

Dr. Mazen Diwani (Ph.D., FHEA)

Lecturer in Economics

Faculty of Business and Law

De Montfort University, United Kingdom (Kazakhstan Campus)

Program Leader: Economics & International Relations **BA (Hons)**

Program Leader: International Finance & Investment **MSc**

Module Leader (UG): Introduction to Macroeconomics, Introduction to Microeconomics, Mathematics for Economics, IT and Business, Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics

Module Leader (PG): International Financial Markets & Institutions

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Profile

Dr. Mazen Diwani has Twelve years of diversified work experience both in Academia and Industry in the EU and the Middle East. He is a Ph.D.in Economics (Majors: Models for Economics and Finance) from

Faculty of Economics (AACSB and AMBA Accredited), Sapienza University of Rome, Italy (Ranked 171st in the world as per Q.S. World University ranking,

2023. <https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/sapienza-university-rome> .Currently, Dr. Diwani is working as a

Lecturer in Economics with De Montfort University, U.K. (Kazakhstan). He has also worked as *Assistant Professor in*

Economics with School of Advanced Studies (SAS), University of Tyumen, Russian Federation. Dr. Diwani worked as an

Operations Consultant for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the United Nations, in Rome, Italy. He has a keen

interest in research. His areas of interest include (i) Economic Modelling based on Computable General Equilibrium

(CGE) where he is an expert in the use of GTAP through GEMPACK & GAMS, (ii) Policy and Program Evaluation, (iii)

His research interests intersect with furthering our understanding of the applied micro-econometric methodologies in labor

market research, measuring individual and social well-being, and analysis of the effects of socio-economic and

demographic factors on an individual's life course. Also, he has taken a lead position in Development Economics, dealing

with the challenges that economies are currently facing, including gender; race; income inequalities; trade, foreign

investment, and Industrial Policy for Developing Countries; monetary and exchange rate policies; international Migration

from the Developing World; and Labor Regulations. Dr. Diwani has also presented his research work at different

international conferences in Europe and Asia. Dr. Diwani has published his research work in ABS-listed research journals

such as Pacific Economic Review, and Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance. Through his career in Academia, he

has been involved in administrative affairs of the departments, i.e., P.G. program lead, proctorial board member,

departmental examination committee member, departmental admission committee member, and many others, including

curriculum development, course handbook preparation in coordination with the Program & Module Leaders of De

Montfort University in the UK.

Academic Qualifications

2016-2021/08 **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Models for Economics and Finance**, La Sapienza University of Rome, Faculty of Economics, Rome, Italy.

2008-2011 **Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Finance**, Lund University, School of Economics and Management, Lund, Sweden.

2004-2008 **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Economics**, Damascus University, Faculty of Economics, Damascus, Syria.

Academic Work Experience

1. 06/2022—Present: Lecturer in Economics, Faculty of Business and Law, De Montfort University Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan:

- ✓ Undertake teaching and assessment on a range of undergraduate and postgraduate modules in Economics such as Intro to Macroeconomics & Microeconomics (UG), Essentials of Economics (UG), Math for Economics and Business (UG), and Int. Financial Markets (PG).
- ✓ Contribute to the delivery of the above modules for full time and part time students. Ensure the curriculum is current, fit for purpose and meets the needs of stakeholders, including students, industry and the professional associations and lead bodies with whom we work or aspire to work.
- ✓ To lead the above modules, plan, and deliver excellent teaching that stimulates the interest of students in the subject area, and is relevant to practice.
- ✓ To develop existing modules and programmes such as Business Economics (BA hons), identifying and proposing areas for improvement, to ensure that modules continue to be student focused, innovative, of high quality and embed the most up-to-date, relevant research and scholarship.
- ✓ Develop and implement suitable assessment strategies for both theory and practice components. To establish and carry out a portfolio of research activities that offer realistic prospect of publication (as evidenced in either track record or pipeline of papers)

2. 12/2021—06/2022: Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Advanced Studies (SAS), Tyumen State University, Russian Federation

My allocation of effort at the appointment was 30% research work, 60% teaching, and 10% service/administration. I had to work with one or more of the research groups at the faculty aiming to at least one publication, per year, in an international peer-reviewed journal (indexed in Web of science or Scopus a4/a2). Teaching consisted of mixture of core, elective, and/or major courses - in both sole-taught and co-taught formats (Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Mathematics for Economists, Econometrics, Finance, Research Methods, Statistics, etc.).

3. 10/2016—07/2021: Ph.D. Fellow Researcher in Economics, Faculty of Economics, Sapienza University of Rome

I worked as a Fellow researcher with Prof. D'Ecclesia & Prof. Brunero Liseo (Sapienza, Italy) and my tasks involved:

- ✓ Extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research appropriate to the discipline of Economics, Econometrics and Finance. Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research.
- ✓ Develop new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding. Decide on research methodologies, often in collaboration with his supervisor and sometimes subject to approval of the Head of the Ph.D. Program on fundamental issues. Contribute to knowledge generation, knowledge exchange and knowledge transfer activities.
- ✓ Collaborate actively within the University and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Participate in and develop external networks to identify sources of funding for his mission to Syria, obtain consultancy projects or build relationships for future activities.
- ✓ A Two-Year academic mission to Syria to work on research papers on the compositional dynamics of the Syrian banking sector's performance.

4. 04/2013—10/2016: Lecturer in Economics and Quantitative Methods in Finance, Syrian National Center for Econometric Studies (SNCES), Damascus, Syria

- ✓ Deliver lectures in courses for “Microeconomics”, “Macroeconomics” “Mathematics for Economists”, “Research Methods”, “Statistical Inference” and “Quantitative Techniques”, in addition to seminars and tutorials to Bachelor and Master Students, and to staff of some of the financial entities (banks, insurance companies, unions, etc.)
- ✓ Design, prepare and develop courses, modules and teaching materials. Develop and implement new methods of teaching to reflect changes in research.
- ✓ Assess students' coursework. Set, mark and moderate examinations and assessments. Supervise students' research activities, including final year undergraduate projects and master's as well. Support students through a pastoral or advisory role. Carry out administrative tasks related to the Center, such as student admissions, induction programs and involvement in committees and boards. Establish collaborative links with other institutions, as well as with industrial, commercial and public Organizations. Participate in staff training activities.

Industry Work Experience

1. 06/2018—12/2018: Operations Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO UN), Rome, Italy:

Being part of the NENA Desk (Near East and North of Africa), I was responsible to provide support to the implementation of FAO's resilience agenda at global, regional, sub regional and/or country level, this includes but is not limited to the surge support provided in Level 3 emergencies and the implementation of Level 3 Operational Guidelines (focusing on Yemen, Syria and Iraq). I was responsible for researching and analyzing technical, food and nutrition security assessments, emergency response, policy related and/or funding/project related data and information to support the delivery of programme projects, products and services; producing various reports, proposals, programme/project documents, position papers, policy briefs, financial/donor reports as well as critical information for inclusion in governing body reports etc. Also to participation on project teams, collaboration in project and programme formulation and providing technical and/or administrative support to ongoing operational emergency and recovery projects.

2. 08/2013—10/2016: Corporate Relationship Officer, Credit Department, Audi Bank Syria s.a, Damascus, Syria

- ✓ Assist in the Preparation of the Action Plan, Review / Prepare Credit Files and Analyze Financial Situations, and Build, Sustain, and Improve the Relationship with Debtor Clients
- ✓ Follow-Up On Debtor Client Accounts and Develop the Business. Review / Prepare Statistics Related to Debtor Customers
- ✓ Detecting and reporting suspicious money, laundering activities, assisting in the training of the Bank's trainees, and handling special missions assigned by the Head of Corporate Banking.

3. 10/2010- 07/2013: Assistant Relationship Manager, Credit Department, Byblos Bank Syria s.a, Damascus, Syria

- ✓ Maintaining and developing existing relationships assigned according to the above criteria, while marketing and cross selling the Bank's products. Assist in creating and updating a sectorial database and keeping abreast of market dynamics.
- ✓ Maintain regular contacts with clients, including an annual site visit as per the Bank's policy to develop the business and at the same time to monitor the risk.
- ✓ Ensure appropriate credit process discipline: timely review/renewal of credit lines, proper renewal of legal documentation, proper approval of availments and excesses, etc. Review and monitor the activity of the portfolio.
- ✓ Ensure strict compliance with local policies and procedures. Identify and closely monitor classified accounts, propose remedial action plans to the Credit Committee and ensure proper implementation.

Additionally, I Performed the following Administrative Duties

- ✓ **Program Leader:** "Economics and International Relations" B.A. (Hons) and "International Finance and Investment" M.Sc. (2022) at De Montfort University.
- ✓ **Module Leader:** "Introduction to Macroeconomics", "Introduction to Microeconomics", "Mathematics for Economics, IT and Business", "Intermediate Microeconomics", "Intermediate Macroeconomics" at De Montfort University (2022).
- ✓ Member "**Module Contextualizing Committee**" different modules and schemes of studies for undergraduate and P.G. (MBA and M.S.) levels. (2022), De Montfort University.
- ✓ Development of course handbooks in collaboration with De Montfort University, U.K., and Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Member of Accreditation Committee at De Montfort University.
- ✓ Member course evaluation committee. Accomplishments. Innovative teaching methods implemented (blend of case studies, research articles and/or group discussions, lectures (ppt, audio and/or video), and activities in the lab if required at De Montfort University.
- ✓ Course coordinator in Economics: Preparation of courses, and outlines and ensuring effective implementation of course goals and outlines during the academic period.
- ✓ Developed the Executive MBA with a passionate team. (2022-2023).
- ✓ Convener "Departmental Exams Committee" (2022-2023).
- ✓ Convener "Departmental Admissions Committee" (2022-2023).
- ✓ Invited guest speakers and organized several seminars on different Economics topics from the industry for students.
- ✓ Organized and supervised several industrial trips for students.

Journal Publications

- ✓ Diwani, M., D'Ecclesia, R. (2022). International evidence on Bank Profitability: A survey. Journal of Rivista Bancaria. Minerva bancaria (1 - 2). <https://rivistabancaria.it/rbmb/rivista-bancaria-minerva-bancaria-n-1-2-2022/>.
- ✓ Diwani, M. (2022). How competitive is the Syrian banking sector? An empirical evidence from “pre/post” war Syria”. Journal of Economic Pacific Review 27(2). **ABS2**. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-0106.12386>

Book Chapters

Diwani, M. (2023). Determinants of Banks' Profitability in a War-torn Banking Sector: Evidence from Syria. Handbook of Banking and Finance in the MENA. New Jersey, USA: World Scientific Publishing Group (**forthcoming**)

Manuscripts in Revision

- ✓ Diwani, M.: To what extent can profit and cost efficiencies help banks to survive during the crisis? An empirical evidence from pre and post-war Syria. Journal of Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance. **ABS2**
- ✓ BN Adeleye, Diwani, M: Empirical analysis of inflation rate, tourism and economic growth in Asia. Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Technology.

Working Papers

- ✓ An Estimation of the Economic Costs of the sanctions in Russia using the synthetic control method. Collaboration with Prof. Mouyad Alsamara, College of Business and Economics, Qatar University, Qatar and Professor Giovanni Cerulli, Professor and senior researcher at the IRCrES-CNR, Research Institute on Sustainable Economic Growth, National Research Council of Italy, Unit of Rome.
- ✓ Through thick or thin: to what extent can FTA's with China and India benefit Kazakhstan? A CGE-based evidence. Collaboration with Prof. Sherif Hassan, Researcher and Founder at M&S Research Hub, Assistant Professor in Economics.

Papers in Progress (2023-2024)

- ✓ Can Reciprocal Tariff Elimination Reduce the Welfare Losses Due to Lagging Labor Productivity? An Analysis of Reciprocal Preferential Trade Access between the UK and CCTPP Countries using CGE.
- ✓ Economic Effects of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the EU
- ✓ Tracking the Global Economic Recovery from COVID-19 Vaccinations: a CGE approach

Conference papers

- ✓ The 2022 Vietnam Symposium in Banking and Finance (VSBF2022), 27-29 October 2022, Hanoi, Vietnam (Paper presenter, discussant, chair)
- ✓ The 43rd EBES Conference, 12-14 April 2023, Madrid, Spain (Paper presenter, discussant, chair)
- ✓ Trajectories of Kazakhstan's development in the context of global challenges, April 20-21, 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan (Paper presenter, discussant)
- ✓ IWcee23 – 11th International Workshop on Computational Economics and Econometrics, July 6-7, 2023, Rome, Italy (Paper presenter, discussant)

Awards

Ph.D. Fellowship of Excellence for Foreign Nationals Educated Abroad Academic Year 2016-2017 at La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

Professional Membership

- ✓ Fellow at Advance Higher Education, UK
- ✓ Fellow at Economic Research Forum, the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey. (In progress, Expected in July 2023)
- ✓ American Economic Association (AEA).
- ✓ World Economics Association (WEA).
- ✓ Fellow at Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), Covenant University, Canaanland, Ota, Nigeria.

Academic and Professional Trainings

- 12/2022- 10/2023** **MS Research Hub, Kassel-Germany:** This 3-months advanced training will include both: Dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) using GTAP/GEMPACK
- 06/2021- 07/2021** **The Italian Centre for International Development (ICID), Rome, Italy:** 3rd Edition of International School for Advanced Training in an online course titled “Evaluation of Development Policies: Concepts, Methods, Applications”
- 03/2016- 03/2016** **Audi Bank S.A.R, Beirut, Lebanon:** A course developed by the World Bank for “Risk Management” on lending for SMEs
- 03/2011- 04/2011** **Byblos Bank, Beirut, Lebanon:** A course given by the Headquarters for “Relationship Management” developed and designed for relationship managers and corporate officers for the process of lending to corporates in the private sector and the risks associated with the process in terms of market, operational, and credit as well.

References

- ✓ *Prof. Andreas Kakouris*, Professor in Operations, Academic Director, De Montfort University Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan, Email: a.kakouris@dmuk.edu.kz
- ✓ *Dr. Ibrahem Alshref Alshbili*, Lecturer in Financial Management, at De Montfort University Kazakhstan, Email: i.alshbili@dmuk.edu.kz
- ✓ *Prof. Michele Battisti*, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Economics, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow, The UK, Email: Michele.Battisti@glasgow.ac.uk
- ✓ *Prof. Rita D'Ecclesia*, Professor in Quantitative Methods in Economics and Finance, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, Email: rita.decclesia@uniroma1.it;
- ✓ *Prof. Brunero Liseo*, Professor of Statistics and Probability, Head of the Ph.D. program: Models for Economics and Finance, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, Email: brunero.liseo@uniroma1.it,
- ✓ *Dr. Hadi Alhaj*, Assistant General Manager (Head of Corporate Investment Banking), Arab Bank Syria, Syria, Email: hadi.alhaj@arabank-syria.sy