



3rd

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RESEARCH NETWORK OF CENTRAL BANKS OF MENA

LABOR MARKETS AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Rabat, September 14 and 15, 2023

BIOS OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



After completing graduate studies in law and finance, **Mr. Abdellatif Jouahri** joined Bank Al-Maghrib, where he held, between 1962 and 1978, several high-ranking positions as Director of the Inspection, Human Resources, Banking Control and Credit departments.

In 1978, he entered the government as Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Public Enterprises Reform, before serving as Minister of Finance from 1981 to 1986.

Between 1986 and 1995, Mr. Jouahri was Chairman and CEO of Banque Marocaine du Commerce Extérieur and also Chairman of the Moroccan Bankers' Association (GPBM). From 1995 to 2002, he engaged in consulting activities, particularly for international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. He then served as Chairman and CEO of the Caisse Interprofessionnelle Marocaine de Retraite (Moroccan Interprofessional Pension Fund) in 2002-2003, a period during which he launched the Fund's reform.

In April 2003, Mr. Jouahri was appointed by His Majesty the King as Governor of Bank Al-Maghrib.

Alongside his functions at the Central bank, Mr. Jouahri chairs the following bodies: the Supervisory Board of the Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion (Deposit and Management Fund), the Casablanca Finance City Authority, the Board of Trustees of Al-Akawayn University, the Moroccan Financial Education Foundation, the Moroccan Observatory of Very Small, Small and Medium Enterprises (OMTPME) and the Moroccan Centre for Banking Mediation (CMMB).

He is also member of the Steering Committee of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (since November 2007), of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (since February 2011) and the Higher Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research (since July 2014).

Mr. Jouahri was appointed member of the Regionalization Advisory Commission in January 2010 and member of the High Commission for National Dialogue on Judicial Reform in May 2012.

In June 2018, Mr. Jouahri was appointed by His Majesty the King member of the board of Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, and in May 2019, President of the Evaluation Body of the instance in charge of privatization.

Mr. Abdellatif Jouahri was born in Fez on June 10, 1939.

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



Ferid Belhaj has been the World Bank's Regional Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa since July 2018. He previously served as Chief of Staff to the President of the World Bank Group, and before that as Country Director for Mashreq countries (2012-2017, based in Beirut), Country Director for the Pacific (2009-2012, Sydney), Special Representative to the United Nations (2007-2010, New York), and Country Manager for Morocco (2002-2007, Rabat).

A Tunisian national, Mr. Belhaj joined the Bank in 1996 as Senior Counsel in the Legal Department. He is a lawyer by training with degrees in international law and politics.



Dr Younes Sekkouri is Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills of Morocco. He was appointed on October 7, 2021 by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

He holds a PhD in strategic management and has conducted academic research on strategic decision models and policy design, adaptive leadership, corporate strategy and innovation.

Before he received his e-MBA from Fox School of Business - Temple University and Ecole Nationale des Ponts et chaussées- Paris.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Sekkouri was Dean of the Africa Region of the Ecole des Ponts Business School. He is also an expert to the UN Economic Commission for Africa in the areas of economic and industrial policies and structural change, and a member of the Strategic Committee to the UN General Secretary for the Arab Human Development Report (2014-2016) focused on Arab youth.

Younes has gained experience as an entrepreneur and consultant in strategy and design thinking, and executive education.

Younes served in advising senior executives both in the public and corporate organizations.

Former member of the parliament, Dr Sekkouri developed a specific expertise of Finance and Economic development.

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



Roberta Gatti is currently the Chief Economist of the Middle East and North Africa region of the World Bank. In her previous capacity of Chief Economist for Human Development, Roberta co-led the conceptualization and release of the Human Capital Index and oversaw the Service Delivery Indicators data initiative. Roberta is the author of numerous flagship reports and her research, spanning topics in health, labor markets, and growth, is published in top field journals. Roberta holds a B.A. from Università Bocconi and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. She has taught at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities.



Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a co-founder and co-director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). In her research, she seeks to understand the economic lives of the poor, with the aim to help design and evaluate social policies. She has worked on health, education, financial inclusion, environment and governance.

Professor Esther Duflo's first degrees were in history and economics from Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris. She subsequently received a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 1999.

Duflo has received numerous academic honors and prizes including 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (with co-Laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Michael Kremer), the Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences (2015), the A.SK Social Science Award (2015), Infosys Prize (2014), the David N. Kershaw Award (2011), a John Bates Clark Medal (2010), and a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship (2009). With Abhijit Banerjee, she wrote *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*, which won the Financial Times and Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year Award in 2011 and has been translated into more than 17 languages, and *Good Economics for Hard Times*.

Duflo is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



Chang-Tai Hsieh conducts research on growth and development. His published papers include “The Life-Cycle of Plants in India and Mexico,” in the Quarterly Journal of Economics; «Misallocation and Manufacturing TFP in China and India,» in the Quarterly Journal of Economics; «Relative Prices and Relative Prosperity,» in the American Economic Review; «Can Free Entry be Inefficient? Fixed Commissions and Social Waste in the Real Estate Industry,» in the Journal of Political Economy; «What Explains the Industrial Revolution in East Asia? Evidence from the Factor Markets,» in the American Economic Review; “The Allocation of Talent and US Economic Growth,” in Econometrica; “How Destructive is Innovation?” in Econometrica; and “Special Deals with Chinese Characteristics,” in the NBER Macroeconomics Annual.

Hsieh has been a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Banks of San Francisco, New York, and Minneapolis, as well as the World Bank’s Development Economics Group and the Economic Planning Agency in Japan. He is a Research Associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research, a Senior Fellow at the Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development, and a member of the Steering Group of the International Growth Center in London.

He is the recipient of an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowship, an Elected Member of Academia Sinica, and a two-time recipient of the Sun Ye-Fang Prize.

BIOS OF SPEAKERS



Seema Jayachandran is a Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. Her research focuses on environmental conservation, gender equality, health, and other microeconomic topics in developing countries.

She serves on the board of directors of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and leads J-PAL's gender sector. She is also co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research's program in Development Economics and co-editor of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics. In addition, she serves on CARE's board of directors.

Prior to joining Princeton, she was a faculty member at Northwestern University and Stanford University. She earned a PhD in economics from Harvard University, a master's degree in physics and philosophy from the University of Oxford where she was a Marshall Scholar, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from MIT.



Rachel Ngai is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. As of September 2023, she will be a Professor of Economics at Imperial College Business School. She is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research and Institute of Labor Economics, and a member of Centre for Macroeconomics. She is also a Theme Leader for Structural Transformation and Economic Growth.

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Dr. Shireen Fahmy is currently the Chief Economist of the Central Bank of Egypt for the Modeling and Strategic Analysis Department. She also has worked as a consultant for several international and regional institutions like the UNECA, AERC, AFDB, African Union, and COMESA. Her research and published papers have focused on the policy spectrum between monetary tactics and pure inflation targeting, external shocks, exchange rate swings, and the balance of payments sustainability. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Public Policy and Economics from Williams College (USA).

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Mr. Nacef Abdennadher obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of Cergy – Pontoise, France in 2008. In 2004, he joined the General Department of Studies and Research of the Central Bank of Tunisia in 2004. After serving as Deputy Director and overseeing the Economic and Financial Studies, he is now in charge of the Research Unit. He represents the Central Bank of Tunisia in various regional (Middle East Technical Assistance Center in Beirut, OECD), national (domestic trade, competitiveness and prices, etc.), and international commissions.

He received trainings from several international institutions in the fields of monetary economics, banking and tax policy (IMF, Swiss National Bank, Banque de France, African Development Bank). Since 2002, he provided teaching in master's programs at ESC Tunis and Polytechnics School and trainings with various international organizations in the areas of Monetary economics Tax Policy, Operational Risk Management, Finance Laws, Banking Governance. He published articles in the field of Governance and Economic Policies.



Mohammed Al Jahwari is the General Manager of the Financial Stability & Research Directorate at the Central Bank of Oman (CBO). He holds a PhD in Economics & Political Science from Claremont Graduate University in California, USA (2012). Throughout his career at the Central Bank of Oman, Al Jahwari has served as an economic analyst and economist at the Economic Research Department and later as the Manager of the Financial Stability department. His areas of research and publications include the Omani macroeconomy, monetary policy & the banking sector, financial sector & financial sustainability, economic diversification and innovation, labor markets and others.

Mohammed fulfilled various roles to engage in and support policy making throughout his career including being a member of the national Joint Committee for Financial Stability, chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Local Currency Bonds Market Development and the CBO representative in the Financial Stability Task Force for the Arab Countries, member of the Monetary Policy and Banking Development Committee at CBO, and member of the Advisory Committee for the Industrial Strategy, Part-time Lecturer in the Sultan Qaboos University, and as a member of the Economic Diversification Team in the National Innovation Strategy.

BIOS OF MODERATORS



Leila Rhiwi is the Representative of the Office-Morocco of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Between 2010 and 2020, she led the Multi-Country Office of UN Women for the Maghreb. She joined UNIFEM (formerly the United Nations Fund for Women) in 2005, and ensured the development, supervision, and monitoring of programs in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania. Before joining the United Nations system, Ms. Rhiwi was in charge of coordination with the presidency of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission. Previously, she taught communication at the Mohammadia School of Engineers. Throughout her activist and professional career, Ms. Rhiwi has played a significant role in promoting the human rights of women, the fight against gender-based violence, women's leadership, and their role in building peace.



Dr. Salah S. AlSayaary has been the Director of the Economic Research and Reports Department at the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) since November 2023. Prior to that, he served SAMA as Manager of the Economic Studies Division (February 2021- October 2022), Manager of the Economic Studies and Modeling Division (December 2019-November 2021 and from August 2016- January 2018), Economic Specialist (May 2014-2018) and Economic Researcher (July 2002-May 2014). He is SAMA Representative at the Framework Working Group of the G20 (March 2015- January 2018 and February 2021-present). He acted as Supervisor at the Financial Committee Secretariat (FCS) at the Royal Court from January 2018 to November 2019.

Dr. AlSayaary holds a PhD in economics and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Kansas, Lawrence as well as a Master of Sciences in Economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He has completed a Bachelor of Accounting from King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Dr. AlSayaary has several publications in topics related to monetary and financial economics and international macroeconomics.

BIOS OF MODERATORS



Chucri Mouannes has been with the Central Bank of Lebanon for 28 years. He is currently an executive director and head of the Statistics and Economic Research department and has been holding this position for the last 8 years. He sets the department's performance objectives and monitors its process, leads the development of reports and papers pertaining to the analysis of macroeconomic and financial issues for policymaking, and ensures the accuracy of the production and dissemination of developed Statistics. He is a member of the Financial Stability and Open Market committees, amongst others. Before holding his current position, he was the Acting Director of the Training and Capacity Development department for 2 years.

Mr. Mouannes represents the Central Bank at the Arab Monetary Fund's Statistics Initiative (Arabstat) and represents the bank in the National Council for Policy Prices at the Ministry of Economy and Trade. He is also a Steering Committee member of the World Bank MENA Regional Research Network and sits at the negotiations table with the IMF on the potential program for Lebanon.

Mr. Mouannes was a university lecturer on Business Models and Financial Econometrics for more than 10 years and is still supervising theses in several universities. He holds two master's degrees in Pure and Applied Mathematics from the Lebanese University with a concentration in Econometrics.



Halim Jadi is Director of Macprudential Surveillance at Bank Al-Maghrib. He has overseen systemic risk evaluation since 2016 in coordination with the other financial supervisory authorities and the ministry of economy and finance, and leads the work of setting up macroprudential policy. Previously, from 2011 to 2015, he was Deputy Director of Internal Audit and Risk s Department at Bank Al-Maghrib. Before joining the Central Bank of Morocco in 2005, Halim served for eight years as international consultant at PwC, particularly in the area of financial services. During this experience, he supervised several audit and advisory missions in Morocco and Sub-Saharan African countries.

BIOS OF PRESENTERS



Jala Youssef is a PhD Candidate in Economics and a Teaching and Research Fellow (ATER) at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (PhD in Double Degree with Cairo University). She is also a Short-Term Consultant at the World Bank (The Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment (MTI) Global Practice). She was an Assistant Lecturer on part time basis at the French Section of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. She previously worked as a researcher at the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and at the Egyptian Government (the Ministry of International Cooperation and the Egyptian Competition Authority). She holds a B.A. in Economics from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and an M.A. in Applied Economics from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her research lies at the intersection of macroeconomics and development economics. She works on structural change, economics of growth, and the impact of structural versus macroeconomic stabilization policies on macroeconomic aggregates.



Ebad Ebadi is an Economist at the World Bank. He holds a Ph.D. and Master in Economics from George Washington University and the London School of Economics. He has extensive experience teaching economics courses at George Washington University and Tehran University, as well as working for international and private organizations and institutions. Ebad's research interests include gender inequality in the labor market, environmental impacts on poor and excluded populations, and the impacts of economic sanctions.

BIOS OF PRESENTERS



Charles Udomsaph is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He teaches the statistics and econometrics sequence for the Global Human Development Program, as well as a Stata practicum for undergraduates. Since 2003, Professor Udomsaph has worked as a consultant for the World Bank, most recently with the Africa and Latin America & Caribbean Regions. Completed projects range from the implementation of enterprise surveys in Southeast Asia to capacity building in Cameroon and Rwanda. His current research focuses on private sector development in Africa and the Middle East, specifically the quantitative assessment of firm-level technological capabilities and its impact on job creation and firm productivity in conflict-affected cities. He is a graduate of Georgetown University's BSFS/MSFS program and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.



Hoda Assem is an Economist (ETC) in the Office of the Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa region of the World Bank. She holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in Analysis and Policy in Economics (APE) from the Paris School of Economics, and a joint B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne and the Faculty of Economics and Political Science of Cairo University. Her main research interests include international trade and political economy.



Mohamed Amara received his master's degree in economic modeling from the Higher Institute of Management of Tunis in 2004, before undertaking a PhD in Geography at the university of Paris I and a PhD in management (quantitative Methods) at the university of Tunis in 2010. In 2016, Dr. Amara joined the Department of Economics of Higher School of Economic and Commercial Sciences of Tunis as an associate professor of quantitative methods. From January to March 2019, he was a Research Fellow in the department of Economics at the university of Oxford. Amara's research focuses on development economics, regional sciences, labor market, youth and gender in MENA region, and applied micro-econometrics. He has published in a range of journals on a variety of topics such as the Annals of Regional Science, Social Indicators Research, Annals of Economic and Statistics, Papers in regional science, Middle East Development Journal, and Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences.

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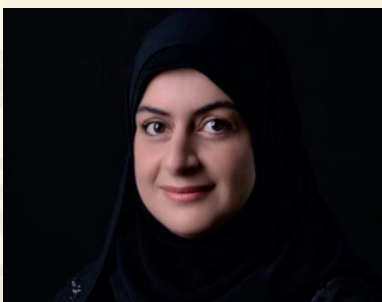
Fatima Mounir is a second-year Ph.D. student at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University's Industrial Economics and Emerging Africa Chair. Her research revolves around the gender inequalities dynamics within the Moroccan labor market. The first part of her research quantifies and analyzes the gender wage gaps prevalent in the country, using labor market surveys and advanced analytical techniques. In the second part of her research, she delves into the crucial area of women's insertion into the labor market and examine the potential impact of social protection programs on their participation. Ms. Mounir aspires to make significant contributions to the understanding and advancement of gender-related issues in emerging African economies.



Dr. Shireen AlAzzawi is a Lecturer in the Economics Department, Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University, USA and Labor Economist at UNDP, Regional Bureau for Arab States. Shireen is a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum, Egypt, and a board member of the Middle East Economic Association, USA.

Dr. Shireen's research focuses on poverty and inequality, labor economics and international trade, with special emphasis on the Middle East and North Africa. She has published her work in the Review of Income and Wealth, the International Journal of Manpower, Economic Development and Cultural Change, The Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, the Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, the Journal of Income Distribution, and the Middle East Development Journal among other scholarly journals.

Dr. Shireen received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Davis and has Masters degrees from Stanford University and the American University in Cairo.



Ibtisam Al Abri gained a bachelor's degree in economics from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, in 2010. She received her Master of Science and Ph.D. in food and resource economics from the University of Florida, USA. She worked as a research assistant for four years at the University of Florida. Currently, she is an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resource Economics at Sultan Qaboos University. She also works as an economic expert at Central Bank of Oman. Al Abri's research interests are mainly bioeconomic modeling in natural resource economics, macroeconomic modelling and forecasting, risk management, and sustainable development.

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Aymen Belgacem was an associate professor of economics, head of studies and research supervisor at the University of Orleans, before joining the International Monetary Fund as an Economist, working in the Middle East and North Africa Department and part of the team of economists working on Tunisia. He has accumulated in his background a considerable experience of economic analysis, policy discussions and research in financial economics and structural issues, culminating in publishing several papers and participating in policy dialogues.



Helmi Hamdi is currently working as Senior Economist at the Central Bank of Bahrain, and he is a senior research fellow at CERGAM EA 4225 Aix-Marseille University. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE International Programs), and a Country Risk Expert at EuroMoney Country Risk (London).

Helmi served as Director of Project for the OECD-MENA Centre for Investment and Consultant for the UNDP. He earned multiple professional certifications from international organizations such as the IMF, the UNCTAD, and Visa, and other certifications from prestigious universities such as The Harvard Business school, The Imperial college Business school, the University of Hong Kong, and the University of California in Berkeley.

Helmi's field of expertise are: The Economics of Banking and Finance, the Economics of Payment Systems, Monetary Theory and Policy, Macroeconometrics, Energy Policy and Modeling and Emerging Market Economies. He is the author of 2 Books and more than 100 research papers, where most of them have been published in reputed Journal such as: Review of International Economics, Applied Economics, Economics Bulletin, Economic Modelling, Ecological Indicators, African Development Review, International trade Journal, Journal of Applied Business Research, Journal of Quantitative Economics, International Economic Journal, International Journal of Business and Finance Research, etc.

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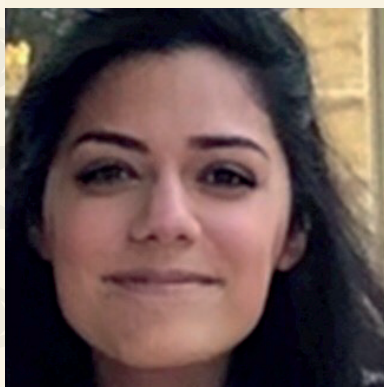


Daniel Halim is an Economist in the World Bank Poverty and Equity Global Practice. He is currently co-leading the Poverty Assessment in Egypt. Prior to that, Daniel was working with the World Bank Gender Group, Middle East and North Africa Chief Economist Office, and East Asia & Pacific Gender Innovation Lab. His work focuses on assessing the socio-economic and distributional impacts of shocks and policies, and on designing interventions to reduce poverty, inequality, and gender gaps. He has experience leading impact evaluation projects, such as on international migration and childcare. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Toronto.



Mohammed Al Yousif has more than 15 years of work experience in the Saudi Central Bank. Currently, he is working as “Chief Economist” in the Economic Modeling Division at the Saudi Central Bank. Mohammed has completed his Ph.D. (in Economic and Social Science) studies in 2018 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), USA, and his Master’s degree in economics in 2010 from The University of Kansas (KU), USA.

His research focuses on macroeconomic modeling, policy impact simulation, economic structural change, renewable energy, and green/sustainable jobs. Mohammed is also interested in writing a well-developed analysis and policies to promote stronger, and more inclusive economic growth. He has published several research papers in different international journals.



Zaynab Benabdallah is a fourth-year doctoral student at the Applied Economics Laboratory at Mohamed V Rabat Agdal University. She earned her master’s degree in economics from the same university. Her research focuses on the labor market, macroeconomics and migration.

Zaynab has actively participated in prestigious international conferences during her doctoral studies, including the IMF and TMC 2023.

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Al-Mouksit Akim is currently an Assistant Professor of Economics within the Faculty of Governance, Economics, and Social Sciences at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (FGSES-UM6P). Before joining UM6P, he worked for the World Bank within the Social Protection & Job Department, where he was involved in numerous projects providing technical assistance to Governments of Developing countries. Mr. Akim holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics, which he earned in 2018 from PSL Research University – Paris Dauphine University in France. His research interests include migration, structural change, financial inclusion, the distributive effect of fiscal policy, and social protection, using applied micro-econometric and micro-simulation tools.



Luis Felipe Sáenz is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics in the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in May of 2018, and a M.A and B.S. in economics from Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá (Colombia). His research interests are related to macroeconomics, growth and development, and economic history. From 2010 to 2012, he was a research fellow at the research department of the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC.