

Mounir MAHMALAT

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SUMMARY

- Ph.D. in political economy; strong analytical, quantitative & qualitative research skills; specialist for issues related to fragility, conflict and violence
- Expertise of development economics, governance, and conflict issues; published in major academic outlets
- Experience in operations & policy dialogue/formulation for World Bank & UN; Middle East, central Africa, Haiti
- Strong integrative, communication, and team working skills in diverse environments, including FCV contexts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The World Bank
Senior Operations Officer/FCV Coordinator
Fragility, Conflict & Violence Group (Haiti)

Haiti & Washington DC, USA
March 2024 – today

The World Bank
FCV Coordinator
Fragility, Conflict & Violence Group (Cameroon, Central African Republic)

Washington DC, USA
April 2023 – March 2024

The World Bank
Economist/Consultant
Fragility, Conflict & Violence Group (Mashreq, Yemen), RVP Office West Africa & MENA Data Lab

Beirut, Lebanon
February 2020 - March 2023

The Policy Initiative (Policy Research)
Project Manager & Senior Researcher

Beirut, Lebanon
January 2021 - March 2023

Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (Policy Research)
Program Manager & Senior Researcher

Beirut, Lebanon
February 2018 - December 2021

DAI (Political Economy Research, Policy Formulation)
Economic Analyst

Beirut, Lebanon
January - May 2020

UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Political Economy Research)
Governance and Public Administration Officer
Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division (ECRI)

Beirut, Lebanon
August 2019 - January 2020

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Policy Research)
Consultant, Economic Governance and Planning Section

Beirut, Lebanon
March - October 2018

Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (Policy Research)
Researcher & Project Manager

Beirut, Lebanon
October 2016 - August 2017

Accenture (IT Consulting / Project Management)
Management Consultant

Hamburg, Germany
February - December 2015

Cross Media Consulting (Strategy Consulting / Media Industry)
Consultant

Hamburg, Germany
July - September 2012 & June - December 2014

Code One (IT Solutions / Video Communication Products and Services)
Management Board Assistant, Business Developer

Düsseldorf, Germany
April - September 2013

PCS Sales and Service (Media technology Solutions and Services)
Planning Engineer, Researcher

Düsseldorf, Germany
June 2012 & October 2012 - March 2013

Robert-Schumann Hochschule, Tonhalle & Opera Düsseldorf (Cultural Institutions)
Project Manager, Engineer

Düsseldorf, Germany
2009 - 2012

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics (*Full-Time Scholarship Award from Irish Research Council*)
Dublin City University

Dublin, Ireland
2016 - 2019

Research Fellow (Political Economy, Political Science)
Harvard University, Department of Government

Cambridge, USA
2017 - 2018

Predoctoral Fellow (Political Economy, Public Policy)
Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut

Beirut, Lebanon
2017 - 2018

M.Sc. in Int. Management (*'First Class Honours' - Top 5% of Class*)
International Partnership of Business Schools (IPBS)
NEOMA Business School (Reims) & Dublin City University

Dublin & Reims, France
2013 - 2014

B.Eng. in Media Engineering (*Grade: 1,9 - Top 10% of Class*)
University of Applied Science Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf, Germany
2009 - 2013

B.Mus. in Music and Media (*Grade: 1,6 - Top 5% of Class*)
Robert Schumann University of Music

Düsseldorf, Germany
2008 - 2012

Research Project and Economic Studies
Northeastern University

Boston, USA
2011 - 2012

Abitur (High School Equivalent) (*Grade: 1,9 - Top 10% of class*)
Friedrich-Harkort-Schule

Herdecke, Germany
2007

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Cartels in public infrastructure procurement - Evidence from Lebanon" with Wassim Maktabi, *Governance*, 37(4), pp.1321-1347, 2024; previously in The World Bank *Working Paper* Series
- "Resource Allocation in Power-Sharing Arrangements - Evidence from Lebanon" with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, *Third World Quarterly*, 44(3), pp. 554-573, 2023
- "Breaking the Mold? Ministerial rotations, legislative production and political strategies in Lebanon", with Sami Zoughaib, *Governance*, 35(4), pp. 1029-1048, 2022
- "Policymaking, Ideational Power, and the role of the Media", with Declan Curran and Rob Gillanders, *Political Studies Review*, 20(2), pp.250-264, 2022
- "Policy divergence across crises of a similar nature: The role of ideas in shaping 19th century famine relief policies" with Declan Curran, *Review of International Political Economy*, 28(3), pp. 712-738, 2021

- “Fractionalization and Reform: A Framework of Political Collaboration on Reform with Application to Lebanon” with Declan Curran, *Economics of Governance*, 21(2), pp. 187-214, 2020
- “Assessing Policymaking in Data Poor Polities – Introduction of a new approach and data set for Lebanon”, *International Development Planning Review*, 42(4), pp. 407-430, 2020
- “Entrepreneurship and Governance in the Arab Region – A review of recent literature to prioritize policy challenges” with Denise Sumpf, *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, 25(1), 2020
- “Corruption and support for economic reform in sub-Saharan Africa” with Michael Breen and Robert Gillanders, *Economics Bulletin*, 39(4), p. A114, 2019
- “Do Crises Induce Reform? A Critical Survey of Conception, Methodology and Empirical Evidence of the ‘Crisis Hypothesis’”, with Declan Curran, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 32(3), pp. 613-648, 2018
- “Interrogating the ‘Crisis-Reform’ Hypothesis: A case-study of poor law reform in post-famine Ireland” with Declan Curran, *Journal of European Economic History*, 45(3), pp. 55-82, 2016
- “Balanced Scorecard - About Communication in Cultural Institutions” [German title: “Balanced Scorecard – Über Kommunikation öffentlich getragener Kulturbetriebe”] *KM Magazine*, 05/2013
- “The Efficiency Rumor - Do US-American Opera Houses work more Efficiently than German Ones?” *Arts Management Newsletter*, 04/2013

Working Papers

- “Measuring trust in governments using Twitter data –An application to the MENA region,” *The World Bank*, with Roy van der Weide
- “Crises and Informal Institutional Change” with Declan Curran
- “Crises, Uncertainty, and Reform – Disentangling the Mechanisms of a Conventional Wisdom in Fractionalized Polities”, *ERF Working Paper Series* no 1630, presented at the *Economic Research Forum* and the *Comparative Agendas Project* annual conferences 2020, as well as at University of Barcelona, Dept. of Politics 2021
- “Post-Conflict Power Sharing Arrangements and the Evolution of Social Orders – The Limits of Limited Access Order in Lebanon” with Youssef Chaitani, presented at *American Political Science Association* annual conference 2020

Books & Chapter Contributions

- “Infrastructure procurement and elite-level collusion in Lebanon”, with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, in ‘Procurement in Focus – Rules, Discretion and Emergencies’, eds. Oriana Bandiera, Erica Bosio and Giancarlo Spagnolo, *Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR Press)*, 2021
- “Videoconferencing Systems in Business Application” [German Title: “Videokonferenzsysteme im Unternehmenseinsatz”] *Shaker Publishing*, 07/2013
- “Aspects of Safeguarding the Future of Public Cultural Institutions” [German Title: “Aspekte zur Zukunftssicherung öffentlich getragener Kulturbetriebe”] *AV Publishing*, 08/2012

Policy Briefs & Other Research

- “How the many become a few - The great reduction of Lebanon’s foreign donors”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 04/2023
- “From Hariri’s Loans to Aoun’s Drought - The History of Lebanon’s Foreign Aid”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2023
- “How do cartels work? Dealmaking at Lebanon’s Council for Development and Reconstruction”, *The Policy Initiative*, *L’Orient le Jour*, with Wassim Maktabi, 09/2022
- “How Transparent Are Lebanon’s Municipalities? Introducing the Institutional Transparency Index”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2022
- “What Determines the Transparency of Municipalities? The Effects of Networks and Neighbors”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Sami Zoughaib, Wassim Maktabi and Sami Atallah, 03/2022
- “Networks and the Transparency of Local Governments – The Effects of Municipal Unions”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Zoughaib and Sami Atallah, 03/2022
- “The Effect of Political Affiliations on Municipal Transparency”, *The Policy Initiative*, with Wassim Maktabi, Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, 03/2022
- “Lebanon’s Independent Electricity Regulator: Avoiding the ‘Political Economy Trap’”, with Ali Ahmad and Jamal Saghir, *Lebanese Center for Policy Studies*, 07/2021

- “The Value of a ‘Seat at the Table’: How Elites Interfere in Lebanon’s Public Infrastructure Procurement”, with Sami Atallah and Wassim Maktabi, [International Growth Centre](#), [L’Orient le Jour](#) [in French], and [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 03/2021
- “Breaking the Mold? Why Ministerial Rotations Cannot Make Up for an Independent Government” with Sami Zoughaib, [Economic Research Forum](#), [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), [L’Orient le Jour](#) [in French], and [An Nahar](#) [in Arabic], 01/2021
- “Restructuring Subnational Governance in Lebanon – Towards Efficient Public Spending and Reduced Regional Inequalities”, [Democracy Reporting International](#) & [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah, Ziyad Baroud, Mohamad Hussein Mansour, Rose Vennin, 11/2020
- “Lebanon Needs an Independent Cabinet with Legislative Authority” with Ziad Abu-Rish, Sami Atallah, and Wassim Maktabi, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#) and [Jadaliyya](#), 08/2020
- “Lebanon Must Learn From the Syrian Disaster”, with Tilman Brück, [Economic Research Forum](#), 06/2020
- “Balancing Access to the State – How Lebanon’s System of Sectarian Governance Became Too Costly to Sustain”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 06/2020
- “A Recession Without Impact: Why Lebanese elites delay reform” with Sami Atallah, [Economic Research Forum](#), 10/2019 – also translated into French and published by [L’Orient le Jour](#) and by the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#)
- “CEDRE Capital Investment Plan: Scrutinizing the Allocation of Projects and Funds Across Regions”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Georgia Dagher and Sami Atallah, 09/2019
- “The CEDRE Reform Program Needs a Credible Action Plan”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Georgia Dagher
- “Why Does Lebanon Need CEDRE? How Fiscal Mismanagement and Low Taxation on Wealth Necessitate International Assistance” [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah, 10/2018
- “CEDRE Reform Program: Learning from Paris III”, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zgheib, 11/2018
- “Growth Without Development: The Role of Lebanon’s Political Agenda” [Baker Institute for Public Policy](#), Rice University, 10/2018
- “CEDRE Conference: The Need for a Strong Reporting Mechanism” [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), with Sami Atallah and Sami Zgheib, 10/2018

Op Ed's

- “In Iraq, mitigating fragility means addressing climate change,” [World Bank Blogs](#), with Ali Ahmad, 04/2023
- “The grand waiting game: Why Lebanon’s elites postpone compromise,” [Economic Research Forum](#), 02/2023
- “When elections don’t matter? How new parliamentarians can improve the politics of power-sharing arrangements”, with Sami Atallah, Wassim Maktabi, Sami Zoughaib, [Middle East Institute](#), and [The Policy Initiative](#), 07/2022
- “Power sector reforms are new Lebanese governments’ ultimate test” with Ali Ahmad, Paul Noumba Um, and Jamal Saghir, [Middle East Institute](#), 09/2021
- “Hiding Behind Disaster: How International Aid Risks Helping Elites, Not Citizens” with Sami Atallah and Sami Zoughaib, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), and [L’Orient le Jour](#) (in French), 09/2020
- “Beirut Blast: The Need to Rebuild the State”, with the LCPS research team, [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#) and [Alternatives Economiques](#) (in French translation), 08/202
- “Deposits Made “Sacred”: The Dangerous Red Line of Lebanon’s Elites”, [Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy](#), the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), and [Le Commerce du Levant/L’Orient le Jour](#) (in French) 26/04/2020
- “Why a Traditional IMF Bailout Would Exacerbate Lebanon’s Woes”, [Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy](#), [Le Commerce du Levant](#) (in French), and the [Lebanese Center for Policy Studies](#), 01/2020
- “Tax Exemptions Would Undermine Faith in The New Government’s Pledge to Reform”, [Al Akhbar](#), with Sami Atallah, April 15th/2019
- “How Germany’s Conservatives Threaten Europe’s Future”, [Harvard Kennedy School Review](#), 05/2018

Reports & Technical Papers

- “Haiti: Pathways to Growth”, [The World Bank](#) (forthcoming)
- “Haiti Rapid Crisis Impact Assessment”, [The World Bank](#) et al., 2024

- "Syria Economic Monitor: Conflict, Crises, and the Collapse of Household Welfare", with Luan Zhao et al, [The World Bank](#), 2024
- "Central African Republic – FCV Portfolio Review", *The World Bank*, 2023
- "Syria Earthquake 2023: Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment", [The World Bank](#), 2023
- "Syria Economic Monitor: Syria's Economy in Ruins After a Decade-long War", with Luan Zhao et al., [The World Bank](#), 2023
- "Syria Joint Damage Assessment Report", with [The World Bank](#) and *United Nations*, 2022
- "Performance and Learning Review for Lebanon", with Mouna Couzi et al., [The World Bank](#), 2022
- "Lebanon Risk and Resilience Assessment", with Stephan Massing, [The World Bank](#), 2022
- "Political Economy Analysis Framework for Lebanon", with Neil McCulloch and William Kingsmill, *Lebanon Economic Reform and Infrastructure Investment (LERII) Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)*, DAI & DFID
- "Arab Governance Report IV" with Youness Abouyoub et al., [United Nations ESCWA](#), 2022
- "Trends and Impacts in Conflict Settings, No. VI - Developing a Risk Assessment Framework for the Arab Region", with George Willcoxon et al., [United Nations ESCWA](#), 2019
- "Economic Governance for Entrepreneurs in the Arab Region: Prioritizing Policy Challenges", [United Nations ESCWA](#) with Denise Sumpf, 10/2018

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS/PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- Economic Research Forum 29th annual conference, Cairo, May 2023
- World Bank, Mashreq department, Beirut, June 2022
- American Economic Association annual conference, Boston, January 2022
- Economic Research Forum 28th annual conference, Cairo, March 2022
- RISE annual conference, Saint Joseph University, November 2021
- University of Barcelona, Political Science Department, workshop presentation, November 2021
- Comparative Agendas Project annual conference, Aarhus, September 2021
- International Public Policy Association conference, Barcelona, July 2021
- Western Economic Association International conference/MEEA, Honolulu, June 2021
- American Political Science Association (APSA) conference, San Francisco, September 2020
- Annual Comparative Agendas Project conference, July 2020
- Economic Research Forum 26th annual conference, Luxor, March 2020
- "The Transformation of the State System in the Greater Middle East", PRIO, Oslo, November 2019
- 18th International Conference of the Middle East Economic Association, Beirut, October 2019
- Economic Research Forum 25th annual conference, Kuwait City, March 2019
- "Research Initiative on the Economics of the Middle East," Université Sorbonne Paris I, 2018
- Economic Research Forum 24th annual conference, Cairo, July 2018
- "Building Pluralistic and Inclusive States Post Arab Spring," Rice University/AUB, 2018
- Sixth EconWorld International Conference in Paris, 2017
- Summerschool in Applied Econometrics, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, 2017
- Summerschool in Macroeconomics, Paris School of Economics, 2016

SCHOLARSHIPS & ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- Research Fellow at the *Economic Research Forum*, 2023
- Managing editor of the Political Economy & Security section of Harvard Kennedy School's *Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*, 2019-2020
- American University of Beirut / Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, 2018/19
- Harvard University / Department of Government, 2017/18
- American University of Beirut / Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, 2016/17
- *Irish Research Council* / Full-time scholarship for doctoral studies, 2018/19
- Dublin City University Business School / Department of Economics, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Full-time Scholarship for doctoral studies, 2015-19
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Northeastern University / Scholarship to work on an international research project about operational efficiency of performing arts institutions, 2011

SELECTED PROJECT FUNDING

- *Konrad Adenauer Foundation* for two studies on collusion in public infrastructure procurement in Lebanon (~\$70,000), 2021 & 2022
- *UK DFID/Siren Associates* for studies on bureaucratic efficiency and institutional transparency in Lebanon (~\$50,000), 2021
- *International Growth Centre* for a study on corruption in public infrastructure procurement in Lebanon, with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (~\$40,000), 2020
- *Democracy Reporting International* for a study on decentralization reform in Lebanon, with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (~\$30,000), 2019
- *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Lebanon* for a project to analyze legislative agenda dynamics in Lebanon, with Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (~\$500,000), 2018
- *Konrad Adenauer Foundation* for a study on decentralization in Lebanon, with LCPS (~\$10,000), 2019

OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Languages: German, English, French, Spanish, Arabic

Relevant Trainings (i.a.): Conflict resolution (Harvard Divinity School), FCV Core Course, World Bank Procurement Trainings, World Bank SSAFE Training

Computer Skills (i.a.): Stata, NVivo, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Suite, various software for media production and editing

Interests: Cello, Snowboarding, Kite surfing, Chess, Scuba Diving, Cycling, Volleyball, Athletics (Triathlon), Traveling
