

# AMAL AHMAD

418 N Pleasant St; Amherst MA 01002

amalahmad@umass.edu

## EDUCATION

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**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

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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

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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

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"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

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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

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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

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### 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
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### 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

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<b>Statistical software</b>	R (fluent) , STATA
<b>Other</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Sweave, NetLogo

## LANGUAGES

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

## REFERENCES

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### **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  
dgirardi@umass.edu  
413-577-0808

### **Arslan Razmi**

Professor of Economics  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
arazmi@econs.umass.edu  
413-577-0785