AMAL AHMAD

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POSITION

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Göttingen   March 2021-
Center for Modern Indian Studies, Department of Development Economics

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst   2015 - Feb 2021
Dissertation: Essays on learning and conflict applied to developing countries

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.* 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.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Eastern Economic Association Conference	
"Teaching and motivating learning of mathematical economics methods online" Feb. 26.	2021
"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	2020
PERI Dissertation Fellow, UMass Amherst	2019
Dean's Summer Dissertation Fellow, UMass Amherst	2019
Arab Studies Institute Summer Fellow, George Mason University	2017
Graduate Department Fellow, UMass Amherst	2016
History of Political Economy Summer Fellow, Duke University	2015

Masters Scholar, SOAS University of London	2012
Evan Carroll Commager Fellow in Development Economics	2012
Select Internship Fellow, Amherst College	2010

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Statistical software	R , STATA
Other	LaTeX, Sweave, NetLogo

LANGUAGES

English (fluent)
Arabic (fluent)
Spanish (proficient)

References available upon request.