Tunisie", Organisation Internationale du Travail
- Baghdadi L., Karray Z., and Zaki C., “The Arab Maghreb Union: Regionalization without integration”, in *Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor 2021*, edited by Antoine Bouet, Getaw Tadesse, and Chahir Zaki, ReSAKSS & AGRODEP, International Food Policy Research Institute, 2021
- Baghdadi L., Guedidi I., “Global value chains in the age of internet: what opportunities for Africa?”, in *Adapting to the digital trade era: challenges and opportunities*, edited by Maarten Smeets, World Trade Organization, Geneva, 2021
- Baghdadi L., “Migration, Trade and Investment”, in *Women Shaping Global Economic Governance*, Edited by Arancha Gonzalez and Marion Jansen, International Trade Centre, 2019
- Arouri H., Baghdadi L., and Rijkers B., “State Capture in Tunisia”, in *Crony Capitalism in the Middle East*, Oxford University Press, 2019
- Martinez-Zarzoso I., Baghdadi L., and Kruse H. W., “Is Tunisia Trade Policy Pro-Poor”, in *Trade and Poverty Reduction: New Evidence of Impacts in Developing Countries*, Geneva: World Trade Organization and World Bank, 2018
- Baghdadi, L., Martínez-Zarzoso, I. and Kruse, H., “Trade policy without trade facilitation: Lessons from tariff pass-through in Tunisia”, in *Trade Costs and Inclusive Growth*, Geneva: World Trade Organization (WTO), 2016

Working Papers

- Baghdadi L., Labidi M., (2023), "Public debt, growth and stabilization in Tunisia: A new narrative for a structural reform agenda", *Economic Research Forum Working Paper n°1653*
- Baghdadi L., Martinez-Zarzoso I., Medini A., (2022), "Covid-19 Shock: Pass-Through to Consumer Prices in Tunisia", *Economic Research Forum Working Paper n°1535*
- Medini A., Ben Abderrahmen C., Baghdadi L., "Impact of COVID19 on Tunisian Imports", *Economic Research Forum Working Paper*, 2022
- Guedidi I., Baghdadi L., "CO2 emissions, environmental provisions and global value chains in MENA countries", *Economic Research Forum Working Paper*, 2020
- Cruz M., Baghdadi L. and Arouri H., “The dynamics of High Growth Firms: Evidence from Tunisia”. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 9145*, 2020. Background paper for *High-Growth Firms Facts, Fiction, and Policy Options for Emerging Economies*, World Bank Report, 2018
- Baghdadi L., Ben Kheder S. and Arouri H., “In search of a new development model for Tunisia: Assessing the performance of the offshore regime”, *Economic Research Forum Working Paper*, 2017
- Kruse H., Martinez-Zarzoso I. and Baghdadi L., “Standards and market power: Evidence from Tunisia”, *Economic Research Forum Working Paper*, 2017

- Baghdadi L., Ben Kheder S., Arouri H., “Impact of NTMs on SMEs in Tunisia”, International Trade Centre Working Paper. Background paper for SME Competitiveness Outlook, 2016
- Martinez-Zarzozo I., Baghdadi L., and Kruse H. W., “Is Tunisia Trade Policy Pro-Poor”, Economic Research Forum Working Paper, 2016
- Baghdadi L., “SMEs, Trade and Employment”, International Trade Centre Working Paper 2015. Background paper for SME Competitiveness Outlook 2015
- Baghdadi L., Kruse H. W., and Martinez-Zarzozo I., “An Estimation of Tariff Pass-Through in Tunisia”, Economic Research Forum Working Paper, 2015
- Rijkers B., Baghdadi L., and Raballand G., “Political connections and tariff evasion: Evidence from Tunisia”, World Bank Policy Paper, 2015

Policy Briefs

- Baghdadi L., Labidi M., (2023), "Debt and stabilization in Tunisia: building resilience and avoiding the austerity trap", ERF Policy Brief 115
- Baghdadi L., Martinez-Zarzozo I., Medini A., (2022), "Is Covid-19 Driving Up Consumer Prices in Tunisia: Evidence from the Pass-Through of the Covid-19 Shock", ERF Policy Brief 75
- Baghdadi L., Medini A., "Impact of COVID19 on Tunisian Imports", Box C.1., p77 in the World Trade Report, 2021, Economic Resilience and Trade
- Baghdadi L., "Tunisie-Afrique: 2,2 Milliards de potentiel d'exportation inexploité", Leaders, 2020
- Baghdadi L., Medini A., "Unlocking Tunisia's unexploited export potential", ECDPM Great Insights magazine, Volume 9, Issue 1, 2020. Also published in French by l'Economiste Maghrébin under the title “La Zone de Libre Echange Continentale Africaine: Un tremplin pour la diversification des exportations en Tunisie ? »
- Baghdadi L., "Renforcer la capacité des entreprises tunisiennes pour tirer profit des chaînes de valeurs mondiales", Livre Bleu edited by Econ4Tunisia, 2019
- Baghdadi L., "Quel sort pour les PME présentes dans les chaînes de valeurs mondiales?: L'enjeu de l'harmonisation des mesures non-tarifaires", Special edition "Focus ALECA", Le Manager, 2018
- Baghdadi L., "La libéralisation commerciale est-elle toujours bénéfique?: Leçons apprises de la transmission de la réduction des tarifs sur les prix domestiques en Tunisie", Note de Politique Economique n°27, NABES Lab, 2016
- Baghdadi L., "Les réfugiés libyens: une manne ou un fardeau pour les tunisiens", Note de Politique Economique n°20, NABES Lab, 2016; appeared also in “l'Economiste Maghrébin”, January 2017

Research Projects

- Are Global Value Chains Sustainable? A Firm-Level Analysis, Co-Investigator, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, 2021
- COVID-19 Shock: Pass-Through to Consumer Prices in Tunisia, Co-Investigator, Economic Research Forum, 2021
- Measuring firms' vulnerability in developing countries to COVID19, Co-investigator, ANRS (French Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis), 2020-2022
- Exploring export opportunities of Tunisia in Africa, Co-investigator, South Africa/Tunisia joint research development project, 2019-2021
- Evaluating the performance of offshoring firms in Tunisia, Project leader, Economic Research Forum, 2016-2017
- Impact of non-tariff measures on SMEs, Project leader, International Trade Centre, Geneva, 2015-2016
- Firms, Trade and Employment in Tunisia, Project leader, International Trade Centre, Geneva, 2014-2015

- State Capture in Tunisia, Co-Investigator, Economic Research Forum, 2014-2016
- Trade Liberalization and Poverty in Tunisia, Co-Investigator, Economic Research Forum, 2014-2015
- International trade, transport and the environment in the Euro-Med Area, Center for research on the economies of the Mediterranean Research Project, 2010-2011
- Concentration of economic activities in the global space research project, Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University, 2007

Editorial activities

- Associate Editor, Middle East Development Journal, 2019-2023
- Referee: Economics Letters, World Development, Applied Economics, Small Business Economics, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, International Trade Centre SMEs Competitiveness Report (2017), International Trade Centre SMEs Competitiveness Report (2018), International Trade Centre SMEs Competitiveness Report (2019), Environment and development Economics, Global Environmental Politics, Economic Research Forum Working Papers, Economic Research Forum, Journal of African Trade, Oxford Economic Papers

Teaching

- Co-creation of the International Political Economy Minor at Tunis Business School under the sponsorship of London School of Economics and Political Science (funded project) and the World Trade Organization Chair
- Undergraduate courses: Industrial Economics, International Trade Theory, International Economics, Political Economy of The Middle East and North Africa, Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics
- Graduate courses: Advanced Open Macroeconomics, International Trade and Labor Markets, Empirical Applications in International Trade for master and PhD students, Innovation Economics
- Organization of four advanced trade policy courses for experienced researchers working for the Government at Tunis Business School
- Lectures for Trade Professionals: Trade Facilitation, WTO Regional Trade Policy Course, 2014, Tunis, Tunisia; Mode 4, African Development Bank, 2007, Tunis, Tunisia
- Supervision of research of several undergraduate, graduate and PhD students
- Referee for PhD thesis: Dauphine University, Paris, France and University of Tunis, Tunisia
- Referee for post doctorate habilitation, University of Tunis

Outreach

- MENA Trade Workshops founder and co-organizer of four editions: Tunisia 2015, Oman 2016, Egypt 2017 and Tunisia 2018
- Organized over 40 seminars from 2015 to 2019: TBS Policy and Practice Seminar Series
- Participation in seminars conferences, workshops, and webinars:
 - **2024:** Panelist, Relocalization and Regional Cooperation in an increasingly shock prone economy, Economic Research Forum Annual Conference
 - **2023:** Panelist, WTO Chair Annual Conference, Geneva, Panelist, “The new globalization: an opportunity for Tunisia”, Forum of the “L’Economiste Maghrébin”, Tunis; Speaker, “Stabilization and Adjustment: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Policies in MENA”, Side event, Economic Research Forum Annual Conference, online; Panelist, online book launch “Tunisia’s Economic Development: Why Better than Most of the Middle East but Not East Asia”, authored by Mustapha Nabli and Jeffrey Nugent, online; Moderator, 2nd Annual Central Bank Conference on Development Economics in the Middle East and North Africa, Riyadh, KSA;
 - **2022:** Discussant, webinar “MENA’s Unexpectedly Low Inflation: At What Cost?”; Economic Research Forum and the Office of the Chief Economist, MENA, The World Bank; Workshop, Project Cores

- “Measuring firms’ vulnerability in developing countries during COVID19”, ESSECT, University of Tunis; Presenter, “Contemporary issues in international trade: A development lens”, University of Jordan, online; WTO Chairs Programme Annual Conference, Geneva; African Economic Research Consortium Biannual Conference, online; Discussant/Research Seminar World Trade Organization Chairs Programme, online; Discussant/ERF-World Bank Webinar “World Bank MENA Economic Outlook Launch”, online; Discussant/ World Bank MENA Chief Economist Seminar Series; Lead discussant, GVC as Levers to Sustainable Development”, ERF Annual Conference, online; Organization of two Brown Bag Seminars WTO Chair-DEFI ESSECT University of Tunis, Tunisia; GI4T Webinar/John Hopkins University, online.
- **2021:** 1st Annual Central Bank Conference on Development Economics in the Middle East and North Africa; December; online; Center for Mediterranean Integration Policy Dialogue, online; Policy Center for the New South Webinar, November, online; IFPRI and ReSKASS Webinar, September, online; The Seventh Biennial Global Conference of the Society of International Economic Law, online; Center for Mediterranean Integration “Enhancing Mediterranean Integration”, online; Webinar “Promoting sustainable recovery and economic resilience in LDCs – the contribution of Aid for Trade”, Aid-For-Trade Stocktaking Event; WTO Webinar on “Global Value Chains in Tunisia from COVID19 shock to economic resilience” presented at the “Economic Resilience Is the New Normal?” organized by Economic Research and Statistics Division (ERSD) of the World Trade Organization; Trade Facilitation and Participation in Global Value Chains presented at the Webinar organized by Trade Policy Research Forum.
 - **2020:** Webinar co-organized with the Institute of Security Studies in South Africa, “Exploring Tunisia’s Development Potential”; Econ4Tunisia Webinar “Between macroeconomic shocks and vulnerabilities”; Workshop GIZ “Diaspora for Development”, Tunisia; Economic Research Forum Annual Conference, online.
 - **2019:** “Et si on revenait à l’économie: les défis économiques post-élections”, Econ4Tunisia 2nd Workshop, Tunisia, Tunisia; Rencontre de Tunis, Tunisia, Tunisia; South Africa-Tunisia Kick-off Seminar, South Africa; WTO Chairs Conference, Geneva, Switzerland; 7th WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade, Geneva, Switzerland; American University of Cairo Research Seminar, Cairo, Egypt; Two Chatham House Workshop, Tunisia, Tunisia.
 - **2018:** Chatham House Workshop, Rabat, Morocco; Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies Workshop, Brussels, Belgium; 4th MENA Trade Workshop, Tunisia, Tunisia.
 - **2017:** WTO Chairs Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 6th WTO Global Review of Aid for Trade, Geneva, Switzerland; Dial Conference, Session “Political Economy of the Private Sector in the Middle East”, Paris, France; 3rd MENA Trade Workshop, Cairo University, Egypt.
 - **2016:** The Political Economy of the Private Sector in the Middle East, Economic Research Forum, Marrakech, Morocco; WTO Chairs Conference, Geneva, Switzerland; GTAP Conference, Washington D.C., USA; UNECA Conference, Rabat, Morocco; Economic Research Forum Conference, Cairo, Egypt;
 - **2015:** WTO Chairs Conference, Geneva, Switzerland; Thematic Course on Trade Policy Analysis, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; 1st MENA Trade Workshop, Tunisia, Tunisia; International Trade Centre Seminar, Switzerland; ERF Conference, Cairo, Egypt.
 - **2014:** Lindau Nobel Laureates Meetings, Lindau, Germany; CSAE, Oxford University, UK.
 - **2012:** CEAFE, 7-9 May, American University of Cairo, Egypt.
 - **2011:** MASE Seminar, Tunisia Polytechnic School, La Marsa, Tunisia; Cremed Conference, Barcelona, Spain.
 - **2010:** Final Transnationality of Migrants (TOM) Conference, Venice, Italy; J-Pal Training, “Evaluation of Public Policies”, Rabat, Morocco; PS2D Conference, Hammamet, Tunisia; MASE Seminar, Tunisia Polytechnic School, La Marsa, Tunisia.

- **2008:** LEGI Seminar, Tunisia Polytechnic School, La Marsa, Tunisia; European Trade Study Group Conference (ETSG), Warsaw, Poland; Conference Migration and Development, Lille, France; First Transnationality of Migrants Young Researchers (Marie Curie Research Network); Third Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory, Alba di Canazei, Italy.
- **2007:** First Transnationality of Migrants Summer School, Lake Garda, Italy, Brussels, Belgium; FAO Informal Seminar, Agricultural and Development Economic Division, Rome, Italy; First conference of “Transnationality of Migrants” (Marie Curie Research Training Network), University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia.
- **2006:** PhD Seminar, WTO, Geneva, Switzerland; TEMA Seminar, University of Paris 1, Paris, France; “International Economics and Development” Workshop, Bocconi, Milan, Italy; Research in International Economics and Finance (RIEF), University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland.
- **2005:** European Trade Study Group Conference, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland; TEAM Seminar, University of Paris 1, Paris, France; Journées doctorales développement & transition, CERDI-ROSES-TEAM, Paris, France; Core Summer School “Economic Analysis of Heterogeneity in Social Organizations”, 2005, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; 22èmes Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée, Hammamet, Tunisia; TEAM Seminar, University of Paris 1, Paris, France.
- **2004:** Research in International Economics and Finance (RIEF), CNRS-CEPII-CEPN University of Paris 13, Paris, France.

Civil Society Activities

- 2020-2022: American Chamber of Commerce in Tunisia, Board Member,
- working on women’s economic empowerment, organized a round table on “investing for a positive impact on women in Africa”,
 - setting up a Tunisian Women on Board Observatory (TWOBO) with other civil society organizations.
- 2020-2022: Cartier Women’s Initiative, MENA Jury Fellow