

# AMAL AHMAD

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## 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.

## 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

**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**

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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

“Learning by doing and theories of growth,” Oct 21. 2018

Arab Studies Institute, George Mason University

“Israel-Palestine economic relations and the issue of borders,” Jun 13. 2017

History of Political Economy Summer Program, Duke University

“Political economy in the Middle East”, Jun 1. 2015

**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

## TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

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<b>Statistical software</b>	R , 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 (intermediate)

## 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  
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### **Arslan Razmi**

Professor of Economics  
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