

# Mounir MAHMALAT

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## SUMMARY

- Ph.D. in political economy; economist and project manager; strong analytical, quantitative & qualitative research skills
  - [Expertise](#) of development economics, governance, and conflict issues; published in major academic outlets
  - Experience in policy formulation for World Bank and UN, focus on the Middle East, North and Central Africa
  - Strong management, communication and team working skills in diverse environments
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The World Bank <b>Economist/FCV Coordinator</b> (Fragility, Conflict & Violence Group)	<i>Lebanon, Washington DC</i> 2020 - today
The Policy Initiative <b>Senior Researcher &amp; Project Manager</b>	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2021 - 2023
Lebanese Center for Policy Studies <b>Senior Researcher &amp; Project Manager</b>	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2018 - 2021
DAI <b>Economic Analyst</b>	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2020
UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia <b>Governance and Public Administration Officer</b> (P3, temp.) Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division (ECRI)	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2019 - 2020
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia <b>Consultant, Economic Governance and Planning Section</b>	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2018
Accenture (IT Consulting) <b>Management Consultant</b>	<i>Hamburg, Germany</i> 2015 - 2016
Cross Media Consulting (Strategy Consulting/Media Industry) <b>Business Consultant</b>	<i>Hamburg, Germany</i> 2014 - 2015
Code One (IT Solutions/Video Communication Products and Services) <b>Management Board Assistant, Business Developer</b>	<i>Düsseldorf, Germany</i> 2013
Freelancer, Tonhalle & Opera Düsseldorf (Public Cultural Institutions) <b>Project Manager, Sound Engineer</b>	<i>Düsseldorf, Germany</i> 2009 - 2013

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## EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D. Economics</b> ( <i>Full-Time Scholarship Award from Irish Research Council</i> ) Dublin City University	<i>Dublin, Ireland</i> 2016 - 2019
<b>Research Fellow</b> Harvard University, Department of Government	<i>Cambridge, USA</i> 2017 - 2018
<b>Predoctoral Fellow / Researcher</b> American University of Beirut, Issam Fares Institute	<i>Beirut, Lebanon</i> 2016 - 2019

<b>M.Sc. in Int. Management</b> ( <i>First Class Honours' - Top 5% of Class</i> ) International Partnership of Business Schools (IPBS) NEOMA Business School (Reims) & Dublin City University	Dublin & Reims, France 2013 - 2014
<b>B.Eng. in Media Engineering</b> ( <i>Grade: 1,9 - Top 10% of Class</i> ) University of Applied Science Düsseldorf	Düsseldorf, Germany 2009 - 2013
<b>B.Mus. in Music and Media</b> ( <i>Grade: 1,6 - Top 5% of Class</i> ) Robert Schumann University of Music	Düsseldorf, Germany 2008 - 2012
<b>Research Project and Economic Studies</b> Northeastern University	Boston, USA 2011 - 2012
<b>Abitur</b> (High School Equivalent) ( <i>Grade: 1,9 - Top 10% of class</i> ) Friedrich-Harkort-Schule	Herdecke, Germany 2007

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## RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Resource Allocation in Power-Sharing Arrangements – Evidence from Lebanon" with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, [Third World Quarterly](#), 44(3), pp. 554-573, 2023
- "Breaking the Mold? Ministerial rotations, legislative production and political strategies in Lebanon", with Sami Zoughaib, [Governance](#), 35(4), pp. 1029-1048, 2022
- "Policymaking, Ideational Power, and the role of the Media", with Declan Curran and Rob Gillanders, [Political Studies Review](#), 20(2), pp.250-264, 2022
- "Policy divergence across crises of a similar nature: The role of ideas in shaping 19th century famine relief policies" with Declan Curran, [Review of International Political Economy](#), 28(3), pp. 712-738, 2021
- "Fractionalization and Reform: A Framework of Political Collaboration on Reform with Application to Lebanon" with Declan Curran, [Economics of Governance](#), 21(2), pp. 187-214, 2020
- "Assessing Policymaking in Data Poor Polities – Introduction of a new approach and data set for Lebanon", [International Development Planning Review](#), 42(4), pp. 407-430, 2020
- "Entrepreneurship and Governance in the Arab Region – A review of recent literature to prioritize policy challenges" with Denise Sumpf, [Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship](#), 25(1), 2020
- "Corruption and support for economic reform in sub-Saharan Africa" with Michael Breen and Robert Gillanders, [Economics Bulletin](#), 39(4), p. A114, 2019
- "Do Crises Induce Reform? A Critical Survey of Conception, Methodology and Empirical Evidence of the 'Crisis Hypothesis' ", with Declan Curran, [Journal of Economic Surveys](#), 32(3), pp. 613-648, 2018
- "Interrogating the 'Crisis-Reform' Hypothesis: A case-study of poor law reform in post-famine Ireland" with Declan Curran, [Journal of European Economic History](#), 45(3), pp. 55-82, 2016
- "Balanced Scorecard - About Communication in Cultural Institutions" [German title: "Balanced Scorecard – Über Kommunikation öffentlich getragener Kulturbetriebe"] [KM Magazine](#), 05/2013
- "The Efficiency Rumor - Do US-American Opera Houses work more Efficiently than German Ones?" [Arts Management Newsletter](#), 04/2013

### Working Papers

- "Cartels in public infrastructure procurement – Evidence from Lebanon" with Wassim Maktabi, [The World Bank Working Paper Series](#), *The Policy Initiative*, accepted at ERF annual conference 2023
- "Measuring trust in governments using Twitter data –An application to the MENA region", *The World Bank*, with Roy van der Weide
- "Crises and Informal Institutional Change" with Declan Curran
- "Crises, Uncertainty, and Reform – Disentangling the Mechanisms of a Conventional Wisdom in Fractionalized Polities", presented at the *Economic Research Forum* and the *Comparative Agendas Project* annual conferences 2020, as well as at University of Barcelona, Dept. of Politics 2021

- “Post-Conflict Power Sharing Arrangements and the Evolution of Social Orders – The Limits of Limited Access Order in Lebanon” with Youssef Chaitani, presented at *American Political Science Association* annual conference 2020

### Books & Chapter Contributions

- “Infrastructure procurement and elite-level collusion in Lebanon”, with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, in ‘Procurement in Focus – Rules, Discretion and Emergencies’, eds. Oriana Bandiera, Erica Bosio and Giancarlo Spagnolo, [Centre for Economic Policy Research \(CEPR Press\)](#), 2021
- “Videoconferencing Systems in Business Application” [German Title: “Videokonferenzsysteme im Unternehmenseinsatz“] [Shaker Publishing](#), 07/2013
- “Aspects of Safeguarding the Future of Public Cultural Institutions” [German Title: “Aspekte zur Zukunftssicherung öffentlich getragener Kulturbetriebe“] [AV Publishing](#), 08/2012

### Policy Briefs & Other Research

- “How the many become a few - The great reduction of Lebanon’s foreign donors”, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 04/2023
- “From Hariri’s Loans to Aoun’s Drought – The History of Lebanon’s Foreign Aid”, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2023
- “How do cartels work? Dealmaking at Lebanon’s Council for Development and Reconstruction”, [The Policy Initiative](#), *L’Orient le Jour*, with Wassim Maktabi, 09/2022
- “How Transparent Are Lebanon’s Municipalities? Introducing the Institutional Transparency Index“, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2022
- “What Determines the Transparency of Municipalities? The Effects of Networks and Neighbors“, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Sami Zoughaib, Wassim Maktabi and Sami Atallah, 03/2022
- “Networks and the Transparency of Local Governments – The Effects of Municipal Unions“, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Zoughaib and Sami Atallah, 03/2022
- “The Effect of Political Affiliations on Municipal Transparency“, [The Policy Initiative](#), with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2022
- “Lebanon’s Independent Electricity Regulator: Avoiding the ‘Political Economy Trap’”, with Ali Ahmad and Jamal Saghir, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 07/2021
- “The Value of a ‘Seat at the Table’: How Elites Interfere in Lebanon’s Public Infrastructure Procurement”, with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, [International Growth Centre](#), *L’Orient le Jour* [in French], and [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 03/2021
- “Breaking the Mold? Why Ministerial Rotations Cannot Make Up for an Independent Government” with Sami Zoughaib, [Economic Research Forum](#), [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), *L’Orient le Jour* [in French], and *An Nahar* [in Arabic], 01/2021
- “Restructuring Subnational Governance in Lebanon – Towards Efficient Public Spending and Reduced Regional Inequalities”, [Democracy Reporting International](#) & [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah, Ziyad Baroud, Mohamad Hussein Mansour, Rose Vennin, 11/2020
- “Lebanon Needs an Independent Cabinet with Legislative Authority” with Ziad Abu-Rish, Sami Atallah, and Wassim Maktabi, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#) and *Jadaliyya*, 08/2020
- “Lebanon Must Learn From the Syrian Disaster”, with Tilman Brück, [Economic Research Forum](#), 06/2020
- “Balancing Access to the State – How Lebanon’s System of Sectarian Governance Became Too Costly to Sustain”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 06/2020
- “A Recession Without Impact: Why Lebanese elites delay reform” with Sami Atallah, [Economic Research Forum](#), 10/2019 – also translated into French and published by *L’Orient le Jour* and by the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#)
- “CEDRE Capital Investment Plan: Scrutinizing the Allocation of Projects and Funds Across Regions”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Georgia Dagher and Sami Atallah, 09/2019
- “The CEDRE Reform Program Needs a Credible Action Plan”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Georgia Dagher
- “Why Does Lebanon Need CEDRE? How Fiscal Mismanagement and Low Taxation on Wealth Necessitate International Assistance” [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah, 10/2018
- “CEDRE Reform Program: Learning from Paris III”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zgheib, 11/2018

- “Growth Without Development: The Role of Lebanon’s Political Agenda” [Baker Institute for Public Policy](#), Rice University, 10/2018
- “CEDRE Conference: The Need for a Strong Reporting Mechanism” [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zgheib, 10/2018

### Op Ed’s

- “In Iraq, mitigating fragility means addressing climate change,” [World Bank Blogs](#), with Ali Ahmad, 04/2023
- “The grand waiting game: why Lebanon’s elites postpone compromise,” [Economic Research Forum](#) and [L’Orient le Jour](#) (in French), 02/2023
- “When elections don’t matter? How new parliamentarians can improve the politics of power-sharing arrangements”, with Sami Atallah, Wassim Maktabi, Sami Zoughaib, [Middle East Institute](#), and [The Policy Initiative](#), 07/2022
- “Power sector reforms are new Lebanese governments’ ultimate test” with Ali Ahmad, Paul Nomba Um, and Jamal Saghir, [Middle East Institute](#), 09/2021
- “Hiding Behind Disaster: How International Aid Risks Helping Elites, Not Citizens” with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), and [L’Orient le Jour](#) (in French), 09/2020
- “Beirut Blast: The Need to Rebuild the State”, with the LCPS research team, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#) and [Alternatives Economiques](#) (in French translation), 08/202
- “Deposits Made “Sacred”: The Dangerous Red Line of Lebanon’s Elites”, [Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy](#), the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), and [Le Commerce du Levant/L’Orient le Jour](#) (in French) 26/04/2020
- “Why a Traditional IMF Bailout Would Exacerbate Lebanon’s Woes”, [Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy](#), [Le Commerce du Levant](#) (in French), and the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 01/2020
- “Tax Exemptions Would Undermine Faith in The New Government’s Pledge to Reform”, [Al Akhbar](#), with Sami Atallah, April 15th/2019
- “How Germany’s Conservatives Threaten Europe’s Future”, [Harvard Kennedy School Review](#), 05/2018

### Reports & Technical Papers

- “Syria Earthquake 2023: Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment”, [The World Bank](#), 2023
- “Syria Economic Monitor: Syria’s Economy in Ruins After a Decade-long War”, with [The World Bank](#), 2023
- “Syria Joint Damage Assessment Report”, with [The World Bank](#) and [United Nations](#), 2023
- “Performance and Learning Review for Lebanon”, with Mouna Couzi et al., [The World Bank](#), 2022
- “Lebanon Risk and Resilience Assessment”, with Stephan Massing, [The World Bank](#), 2022
- “Political Economy Analysis Framework for Lebanon”, with Neil McCulloch and William Kingsmill, [Lebanon Economic Reform and Infrastructure Investment \(LERII\) Technical Assistance Facility \(TAF\)](#), DAI & DFID
- “Arab Governance Report IV” with Youness Abouyoub et al., [United Nations ESCWA](#), 2022
- “Trends and Impacts in Conflict Settings, No. VI - Developing a Risk Assessment Framework for the Arab Region”, with George Willcoxon et al., [United Nations ESCWA](#), 2019
- “Economic Governance for Entrepreneurs in the Arab Region: Prioritizing Policy Challenges”, [United Nations ESCWA](#), with Denise Sumpf, 10/2018

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### CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS/PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- Economic Research Forum 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference, Cairo, May 2023
- World Bank, Mashreq department, Beirut, June 2022
- American Economic Association annual conference, Boston, January 2022
- Economic Research Forum 28<sup>th</sup> annual conference, Cairo, March 2022
- RISE annual conference, Saint Joseph University, November 2021
- University of Barcelona, Political Science Department, workshop presentation, November 2021
- Annual Comparative Agendas Project conference, Aarhus, September 2021
- International Public Policy Association conference, Barcelona, July 2021
- Western Economic Association International conference/MEEA, Honolulu, June 2021
- American Political Science Association (APSA) conference, San Francisco, September 2020
- Annual Comparative Agendas Project conference, July 2020
- Economic Research Forum 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Luxor, March 2020

- “The Transformation of the State System in the Greater Middle East”, PRIO, Oslo, November 2019
  - 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Middle East Economic Association, Beirut, October 2019
  - Economic Research Forum 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Kuwait City, March 2019
  - “Research Initiative on the Economics of the Middle East,” Université Sorbonne Paris I, 2018
  - Economic Research Forum 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Cairo, July 2018
  - “Building Pluralistic and Inclusive States Post Arab Spring,” Rice University/AUB, 2018
  - Sixth EconWorld International Conference in Paris, 2017
  - Summerschool in Applied Econometrics, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, 2017
  - Summerschool in Macroeconomics, Paris School of Economics, 2016
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### SCHOLARSHIPS & ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum, 2023; winning the best-paper award 2023
  - Managing editor of the Political Economy & Security section of Harvard Kennedy School's *Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*, 2019-2020
  - American University of Beirut / Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, 2018/19
  - Harvard University / Department of Government, 2017/18
  - American University of Beirut / Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, 2016/17
  - *Irish Research Council* / Full-time scholarship for doctoral studies, 2018/19
  - Dublin City University Business School / Department of Economics, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Full-time Scholarship for doctoral studies, 2015-19
  - German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Northeastern University / Scholarship to work on an international research project about operational efficiency of performing arts institutions, 2011
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### OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

**Languages:** German, English, French, Spanish, Arabic

**Computer Skills (i.a.):** Stata, NVivo, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Suite, various software for media production and editing

**Interests:** Cello, Snowboarding, Kite surfing, Chess, Diving, Surfing, Volleyball, Athletics (Triathlon), Traveling