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Education

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (*Fall 2001-Spring 2006*)

PhD in Economics (Dissertation Title: Oil Greasing the Wheels: When do Natural Resources Become a Blessing?)

Masters of Arts in Economics (June 2003)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY: WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (*Fall 1997-Spring 1999*)

Masters of Public Affairs with concentration in Economics and Public Policy (June 1999)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (*Fall 1994-Spring 1997*)

Bachelor of Arts in Economics with High Distinction

Professional Experience

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (*Fall 2006-present*)

Associate Professor (*Fall 2013-present*)

Chair (*Fall 2012-Summer 2015*)

Acting Chair (*Spring 2011*)

Assistant Professor (*Fall 2006-Spring 2013*)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (*Fall 2003, Spring 2004*)

Assistant in Instruction, Research Assistant

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY: WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (*Fall 2000-Spring 2001*)

Lecturer, Research Assistant

Grants and fellowships

International Development Research Centre (IDRC), “The economic case for non-communicable disease prevention in low- and middle-income countries,” February 2016.

SanteMed A*MIDEX grant, “Measurement and explanation of inequalities in health and access to healthcare in the MENA region,” co-PI (PI: Mohammad Abu-Zaineh, Aix Marseille School of Economics), December 2014.

American University of Beirut/United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency grant, “Socio-economic survey of Palestine refugees in Lebanon,” December 2014.

Short-term faculty development grant to attend the 7th annual European Public Health Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, November 2014.

Short-term faculty development grant to attend the 9th Eurasia Business and Economics Society in Rome, Italy in January 2013.

IDRC, Non-Communicable Disease Prevention (NCDP), travel grant to attend the World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH) in Singapore, March 2012.

American University of Beirut/United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees grant “Assessment of living conditions of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon,” co-principal investigator (PI: Jad Chaaban), October 2011.

American University of Beirut Research Board grant “Income inequality and the composition of public debt,” July 2011.

International Development and Research Center (IDRC) grant “Generating evidence to support policies for raising taxes on tobacco products in Lebanon,” co-principal investigator (PI: Rima Nakkash), July 2011.

American University of Beirut/United Nations Relief and Welfare Agency grant “Poverty of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon: Analysis and Targeting,” co-principal investigator (PI: Jad Chaaban), July 2010.

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs “The Economics of Tobacco in Lebanon: An Estimation of the Social Costs of Tobacco Consumption,” joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, March 2010.

Lebanon National Center for Scientific Research “The poverty and equity implications of a rise in the VAT tax in Lebanon,” joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, January 2009.

Economic Research Forum-Global Development Network research grant “Cash Transfers in Polarized Societies: The Case of Lebanon,” joint with Professor Jad Chaaban, December 2008.

Junior Faculty Research Grant, American University of Beirut, Fall 2008

University Research Board Seed Grant, American University of Beirut, “Relative Deprivation, Inequality and Mortality: Evidence from South African Micro Data”, January 2007.

Honors:

Best Research Paper on Institutions and Economic Development, December 2007, Economic Research Fund, Cairo Egypt

Finalist, 2007 Annual Global Development Awards Competition, January 2008, Global Development Fund, Brisbane Australia (unable to compete for the Medal)

Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching 2004, Princeton University

Philip Hitti Prize for Academic Excellence 1997, American University of Beirut

Nadim Khalaf Award in Economics 1997, Department of Economics, American University of Beirut

Professional activities:

Conference presentations

“The consequences of tobacco taxation on household health and finances among poorer and richer households in Lebanon: an extended cost effectiveness analysis,” International Health Economics Association Annual Conference, Milan, Italy, July, 2015.

“Memories of redistribution: perceptions of public welfare and patterns of discontent,” 21st Annual Conference of the Economic Research Forum, Carthage, Tunisia, March 20-22, 2015.

“La santé des jeunes en Méditerranée,” la semaine méditerranée de la santé, Provence-Aix-Côte d’Azur, Marseille, December 4-5, 2014.

“Beyond the gradient: exploring the relationship between camp-level relative deprivation and self-rated health among Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon,” European Public Health Association Annual Conference, Glasgow, UK, Nov 19-22, 2014.

“Memories of redistribution: welfare legacies and political attitudes and behavior,” with Melani Cammett, presentation at the workshop on “The Pulse of the Arab Street,” Economic Research Forum, Universite Paris-Dauphine, October 11-12, 2014.

“Perceptions of public welfare and political mobilization in the Middle East: preliminary evidence from Egypt and Tunisia,” with Melani Cammett, presentation at the workshop on “The Pulse of the Arab Street,” Economic Research Forum, Harvard University, April 3-4, 2014.

“On the progressivity of increasing taxes on tobacco: an extended cost effectiveness analysis for Lebanon,” Aix-Marseille School of Economics, AMSE-SESSTIM 2nd annual symposium, on health economics, Marseille, France, April 3, 2014.

“Beyond the gradient: relative deprivation and self-rated health,” with Sawsan Abdulrahim, 5th Annual Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, Amman, Jordan, March 17-18, 2014.

“Tobacco taxation in Lebanon: untapped revenue,” with Rima Nakkash, Jad Chaaban and Hala Alaouie, 46th Middle East Medical Assembly, Beirut, Lebanon, May 9-11, 2013.

“Disability and nutrition among Palestinians in Lebanon,” with Nuha Salti and Hala Ghattas, 4th Annual Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance Conference, Cairo, Egypt, March 18-19, 2013.

“Income inequality and the composition of public debt,” Economic Research Forum 17th Annual Conference, Antalya, Turkey, March 2011, and 9th Conference of the Eurasia Business and Economics Society, La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, January 2013.

“One pack for one dollar: raising tobacco taxes in Lebanon,” with Jad Chaaban and Rima Nakkash, World Conference on Tobacco or Health, March 2012, Singapore.

“Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic approach,” Middle East and North Africa Health Policy Forum’s 2nd annual conference, June 6 - 8, 2010, in Amman, Jordan.

“Natural resources and economic diversification: an emerging research agenda,” Pre-conference workshop on Natural Resources and Economic Diversification at the 16th Annual Conference of the Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

“The poverty and equity implications of a rise in the Value Added Tax: a microeconomic simulation for Lebanon,” 15th Annual Conference: Equity and Economic Development, Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

“Natural Resources, Institutions and Growth,” 14th Annual Conference: Institutions and Economic Development, Economic Research Forum. Cairo, Egypt.

Workshop trainer

“The Political Economy of Development,” a workshop of the American Political Science Association-MENA, June 3-9, 2014, Tunis, Tunisia.

“Linking public health and sustainable development: success stories in non-communicable disease,” Workshop of the Emerging Leaders Conference, World Youth Alliance and the

Outreach and Practice Unit of Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, December 7, 2013.

“Analyses of the effect of tobacco taxation on consumption and government revenue in Lebanon,” workshop organized by the Tobacco Control Research Group at the American University of Beirut and the Ministry of Finance of Lebanon, Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, Beirut, Lebanon, February 2012.

“Lebanon’s economic challenges: political instability and job creation,” workshop organized by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Beirut, Lebanon, February 2012.

“Cost of Environmental Degradation Methodology,” World Bank workshop, Beirut, Lebanon, June 2009.

Academic talks and public lectures

“From miner riffs to major drills: notes on energy, labor and governance,” Hunger Incorporated, RAW Academy, Dakar, Senegal, November 2016.

“Lebanon in the research of economists,” Doctoral Dissertation Summer Workshop: Researching Lebanon, the Arab Studies Institute, the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, June 2016.

“Tobacco taxation in Lebanon: an extended cost effectiveness analysis,” WHO-EMRO/DCP regional workshop on cost-effectiveness analysis: tools for decision-making in health, Cairo, Egypt, December 14-18, 2014.

“The impact of taxation on tobacco consumption.” Sub-regional meeting on regional strategy for tobacco control, World Health Organization, Beirut, Lebanon, November 26-27, 2013.

“Extended cost effectiveness analysis of tobacco taxation in Lebanon,” presentation at the Disease Control Priorities 3 Extended Cost Effectiveness Analysis Meeting, June 20-22, 2013, University of Washington in Seattle.

“One pack for one dollar: using taxes to curb the smoking epidemic in Lebanon,” joint seminar of the Center for Research on Population and Health and the Department of Economics, AUB, May 17, 2012.

“Generating evidence for raising taxes on tobacco,” a lecture delivered at the Grand Serail with Jad Chaaban and Rima Nakkash, AUB Tobacco Control Research Group, April 4, 2012.

“Lebanon’s economic challenges: political instability and job creation,” workshop organized by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, February 2012.

“Health equity in Lebanon: what can we learn from a household survey?” Middle East Studies Program, Brown University. April 2011.

“Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic approach,” Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB, April 2010.

“Oil greasing the wheels: when do natural resources become a blessing?” Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies, Department of Economics, Oxford University, Fall 2009.

“A microeconomic analysis of the poverty and equity implications of a rise in the VAT tax in Lebanon,” Capacity Building for Poverty Reduction Project, Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance, Beirut Lebanon, Spring 2009.

“Oil, Institutions & Growth in the Middle East,” Institute for the Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Center for International Studies, Princeton University, spring 2007.

“Lebanon: the Current Deadlock,” Institute for the Transregional Study of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, Center for International Studies, Princeton University, spring 2007.

“Income, Inequality and Health: The Case of South Africa,” Center for Research on Population and Health, AUB, spring 2007.

Referee:

Research Foundation Flounders, BMJ Open, Journal of Microsimulation, Social Science and Medicine, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Oxford Economics Papers, Middle East Development Journal, World Politics, Journal of the European Economics Association, Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Journal of Development and Economic Policies, National Council for Scientific Research, National Commission for Lebanese Women, Issam Fares Institute (AUB), University Research Board (AUB).

Professional affiliations

Princeton Alumni Schools Committee: Chair for Lebanon and Syria, fall 2007-2015.

Lebanese Economic Association: Founding member, secretary fall 2006-fall 2009.

Economic Research Forum: research associate, December 2008-present.

Social Inequalities in Health Working Group (AUB): Founding member, fall 2007-present.

Tobacco Research Working Group (AUB): Member, spring 2010-present.

Publications:

“The Ras Beirut Wellbeing Survey,” forthcoming, AUB Press.

“The health, financial and distributional consequences of an increase in the tobacco excise tax on smokers in Lebanon: an extended cost effectiveness analysis,” with Stephane Verguet and Elizabeth Brouwer, *Social Science and Medicine*, 170 (December 2016), 161-169.

“Socio-economic survey of Palestine refugees in Lebanon,” American University of Beirut-United Nations Relief and Works Agency report 2015, available at <http://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/survey-economic-status-palestine-refugees-lebanon>

“Popular grievances and perceptions of socio-economic conditions in the Arab region prior to the uprisings,” with Melani Cammett, ERF Working Paper Series, No. 1006.

“The relationship between camp-level relative deprivation and self-rated health among Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon,” with Sawsan Abdulrahim, *Social Science and Medicine-Population Health*, Vol 2. December 2016, 317-326.

“Food insufficiency and food insecurity as risk factors for physical disability among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: evidence from an observational study,” with Hala Ghattas, *Disability and Health Journal*, Vol. 9, Issue 4, 655-662.

- “Who’s been left behind? Why Sustainable Development Goals fail in the Arab world,” with Abbas El-Zein, Jocelyn DeJong, Philippe Fargues, Adam Hanieh and Helen Lackner, viewpoint article, *The Lancet*, online January 2016.
- “Income inequality and the composition of public debt,” *Journal of Economic Studies*, 42:5, 821-837, October 2015.
- “The effect of taxation on tobacco consumption and government revenue in Lebanon,” 2015, with Jad Chaaban, Rima Nakkash and Hala Alaouie, *Tobacco Control*, 24:77-81.
- “The economics of tobacco in Lebanon: an estimation of the social costs of tobacco consumption,” with Jad Chaaban and Nadia Naamani, *Substance Use and Misuse*, 1-8, 2014.
- “Disability and food insufficiency in the Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon: a household survey,” with Nuha Nuwayri-Salti and Hala Ghattas, (abstract) *The Lancet* online, Volume 382, Page S31, December 2013.
- “Poverty and the livelihoods of UNHCR refugees in Lebanon,” with Jad Chaaban, Karin Seyfert, Gheed el Mekki, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, vol. 32 No. 1, 2013.
- “The political economy of attracting public funds: the case of Lebanon,” with Jad Chaaban, *International Journal of Development and Conflict*, Vol 2, No. 1, 2012.
- “Natural-Resource Wealth: Elbow Grease or Fuel for Poverty,” *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* (JITE), 2011, 167(3), 536–556.
- “Income inequality and the composition of public debt,” ERF Working Paper AC-032, 2011.
- “Socio-economic survey of Palestine refugees in Lebanon,” American University of Beirut-United Nations Relief and Works Agency report 2010, available at <http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2011012074253.pdf>
- “Who Pays? Out-of-pocket health spending and equity implications in the Middle East and North Africa,” with H. El Gazzar, F. Raad, C. Arfa, A. Mataria, J. Chaaban, D. Salehi-Isfahani, S. Fesharaki, M. Majbouri, HNP Discussion Paper, November 2010, The World Bank, Washington DC.
- “The Role of Sectarianism in the Allocation of Public Expenditure in Post-War Lebanon,” with Jad Chaaban, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, volume 42 (2010), issue 04, pp. 637-655.
- “The impact of a rise in VAT on equity and welfare in Lebanon: a microeconomic assessment,” with Jad Chaaban, Volume: 2, Issue: 1 (June 2010), *Middle East Development Journal*, 2010, 121-138.
- “Health equity in Lebanon: a microeconomic analysis,” with Jad Chaaban and Firas Raad, *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 2010, 9:11.
- “Relative deprivation and mortality in South Africa,” *Social Science & Medicine* 70 (2010), pp. 720-728
- “How Lebanon has weathered the storm,” with Aslı Bâli, *Middle East Report*, Fall 2009, 252: 30-33

“Oil Greasing the Wheels: When do Natural Resources Become a Blessing?” 2008, in Institutions and Economic Development: Selected Papers from the 14th Annual Conference, Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt, 355-388 and Economic Research Forum working paper number 439

Book review for “The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures: Economics, Education, Mobility and Space” for Al-Raida, No. 120-121, fall 2008

Work in progress:

“Decomposing inequality in the self-rated health of Palestinian women refugees in Lebanon,” with Sawsan Abdulrahim and Shogher Ohannessian.