AMAL AHMAD

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EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst 2015 - Present
Dissertation: Essays on learning and conflict applied to developing countries

Expected graduation 2021
Concentrations: Microeconomics, Development

MS Development Economics, SOAS, University of London 2012-2013
Grade: Distinction

BA Economics and Black Studies, Amherst College 2008-2012

RESEARCH

Ahmad, Amal. "Imperfect information and learning: Evidence from cotton cultivation in Pakistan." *Under review.* **(Job market paper)**. This paper studies how much rural producers in developing countries can learn from their own experience to redress important information gaps. It builds a model of learning from experience and applies it using a rich and underutilized dataset on cotton farmers in Pakistan.

Ahmad, Amal. "Land for peace? Israel-Palestine through the lens of game theory." *Under review.* This paper studies the application of game theory to the question of why Israel and the Palestinians have failed to implement a land for peace solution, along the lines of the Oslo Accords, and shows that existing formal models of the conflict largely rely on unsupported assumptions about what the main actors are trying to achieve.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Ahmad, Amal (2020) "Organizational deficiencies in developing countries and the role of global surgery." In Ahmad, Alaaeldin and Agarwal, Aakash (eds.) *Early Onset Scoliosis: Guidelines for Management in Resource-Limited Settings.* Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Effortful learning by doing in developing countries". This paper develops a model of learning on the job through effortful trial and error, and examines its importance for developing countries.

"The Renaissance Dam conflict reexamined". This paper assesses the Ethiopian-Egyptian conflict using the game theory of riparian state disputes and formalizes the role of the reservoir size in the conflict.

PRESENTATIONS

Eastern Economic Association Conference
"Imperfect information and learning" Feb 29. Boston. 2020
"Effortful learning by doing," March 2. New York City. 2019

Applied Political Economy Workshop, UMass Amherst
"Imperfect information and learning in a rural development context" Nov 8.   2019
"Learning by doing and theories of growth," Oct 26.   2018
"Israel-Palestine as a bargaining game," Feb 23.   2018

UMass-New School Workshop, UMass Amherst   2018
"Learning by doing and theories of growth," Oct 21.

Arab Studies Institute, George Mason University   2017
"Israel-Palestine economic relations and the issue of borders," Jun 13.

History of Political Economy Summer Program, Duke University   2015
"Political economy in the Middle East", Jun 1.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Dean's Summer Dissertation Fellow, UMass Amherst ($4,000)   2020

PERI Dissertation Fellow, UMass Amherst ($11,500)   2019

Dean's Summer Dissertation Fellow, UMass Amherst ($4,000)   2019

Arab Studies Institute Summer Fellow, George Mason University($1,000)   2017

Graduate Department Fellow, UMass Amherst ($8,500)   2016

History of Political Economy Summer Fellow, Duke University ($1,000)   2015

Masters Scholar, SOAS University of London ($24,000)   2012

Evan Carroll Commager Fellow in Development Economics ($5,600)   2012

Select Internship Fellow, Amherst College ($3,500)   2010

TEACHING & OTHER EXPERIENCE

Main Instructor
PhD preparation courses, UMass Amherst

Graduate Mathematics Camp   2019, 2020
Graduate Econometrics Camp   2019

Lab Instructor, R
Undergraduate, UMass Amherst

ECON 452: Econometrics   2017

Teaching Assistant   2015 - 2019
Graduate and Undergraduate Courses, UMass Amherst

ECON 751: Graduate mathematical economics
ECON 705: Graduate macroeconomics
ECON 309: Game theory
ECON 104: Introduction to macroeconomics

Research Assistant   2016-2017
Political Economy Research Institute, UMass Amherst

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Statistical software	R (fluent) , STATA
Other	LaTeX, Sweave, NetLogo

LANGUAGES

English (fluent)
Arabic (fluent)
Spanish (working proficiency)
Portuguese (elementary)

REFERENCES

James Heintz
Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
jheintz@econs.umass.edu
413-577-0228

Daniele Girardi
Assistant Professor of Economics
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
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