

Speakers

FEMISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Bios

Welcoming Remarks

Speakers



Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi

Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (since January 2017-August 2019; August 2020- present). Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Sudan (Sept 2019-July 2020). Professor Emeritus, University of Khartoum. Before that he was Director at the Economic Policy & Research Center, the Dubai Economic Council (2009-2016); Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989; and Professor of economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the USA. During his work at the World Bank he also served as Research Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, 1993-1998), on external leave from the Bank.

He has edited 13 books and special editions of referred journal and published about 90 articles on macroeconomics, growth and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. His regional specialization covers Africa and the Middle East. He is also a (non-resident) research fellow with the Center for Global Development. Dr. Elbadawi is the editor of (with Hoda Selim) of: *Understanding and Avoiding the Oil Curse in Resource-rich Arab Economies* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and, Ibrahim Elbadawi (with Samir Makdisi). *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World*. (Cambridge University Press: 2016).



Senén Florensa

Senén Florensa is the President of the Delegate Committee and General Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) with the range of Executive President, Chair of EuroMeSCo General Assembly, and director of the quarterly afkar/ideas and of the IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook.

A diplomat, he holds a degree in Economic Science and in Law from the Universitat de Barcelona. He studied for his doctorate in Economics at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (1973-1974); as a Fulbright scholarship holder at New York University, Ph. D. Program (1974-1976), and at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where he presented his doctoral thesis in 1979 with the highest qualification of Outstanding Summa Cum Laude. Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

He is Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna (2018-2020). Within the United Nations, he has been President of the Governing Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and President of the Convention of the Parties to the UNODC.

He held different diplomatic position across his carrier including Consul general of Spain in Rome and the Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia. He published a large number of books, articles and papers across his carrier.



Dr. Sherif Kamel

Sherif Kamel is a Professor of Management and the Dean of the School of Business at The American University in Cairo (AUC). He previously served as AUC's Vice President for Information

Management and was Director of the Regional Information Technology Institute. Kamel holds leadership roles, including Chair of the Board of Directors of AACSB International and Vice Chair of CEMS. He also serves on several boards, including the Central Bank of Egypt and Raya

Holding for Financial Investments. Kamel has authored over 300 academic articles and chapters and edited three books on information technology. He is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Center for Global Enterprise Fellow.

He holds a PhD in Information Systems from the London School of Economics, an MBA, and an M.A. in Islamic Art and Architecture. His research interests include digital transformation, IT transfer to emerging economies, decision support systems, and entrepreneurship.

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Opening speeches

Chairperson



Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi

Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (since January 2017-August 2019; August 2020- present). Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Sudan (Sept 2019-July 2020). Professor Emeritus, University of Khartoum. Before that he was Director at the Economic Policy & Research Center, the Dubai Economic Council (2009-2016); Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989; and Professor of economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the USA. During his work at the World Bank he also served as Research Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, 1993-1998), on external leave from the Bank.

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Moderator



Dr. Mona Said

Mona Said is currently a professor of economics at The American University of Cairo (AUC), Egypt. She earned her BA and MA degrees in economics from AUC and her MPhil and PhD degrees in economics from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, where her doctoral research was on the political economy and econometrics of labor market segmentation and institutional change in Egypt.

She previously held the position of Regional Economic Consultant on the South Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) Region, at the Office of the Chief Economist of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) London, United Kingdom, and was an Economic Consultant to various International European and Euro-Med Institutions (UN Women, ILO, European Training Federation and FEMISE). She was also previously a lecturer in economics and assistant professor with reference to the Middle East at the Economics Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University. She also held operational positions at the Middle East and North Africa Department of the World Bank and Policy Development and Review Department of the International Monetary Fund. Said is currently an academic affiliate of the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS, London, board member of FEMISE (the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences) France and an active Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey.

Her current research interests are in labor and human resource economics, poverty and income distribution, gender gaps in earnings and job quality and equity implications of trade policy, Islamic finance and micro-finance. Her publications have appeared in several international refereed venues such as: Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Developing Areas, Comparative Economic Studies, Review of Radical Political Economics and in books by Oxford University Press and Springer.

Speakers



H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat

H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat is an accomplished economist and public policy leader with over 20 years of international experience spanning central banking, monetary policy, sustainable development, and climate finance. Currently serving as Egypt's Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, she has held prominent roles including Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation (2019–2024) and the first female Minister of Tourism (2018–2019).

She played a pivotal role in modernizing Egypt's monetary policy during her tenure as Sub-Governor for Monetary Policy at the Central Bank of Egypt (2005–2016) and contributed to global economic reforms while working at the International Monetary Fund. Al-Mashat spearheaded Egypt's NWFE platform, an initiative to mobilize climate finance and advance the green transition, and authored the "Sharm El-Sheikh Guidebook for Just Financing."

Al-Mashat has represented Egypt in numerous international financial institutions and serves on advisory councils and global alliances, including leadership roles at the World Economic Forum. She has received multiple prestigious awards, such as the 2022 Most Visionary and Outstanding Minister of International Cooperation in Africa and the 2019 Global Champion Award for her tourism reform achievements.

An accomplished author, she wrote "*Stakeholder Engagement Through Economic Diplomacy*" and contributed to key publications on monetary policy and climate finance. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland, along with executive education credentials from Harvard and Oxford.



H.E. Amb. Nasser Kamel

H.E. Amb. Nasser Kamel, Currently the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean. A career diplomat for the Egyptian government, Amb. Kamel held the position of Ambassador of Egypt to the United Kingdom from 2014 to 2018, before that he was to France in the period 2006-2012, during which he took part in the drafting of the Joint Declaration of the 2008 Paris Summit that marked the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean. Prior to that he held several positions in Egypt and in various embassies, including Washington (1984-1988), Lisbon (1990-1994), Tunis (1994-1998), Brussels (1999-2001) and Paris (2001-2004).

Mr Kamel studied Political Science at Brussels University (1977-1979) and Cairo University's Faculty of Economics and Political Science, obtaining his bachelor's degree in 1981. He graduated from the Diplomatic Institute – Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo (1981-1982) and the *École Nationale d'Administration (ENA)* in Paris (1982-1983).

He holds the title of *Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* of the Republic of France and has also received decorations from the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Portugal.

He is fluent in Arabic, English and French. He is married and has two children.



Mrs. Luisa M. García

Luisa García is a career diplomat. She graduated in Political Sciences and Administration, specializing in International Studies, at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), and postgraduate in International Law and International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid.

She entered the Spanish Diplomatic Career in 2005 and since then has held various positions in different Spanish diplomatic missions abroad, in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Paraguay, the United Kingdom and Lithuania. She has also worked in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Ibero-American Directorate, in the departments of relations with Central America and the Caribbean, and with the Mercosur countries and Ibero-American regional organizations, respectively.

In July 2023 she joined the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation where she currently holds the position of Head of the Department of Cooperation with Arab Countries and Asia



Dr. Noha El-Mikawy

Noha El-Mikawy has a bachelor's degree in political science from The American University in Cairo (AUC). She holds a master's degree in comparative politics and international relations and a PhD in comparative politics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). El-Mikawy is returning to AUC following a 30-year professional career that combines academic service, publication, policy advising, and knowledge production, as well as strategic and management experience in a leading US funding agency.

El-Mikawy is coming to AUC following 10 years as the regional director of the Ford Foundation for the Middle East and North Africa. Her tenure at Ford helped create university partnerships between the region and North and Central America, the UK, India, and South Africa, as well as helped provide institutional support to various universities and think tanks in the Arab region, including AUB, AUC, Cairo University and the Arab Council for Social Sciences. She previously worked with UNDP's Bureau of Development Policy and Regional Bureau of Arab States as the regional policy advisor, providing technical advice on governance programs of UNDP offices across the Arab region. In addition to being a policy practitioner,

El-Mikawy's academic background includes research development and management at the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn, Germany, as well as teaching at UCLA, AUC, the Free University of Berlin and the University of Elangen. She has published two books on Egypt with AUC press and several articles and book chapters on governance and institutional reform in Egypt and the Arab region, including with Oxford and Cambridge University Press. El-Mikawy serves on the governing board of the Swedish International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI) as well as the advisory board of the Swedish Dialogue Institute.

Plenary session 1

Moderator



Dr. Maryse Louis

Dr. Maryse Louis is the General Manager of FEMISE network since 2014, an EU-Mediterranean Network that gathers more than 100 members' institutes with the aim to reinforce dialogues between EU-Med stakeholders in priority issues through providing platforms for dialogue, policy oriented research and reach-out and communication strategies. Before that, she was the General Secretary of FEMISE and the Economic Research Forum (ERF) Programs Officer.

Dr. Louis holds a PhD in economics from Aix Marseille University (AMU) in France and an MA in Economic Development and BSc of Statistics from the Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences (FEPS) in Cairo University. She co-authored a number of publications (e.g. reports, books, papers and policy briefs) and is a reviewer in a number of economic journals. Her research interests cover issues of economic development with a focus on innovation and knowledge, Water-Energy-Food policies, entrepreneurship, inclusion, migration and refugees and labour markets.



Mr. Mondher Khanfir

Mondher Khanfir is a public policy advisor and independent administrator with extensive experience in strategic management and corporate governance.

He has supported numerous public and private organizations in large-scale projects across Tunisia, France, and Africa. His approach integrates a long-term vision focused on creating sustainable value, integrating global value chains, and fostering innovation ecosystems.

Mondher is the author of several publications on private sector development and development finance. He currently leads the TABC Think Tank and serves as the President of the TANIT Association.



Mrs. Noura Aboushady

Noura Aboushady is a Senior Researcher at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) and an Associate Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University.

She is also a Research Associate at the Economic Research Forum and the Euro-Mediterranean, and serves as a consultant for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, as well as several international organizations. Nora has a broad range of publications, including articles in peer-reviewed journals, policy reports, policy briefs, and book chapters.

Her research interests encompass international trade, trade policy, global value chains, and industrial policy, with a particular focus on the Middle East and Africa.



Dr. Sherif Kamel

Sherif Kamel is a Professor of Management and the Dean of the School of Business at The American University in Cairo (AUC). He previously served as AUC's Vice President for Information Management and was Director of the Regional Information Technology Institute. Kamel holds leadership roles, including Chair of the Board of Directors of AACSB International and Vice Chair of CEMS. He also serves on several boards, including the Central Bank of Egypt and Raya Holding for Financial Investments.

Kamel has authored over 300 academic articles and chapters and edited three books on information technology. He is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Center for Global Enterprise Fellow. He holds a PhD in Information Systems from the London School of Economics, an MBA, and an M.A. in Islamic Art and Architecture.

His research interests include digital transformation, IT transfer to emerging economies, decision support systems, and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Ahmed Farouk Ghoneim is a Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, and a research fellow at the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) in Poland. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics and specializes in trade policy, regional trade integration, intellectual property rights, and political economy.

Dr. Ghoneim has served as a consultant for international organizations like the World Bank, WTO, UNCTAD, and WIPO, and held advisory roles with the Egyptian government. He has also been the Cultural Counselor for Egypt in Berlin and Vienna and the Head of the Student Mission in Germany and Austria. In October 2024, he will take on the role of CEO of the Grand Egyptian Museum.



Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim



Dr. Heba Gaber

Dr. Heba has been the research and innovation regional officer at the European Union Delegation to Egypt since 2012. She contributes to the conception, elaboration and implementation of relevant EU-MED Region research and innovation cooperation agreements, strategies, and programmes. She has more than 20 years of international operational and academic experience across multiple sectors.

Heba holds a Chemical Engineering Degree from Cairo University (1999), a Masters in Local Economic Development from the University of Waterloo in Canada (2006), and a PhD in Management Sciences from the University of Waterloo with a concentration in Management of Technology and International Entrepreneurship (2013).

Plenary session 2

Moderator



Dr. Hala Abou-Ali

Hala Abou-Ali is a Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University. She is a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum and Advisor to the President of the Institute of National Planning (INP). Specializing in environmental economics, her research focuses on valuing and modeling environmental resources in developing countries.

She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Gothenburg University, Sweden, and has held prominent roles, including Vice President of INP, Secretary General of the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood, and Member of the Egyptian Parliament. Abou-Ali has also served as the Programme Director for the London School of Economics at EUE and Director of the French Section at FEPS.

Abou-Ali has led regional initiatives such as the Open Access Micro Data Initiative (OAMDI) at the Economic Research Forum. Her extensive publications explore topics like water and air pollution, climate change, poverty, and sustainable development. She has worked with international organizations including UNDP, WHO, and the World Bank.

Speakers



Dr. Constantin Tsakas

Dr. Constantin Tsakas is the Chief Economist at Plan Bleu, a UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan center, where he leads initiatives integrating environmental sustainability into economic decision-making. His focus includes "Green Economic Tools and Public Finances" and "Environmentally Harmful Subsidies," guiding policymakers on balancing growth with environmental preservation.

Previously, Dr. Tsakas held roles as Senior Policy Analyst at the World Bank and UNOPS, General Manager at the Institut de la Méditerranée, and General Secretary of the FEMISE network. He has also taught at SciencesPo. His research interests include financing the green transition, trade integration, and social entrepreneurship. Dr. Tsakas holds a PhD from Aix-Marseille University.



Ms. Radia Sedaoui

Ms. Radia Sedaoui is the Chief of the Energy Section at the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since 2016. With over 24 years of experience, she is an expert in energy policies, renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon management, and climate change technologies. Radia has authored numerous technical and policy papers on energy market dynamics, sustainability, and climate change. She has also led projects focused on sustainable energy, gender empowerment, and social inclusion.

Previously, Ms. Sedaoui was Head of the Statistics and Gas Modeling Department at the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Qatar and held senior positions at Algeria's Sonatrach, including Director of Strategy and Corporate, and Board Member for several affiliates. She holds a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering, a Master's in Petroleum Economics, and an MBA.



Mrs. Filomena Annunziata

Filomena Annunziata is a Policy Advisor for ECCO's Mediterranean programme. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Oriental and African Languages and Cultures from the University of Naples L'Orientale and is currently pursuing a Joint Master's Degree in Comparative Middle East Politics at the University of Tübingen and the American University in Cairo, with a thesis on Morocco's energy transition.

Before joining ECCO, Filomena worked in international cooperation and social inclusion and, since 2021, has specialized in energy transition, climate change, and policies on mitigation and adaptation in Southern Mediterranean countries. She has lived in Germany and England and has spent time studying, researching, and volunteering in Lebanon and Turkey.



Mrs. Afef Ajengui

Afef Ajengui is the Fundraising & Program Manager Consultant and Regional Program Manager for the GreenForward programme at SPARK. She has previously held senior positions, including International Cooperation Manager at Fondation Tunisie pour le Développement and Senior Program Officer for the GreenWorks Program at the Hivos Foundation.

Afef has extensive experience in the green and climate sectors, fundraising, investment, project management, budget planning, and community building.

Since 2013, she has supported Tunisian entrepreneurs and social enterprises, facilitating youth placements, advancing the green transition, and promoting dialogue between public and private institutions. She has built networks across Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and America, focusing on green initiatives, entrepreneurship, and civil society development.

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Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin

Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin is an economist with more than 30 years of experience in international finance and development. Dr. Mohieldin is the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt. He has been the United Nations Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda since February 2020. He also served as the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund representing the Arab States and The Maldives. Previously, Dr. Mohieldin was the Minister of Investment of Egypt from 2004-2010, and more recently, served as the World Bank Group Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations and Partnerships.

Dr. Mohieldin also served on several Boards of Directors in the Central Bank of Egypt and the corporate sector. He was a member of the Commission on Growth and Development and was selected a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum in 2005. He is a Professor of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and as a Visiting Professor at several renowned Universities in Egypt, Korea, the UAE, the UK and the USA. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of Durham University Business School.

Dr. Mohieldin holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom; an M.Sc. in Economics and Social Policy Analysis from the University of York, United Kingdom; a Diploma of Development Economics from the University of Warwick; and a B.Sc. in Economics from Cairo University. The American University in Cairo bestowed Dr. Mohieldin degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, in recognition of his status as a leading public servant at both the national and international levels focusing on economic reform, development, and inclusion. He has authored numerous publications and articles in leading journals in the fields of economics, finance, and development.

Plenary session 3

Chairperson



Dr. Samir Makdisi

Dr. Samir Makdisi is Professor Emeritus of Economics, Founding Director of the Institute of Financial Economics, and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Relations at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He served as Lebanon's Minister of Economy and Trade in 1992 and Deputy President of AUB from 1992 to 1998. Dr. Makdisi was also the elected chair of the Board of Trustees for the Economic Research Forum (Cairo) from 1993 to 2000, and served as a board member from 2012 to 2021.

He is the author of *The Lessons of Lebanon: The Economics of War and Development* (2004) and co-editor of several influential books, including *Democracy in the Arab World: Explaining the Deficit* (2011), *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World* (2017), and *Aftermath of the Arab Uprisings: Towards Reconstruction, Democracy, and Peace* (2023). Dr. Makdisi holds a PhD in Economics from Columbia University.

Moderator

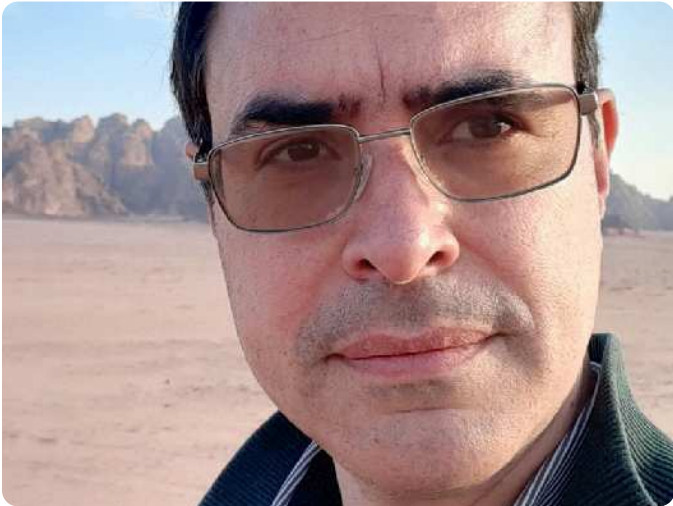


Mr. Raed Safadi

Raed Safadi, Chief Economist at Dubai's Department of Economy & Tourism, is a leading expert in development economics with 30 years of experience advising governments and international organizations. He has driven post-COVID-19 recovery initiatives and supported Dubai's transformation into a knowledge-based economy.

Previously, Raed held senior roles at the World Bank and OECD, including Deputy Director of the Trade & Agriculture Department. His work spans the Middle East, North Africa, China, and the G20, focusing on policy development, diversification, and sustainable growth.

Speakers



Dr. Leonardo Menchini

Menchini is the Chief of Social Policy at UNICEF Jordan, leading support for social protection reform since October 2023. From 2019 to 2023, he was the Regional Advisor on Monitoring Child Rights in the Middle East and North Africa, coordinating research across 20 countries and contributing to key reports like the 2nd Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report.

Previously, Leonardo worked as Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO Decent Work Team for North Africa and led social policy at UNICEF Morocco and Egypt. He has extensive experience in poverty, inequality, and social protection reforms. Leonardo holds a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Florence, specializing in labor markets and social policy in Egypt.



Dr. Ilyes Boumahdi

Ilyes Boumahdi has been the Head of Service at DEPF/Ministry of Economy and Finances since 2010 and an adjunct professor at INSEA since 2007 and at UM6P | FGSES since 2024. He earned his PhD in quantitative economics in 2023 from INSEA with a thesis on "Smart Specialization of Regions for the Consolidation and Convergence of Their Well-Being." In 2020, he obtained a Specialized Master of Public Action, focusing on "Methodological Guide for the Economic Evaluation of Public Projects," co-organized by UM6P-Benguerir and Ecole des Ponts ParisTech.

His research, published in Scopus-indexed journals, includes topics such as regional disparities, smart specialization, spatial evaluation of well-being, and unconventional big data. Ilyes has also contributed to public policy assessments related to tertiary activities and the knowledge economy. He holds a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Statistics (2001, Free University of Brussels), an Engineering Diploma in Statistics (2000, INSEA), and a Bachelor's in Applied Mathematics (2000, Mohamed V University).



Mrs. Leila Belkhiria Jaber

Leila Belkhiria Jaber is the President of the National Chamber of Women in Business (CNFCE) and a board member of the Federation of National Associations of Businesswomen for COMESA. She is also the President of the Women in Business Network (WiB) and a member of the Economic and Social Council, Maghreb Region, of the University Agency of the Francophonie (AUF).

CEO and co-founder of STELFAIR TUNISIA in the ICT sector, she advocates for gender equality, female entrepreneurship, and women's leadership. She founded the Academy of Women in Business (AFCE) and the Tunisian Women Onboard Observatory (TWOBO). Ms. Belkhiria Jaber has received several awards, including Woman Entrepreneur of the Year and the "Commander of the Republic" honor in 2019.



Dr. Ragui Assaad

Dr. Ragui Assaad is a professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, where he co-chairs the Master of Development Practice program. A Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum (ERF) since 1994 and a non-resident Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, his work focuses on labor markets and human development in the Arab World.

His research addresses youth and gender issues, education, school-to-work transitions, labor force participation, employment, informality, migration, and family formation.



Dr. Ibrahim Awad

Dr. Ibrahim Awad is a Professor of Practice of Global Affairs and the Director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo. He holds a BA in political science from Cairo University and a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva.

Dr. Awad has extensive experience with international organizations, having served as Secretary of the Commission at UN-ESCWA, Director of the ILO Sub-regional Office for North Africa, and Director of the ILO International Migration Programme. He is currently the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on International Migration (EuroMedMig) and serves on advisory boards for various global migration programs, including Boston University's Center on Forced Displacement and the Gulf Labour Market and Migration programme. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) in Geneva.

His research focuses on international migration, labor markets, and global governance, with recent publications addressing topics such as the political economy of Egyptian migration, labor migration in the Arab world, and the global governance of migration.



Dr. Ghada Barsoum

Dr. Ghada Barsoum is a professor in the Public Policy and Administration Department at The American University in Cairo (AUC). With over 70 publications, her work spans peer-reviewed articles, technical reports, book chapters, policy papers, and a book on women's employment.

Her research focuses on social policies in the Middle East, women's work and employment, green jobs, and higher education policies. She has consulted for organizations like the World Bank and various UN agencies. Dr. Barsoum earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Toronto and an MA from AUC.

Plenary session 4

Moderator



Mr. Roger Albinyana

Roger Albinyana is the Managing Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). Roger has been working at the IEMed since 2016 as director of the Euro-Mediterranean Policies department until he was appointed Managing Director. He's also an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Barcelona, where he teaches international economic policy. Roger is also a board member at CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) and a member of the Advisory Council of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA).

Prior to joining the IEMed, Roger served as Secretary General for Foreign and EU Affairs of the Government of Catalonia (2013-2016) and was a member of the EU Committee of the Regions. From 2010 to 2013 he served as advisor on private sector development at the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.

He holds an MA in Economic History from the University of Barcelona, a BA in Economics from Pompeu Fabra University and a BA in Business Administration and Management from the Open University of Catalonia (UOC).



Mrs. Simona Rinaldi

Simona Rinaldi is a senior expert in Human Capital Development with extensive experience in post-conflict regions, including the Western Balkans, Kosovo, and Lebanon.

Her expertise includes vocational education and training (VET), career guidance systems, and labor market reforms to promote sustainable development and socio-economic recovery.

Simona is also a skilled event designer and moderator, facilitating high-level international conferences, workshops, and strategic meetings, driving impactful discussions and actionable outcomes across sectors.



Mr. Graziano Tullio

Graziano Tullio has over 15 years of experience in training design, policy development, and project management focused on youth participation and empowerment. He has collaborated with youth organizations, NGOs, universities, regional bodies, and intergovernmental institutions, leading initiatives in youth work, intercultural dialogue, and sustainable development across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Until 2022, he served as the Youth Cooperation Programme Officer at the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, promoting interregional youth cooperation and dialogue between decision-makers and youth organizations. Currently, he consults for the Union for the Mediterranean on its Youth Agenda, SALTO Participation and Information to enhance civic engagement within Erasmus+, and the European Economic and Social Committee to strengthen youth involvement in civil dialogue across the Euro-Med region.



Mrs. Laura Schmid

Laura Schmid is the Skills and Employability Specialist for North and Horn of Africa at the ILO, based in Cairo, Egypt. She supports 11 countries, focusing on inclusive skills development, quality STEM education, and career guidance, particularly in Ethiopia, Egypt, and the Maghreb.

Previously, she served as an Employment Advisor for GIZ in Egypt and as a Migration and Employment Advisor in Jordan, addressing the Syrian crisis response. Laura holds a BSc in International Economics and Development from Bayreuth University, Germany, and an MSc in International Relations from SOAS, University of London.



Mr. Pietro Gagliardi

Pietro Gagliardi is a Policy Analyst at the OECD Public Governance Directorate, specializing in youth empowerment and intergenerational justice across OECD and non-OECD countries, with a focus on the MENA region.

He is the lead author of the OECD report *Youth at the Centre of Government Action: A Review of the Middle East and North Africa*. Pietro also provides policy analysis and advice on public governance reforms in the MENA region and Africa, supporting regional dialogue, peer learning, and training initiatives.



Mrs. Giulia Dimonopoli

Giulia Dimonopoli manages the UfM Youth Dossier, leveraging over five years of expertise in international cooperation, particularly in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

She holds a Master's in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs from the University of Bologna, complemented by professional and academic experience in Jordan and Egypt.



Mrs. Reem Elsaady

Reem Elsaady joined the EBRD in May 2012 and currently serves as the Regional Manager for the SMEs Finance and Development (Advisory) Program for Egypt and the Levant.

The program focuses on fostering the growth of small businesses, with a particular emphasis on supporting women and youth entrepreneurs.

Thematic session 1

Moderator



Dr. Anna M. Ferragina

Dr. Anna M. Ferragina is an Associate Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Salerno, Italy. With expertise in trade, innovation economics, knowledge-intensive services, regional development, firm dynamics, FDI, and migration, she brings a robust interdisciplinary approach to her research.

Dr. Ferragina earned her Ph.D. from "La Sapienza" University of Rome and holds a Master's in International Economics from the University of Sussex, UK. An elected member of the FEMISE Steering Committee, she has published extensively in leading journals, including *The Journal of Technological Transfer* and *The World Economy*.

Discussants



Dr. Sami Mouley

Sami Mouley, Professor of International Finance at the University of Tunis, has over 25 years of experience in academia, research, and consultancy. He has collaborated with global institutions like the World Bank, AfDB, and UNDP on regional integration, macroeconomic policies, and private sector development.

A former Chief Economist at Tunisia's Central Bank, he now advises the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies. Widely published, he holds a PhD in Economics and International Finance from Aix-Marseille University and a Professorship in Economics.

Authors



Dr. Mohammad Makki

Dr. Mohammad Makki is a Social and Solidarity Economy expert, consultant, and academic with a Ph.D. in Sustainable Development and Policy. He is a faculty member at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) and Co-director of the Social Economy Unit at COSV for the MENA Region.

Dr. Makki has extensive experience in economic public policy, social entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. He has served as a national consultant for INGOs, authored financial reports, developed an economic map for Lebanon's Ministry of Economy, and co-founded *Coprofit ME*. He is also a member of Lebanon's National Task Force for drafting the Social Entrepreneurship Law.



Dr. Ceyhun Elgin

Dr. Ceyhun Elgin is a Professor of Economics at the American University in Bulgaria and Boğaziçi University in Turkey. He holds a BA in Economics from Boğaziçi University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Elgin specializes in applied macroeconomics, economic growth, development, and political economics, with a focus on the informal sector. He has also held positions at Columbia University, the IMF, the World Bank, and Boston University.



Dr. Myriam Ramzy

Ms. Myriam Ramzy is currently an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. She is also a senior research associate at the Economic Research Forum and a senior research at the EMANES network. She got her Phd degree in 2018 and her thesis was entitled "The impact of environmental trade on agricultural trade between EU and MENA countries". She conducted several consultancy work for AKADEMYIA2063, EuroMEscO, ECF-ERF, and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. She conducts research in fields of international trade and environmental economics.



Mrs. Sylvana Ayoub

Sylvana Ayoub is an Assistant Lecturer at London School of Economics, EUE.. She got her masters in development economics from university of Paris-1 Pantheon Sorbonne. Currently, She is working on her PHD at the faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University.

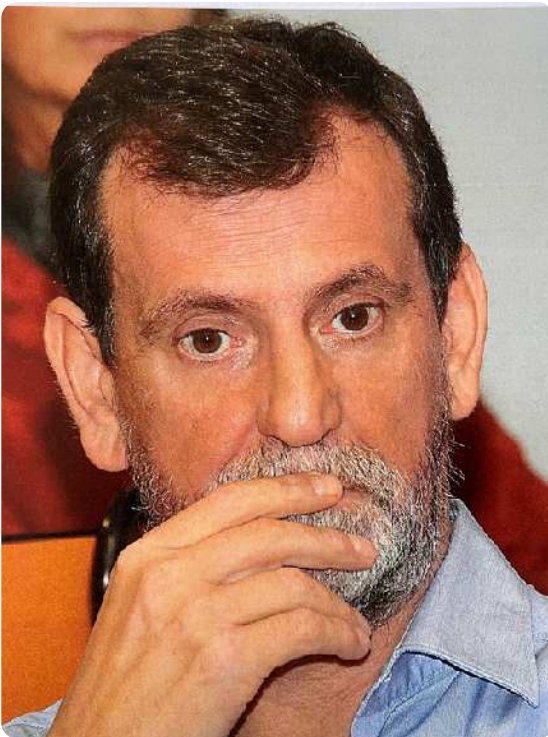


Dr. Asmaa M. Ezzat

Dr. Asmaa M. Ezzat is an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics in 2015, with joint supervision from FEPS and the Institute of Law and Economics at Hamburg University. She also holds an M.A. and B.A. in Economics from FEPS. Dr. Ezzat is the Director of the Governance Center at the National Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development and serves as an Economic Consultant for the Egyptian Competition Authority. She has worked on research and consultancy projects funded by organizations like the EU, USAID, and the Egyptian National Council for Competitiveness. An affiliate of the EU-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies (EMANES), she won the 2024 State Encouragement Award for her work on the role of Egyptian institutions in the rule of law. Her research focuses on institutional economics, development, law, corruption, and econometrics.

Thematic session 2

Moderator



Dr. Rafael De Arce

Dr. Rafael De Arce is an economist specializing in the development of econometric models, with a focus on research in developing countries, particularly on human flows (migration, refugees) and energy-related development. Leveraging interdisciplinary expertise, Dr. De Arce has contributed to diverse projects requiring advanced econometric and modeling approaches.

In teaching, Dr. Rafael De Arce focuses on quantitative methods in economics and business, including econometrics, prediction methods, simulation analysis, and multivariate statistics.

A guest lecturer at Paris-Dauphine University since 2005 (Master's in Economics and International Relations), Dr. Rafael De Arce also teaches at the Centre for Sociological Research (CIS) and has been a visiting professor at renowned institutions such as Princeton, Georgetown, Dresden, and the University of Florence.

Discussants



Dr. Majd Al Naber

Dr. Al Naber is the Director General of the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) Institute and the Director of the Science for Society Center at the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan. She leads efforts to utilize science to educate society and inspire policymakers for sustainable environments and improved livelihoods.

Her expertise lies in integrated water resource management and policies for arid lands. She holds a Joint Doctorate from Wageningen University (Netherlands) and Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier (France), an MSc in Land and Water Resources Management from CIHEAM Bari (Italy), and a BSc in Land, Water, and Environment from the University of Jordan



Dr. Abeer Elshennawy

Abeer Elshennawy received a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Cairo University, a Master of Arts in economics from The American University in Cairo (AUC) and a PhD in applied economics from the University of Minnesota in the United States. She is currently a professor at the economics department at AUC.

She has taught a variety of courses in the area of environmental economics, growth and development, and macroeconomic and microeconomic theory. Her research interests are in international trade, the environment, and growth and development. She has published several articles addressing the issue of adjustment costs to trade liberalization and climate change.

Authors



Dr. Imen Khanchel

Prof. Khanchel is a full professor of finance at the University of Manouba in Tunisia, with research interests in governance, financial reporting, and sustainability. She is a member of Tunisia's national commission for evaluating scientific research activities and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Tunisian Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

She has actively contributed to international research projects, served on evaluation committees, and collaborated with various institutions as a Visiting Professor and Scholar. She is a frequent speaker at international conferences on university governance and quality in higher education



Mrs. Chrysoula Chitou

Chrysoula Chitou is a PhD candidate at the University of Ioannina, Greece, with a passion for advancing knowledge in natural resources, energy, and institutional economics and policy. She is also a member of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Young Scientists Programme and the Med Youth Group, which supports her involvement in interdisciplinary research bridging disaster risk management and sustainability.

Chrysoula has distinguished herself through both her academic achievements and her active participation in high-profile research projects. Beyond her thesis work, she has contributed to various research projects that align with her interests in sustainable development. Her engagement with the global academic community is evident in her presentations at European and international conferences.



Dr. Simona Ramos

Dr. Ramos is a Tenure-Track Professor at UPF BSM in Barcelona, specializing in EU ICT policy, with a focus on blockchain, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

She has contributed to national and international policy discussions and holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science, as well as joint master's degrees in Economics and Law.

Her industry experience includes working at Bell Labs Paris and leading tech development in Silicon Valley. She has received prestigious fellowships, including the Marie Curie Fellowship and Protocol Labs Fellowship, and champions initiatives to support women in STEM.



Vladimir Hlasny

Mr. Hlasny is an economic affairs officer at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) in Beirut. He conducts research on poverty, inequality, labor, and welfare economics, with a focus on Asia and the Middle East.

Previously, he served as an associate professor at Ewha Womans University in Seoul and holds a doctorate in Economics from Michigan State University.

Thematic session 3

Moderator



Dr. Heba Nassar

Heba Nassar is professor of economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science and former vice-president of Cairo University. She is also chief editor of the *Review of Economics and Political Science* and currently directs and has participated in research projects for leading private and international institutions, including the World Bank, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, and the Ford Foundation among others. The author of several articles and books, she received in 2021 the Egyptian state's Women's Appreciation Award from the Academy for Scientific Research and Technology.

Discussants



Dr. Moundir Lassassi

Moundir Lassassi is a senior researcher at the Centre for Research in Applied Economics for Development (CREAD) in Algeria. He has held leadership positions, including Division Director in 2018, Director of CREAD in 2020, and Director of the CNRST in 2022.

Dr. Lassassi earned his PhD in Applied Economics from the Aix-Marseille School of Economics and specializes in labor market analysis, youth inclusion, and women's economic participation, particularly in the MENA region. He has published extensively in these fields, contributing to major international research collaborations.



Mr. Majdi Hassen

Majdi Hassen is a Tunisian economist and lecturer specialised in economics. His main focus is on economic competitiveness, governance and institutional reforms. As executive counsellor of the Arab Institute of Business Leaders (IACE), he leads studies and initiatives aimed at improving interaction between the public and private sectors and stimulating economic innovation in Tunisia.

In particular, he has contributed to the development of analytical frameworks for assessing economic policies and bureaucratic obstacles, while working on projects such as the National Business Agenda, which provides strategic recommendations to policy-makers. His research also includes quantitative analyses of economic indicators in order to propose evidence-based reforms.



Dr. Rabeh Morrar

Dr. Morrar is an Associate Professor of Economics at An-Najah National University, Palestine. He earned his Ph.D. in Innovation Economy from Lille 1 University, France. He previously headed the Economic Department (2012–2015) and was Director of Research at MAS (2020–2023).

His interests include the knowledge economy, public policy, and development. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles and is a Fellow of several esteemed organizations, including ERF and ACSS.



Mrs. Haiat Jellouli Moaddine

Ms. Jellouli is a Policy Researcher Assistant at Eco-Union and a student at ENS Rennes, France. She holds degrees in French Law, European Law, Earth Law, Public Policies, and International Business Law.

Her expertise includes policy research, sustainability, and Earth governance, supported by her multidisciplinary academic background.



Mr. Jeremie Fosse

Co-founder and president of eco-union, Jeremie is the director of eco-union and coordinator of the green and blue economy areas. He holds a degree in industrial engineering from INSA Lyon (France) and an MBA from Esade.

J r mie is a senior consultant and expert in green and blue economy, eco-innovation, sustainable tourism, corporate responsibility and sustainability policies at national, European and Mediterranean level. He has collaborated with leading research centres and universities, intergovernmental agencies and local, regional and national governments as well as companies and NGOs.



Mrs. Samar Abdelmageed

Samar Abdelmageed is a PhD student at the department of financial administration at Ain Shams University in Egypt. She graduated from the statistics department at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt and obtained her master's degree in International Business Administration from Ajou University in South Korea.

Samar has previously worked as a data analyst at the UN-FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa, an assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Business Administration, Economics and Political Science, the British University in Egypt and a statistical researcher at the Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC). Additionally, she served as a researcher at the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Cairo, Egypt.



Mr. Hussein Suleiman

Hussein Suleiman is a senior researcher at the economic department of Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) in Egypt. He holds a master's degree in political economy from King's College London in the United Kingdom, and is currently based in Japan where he is a PhD candidate in economic development at Nagoya University. His current research leverages geospatial data, machine learning, spatial econometrics, and causal inference to explore key issues in economic development, structural transformation, labour market dynamics, and inequalities. He has several publications in Arabic and English languages, in both policy-oriented and academic research.

Thematic session 4

Moderator



Dr. Doaa Salman

Doaa Salman is a holder of a PhD and she is the head of Economics department in Modern Sciences and Arts University, MSA, Egypt. She is a full professor since 2014, she holds a PhD in International Economics.

She has a wide variety of teaching and professional experiences both at the University of MSA and prior to this at the Ain Shams University, British university in Cairo. She previously worked in London school of economics program in Arab academy for Science Technology and Maritime. She is a principle fellow of the higher education academy.

Discussants



Dr. Sergio Alessandrini

Professor Alessandrini is a full professor of Political Economy at the Department of Law, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, and teaches Political Economy in the Strategic Sciences course.

He collaborates with FEMISE on Euro-Mediterranean integration and has contributed to the World Bank's Mediterranean Development Forum, focusing on international trade, governance, and sustainability.

His research covers market mechanisms, ESG objectives, and economic-environmental sustainability indicators.



Mr. Majdi Hassen

Majdi Hassen is a Tunisian economist and lecturer specialised in economics. His main focus is on economic competitiveness, governance and institutional reforms. As executive counsellor of the Arab Institute of Business Leaders (IACE), he leads studies and initiatives aimed at improving interaction between the public and private sectors and stimulating economic innovation in Tunisia.

In particular, he has contributed to the development of analytical frameworks for assessing economic policies and bureaucratic obstacles, while working on projects such as the National Business Agenda, which provides strategic recommendations to policy-makers. His research also includes quantitative analyses of economic indicators in order to propose evidence-based reforms.



Dr. Siham Metallaoui

Siham Metallaoui is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Oran 2, Algeria. Her research interests encompass institutional economics, development economics, and advanced econometric methods.

A passionate advocate for education and development, she has earned recognition for her work, including winning the prestigious Global Development Network Essay Competition prize in 2015.



Dr. Abdeslam Badre

Abdeslam Badre is an Associate Professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco, and a global expert in strategic foresight for policy-making. His work focuses on critical issues such as migration, youth, and social justice, with a strong emphasis on the MENA region.

He has collaborated with organizations such as the EU-JRC, UN agencies, and the Aspen Institute. Dr. Badre holds multiple advanced degrees in social and educational sciences, contributing his expertise to both academia and policy development.



Mrs. Valentina Gruarin

Valentina Gruarin is a PhD candidate at the University of Catania, Italy, where she explores multi-actor dynamics in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

She serves as a researcher for two international think tanks and is an active member of EuroMeSCo. Gruarin has presented her work at global forums, aiming to bridge academic research and policy-making in Mediterranean studies.



Dr. Simon Neaime

Simon Neaime is a Professor of Economics and Finance and Director of the Institute of Financial Economics at the American University of Beirut (AUB). His expertise covers MENA economies, macroeconomic stability, and financial markets.

A prolific scholar, he has authored numerous publications in high-impact journals. Dr. Neaime has also held significant roles, such as Chief Economist at UN ESCWA, and has provided consultancy services to international organizations like the IMF and World Bank.

Speakers

FEMISE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Bios

Closing Remarks



Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi

Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (since January 2017-August 2019; August 2020- present). Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Republic of Sudan (Sept 2019-July 2020). Professor Emeritus, University of Khartoum. Before that he was Director at the Economic Policy & Research Center, the Dubai Economic Council (2009-2016); Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989; and Professor of economics at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern universities in the USA. During his work at the World Bank he also served as Research Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi, 1993-1998), on external leave from the Bank.

He has edited 13 books and special editions of referred journal and published about 90 articles on macroeconomics, growth and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. His regional specialization covers Africa and the Middle East. He is also a (non-resident) research fellow with the Center for Global Development. Dr. Elbadawi is the editor of (with Hoda Selim) of: *Understanding and Avoiding the Oil Curse in Resource-rich Arab Economies* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and, Ibrahim Elbadawi (with Samir Makdisi). *Democratic Transitions in the Arab World*. (Cambridge University Press: 2016).



Dr. Maryse Louis

Dr. Maryse Louis is the General Manager of FEMISE network since 2014, an EU-Mediterranean Network that gathers more than 100 members' institutes with the aim to reinforce dialogues between EU-Med stakeholders in priority issues through providing platforms for dialogue, policy oriented research and reach-out and communication strategies. Before that, she was the General Secretary of FEMISE and the Economic Research Forum (ERF) Programs Officer.

Dr. Louis holds a PhD in economics from Aix Marseille University (AMU) in France and an MA in Economic Development and BSc of Statistics from the Faculty of Economics & Political Sciences (FEPS) in Cairo University. She co-authored a number of publications (e.g. reports, books, papers and policy briefs) and is a reviewer in a number of economic journals. Her research interests cover issues of economic development with a focus on innovation and knowledge, Water-Energy-Food policies, entrepreneurship, inclusion, migration and refugees and labour markets.



Dr. Mona Said

Mona Said is currently a professor of economics at The American University of Cairo (AUC), Egypt. She earned her BA and MA degrees in economics from AUC and her MPhil and PhD degrees in economics from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, where her doctoral research was on the political economy and econometrics of labor market segmentation and institutional change in Egypt.

She previously held the position of Regional Economic Consultant on the South Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) Region, at the Office of the Chief Economist of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) London, United Kingdom, and was an Economic Consultant to various International European and Euro-Med Institutions (UN Women, ILO, European Training Federation and FEMISE). She was also previously a lecturer in economics and assistant professor with reference to the Middle East at the Economics Department of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University. She also held operational positions at the Middle East and North Africa Department of the World Bank and Policy Development and Review Department of the International Monetary Fund. Said is currently an academic affiliate of the London Middle East Institute (LMEI), SOAS, London, board member of FEMISE (the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences) France and an active Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey.

Her current research interests are in labor and human resource economics, poverty and income distribution, gender gaps in earnings and job quality and equity implications of trade policy, Islamic finance and micro-finance. Her publications have appeared in several international refereed venues such as: Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Developing Areas, Comparative Economic Studies, Review of Radical Political Economics and in books by Oxford University Press and Springer.



Dr. Dina Abdel Fattah

Dina Abdel Fattah is an assistant professor of economics at the Onsi Sawiris School of Business at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Abdel Fattah received her MSc (2009) and PhD (2017) in economics from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Her doctoral thesis dealt with the economics of young women in Egypt, preceded by an MSc with a focus on return migration and entrepreneurship in Egypt. In addition to her work, Abdel Fattah has worked as an independent migration, gender and migration, gender and labor market expert who works with a number of local, regional and international institutions.