

**29th ANNUAL MEETINGS OF
THE MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
January 2-5, 2009, San Francisco, CA
(Pre-ASSA Session 1.1)**

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 10:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: The Palestinian Economy – On-Going Fiscal and Employment Crisis
(JEL Classification: O53)

Presiding: JENNIFER C. OLMSTED, Drew University (jolmsted@drew.edu)

JENNIFER C. OLMSTED, Drew University – Where is the Peace Dividend? A Class, Gender and Age Cohort Analysis of Post-Oslo Employment in Palestine

EDWARD SAYRE, University of Southern Mississippi – Labor Market Regulations and Unemployment Duration in Palestine

BASEL SALEH, Radford University – An Analysis of the Palestinian Fiscal Situation: Challenges and Consequences

LEILA FARSAKH, University of Massachusetts Boston – Revisiting the Palestinian Economy after 40 years of Occupation

MARCO MISSAGLIA, University of Pavia, ALBERTO BOTTA*, University of Pavia, and GIOVANNI VALENSISI, University of Pavia – Why a macro structuralist Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model for Palestine?

Discussants:

JACKLINE WAHBA, University of Southampton
ASENA CANER, TOBB University of Economics and Technology
SOHRAB BEHDAD, Denison University
KAREN PFEIFER, Smith College
ALI BAYAR, EcoMod and Free University of Brussels

Date Friday, January 2, 2009 **Time** 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Changes and corrections to the program should be e-mailed to the Session Chair and copied to Serdar Sayan (ssayan@etu.edu.tr) and Senem Ucbudak (sucbudak@etu.edu.tr)

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**29th ANNUAL MEETINGS OF
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Day : Friday

Date: January 2, 2009

Time : 10:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

Place : University of San Francisco

Room: To Be Announced

Session Title: Capital Flows (JEL Classification: F20)

Presiding: NATHALIE HILMI, International University of Monaco-Hedge Funds Research Institute
(hilmi@unice.fr / nhilmi@monaco.edu)

BASSEM KAMAR*, International Monetary Fund, and SAMY BENNACEUR, University of November 7 at Carthage – The Impact of Disaggregated Capital Inflows on Real Exchange Rate Behavior

NATHALIE HILMI* and ALAIN SAFA, International University of Monaco, and GREGORY GADZINSKI, International University of Monaco – Capital Flows in Transition Economies: The Role of FDI in the Convergence with the European Union

ALAIN SAFA* and MARIE-JOSE RINALDI, International University of Monaco, NATHALIE HILMI, University of Nice, JEREMIE COSMAO and VICTOR PLANAS, International University of Monaco – Capital Flows and the BRIC: a Comparative Study of the Relationship between Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Portfolio Investment and Debt Flows

SIMON NEAIME* and MARCUS MARKTANNER, American University of Beirut – The Role of Capital Flows in Economic Development in the MENA Region

CLAUDE BERTHOMIEU* and ANNA TYKHONENKO, University of Nice – Macroeconomic Implications of Remittances in MENA and Mediterranean Countries

Discussants:

HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University
MOHAMED BENBUOZIANE, University of Tlemcen
FATMA DOGRUEL, Marmara University
SUUT DOGRUEL, Marmara University
AYSU INSEL, Marmara University

Date Friday, January 2, 2009

Time 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

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(Pre-ASSA Session 2.1)**

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 2:00 p.m.- 3:50 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: International Trade (JEL Classification: F10)

Presiding: JEFF NUGENT, University of Southern California (nugent@usc.edu)

GUZIN ERLAT* and HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University – Decomposing the Marginal Intra-Industry Trade Index as a Measure of Changes in Trade Patterns and Its Application to the MENA Countries

ALBERTO BOTTA*, University of Pavia – The Palestinian Trade Pattern and Its Formalization in CGE models: A Structuralist Perspective

FIRAT DEMIR*, University of Oklahoma, and OMAR S. DAHI, Hampshire College – Effects of Trade Liberalization and Preferential Trade Agreements on the Pattern and Direction of Trade: Evidence from MENA, Latin America and East Asia

AYSU INSEL* and MAHMUT TEKCE, Marmara University – Trade Potential of the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: A Gravity Model Approach

Discussants:

BASSAM ABU AL-FOUL, American University of Sharjah
ONER GUNCAVDI, Istanbul Technical University
SAIME KAYAM, Istanbul Technical University
IDA MIRZAIE, Ohio State University

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Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 2:00 p.m.- 3:50 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: Issues in Banking (JEL Classification: G21)

Presiding: WASSIM SHAHIN, Lebanese American University (wshahin@lau.edu.lb)

YASEMIN YALTA*, Hacettepe University, and TALHA YALTA, TOBB University of Economics and Technology – How Do Foreign Bank Acquisitions Affect Bank Outreach in Turkey?

BASAK TANYERI, Bilkent University – Stock Market Reactions to Turkish Bank Mergers

ERHAN ULUCEVIZ and LEVENT YILDIRAN*, Bogazici University – Effects of International Interbank Lendings on Twin Crises

AHMET FARUK AYSAN*, GAZI I. KARA, and LEVENT YILDIRAN, Bogazici University – Failure of Price Competition and Sticky Interest Rates in the Turkish Credit Card Market

Discussants:

MICHAEL TWOMEY, University of Michigan, Dearborn
MINE CINAR, Loyola University of Chicago
ADEL BOUGHRARA, University of Sousse
ANDRÉS RAMIREZ, Bryant University

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(Pre-ASSA Session 2.3)**

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 2:00 p.m.- 3:50 p.m.
Place : University of San Fransisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: Water Issues and the Environment (JEL Classification: O13)

Presiding: HASSAN HAKIMIAN, Cass Business School (H.Hakimian@city.ac.uk)

GOKHAN OZERTAN*, Bogazici University, and HAKAN KARACA, Texas A&M University – Managing Irrigation Induced Salinity under Asymmetry: The Case of Harran Plain in Turkey

ALI BAYAR* and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Climate Change Challenges and Policies for the MENA Countries

MICHAEL KEVANE* and LESLIE GRAY, Santa Clara University – Darfur: Rainfall and Conflict

SAMIR B.E. MALIKI*, University of Tlemcen and C3ED-IRD-UVSQ, ABDERREZAK BENHABIB, University of Tlemcen, and JACQUES CHARMES, Research Institute for Development-Paris – Targeting Poor Algerian Households on the Basis of Water Characteristics

Discussants:

BENAN ORBAY, Istanbul Technical University
HADI SALEHI ESFAHANI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
EDWARD SAYRE, University of Southern Mississippi
MICHAEL KEVANE, Santa Clara University

Date Friday, January 2, 2009 **Time** 2:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

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**29th ANNUAL MEETINGS OF
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(Pre-ASSA Session 3.1)**

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 4:00 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: Industrial Development and Institutions (JEL Classification: O14)

Presiding: TARIK YOUSEF, Dubai School of Government and Brookings Institution
(Tarik.Yousef@dsg.ae)

MOHAMED EL ARBI CHAFFAI*, University of Sfax, and PATRICK PLANE, University of Clermont 1 – Total Factor Productivity of Tunisia’s Manufacturing Sectors: Measurement, Determinants and Convergence towards OECD Countries

FATMA DOGRUEL* and SUUT DOGRUEL, Marmara University – The Relative Sectoral Performance of Turkish Manufacturing

TIDIANE KINDA*, PATRICK PLANE and MARIE-ANGE VÉGANZONÈS-VAROUdakIS, University of Auvergne – Business Environment and Performance of the Manufacturing Industry: The Case of the Middle East and North Africa

ABDALLAH ZOUACHE*, University of Saint-Etienne, and YACINE BELARBI, University of Saint-Etienne and University of Algiers – Entrepreneurship, Institutions and Development In Post-Colonial Algeria (1962-2005)

NAGLA RIZK, The American University in Cairo – Intellectual Property Rights and the Economics of the Music Industry in Egypt

Discussants:

AHMED KAMALY, American University in Cairo
HISHAM FOAD, San Diego State University
AHMET FARUK AYSAN, Bogazici University
JEFF NUGENT, University of Southern California
GOKHAN OZERTAN, Bogazici University

Date Friday, January 2, 2009 **Time** 4:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

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THE MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
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(Pre-ASSA Session 3.2)

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time** : 4:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: Open Economy Macroeconomics (JEL Classification:F41)

Presiding: GUZIN ERLAT, Middle East Technical University (gerlat@metu.edu.tr)

HALUK ERLAT, Middle East Technical University – Shifts in Persistence in the Turkish Real Exchange Rate

IDA MIRZAIIE*, Ohio State University, and MAGDA KANDIL, International Monetary Fund – Higher Oil Prices, A Blessing or Curse for Producing Countries? The Case of Iran

ARDA AKTAS, Middle East Technical University – Measuring Fiscal Sustainability for Practical Use in Short-Term Policy Making

HAKAN BERUMENT, Bilkent University, NUKHET DOGAN*, Gazi University, and AYSIT TANSEL, Middle East Technical University – Inflation Volatility and Openness: Evidence from MENA Countries

ALI BAYAR* and HODA YOUSSEF, Ecomod and Free University of Brussels – Potential Impacts of De-Pegging Gulf Currencies

Discussants:

TAYYEB SHABBIR, California State University
SHAWKAT HAMMOUDEH, Drexel University
MEHMET SERKAN TOSUN, University of Nevada, Reno
ADEL BOUGHRARA, University of Sousse
SIMON NEAIME, American University of Beirut

Date Friday, January 2, 2009 **Time** 4:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

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(Pre-ASSA Session 3.3)**

Day : Friday **Date:** January 2, 2009 **Time :** 4:10 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Place : University of San Francisco **Room:** To Be Announced

Session Title: Finance (JEL Classification: G12)

Presiding: MINE CINAR, Loyola University of Chicago (mcinar@luc.edu)

SEZA DANISOGLU* and NURAY GUNER, Middle East Technical University – Effectiveness of Price Limits in Controlling Daily Stock Price Volatility: Evidence from an Emerging Market

RICHARD A. AJAYI*, University of Central Florida, SEYED MEHDIAN* and MARK J. PERRY, University of Michigan-Flint – The Relative Influence of the East and the West on Middle Eastern Emerging Stock Markets: An Empirical Investigation

FIRUZE BOLUKBASI, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, and SEZA DANISOGLU*, Middle East Technical University – Inflation Targeting and Financial Stability: Stock Market Reaction to Policy Adoption

NURAY GUNER*, Middle East Technical University, and ZEYNEP ONDER, Bilkent University – Reactions of Returns on Turkish Real Estate Investment Trusts to Macroeconomic Variables

Discussants:

RIZA DEMIRER, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
ALI KUTAN, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
WASSIM SHAHIN, Lebanese American University
TALHA YALTA, TOBB University of Economics and Technology

Date Friday, January 2, 2009 **Time** 4:10 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE ALLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS
January 3-5, 2009, San Francisco, CA
(ASSA Session 1)

Day TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA) **Date** TBA **Room** TBA

Session Title: Open Economy Macroeconomics and Finance in MENA (JEL Classification: F49)

Presiding: HADI SALEHI ESFAHANI, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (esfahani@uiuc.edu)

ALI M. KUTAN*, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; William Davidson Institute, University of Michigan and Emerging Markets Group, Cass Business School, London, and RIZA DEMIRER*, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville – The Behavior of Crude Oil Spot and Futures Prices around OPEC and SPR Announcements: An Event Study Perspective

EMRE ALPER* and ORHAN TORUL, Bogazici University – Oil Prices, Aggregate Economic Activity and Global Liquidity Conditions: Evidence from Turkey

ADEL BOUGHRARA*, University of Sousse, and SAMIR GHAZOUANI*, University of Manouba – Is There a Bank Lending Channel of Monetary Policy in Selected MENA Countries? A Comparative Analysis

TAYYEB SHABBIR, California State University Dominguez Hills – Role of the Middle Eastern Sovereign Wealth Funds in the International Contagion of America's Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis of 2007-08

SHAWKAT HAMMOUDEH*, Drexel University, YUAN YUAN, Drexel University, and KAMAL SMIMOU, University of Ontario – Cycles, Contagion and Volatility in the Stock Markets in Middle East and North Africa

Discussants:

BASAK TANYERI, Bilkent University
RICHARD A. AJAYI, University of Central Florida
LEVENT YILDIRAN, Bogazici University
ZEYNEP ONDER, Bilkent University
BASSEM KAMAR, International Monetary Fund

TENTATIVE Date Sunday, January 4, 2009 **Time** 8:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

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January 3-5, 2009, San Francisco, CA
(ASSA Session 2)

Day TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA) **Date** TBA **Room** TBA

Session Title: Labor and Migration Issues (JEL Classification: O15)

Presiding: SOHRAB BEHDAD, Denison University (behdad@denison.edu)

JACKLINE WAHBA, University of Southampton – Informality: A Stepping Stone or a Dead End? The Case of Egypt

MOUHOUD EL MOUHOUB*, University of Dauphine-Paris 9, LUIS MIOTTI, University of Paris 13-Nord, and JOEL OUDINET, University of Paris 13-Nord – Main Motivations of Remittances in the Mediterranean Basin: Results of a New Survey

ASENA CANER*, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, and CAGLA OKTEN, Bilkent University – Risk and Career Choice: Evidence from Turkey

H. YIGIT AYDEDE, Saint Mary's University – Expected Social Security Wealth Simulations and Generational Fairness of the Turkish PAYG System

MICHAEL TWOMEY, University of Michigan, Dearborn – Incomes of Arab-Americans in the United States, and in Metro Detroit

Discussants:

HASSAN ALY, Ohio State University

CLAUDE BERTHOMIEU, University of Nice

JEFF NUGENT, University of Southern California

SERDAR SAYAN, TOBB University of Economics and Technology

JENNIFER C. OLMSTED, Drew University

TENTATIVE Date Sunday, January 4, 2009 **Time** 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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(ASSA Session 3, LUNCH SLOT)

Day TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA) **Date** TBA **Room** TBA

Session Title: Trade, Competitiveness and FDI (JEL Classification: F10)

Presiding: SERDAR SAYAN, TOBB University of Economics and Technology (ssayan@etu.edu.tr)

BASSEM KAMAR*, International Monetary Fund, and SAMY BENNACEUR*, University of November 7 at Carthage – Capital Account Liberalization, Exchange Rate Regime and Competitiveness in Emerging Markets

HISHAM FOAD, San Diego State University – Immigration and Differentiated Goods Trade : The Effects of Migration from the Middle East on Trade with Europe and North America

SAIME KAYAM* and MEHTAP HISARCIKLILAR, Istanbul Technical University – Spatial Determinants of FDI in the MENA Region

BENAN ORBAY* and ONER GUNCAVDI, Istanbul Technical University – Product Variety, Export Performance and Exchange Rates: Empirical Evidence from Turkey

Discussants:

HADI SALEHI ESFAHANI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

FIRAT DEMIR, Oklahoma State University

AYCA TEKIN-KORU, Oregon State University

ALI DADPAY, Marketing Analytics

TENTATIVE Date Sunday, January 4, 2009 **Time** 12:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

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(ASSA Session 4)

Day TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA) **Date** TBA **Room** TBA

Session Title: Poster Session (JEL Classification: A10)

Presiding: HASSAN ALY, Ohio State University

ALI DADPAY, Marketing Analytics – Fuel Black Market in Iran: A Mixed Oligopoly Analysis

BASSAM ABU AL-FOUL, American University of Sharjah – On the Causality between Defense Spending and Economic Growth: Evidence from the MENA Region

NAGLA RIZK, American University in Cairo – Intellectual Property Rights and the Economics of the Music Industry in Egypt

SAMIR B.E. MALIKI*, University of Tlemcen, ABDERREZAK BENHABIB, University of Tlemcen, and JACQUES CHARMES, Research Institute for Development – Targeting Poor Algerian Households on the basis of Water Characteristics

SAMIR MAKDISI and MARCUS MARKTANNER*, American University of Beirut – Trapped by Consociationalism: The Case of Lebanon

ANDRÉS RAMIREZ* and HAKAN SARAOGU, Bryant University – The Determinants of Cash Conversion Cycle: A Comparative Study of Middle Eastern Firms

KAREN PFEIFER, Smith College – When the Twain Shall Meet: Middle East Area Studies and the Discipline of Economics

NATHALIE HILMI* and ALAIN SAFA, University of Nice – Growth, Poverty and Inequality: The Cases of Lebanon and Turkey

ZINE BARKA, University of Tlemcen – How Oil Revenues Have Translated into A Sustainable Improvement in Social Welfare in Algeria: 1998-2007

AHMED KAMALY, American University in Cairo – Modeling Total Factor Productivity: The Case of Egypt

MOHAMED BENBUOZIANE* and ABDELHAK BENAMAR, University of Tlemcen, and SAMIRA HELLOU, University of Burgundy – Liquidity Effect and Long Run Neutrality in the MENA Countries: An Empirical Investigation

CYRUS BINA, University of Minnesota – Petroleum Industry and Energy Policy in the Islamic Republic

HALA EL RAMLY, American University in Cairo – A Re-examination of Income Convergence among Arab Countries

REZA ABEDIN, Institute for Trade Studies and Research – An Evaluation of the Possibilities for Trade Development among Iran and Selected MENA Countries

TENTATIVE Date Saturday, January 3, 2009

Time 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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