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**When the Twain Shall Meet:  
Middle East Area Studies and the Discipline of Economics**

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## **When the Twain Shall Meet: Middle East Area Studies and the Discipline of Economics**

An examination of the membership rolls and annual conference programs of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), and of the membership and course offerings of Middle East Studies programs around the United States, yields the impression that economics is not of central importance to the study of this region of the world. By the same token, area studies tend to be undervalued and underrepresented in the typical department of economics. Within academia in the United States, then, the potential for a healthy interaction between these two realms has been limited.

Social science disciplines in the United States, economics in particular, have shrunk from contact with area studies, in part because the incentive system for recognition and promotion in US academia has come to be defined increasingly by mathematical modeling and specialized technical proficiency. More profoundly, economists across the methodological spectrum hold a positivistic attitude toward their subject matter. They reject the relativism and policy impotence that derives from the fullest blown forms of cultural studies, preferring a pro-active “scientific” orientation toward issues such as economic growth. Proponents of cultural studies, from their side, tend to follow the lead of Edward Said’s landmark critique of orientalism. They find economics, from neoclassical to Marxian, overly focused on data, statistical correlations and abstract models that are naïvely culture-blind in their application to regions like the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).<sup>1</sup>

Outside the United States, there is a vibrant and growing body of work by an expanding pool of MENA economists, most of them from and/or in the region, directed toward real-world issues of political economy. Since 1990, these economic researchers have become increasingly linked to each other in overlapping international networks. Many of them claim to be multilineal and interdisciplinary in theoretical approach. However, here, as in the United States, there is a deep tension between the abstract epistemology of the discipline and the functioning of existing economies within their local and historical particularities. Economic theory of the region is burdened with the legacies of unilineal modernization theory, state-directed development trajectories and, more recently, neoliberal “reform” programs. The latter programs have been based on the ahistorical and culture-neutral assumption that the canonized western “free-market” model is the universally correct key to growth and development.

This paper examines the nature and direction of the relationship between economics and Middle East studies in the United States and in the region, the means by which research output is disseminated, the methods of shaping its production, and the contested boundaries of both theory and method in defining the growing “body of knowledge” so produced. The essay concludes by considering whether the tension between these competing intellectual traditions might be harnessed creatively to generate a new dialectic for understanding societies in this part of the world.

### **ECONOMICS AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES**

#### **Measures of Interaction**

Professional economists are not well represented in the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), in other non-economics networks in the United States or in Middle East Studies academic programs.

MESA. The MESA membership directory of 2006 listed thirty-nine economists, 1.7 percent of about 2,270 members, and 116 members (5.1 percent) with a sub-area interest in political economy (MESA 2006: 78, 97).<sup>2</sup> Excluding overlap yields a total of about 6 percent, clearly a small fraction of the membership, with an expressed interest in these critical fields, a reality that is also reflected in MESA's conferences. Papers in the "economics" category constituted just 1.1 percent of the papers at the annual meetings in 2005, 0.6 percent at the 2006 meeting, and 0.4 percent in 2007 (MESA Newsletters, May 2005 p.13, May 2006 p. 8, May 2007 p. 6).<sup>3</sup>

Al-Musharaka. *Al-Musharaka* is a multidisciplinary network of academics in the United States interested in the Middle East, a project of the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE), run by Dr. Michael Toler of Middlebury College. The coordinator had undertaken several initiatives to get more economists involved in the network and more economics into the content areas of Al-Musharaka's work. In November 2006, the website provided a speakers' list of 31 persons, of whom three were economists. Its open-source project providing teaching modules on Arab culture and civilization contained two entries on economics, both listed under the "Geography, Demography, and Resources" heading (<http://arabworld.nitle.org>). Of these two, one is by an economist, Professor Massoud Karshenas of SOAS, and is a copy of his chapter in the Hakimian and Moshaver edited volume of 2001 mentioned below under "production of knowledge." The second is an interview not with an economist but with political scientist Kiren Chaudhury of the University of California at Berkeley, a well-respected scholar whose work represents a more interdisciplinary "political economy" approach than that of "economics" as defined in academia.

Middle East Studies Faculty and Courses. Table 1 presents the results of two types of inquiry regarding the presence of economists and economics courses in Middle East Studies in the United States. The first was an email survey of MESA members identified in the "economics" and "political economy" categories in 2006. The second was a set of web searches on (a) institutions listed on the U.S. Department of Education's website as having or recently having had National Resource Center status (NRC) in Middle East Studies or centers in Near Eastern Language and Culture (NELC), (b) institutions defined by the National Science Foundation to be the top thirty research-fund recipients in 2003, and (c) institutions located on the first twelve pages of results from Google searches for "courses on Middle East and economics" and "courses on economies of the Middle East."

Table 1 includes 105 institutions, of which 54 (52%) offered Middle East Studies in some form ranging from a full NRC or NELC down through a programmatic major to a minor or certificate. Fifty-nine (56%) of all institutions offered at least one course in the "political economy" of MENA in a non-economics department, such as political science, history, sociology, anthropology, or geography. However, only 31 institutions (30%) offered an economics course through their economics department, and just 24 (23%) cited an economics professor among the faculty affiliated with Middle East Studies.

Many of the best-known U.S. university websites list neither an economist nor a course in economies of the Middle East, even if they have a CMES or an NECL, including Boston University, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Indiana at Bloomington, Johns Hopkins, Michigan, NYU, Princeton, Rochester, Texas at Austin, and Yale. These are all on the NSF 2003

list of top research institutions, but research on the economies of MENA does not seem to be high on their agenda.

Among the twenty institutions listed on the Department of Education's website as having NRCs for the Middle East (indicated in Table 1 in bold italics), just eight (40%) listed economics faculty among the program's affiliates, and only five (25%) listed courses on the Middle East taught through their economics departments. Almost all of the other 15 MES programs listed courses taught in other departments that seemed to fall in the broadly-defined realm of "political economy."

At the six Middle East Studies centers studied intensively in 2005-2006 by the SSRC project of which this essay is a part, only one affiliated professor belonged to a regular economics department and five came from a resource economics department (all at one school). Only one center listed a course on the economies of the Middle East per se, taught once per year. Another had three courses (of which two were on agriculture) that each included about 25 percent content on the Middle East. Four other Centers listed one course each on political economy or development or finance in the Middle East taught by professors in political science or international relations but not economics.

Why is there such limited connection between U.S. economics and the many historians, literary and artistic scholars, and political scientists who form the bulk of Middle East Studies as traditionally conceived? If Mitchell is correct that "the future of area studies lies in their ability to disturb the disciplinary claim to universality and the particular place this assigns to areas" (2003b: 16-17), then this future has arrived, but neither economists nor other MES practitioners seem to have noticed.

### Why the Twain Diverge

The limited role for economics in U.S. Middle East studies seems to be bounded by three interacting constraints. These are the incentive system for economists' hiring, promotion and tenure in academic institutions, the struggle within the discipline of economics on how to define its relevance to the real world, and the unfriendly attitude of many Middle East studies professionals in the humanities and history toward both the methods and the ideological approach of economists to societies that are outside the orbit of Europe and its offshoots.

First, a scholar's success in economics is typically measured by his or her publication of articles in strictly ranked journals dealing with economics or finance, not with regions or even international comparative analysis, and less commonly in the publication of books. The academic incentive system in the sharply bounded discipline of economics in the United States serves to inhibit graduate students, even those of Middle Eastern background, from working on projects that focus too narrowly on the region. For those not of MENA background who wish to defy the employment-opportunity odds and let themselves become area specialists anyway there is not enough time in graduate school to learn the "language" and ever more technical tools of economics as well as learning the language and culture of the area.

Exacerbating this limitation is the fact that poor quality of data in MENA inhibits the use of econometrics and, at best, forces the use of national-level data. Very few economists go out into the field and generate their own data, and those who do are not considered "serious" because the data are rarely numerous or systematic enough to yield statistical reliability. If one cannot get access to large reliable data sets to do econometric testing, one is not considered a true economist. We shall see below that there are some efforts in the region to tackle this basic problem, but that this effort raises further epistemological issues of how research is shaped and prioritized.

Second, neoclassical economics is unselfconsciously tied to the historically contingent and increasingly outmoded notion of the “national economy” as the basic unit of analysis in developing country research. However, the “national economy” does not capture some critical realities, such as the failure of pollution to respect national boundaries, or the increasingly complex paths of unrecorded cross-border trade or migration of labor around the globe. The “informal economy” exists in virtually all economies, but in many developing countries it can rival the formal economy. For example, recent survey data in Egypt indicate that the private non-agricultural sector accounted for almost half of total employment (46.5%) in 2006, and that the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) had been growing at 4.7% per year since 1998. However, 82% of that sector remained informal, “despite all the serious business climate improvement efforts” (ERF 2006: 12).<sup>4</sup> While neoclassical economists cheerfully tend to see such activity as an illustration of what Adam Smith referred to as the human propensity to truck and barter, based on the ubiquitous motive of pursuit of self-interest, others see it as an artifact of the forced transition to western style markets and development, which fails to generate sufficient employment and income in the formal sector. Economic anthropologists tend to see it as shaped by the cultural institutions and local and personal resource endowments of the society, constraints that also are not necessarily coterminous with national boundaries. Indeed, when the survey data for Egypt was announced at an ERF conference, “the audience expressed their concern regarding the very low wages of informal workers; and that informality is rather a cultural phenomenon, due to lack of trust in government regulations and the market” (ERF 2006: 13).

Dependent as it is on the “national economy” as a conceptual tool, the Washington Consensus has consistently tried to shrink and contain the public sector in MENA, as elsewhere, on the grounds that the private sector can do most everything more efficiently, including infrastructure investment and maintenance. Yet, it is historically accurate that the nation-state and a national government were crucial in the creation of capitalist economies in Europe and its offshoots such as the United States, in so far as, for example, governments promote an integrated transportation system that serves the development of a domestic market for a growing volume of output (domestic meaning internal to a nation-state). The state has also been important in promoting the direct accumulation of capital for investment (from Henry VIII’s redistribution of Roman Catholic church lands among his cronies to the U.S. 19<sup>th</sup> century Homestead Act), and in establishing the institutions of private property, enforceable contracts for market transactions, and a police and court system to oversee them. But “the state” can perform other functions that are not always directly beneficial to the entrepreneurial class. These might include regulation of firm/labor relations and various welfare functions under a kind of “social contract” with the citizenry, a concept that goes beyond the neoclassical conception of the state’s appropriate role, such as in the provision of social infrastructure (education, healthcare, housing, and other public goods) and coping with the growing externalities that accompany a growing economy, such as environmental pollution. The neoliberal formulas of the Washington Consensus try to promote the pro-capitalist components of state activity, but curtail the social contract components.

Third, then, there is a powerful tension between economic theory and sociocultural systems in MENA. Economists’ definition of “theory” tends to be narrowly focused on market models, with its assumptions of universal competition and the pursuit of individual self-interest as the driving forces of human economic activity. There is little room for other possible assumptions about human motivation (e.g., “Homo Islamicus”) or for developing alternative models based on cooperation rather than competition. Islamic banking has become popular, but

not Islamic economics, because the former has shown itself to be profitable even to Western banks. The demise of the USSR and of eastern European socialism, and the transition from socialism to capitalism in countries like China and Vietnam, has discredited the alternative model of central planning and state-directed economic transformation. So, although many economists with a conscience wish to address social issues, as well take account of the variation in development trajectories related to different cultures and histories around the world, they are now confined to economic theories and policies that promote market-based definitions of growth and efficiency, adding on, if they are courageous, “externalities” like gender inequality and poverty to be addressed separately.<sup>5</sup>

Neoclassical economics is generally insensitive to the differential histories and cultures of societies around the world, especially regarding the interface between the public and private sectors. The “Washington Consensus” program of economic reform for developing countries, stabilization, liberalization, and privatization, was based on a single, unilineal trajectory of development, modeled on the “free market liberalism” that is assumed to have been the basis for the success of the wealthy western European and United States economies. The fact that such a system never existed is irrelevant. Furthermore, the model of an “economy,” based on the historically contingent notion of the “nation-state,” is itself becoming outmoded or at least less useful in the twenty-first century.

### **GROWTH OF MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS IN AND FOR THE REGION**

There continues to be criticism of social science in the MENA region for the lack of both quality and quantity in its research output (Ben Hafaiedh 2007; Ibrahim 2000). However, in the two decades from the early 1980s to the mid-2000s, the number of professionally trained economists working on the MENA region burgeoned, to possibly as many as 1500 persons. Furthermore, we shall see below that, as of 2006, a majority of these economists were of MENA origin, whether employed in Europe, the US or the region. This is due partly to the expansion of opportunities in the 1970s to study economics at the graduate level in the United States, the United Kingdom, and other English speaking and European countries. An illustration of the importance of this intellectual training can be seen in Table 2, “Senior Associates of ERF 2006,” which presents the education and work experience of an important group of MENA economists associated with the Economic Research Forum (as described below). Of the thirty-seven senior associates listed on the ERF’s website, background information was provided for thirty-two, of whom eighteen (56 percent) received their Ph.D.s in the United States, nine in the United Kingdom, three in Europe and just two in the MENA region.

In these two decades, there have been concerted efforts to cultivate professionals by the Middle East Economics Association (MEEA), by the World Bank and the Ford Foundation via the Economics Research Forum (ERF), and by expanding regional university programs. Very few universities offer the Ph.D. in economics (Middle East Technical University in Turkey, Cairo University, Universite St. Joseph in Beirut, Tehran University) or promise to do so in the future (American University of Beirut). But many others, including the relatively new universities such as the American University at Sharjah, the American University of Kuwait, and Zayed University, as well as the established ones such as AUB, the American University at Cairo, the Lebanese American University, and Bilkent, Bogazici, and Istanbul universities in Turkey, offer bachelor’s and some master’s degrees in economics that prepare students to study for the Ph.D. abroad. We will first compare the structure and membership of the two largest organized

networks, the MEEA and ERF, and then examine how they and a number of other institutions disseminate, cultivate, and shape the production of “economic knowledge” in and for the region.

### Origins, Mission and Funding of the Main Economics Research Networks.

Core themes in the MEEA’s mission statement ([www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org), August 2006) give insight into the direction of research on MENA economies in recent times. It reads:

*Founded in 1974. Membership base 970. Annual dues \$25, \$20 for students and \$10 for all those from the Middle East and North Africa region. MEEA is a private non-profit, non-political organization fostering economic research on contemporary and historical issues in countries of the Middle East and North Africa region (broadly defined). Emphasis is placed on contending analytical perspectives, cross-country comparisons and bringing modern analytical techniques to bear to important economic and social problems of the MENA region. Chief among MEEA activities are the Annual Meeting held jointly with the Allied Social Science Association ASSA (usually in early January), other conferences (mainly international) jointly sponsored with other organizations, publication of a research annual, an electronic conference proceedings volume and a newsletter (twice yearly) and the maintenance of a website ([www.meeaweb.org](http://www.meeaweb.org)).*

The MEEA is based in the United States, and was inspired by its first president, Arab economist Charles Issawi. Many of its founding members were of Iranian origin, people who fled the Shah’s regime and came to the United States either as students or emigres. A minority were of Arab or Turkish origin. The vast majority had taken their graduate degrees in the United States. In the early years the organization did not have a large contingent of members in the region, although its members maintained their personal ties with and intellectual interest in the region’s societies.

From the beginning, the MEEA was explicitly a professional association of economists and a few others with advanced degrees in the social sciences. It has long been affiliated with the American Economic Association (AEA) through co-membership in the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA, of which the AEA is the dominant organization). Fully independent, it is funded by membership dues and intermittent grants to support international conferences. Despite its larger number of members, the MEEA does not have access to the funding sources that ERF has, and thus is able to do less in the way of cultivating research. It was “non-political” in part to avoid the partisan infighting that characterized the Iranian-American community in the years leading up to the overthrow of the Shah’s regime in 1979. It had no explicit relationship to Middle East Studies in general, as that field had developed in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s (see Mitchell 2003a and 2003b), nor to the Middle East Studies Association in particular. It was only in the late 1990s that the MEEA became an official affiliate organization of MESA, an affiliation that has yet to bear much fruit in bringing the members together.

MEEA is like MESA and unlike the ERF in its explicit commitment to supporting human rights, especially those of academics, in the region. The MEEA’s Committee on Human Rights and Academic Freedom, “CHRAF,” which echoes the root word for “honor” in Arabic, is analogous to MESA’s Committee on Academic Freedom, MESA-CAF. While MESA-CAF addresses the situation of oppressed colleagues in many disciplines in the region, CHRAF takes up cases of social science colleagues in particular who have had their right to freedom of expression curtailed or even been imprisoned by regimes in the region. It publicizes these cases



and writes letters of objection to the relevant authorities in the country and to the U.S. Department of State. Over the years since it was founded in 1999, CHRAF has addressed cases in, for example, Iran, Tunisia, and Egypt, the most famous being the situation of Professor Saad Eddin Ibrahim, the Egyptian sociologist at the American University in Cairo, who was convicted and imprisoned but ultimately exonerated by the regime for his institute's relationship to international donor organizations.

The heading above the list of officers and board members in the fall 2006 MEEA newsletter, states that "the main objective of MEEA is to foster scholarship and to establish lines of communication among specialists interest in the Political Economy of the Middle East" ([www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org)). The MEEA defines the field, "political economy" as opposed to more narrowly defined "economics," and the region more broadly and fluidly than does the ERF. The definition of the region includes Israel in addition to the Arab world, Iran and Turkey, and extends to other Mediterranean countries normally thought of as "European" such as Malta and Cyprus, and to central and south Asia, especially for the purposes of comparative work, and even to the Islamic countries in general.

While the ERF has some room for dissension, the MEEA more explicitly encourages "contending analytical perspectives," and its conferences and publications include the work of neoclassical, institutionalist, neo-institutionalist, and Marxian economists. This accommodating attitude comes partly out of the manner in which the organization was founded, partly out of how it has expanded in the years after 1990 to encourage participation by colleagues from and working in the region, and partly out of a subtle but pervasive tension regarding the cultural and sociological differences that frame the economies of the region differently from those of Europe and its offshoots. The organization's encouragement of "cross-country comparisons" aims at analysis of both the similarities and differences among the countries of the region and its neighbors, and confronting the role of conflict in framing, or warping or undermining, their economies.

Both the MEEA and the ERF stress the importance of policy oriented research, as opposed to purely theoretical or purely empirical intellectual exercises. Conference organizers and journal editors are committed to accepting papers and organizing panels on the pressing "economic and social problems of the region." This part of the mission is emphasized in the description of the on-line journal of the organization, which stresses that, in order to qualify, the papers must **apply** economic techniques to these problems (see President Mine Cinar's letter to members in the Fall 2001 newsletter regarding pressing work of MEEA after 9/11).

The MEEA has in common with the ERF the aim of "bringing modern analytical techniques to bear on important economic and social problems of the MENA region." But for these economists, even those trained strictly in the neoclassical tradition or working in the neoliberal environment of the international financial institutions, there is always a tension between their cultural sensitivity, on the one hand, and the standard assumptions and "modern analytical techniques" of Western economics, on the other hand. The examples in the "contested boundaries" discussion below strain to reconcile this tension. This tension generally does not afflict other economists working for the international institutions or corporations or Western academic institutions who have not previously experienced or learned much about the economies of the region, and who may not be aware of the broad diversity in both culture and economic history among those countries. Since the international institutions wield a great deal of power, these covert tensions are not likely to be resolved in general in the near future.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have long produced reports on the region and the many countries that make it up. However, their experts tended to be researchers from many different parts of the world with little connection to the region on which they were assigned to work. The rationale for this preferred arrangement was to keep researchers from “going native,” as the anthropologists say, that is losing their objectivity by being too committed to a particular people or place, and to assume that an “expert” in economics or finance had universal knowledge that could be applied equally well in any part of the globe. This rationale denied that region-specific knowledge of the “area studies” type was relevant to policy-oriented economic research. These two organizations have come in for a great deal of criticism regarding this culture-blind approach, which many critics believe has contributed to creating more problems than they solved. Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz resigned (or was forced to resign) from the World Bank in the mid-1990s because of his raising these criticisms internally.<sup>6</sup> It was because of both this failure to take local society and conditions into account, and the failure to account for the human consequences of structural adjustment, that led the United Nations Development Program to begin its own series of country research reports and to generate its *Human Development Report*, to complement, if not compete with, the World Bank and IMF country reports and world surveys.

By the mid-1990s, internal criticisms as well as external criticisms appear to have led the World Bank to take alternate routes, but not to admit mistakes, to accommodate the research problems and outcomes cited by the critics. The first half of each *World Development Report* began to be devoted to issues such as labor (*Workers in an Integrating World*, 1995), poverty (*Attacking Poverty*, 2000), and the environment (*Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World*, 2003). Furthermore, the World Bank undertook to help establish and support other organizations that could more directly address these issues without the Bank itself having to be in the forefront.

According to the website of one of its donors, the International Development Research Center, Toronto, Canada, the Economic Research Forum for the Arab World, Iran and Turkey (ERF),<sup>7</sup> was conceived by “a number of multilateral organizations and foundations” in 1992. The organization was created in 1993 by these institutions and “a group of regional economists and scholars” whom they recruited to the project. These organizations then provided (and most continued to provide as of 2006) both technical and material support. Led by the World Bank, the founding organizations included the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the European Commission, the Ford Foundation, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).<sup>8</sup> The IDRC joined the group later under the auspices of its Social and Economic Policy Program with the support of the government of Canada. Notably absent is basic funding from the United States government, which exercises its influence instead through the World Bank and with intermittent project assistance from USAID. Other sponsors, such as European and other national development aid agencies, also contribute support on a project-by-project basis.

The ERF’s headquarters are in Cairo. Its mission statement and self-description read as follows:

*The three main objectives of ERF, production of quality research, informing the policy debate, and building capacity for front-line research - have as their ultimate goal the creation of a strong MENA research community that interacts with the policy communities of the region and the international community of researchers and*

*development agents. The aim is to foster economic growth with equity and the effective integration of the region into the world economy...*

*ERF is an independent, nongovernment, nonprofit organization, which provides a platform for a wide range of views. Its mission is to initiate and fund policy-relevant economic research, to publish and disseminate the results of research activity to scholars, policymakers, and the business community, and to function as a resource base for researchers through its databank and documentation library. ERF does not conduct research in-house but, rather, acts as a research network, clearing-house, and facilitator.*

*ERF's services are offered to all professionals and practitioners in economics and related fields in the ERF region. However, a priority for ERF is to assist its stakeholders - ERF Research Fellows, who are its core constituency*  
[http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=about\\_erf](http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=about_erf)

The ERF aims to “help improve the quality and increase the quantity of applied policy-oriented economic research” on the region. Noteworthy in this declaration are the stress on “quality” – which in practice has meant the application of standard Western economic analytic tools – and “quantity” of research for a region that had, as a rule, not put resources into training economists working in this modality (see Handoussa 2000). Except for the cases mentioned above, most countries in the region did not, and do not, have university economics departments producing Ph.D.s who were up to the U.S. and U.K. standard of using economic theory (as defined above) and econometrics to test hypotheses in the “scientific” manner.<sup>9</sup> Also noteworthy are ERF’s stress on “applied” and “policy-oriented” research, aimed at influencing the decision process of public policy makers in the region in directions different from their previous trajectories. Given that most governments in the region had pursued state-led development programs in the period from the 1960s to the 1980s, this influence would presumably lead in a more free-market, privatized and liberalized direction.

The ERF seems bound to reinforce the neoliberal reform and structural adjustment programs already being promoted by the international institutions (in particular the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, IMF) in a number of countries in the region. The ERF’s announcement seeking applicants for the position of managing director states in its first paragraph that “its mission is to promote economic (and related) research for the economic development of the region and its effective integration into the world economy” and that its “activity is organized around a clear policy-oriented research agenda” ([www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org), newsletter Fall 2005), about which we will see more below.

### Organizational Structure and Membership

The MEEA is a relatively democratic organization with leadership elected directly by the membership. Decision-making authority on programs and policies is vested in a board of directors which always meets just before a general meeting of the members at the annual conference so that it can bring issues, and its proposed solutions, to the membership for a vote before acting on them. Administrative responsibility is vested in a president and executive secretary, with the person who occupies the latter post usually running for president in the next round. Modeled after MESA’s procedures, this system provides continuity of leadership without concentrating power.

The MEEA had almost 1000 members as of the spring of 2003 ([www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org) Spring 2003 Newsletter). Since the mid 1990s, the MEEA has made a concerted effort to recruit and subsidize new members from the region. While it is made up mostly of academics, there are also members from the international agencies and regional governments and business, and anyone can become a member just by signing up and paying their dues. The annual dues are set with this in mind: \$25 for professionals from the United States or Europe and its offshoots (\$20 for students) but just \$10 “for all those from the Middle East and North Africa region.” The second avenue for such recruitment is to cosponsor international conferences with fellow organizations, including in the region, and to raise funds from foundations or other non-profit institutions to bring colleagues from the region to those events they might otherwise not be able to attend. This aspect of the organization’s work was strengthened by the blossoming of the Lebanese American University in the post-civil-war years after 1990, and the strong working alliance between MEEA and the LAU School of Business, where the department of economics resides (see below under “conferences” and “publications.”)

The leadership and membership of the MEEA have been diversified in the years since 1995 to include many more scholars from the region or having some cultural-heritage and active working connection to the region. For example, the fall 2004 listing shows that six out of nine members of the Board of Directors were from the region or had Arabic, Iranian, Turkish or other regional ethnic names, while four were working in institutions abroad. Table 3 indicates that members with regional names made up 76 percent of new members in the 2001-2005 period, while people working in the region constituted 42%.

The ERF website states that it has “an interactive organizational structure,” one that ensures “maximum interaction between governance, management and the ERF constituency.” Its advertisement recruiting candidates for the position of managing director reiterates that he/she “will be an energetic leader with vision and broad discretion and autonomy... within a decentralized and democratic management structure...” ([www.meea.org](http://www.meea.org) Fall 2005 Newsletter). However, the “interactive organizational structure” in fact has a non-democratic, interlocking form with power residing ultimately with the donor organizations, always including the World Bank. Candidates for affiliation cannot apply but must be nominated by peers who are already affiliated with the organization, and the organization prides itself on the elite qualities of its members.

The Board of Trustees retains the power to appoint the Managing Director, set policies and procedures, govern the annual program of work and the budget, as well as to approve the selection of members to the three ranks of affiliated scholars. According to the website, the ERF’s “distinguished Board of Trustees” includes representation from “a maximum of four donor institutions,” with “seven non-donor members elected by ERF’s research fellows, and two members appointed by the Board “for regional balance.” Among the thirteen voting members, there was, indeed, one representative each for four donor organizations, including the World Bank, the Arab Fund, the IDRC, and a Swiss development agency. Aside from one representative of a Turkish bank, the rest of the trustees came from academic institutions. In 2006, the trustees included Joseph Stiglitz!

The ERF has created a structure that brings together economists from or working in the region. In 2006, eleven of the thirteen voting members of the Board of Trustees listed on the ERF website bore Arabic, Iranian, Turkish or other regional ethnic names. The other two voting members were from the United States and Europe, as were the two non-voting members. Similarly, eight members of the “nine-member advisory committee” listed on the ERF website in

2006 bore regional names. The website describes them as “eminent economists whose research record, professional expertise, and linkages with the international community of economists have been well established.” Appointed by the Board of Trustees, the role of this committee is “to advise the Managing Director on substantive issues and to screen nominations for ERF affiliations,” meaning individuals who are tapped to join the network.

In 2006, the advisory board included four members working in institutions in the region: Cairo University, the United Nations’ Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), the University of Tunis, and Bilkent University in Turkey. The other four members came from international organizations and academies: the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the University of Illinois, and the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium. These individual advisors then represented not only the chosen elite of the network of economists working in the region, but also the influence of the various sponsoring organizations that fund the ERF. The member from the University of Illinois was also the president of the MEEA at that time, illustrating the fact that these two networks overlap and interact with each other.

In 2006, the ERF website listed 258 affiliated researchers, grouped into three categories. About 54 percent of them were “Research Fellows,” voting members who elect part of the Board of Trustees and who are lauded as “highly qualified economists from the region who are engaged in front-line research in their areas of specialization, with published output in refereed journals and books.” Nominated by other research fellows, vetted by the advisory committee, and approved by the Board of Trustees, they do the core work of organizing research and conferences and peer-reviewing the research of others. About 30 percent of the affiliates are “Research Associates” who stand in an apprentice relationship to the guild of economic master craftsmen in the “Research Fellow” group. Nominated by their peers, vetted by the advisory committee and approved by the Board of Trustees, they are “promising young regional scholars whom ERF assists” to learn to use “sophisticated research tools and cutting-edge methodology.” We will return to this last topic under the shaping of knowledge production below.

Another thirty-eight of the affiliates are classed as “Senior Associates,” who must be nominated by other senior associates and approved by the Board of Trustees. They are described as established, influential professionals who “provide an essential channel of communication with the policy making community,” which seems to mean that they are well-connected to the ruling regimes in the region. Indeed, as Table 2 indicated above, all “senior associates” from the region but the two from Lebanon have worked or now work with their governments. Eleven out of the total have worked with the World Bank, and the five non-regional members have worked with relevant international organizations.

## **DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCED ON ECONOMICS OF MENA**

Knowledge generated from research on the economies of MENA is disseminated by means of journal articles, books, and web-based publishing, but as of 2006 the MENA region appears to be dramatically under-studied as compared to other areas. The subject matter covered in these venues is discussed below, while Table 4 summarizes the numerical results of searches of the *EconLit* and *Dissertation Abstracts on Line* databases. For the period 1970-2006, *EconLit* lists 3,461 entries for Latin America and 2,929 for Africa (including a miniscule fraction for North Africa) while only 125 are listed for the “Middle East.” *EconLit* credits Latin America with 26 dissertations and Africa with 11, while the Middle East has none. Similarly, *Dissertation Abstracts* lists 495 dissertations for Latin America and 1,131 for Africa, but only 124 for the Middle East. The results for a sample of MENA and other countries outside the region yield the same picture. China has over 3000 entries, India over 2000, and Mexico by itself has more entries than the four large-population MENA countries of Turkey, Iran, Egypt and Algeria put together. Similarly, *Dissertation Abstracts* has over 1500 entries for China, over 1300 for Mexico and over 1000 for India, while the four MENA countries have 855 total.

### **Journal Articles and Journals**

Articles in English about the economies of the Middle East and North Africa appear in significant numbers in well-regarded peer-reviewed journals indexed in the *Journal of Economic Literature*. While about half are about economics and finance in the more restricted disciplinary sense, the rest make contributions to both the internationalization and interdisciplinarity of Middle East area studies. A comprehensive listing for the years 2000-2005 by name of journal is included in Appendix A.

Over the five years from 2000 to 2005, 2 or more articles about many diverse issues related to MENA economies appeared in highly regarded and well-established economics journals (those 20 years old or older), such as *World Development* – 10 articles, *Applied Economics* – 8 articles, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* – 7 articles, *The Journal of Development Studies* -- 4 articles, *The Journal of Energy and Development* – 4 articles, *The World Economy* – 3 articles, *International Labour Review* – 2 articles, *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* – 2 articles, *Developing Economies* – 2 articles, and *Agricultural Economics* – 2 articles.

Two to three MENA economics articles have also appeared in well-regarded but younger economics journals (those less than 20 years old), such as *Applied Financial Economics*, *Defense and Peace Economics*, *The Journal of Development and Economic Policies*, *The Journal of Economic Integration*, and *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

While most of the journals identified above publish work on international as well as other topics, MENA economists have also published in other highly regarded and well-established journals that specialize particularly in international and comparative economics, such as *The Journal of Developing Areas*, *The Journal of Development Economics*, *Economia Internazionale/International Economics*, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, *International Migration*, *Kyklos*, *Labour Economics*, *Population and Development Review*, *Oxford Development Studies* and *Oxford Economic Papers*, as well as the younger *International Advances in Economics Research*, *Journal of International Development*, *Journal of International Economics*, and *International Journal of Business*.

The apparent increase in interest in the economies of MENA is illustrated by the appearance of special issues of journals, most of which are edited by scholars who are from, and work in, the region, not in Europe or the United States. A special issue of the venerable British *Economic Journal* was devoted to “Economic Aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” A special issue of the Australian journal *Middle East Business and Economic Review* in 2005, on “Financial Institutions in Middle Eastern Countries,” was edited by a professor from the Department of Finance, School of Business, at the American University in Sharjah. A special issue of *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* in 2004 on “Business Cycle Characteristics and Transmission of Crises in a Globalized Economy: the Case of MENA and Europe,” was edited by researchers from Bilkent University in Turkey and the IMF. The latter focused on the financial crisis in Turkey in 2000-01 (a subject that recurs frequently). Special issues were also planned for 2005 and 2006 on the topic of “Middle East Conflicts and Financial Markets” for publication in the journal *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, and on “Corruption and Governance: The Case of MENA and Mediterranean Countries” and the “Empirics of Corruption and Crime” in the *Journal of Economics and Finance*.

Furthermore, one to three articles on MENA economics have also appeared in specifically interdisciplinary journals such as *Review of African Political Economy*, *Challenge*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Development and Change*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Education Economics*, *Environment and Planning*, *Studies in Family Planning*, *Food Policy*, *Global Social Policy*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *International Journal of Social Economics*, *Journal of Housing Economics*, *Review of Income and Wealth*, *Middle East Journal*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Social Service Review*, and *Review of Urban and Regional Development Studies*.

### Books published 2000-2005

Books demonstrate a broader commitment to interdisciplinarity of research than do journal articles. Appendix B offers detailed information on book titles published in English from the year 2000 to 2005 on the economies and political economy of MENA. Books related to this field are much broader in their scope, and less focused on finance and trade, than are journal articles and conference papers. Of the 169 titles covered in Appendix B1, fifty-one (30 percent) fall into the general category of “Economic Development, ‘Backwardness,’ and Reform,” while another thirty-one are on issues of demography and human resources, twenty-seven are on politics or international relations, and eighteen are on economic history and geography. In other words, these interdisciplinary subjects, as opposed to economics narrowly defined, account for 127 out of 169 titles or 75 percent. Economics more narrowly defined accounts for a total of 22 titles or just 13 percent. The latter include Islamic economics with 8 titles, international trade with 6, oil and energy with 4, microeconomics with 3, and banking and finance with just one. The remaining three percent are accounted for by the much less “economic” topics of conflict and conflict resolution (11 titles), NGOs (4 titles), irrigation and agriculture (2), anthropology (2), and “orientalism” (1).

Appendix B1 indicates that, unlike journal articles and conference papers, the distribution of “location” of subjects for the book-length studies does not favor Turkey and covers a broad geographic range. Of the 172 identifiable locations (including the fact that more than one country can be covered by a single title), 54 (31 percent) are on the whole MENA region. The most frequent single countries are Egypt (24 titles, or 14 percent), Palestine (19), Israel (11), Turkey (8), Saudi Arabia (7), Iran (6) and Jordan (5). Those having less than five are Morocco and

Tunisia (with 4 each), Lebanon and Sudan (with 2 each), Syria (1), Kuwait (1) and Iraq (1). The remaining titles refer to other regional groupings: the Arab World (6), Mediterranean (5), Gulf (2), Ottoman Empire (2), Muslim countries (2), oil exporters (2), Persia (1), and Caspian (1).

Appendix B2 lists the publishers of titles that appeared in English from 2000-2005, and Appendix B3 lists the publishers with the largest number of titles. Many of the publishers are highly or moderately well-regarded. Among university presses, there are Cambridge (with eleven titles), Berkeley, Columbia, Princeton, Stanford and Yale. Among commercial presses that offer only serious academic work on MENA, there are Routledge (with seventeen titles), I.B. Tauris and Palgrave (with thirteen each), Lynne Rienner (with five), Edward Elgar, Edwin Mellen, St. Martin's, and Westview.

As with special issues of journals, there is some relation among organizations, organized conferences, and books produced. For example, the first volume from a conference co-sponsored by the MEEA and the School of Business Economics Department at the Lebanese American University, *Income Inequality, Poverty, and Unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Wassim Shahin and Ghassan Dibeh, was published by the Greenwood Publishing Group (Westport CT) in 2000. A review of the MEEA's now-defunct six-volume annual series, *Research in Middle East Economics*, is presented in Appendix C.

### Web-Based Publishing

After the year 2000, two new journals were introduced that dealt solely with MENA economies. *The Review of Middle East Economics and Finance* (RMEEF) was begun in 2003 as a thrice-yearly printed journal edited by Professor Wassim Shaheen, dean of the business school at the Lebanese American University. It solicited work entailing "applied original research" in "empirically based papers" on the topics of monetary and fiscal policy, labor and welfare economics, international trade, finance, banking and investment (in the sense of portfolio analysis, not foreign direct investment in production), and financial instability and crisis. This definition of "economics" fit the trend discussed below, toward de-emphasis of study of the productive sectors and increasing focus on finance and market transactions, in so far as five out of the seven topics were on money and finance. The print publisher of RMEEF, Taylor and Francis, suspended it in 2005 because it had won too few paying subscribers. However, RMEEF was resumed in 2007 by the Berkeley Electronic Journals web-publisher, under the editorship of Professor Ghassan Dibbeh, of the economics department at the LAU School of Business.

In September 2001, the MEEA began to web publish its own *MEEA Electronic Journal*, edited by Professor Mine Cinar, who was executive secretary of the organization at that time. The criteria for submissions were similar to those for the RMEEF, entailing applied original empirical research. This seemed particularly important and timely coming on the heels of the September 11 attacks. As of the fall 2002, papers with the following topics and geographical coverage were listed on the website: economic history of Egypt; labor migration of Palestinians; dual labor markets and public debt in Lebanon; capital formation in Iran; Jordan's free trade agreement with the United States; two articles covering all of MENA, one on information technology and economic growth, and one on accounting and stock exchanges; and finally one on Islamic jurists' debates on *riba`* (interest rate) in Islamic economics and banking.

As of the fall of 2005, in addition to duplicates of the papers presented at the January 2005 ASSA meetings (see MEEA conferences for discussion of topics), the topics and geographic coverage of the newly posted papers included: two papers on all MENA, one on oil and microeconomic decision-making and one on reform and potential growth of private



investment, school choice in Egypt, the possible comparative advantage of Turkish exports to the EU, economic finance in Turkey, modeling of the manufacturing sector in Jordan, and economic history and post-independence “visions” of development in Algeria. While Turkey again takes the prize for being the most fully researched country in the region, this batch of papers is notable for including the rarities of one paper dealing with manufacturing (out of fashion with economists) and one dealing with Algeria (remarkably neglected by economists).

### **METHODS OF SHAPING KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION**

The production of knowledge is shaped by conferences and workshops, networking among scholars through international organizations and regional institutions, the use of newsletters to inform scholars of opportunities for research, and the promotion of economic modeling and econometric techniques.

#### **Proliferation of Conferences and Workshops**

The organizations of Middle East economic scholars promoting work on the region are linked to one another through overlapping memberships, common research interests, and conference participation. While each holds its own individual conferences, they often collaborate on mounting conferences, and, at minimum, announce calls for papers for one another. The international and multidisciplinary dimensions of conferences have grown over the 1990-2006 period.

MEEA Annual Conferences. The MEEA, based in the United States, holds its annual meetings every January in conjunction with the American Economic Association (AEA), under the umbrella of the Allied Social Science Associations, the ASSA (of which the AEA is largest and most influential organization). In the 1990s, the MEEA was allowed to mount up to ten sessions, but this number was reduced to eight in 2001, to seven in 2002, and to six thereafter. The reasons given were the rising cost of renting conference space and the lower average attendance at the sessions of several smaller affiliates, such as the Union of Radical Political Economists (URPE), than at those of larger affiliates. These cuts were ironic, given the disaster of September 11, and given the fact that Nobel prizes in economics were being awarded to moderate dissenters such as Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia and George Akerlof of Berkeley. Indeed, Akerlof was president of the ASSA in 2007, and gave a speech about the drift of economics away from social science, while dissenter Dani Rodrik (Harvard Kennedy School) was interviewed by the New York Times during the 2007 ASSA meetings on the state of the discipline.

Under the leadership of Mine Cinar and Jeffrey Nugent, MEEA responded to the panel cuts by taking a page from the playbook of the American Anthropological Association and introducing a “poster session” in addition to the traditional panels. The poster session is by definition a potpourri of variegated topics, as indicated in the title for the first poster session in 2002, “Trade, Exchange, Institutions and Political Issues in MENA.” Nonetheless, the poster session became a popular and well-attended event, capturing a carnival-of-ideas atmosphere that offered a lively and pleasant change from the standard panel format (which could be as deadly as six representatives from central banks in the region giving papers on monetary and exchange rate policy). This facilitated the organization’s commitment to promoting both young scholars and diversity in the content and analytical approaches of its members’ work, avoiding the

marginalization of the less neoclassical approaches that otherwise would have been the likely outcome of the cutbacks in number of panels at the ASSA.

The format and content of these conferences from 2001 to 2007 give some indication of the state of independent research in the region (“independent” as compared to the more centralized production of knowledge through the ERF). There remains reasonable scope for “contending analytical perspectives” and “important social and economic problems” as indicated for example by panels on “Political Economy and Policy Issues” (2002) and “Savings, Social Security, and Poverty” (2007), along with panels on oil, conflict, gender, and other broadly defined topics. However, there are two poles of central focus throughout these conferences, namely finance (in its many manifestations) and the Turkish economy.

As indicated in Table 5 summarizing MEEA conferences, an average of 31 percent of poster papers, 34 percent of panels, and 37 percent of panel papers were on the topic of finance. This focus is explained partly by the Washington Consensus’ influence on the conception of “development” as “emerging markets” outside of Western Europe and its offshoots, meaning the adoption of western-style central bank policies, stock markets, and the unfettered flow of capital, goods and services across borders. In 2003 and 2005, whole panels were devoted to papers by representatives of the World Bank, IMF, and private corporations.<sup>10</sup> This focus also reflects the “financialization” of the international economy starting in the mid-1990s, and the concomitant “financialization” of economic thought.<sup>11</sup> In this current fashion of thinking, “finance” is treated as though it has a sustainable life of its own, only remotely connected to, and independent of, the “real economy” (production, technology, labor conditions, consumption patterns), while research on the real economy shrinks and fades. This theoretical fashion waxes strong on investment booms, such as the “dot.com” bubble in the late 1990s and the post-2001 wave of inventions of new financial instruments, such as “hedge funds,” “private equity” firms, “derivatives,” and “subprime lending.” The fashion tends to wane during financial crashes and recessions, which seem to take their proponents by surprise, such as in 2000-2001 and at the time of this writing in 2007, times when bubbles deflate and what is happening in the real economy (such as depressed home construction) suddenly becomes important again.

A 2006 panel, “Workers’ Remittances and Economic Development,” shows the extent to which the international institutions play a role in shaping the research of the region and the concomitant focus on finance and exchange rather than production. Of the five papers, three were by IMF/WB representatives and two were on Turkey. Analysis of remittances here was not centered on the “real” issues of what migrants do abroad or what their families do at home, but rather on the flow of money income across borders and how institutions handle it. As many of these transactions are through informal channels, the international institutions have an interest in being able to trace and control them. Since 9/11, 2001, this interest has been enhanced by international policing operations to trace the flow of donations into possible terrorist organizations.

As to the second pole of focus, an average of 26 percent of poster papers and 30 percent of panel papers were on Turkey, the only country in the region to which several whole panels were solely devoted. While two other countries were given one panel each, Palestine in 2002<sup>12</sup> and Iraq in 2006, Turkey is the single most-studied economy in the MENA region. This seems to devolve, first, from Turkey’s history as the seat of the Ottoman Empire. Unlike other parts of MENA, Turkey was never directly colonized by Europe and seems to have more internal economic integrity than the Arab regions, having been the first to engage in successful state-led development and import-substitution-industrialization. Second, Turkey began training

economists and filling Western-style departments at its national universities earlier than the Arab regions did, and forced its economics departments into the neoclassical mold in the mid-1980s. Third, Turkey was the first MENA country to fully implement structural adjustment, after the coup of 1980, and is now considered by western economists and financial institutions to be the pre-eminent “emerging market” in MENA. Fourth, Turkey is distinguished by its proximity to Europe and its potential for admission to the European Union. And, finally, the Central Bank of Turkey can afford to send its own representatives to speak on MEEA panels every year.

Another 2006 panel, on the “Turkish Economy: Crisis, Reform and Convergence,” shows the intersection of these two poles of focus. The “crisis” referred to was again the financial debacle of 2000-01, analysis of which was given in the four previous annual meetings, an indication not only of the centrality of Turkey as subject of economic research in the region but also of the shock and surprise this crisis presented to advocates of the neoliberal model (see critique under “Best Practices” below). Of the six papers on this panel, three were by representatives of the Central Bank of Turkey on this issue. The other papers were on the competitive effects of privatization, the distribution of manufacturing across regions, and the possible convergence of growth rates and income levels across regions.

ERF's Conferences and Workshops. The papers for all ERF conferences starting in 2000 are downloadable from the website (although there is a bit of confusion about the numbering and dates of some of the conferences), and information about all conferences from 1997 is collected here in Table 6. The meetings also provide special sessions for developing the methodology of knowledge production and mechanisms for cultivating research, as discussed below.

The ERF is somewhat self-promotional regarding the importance and impact of these meetings and their multidisciplinary. For example, the website introduction to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Sharjah 2002, asserts that:

*Over the past eight years, the ERF conference has become more than a meeting venue to discuss and debate recent policy related research findings. Indeed, it has developed into a hub bringing together distinguished senior economists and promising junior researchers to coordinate comparative cross country research, data initiatives, multidisciplinary research programs and capacity building activities.*

*This year the conference is expected to host in excess of 250 participants from inside and outside the region... The program is organized around four main themes: Trade, Labor, Finance and Industry & Environment. Over thirty papers [are] expected to be presented in four parallel sessions over the three day conference, and twenty papers [are] expected to be circulated as background papers. Many papers are multidisciplinary covering economics, political science and development related research work*  
[http://www.erf.org.eg/9th%20annual%20conf/erf\\_ninth\\_annual\\_conference.php](http://www.erf.org.eg/9th%20annual%20conf/erf_ninth_annual_conference.php)

The ERF holds its annual conferences and workshops in regional countries. As of 2006, three had been held in Cairo, two in Beirut, two in Kuwait, and one each in Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, Yemen and the UAE. The organization seems to be well provided with funds to mount its events, as, for example, the 2005 Annual Conference was held at the Cairo Grand Hyatt Hotel, one of the most luxurious in the city.

Influential figures from governments and international organizations always participate, often in plenary sessions. High officials of the host and other countries' governments officiate

and speak at, at minimum, the opening session of these events, and have included the Yemeni ministers of planning and of social and labor affairs in Yemen in 2001, the Ruler of Sharjah in Sharjah, UAE, in 2002, the Iraqi minister of planning and the Lebanese minister of the economy and trade in Lebanon in 2004, and, most significantly given the economic reforms he had pushed through, the prime minister of Egypt, Dr. Ahmed Nazif, in Cairo in 2005.

Among the international organizations, the World Bank is always prominently represented. Examples include the chief economist of the World Bank in Jordan in 2000, the chief economist and senior vice-president of the World Bank in Beirut 2004, and two from the World Bank in Cairo in 2005. Other organizations that frequently appear are the International Monetary Fund, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The ERF's fraternal relationships with other organizations are much in evidence. These include the Forum Euro-Méditerranéen des Instituts Economiques (FEMISE, affiliated with the Mediterranean Institute in France and supported by the European Commission) and with the Global Development Network (GDN), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Many special sessions are set up conjointly with the World Bank, for example to discuss the year's *World Development Report*, or with the IMF to discuss the year's *World Economic Outlook*. Furthermore, these relationships are more than just academic, as the IMF began holding an annual employment recruiting session at the ERF annual conference in the year 2000.

One of the topics that is conspicuously absent in these meetings is the environment. Even as the *World Development Report* focused on it in 2002, and it was explicitly announced as a topic for the 2002 ERF conference in Sharjah, there were no papers that addressed it. A more shocking example of this neglect appears in the opening session to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Kuwait in 2006, on the theme of "Oil: Its Impact on the Global Economy." Walid Khadduri, Director of Al-Hayat Business Desk, Lebanon, delivered the first paper, entitled "The World Economy and the Energy Challenge." The author describes these challenges as, first, sustaining the discovery of additional sources of oil, especially with new technology like drilling in "ultra-deep waters" (1500 meters), second, maintaining producers' confidence that growth in demand for oil from expansion of the world economy will ensure a return on the big investments needed to use this new technology, and, third, providing "energy security" by assuring consumers that a steady supply will be forthcoming to match their growing demand. The paper mentions nothing about environmental concerns, never mind global warming, nor about conservation of scarce resources ([http://www.erf.org.eg/nletter/Newsletter\\_Vol13\\_Winter06/NL\\_vol13\\_2.pdf](http://www.erf.org.eg/nletter/Newsletter_Vol13_Winter06/NL_vol13_2.pdf): pp. 4-5).

#### Relations among Organizations: the Internationalization of Production of Knowledge

Most of the MEEA's international conferences are co-sponsored with other organizations or with universities, and often meet back to back with other conferences, such as those sponsored by the economics department of the School of Business at the Lebanese American University at Byblos, Lebanon. The two rationales for such scheduling are, first, to enable U.S.-based academics to attend these international conferences at the least expense in time and money and, second, to facilitate bringing economists from the region to conferences in Europe, usually with grant money from private foundations in the United States or from the European Union. Furthermore, The LAU conference organizers have been able routinely to offer a subsidy to all paper presenters of a few hundred dollars each for airfare. LAU's economics department, like the MEEA, makes an effort to include a broad array of viewpoints and types of work on economies

of the region. It is also intended to attract foreign academics back to a peaceful and prosperous Lebanon that hopes to put the horrors of the civil war behind it.

The MEEA's first international conference, scheduled immediately after one at LAU, was held in collaboration with the School of Oriental and African Studies, SOAS, at the University of London in 2001, with the theme of "Changing Economic Boundaries of MENA," meaning the challenges of globalization around international trade, finance, investment and labor flows. A grant from the Ford Foundation enabled a large number of participants to come from countries in the region, namely Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. Representatives of the World Bank and IMF also participated, as usual. This resulted in a book, the inaugural volume in a new series in the Political Economy of the Middle East (Hakimian and Nugent 2003), catalogued along with other recent books in Appendix C.

In 2003, the MEEA's international conference, again following LAU's, was held in conjunction with the Center of Economics and Ethics for the Environment and Development at the University of Versailles in France. The general topic of the conference was "conflict resolution," one of the most pressing problems faced by the region. A grant, mainly from the government of France, provided support for scholars from eight MENA countries to participate. The organizers intended to produce an edited volume (which had not yet appeared as of mid 2007).

In 2005, MEEA's international conference, again following LAU's, was mounted in conjunction with the organization ECOMOD, the Global Economic Modeling Network, at Brussels. This conference served as an explicit example of promoting the application of "modern analytical techniques" to economic problems. Out of this conference came the suggestion that countries in the region be encouraged to conduct "family life surveys" as are done in Malaysia and Indonesia, to generate large data bases for economic research on the region. Economic modeling, as well as the econometric analysis favored by many economists, can be done effectively only with large and consistent data sets. The proposers, apparently, were not yet aware of the surveys of this type underway under ERF auspices (see below under "cutting edge methodology").

In 2006 and 2007, the MEEA's international conferences were scheduled to be held elsewhere in the region for the first time, at Sousse, Tunisia, and at Zayed University in Dubai. These two conferences illustrate the tension between economics narrowly defined and the need to reach out broadly. On one hand, it was reported that, while the Sousse conference held other sessions on macroeconomics, labor and governance issues, "...based on a frequency count of papers in the conference, finance and foreign direct investment appear to have become major research topics in this region" (MEEA Newsletter, Summer 2006, p. 1). On the other hand, the call for papers for the Dubai conference invites "scholars from different intellectual viewpoints" to address common problems in MENA, especially from a comparative perspective. It offers a very wide range of topics for consideration: trade, investment, macroeconomics, labor, growth, stabilization, and the political economy of policy reforms. This is the first international conference co-sponsored by MEEA to put alternative visions so explicitly on center stage.

Other international conferences that are promoted, but not cosponsored, by the MEEA include the annual conference organized by the Schumann Institute for Social and Political Research on the Mediterranean at the European Union University in Florence, Italy. An important aspect of this linkage is the flexibility in the definition of the "region" that Mediterranean basin studies entails, and, in addition, the underlying interest of the European Union in tackling the economic and political problems of its neighbors around the southern and

eastern rim of the Mediterranean. This definition of zone of research and political interest is quite distinct from the “Middle East” conception used by the United States and Britain.

The ERF is closely related to the Global Development Network, of which it is the MENA regional affiliate. Like the ERF, GDN is a creature of the international financial institutions and development agencies, with its “Global Research Project” doing what the ERF does, but for all seven developing regions of the world. The ERF posts the papers generated by this project on MENA countries. As of November 2006, these included Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, the UAE and Yemen, plus some “thematic” papers about the generic characteristics and problems common to MENA countries. These papers are not country studies, but take on specific problems like employment and unemployment in an international comparative context.

The ERF also has fraternal relations with FEMISE, the research project organized and funded by the European Commission to study the trajectory and results so far of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Agreements between the EU and the southern- and eastern-rim Mediterranean countries. This project, like the GDN global project, entails research on specific topics, like migration, as well as more general reports like ERF’s *Economic Trends*. Information about FEMISE projects is posted in some detail on the ERF website.

The ERF maintains cordial relations with the Middle East Economic Association and the European University Institute’s Schumann Center for research on the Mediterranean. There is certainly overlap of membership, and all post announcements about one other’s activities on their websites.

### Dissemination of Information about Research Opportunities

The production of knowledge about the MENA economies is cultivated and shaped by the spread of information about opportunities for research or publication, announcements of activities of other organizations or calls for papers for conferences, through international and multidisciplinary outreach, and direct encouragement of particular research projects.

The MEEA’s newsletter includes a wide array of announcements of research opportunities and upcoming conferences, lists of new members, citations of recent journal articles and newly published books, and reports on recent international conferences, as well as information specifically about the MEEA’s activities, such as CHRAF and the program for its annual meetings, and announcements on behalf of the ERF. The newsletter illustrates the growth of the field of “economics of MENA” beyond the MEEA and ERF. This includes promotion of Routledge/Curzon book series in “the Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa,” in addition to the economics and finance focused journal, *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*.

The newsletter carries announcements that reach broadly across national boundaries, such as the “First International Conference on Economics” at Manas University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in September 2004, and a conference for the Asian Society of Agricultural Economists in 2005 in Iran. It announces calls for papers in economics journals around the globe, from as close as *Studies in Development and Emerging Markets Finance and Trade* published by the Middle East Technical University of Turkey, to the *International Review of Business and Economics* published by Sultan Qaboos University in Oman, to a special issue on “Financial Institutions in Middle East Countries,” edited by a professor of business at the American University of Sharjah, in the Australian journal *Middle East Business and Economic Review*.

The newsletter carries information that reaches across disciplinary boundaries. In spring 2005, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was recruiting academic

scholars to come to work on collaborative projects at its regional headquarters in Egypt during their sabbaticals. Similarly the newsletter announced opportunities for international teaching and research fellowships such as the Fulbright Scholar Program, the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT), a social research institute at Oslo, Norway, collaborative research at Zayed University in the UAE, and jobs at SOAS and St. Anthony's College, Oxford. Other examples ranging farther, sometimes much farther, afield from economics narrowly conceived include listings for a professorial position in Islamic Studies at a college in Louisiana and fellowships at the National Endowment for Democracy, as well as calls for papers for the Second World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (Amman 2006), and for a conference on "The Persian Gulf: A Region in Transition" at Southern New Hampshire University, for entries in the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, and even for entries in GEsources, "a free online catalogue of high quality Internet resources in geography and environmental science."

The interdisciplinary nature of this commitment can come around to foster new work in economics, such as announcement of and participation in conferences at the Mediterranean Program of the Robert Schumann Institute at the European University in Florence. An example of the output from this conference in March 2005 was a special issue of the *Journal of Economics and Finance* in summer 2006 edited by economist Serdar Sayan, on "Corruption and Governance: the Case of the Mediterranean and MENA Countries." Similarly, MEEA members organized a panel for the March 2006 Mediterranean conference on "Economic Openness and Civil Liberties in the MENA Region," and in 2007 on "Monetary Policy and Central Banking in MENA." This kind of connection also illustrates an openness to defining the "region" differently, as in the call for papers for an international conference on "Europe and Morocco: the Barcelona Process Ten Years On" in Madrid in 2005.

Finally, an illustration of openness to alternative visions appeared in the call for papers for an international conference on "New Approaches to the Design of Development Policies" in March 2006 in Beirut, sponsored by the Arab Planning Institute of Kuwait, with a link to the latter's website. Prominent in the announcement were the two ideas that there are alternatives to the extant development policies in the region and that "planning" (as contrasted with the "market") may play a role.

Efforts by the MEEA to encourage research more directly are the Ibn Khaldun Prize awarded annually for the best paper by an advanced graduate student or new Ph.D. in economics broadly defined, and the deliberate inclusion of ABDs and new Ph.D.s in MEEA conferences.

Because it has well-endowed backers, the ERF is able to mount many more programs to support research directly and to structure the direction that research takes. In conjunction with its annual conferences, the ERF holds "training workshops" in "cutting edge methodologies" for junior associates, thus encouraging them to attend and perhaps inspiring them to contribute papers in future. It reported at the Tenth Annual Conference in Marrakesh in 2003 that, "... for the first time ERF presented prizes to young researchers for the best policy oriented paper. This award is intended as a capacity building exercise to aid young researchers with their research work and, in particular, with communicating their policy recommendations to policy makers... Prizes of \$1000 were awarded according to the [ERF's standard] research themes." The ERF has co-sponsored graduate fellowships with the University of Minnesota for social scientists, not limited to economists, focusing on gender, work and family in MENA, and using a multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of the household survey data being gathered under the ERF's auspices. The ERF website offers downloadable detailed instructions for applicants for its research grants and provides the abstracts of the winning projects of the three rounds of



competition it had held as of 2005 and of the abstracts of the winners of the FEMISE Euro-Mediterranean research competition which it also co-sponsors. These fellowships and grants, like the training workshops at the annual conferences, are intended to encourage and inspire young scholars to join the network.

For researchers seeking access to resources from the outside looking in, the ERF issues a siren call. The benefits of affiliation are described as access to research, publishing and conferences, as well as “networking opportunities with highly esteemed scholars,” international organizations and economic development practitioners. Information about the selection process is available in the “ERF Network” section of the webpage as is the database of fellows and associates with their professional biographies and research interests (<http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=structure>).

Beyond these inner circles of affiliation, the ERF does outreach to non-affiliated scholars in several ways. The website issues public announcements of upcoming conferences with open calls for submission of papers on the websites and in the publications of other organizations such as MESA and MEEA, and ERF advertised its search for a new managing director in 2005 there as well. It invites outside scholars to contribute to its *Economic Trends* series and it holds research competitions to which unaffiliated scholars may also apply. The ERF produces a newsletter called *Forum*, which it claims is “a major communications channel published quarterly in both English and Arabic, and circulated to over 5000 individuals and institutions to date. It targets the research, policymaking and business communities by providing summaries of ERF research using non-technical language.” While a bit self-promotional, the newsletter does provide important announcements of conference and research opportunities with other organizations, but not in the same profusion as the MEEA newsletter.

The ERF makes most of the more recent research output of its members available on the web, including papers from past and upcoming conferences, the *Economic Trends* volume, the working papers of its research associates, and its own book-length monographs. The chapters of its first *Economic Trends* volume in 2000 can be copied and pasted. Better yet, the chapters from the 2002 version are directly downloadable, although the 2004 edition promised several years ago was not available on the web as of early 2007. The website lists the abstracts of ERF’s working papers by year from 1994 to 2004, many are downloadable as PDF files, and one can also register to receive them upon request as they are published. The papers became steadily narrower in subject matter and more technical in method over this 10-plus-year period. Thirty-one papers were listed for 2004, of which seven were on finance and five on Turkey, thus continuing the emphasis on these subjects. Finally, the ERF offers for sale paper versions of a number of its more important publications that are not posted in full on its website, such as, in November 2006, *The Egyptian Competitiveness Report*, the country studies of Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and the 2004 edition of *Economic Trends*. The ERF also maintains a small research library at its headquarters in Dokki, Cairo, where anyone can use these and other resources for free.

#### “Cutting Edge Methodology” and its Uses.

Beyond offering opportunities for research and publication, the ERF mounts an ongoing effort to directly shape the form and content of knowledge production. The main tools for the “frontline research” promoted by ERF consist of surveys to generate data and the manipulation of large data sets with econometric techniques to build “economic models.” With these cutting edge weapons, the ERF can send out a small army of researchers systematically to gather and



process economic data that can be used to make policy recommendations. The information is intended to be transmitted not only to the national policy makers by the Senior Associates, but also to the international donor agencies whose funds support those economic reform programs that implement the desired policy.

The data generation makes an important contribution to the field in so far as any economic analysis has to rely on good data and other carefully gathered information, but how it is gathered and organized constrains the kind of analysis that can be done. The uniformity of data organization and processing techniques is tempting to non-network researchers because the orchestrated consistency facilitates cross-regional and international comparisons of economic performance. Furthermore, this is the only game in town in terms of generation of data, and, like national-level data, depends on the organization and resource support of the World Bank.

Non-affiliated researchers may register to gain electronic access to ERF's survey data, which is in a format that can be manipulated using the statistical programs SPSS and STATA, and to study the methods for sample selection and data collection. (See ERF website for instructions.) However the imposed uniformity of "cutting edge methodology," the ERF's boastful tone about the "quality" and credentials of its fellows and associates, and the clear agenda of influencing policy makers in directions the donors wish them to follow might suggest that non-networked scholars use this research output with care.

ERF's country studies, its *Economic Trends*, and conference papers are required to use a uniform format and sequence for the topics covered: (1) macroeconomic policy and performance, (2) banking and finance, (3) international trade and capital flows, (4) governance, institutions and micro economic reform, and (5) labor, human resources, and income distribution. This ordering follows the path of the international institutions' priorities as they have evolved over the last twenty-five years. The last category, where unemployment, women in the labor force, education, health care, and poverty are considered, did not exist in the early years. But as these problems became more obvious after structural adjustment and economic reform got underway, and these concerns were forced on the World Bank and IMF by their critics, a fifth category was added at the end of the list.

Survey Research and Database. An important example of the ERF's research agenda and resulting output is a database created from surveys of households and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in 2002-2004 period, 5000 of them in each of the countries of Egypt, Morocco, and Turkey, and 3000 in Lebanon, with follow-up surveys one year later in all but Lebanon. Financial support for this project came from the European Commission's FEMISE project (economic and social research mainly on the Mediterranean countries), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the IDRC of Canada, and USAID.

This project serves two functions. First, it provides a wealth of previously non-existent data collected systematically using the same methodology in the four countries. Second, it focuses researchers who wish to use this database on the microeconomic components of the private sector and market economy, thus shifting emphasis by default away from macroeconomic research and the role of the public sector. This subtly orients new research toward empirical and analytical support of the neoliberal agenda of pro-market economic reform for the region. Indeed, the title of the overarching project indicates the exact policy direction this work is intended to support: "Promoting Competitiveness of Micro and Small Enterprises in the MENA Region."

Example of Research Output and the Issues It Raises. Several publications by ERF leaders and affiliates have been generated using this database, including the first in a series of "country reports." Managing Director Samir Radwan served as lead author of another highly

publicized recent publication, “The Egyptian Competitiveness Report (ECR),” in conjunction with the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council in 2006. The Council is a public/private spin-off from the Ministry of Investment and the General Authority for Investment, which were charged in the early 1990s with implementing many of the liberalizing reforms recommended under Egypt’s stabilization and structural adjustment agreements with the IMF and World Bank.

The competitiveness report’s interpretative analysis is illustrative of the connection between methodology and policy orientation. It credits improvements in Egypt’s rankings on some indices of “competitiveness” to the reforms introduced under Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif since July 2004. These reforms included the lowering of inflation, taxes, and tariffs and the streamlining of documentation needed to import and export, to register property and start up new businesses, and to access credit for investment. As the director of an international automaker producing in Egypt for the Egyptian market told this author in November 2006, “It used to take us days to register an incoming shipment of parts, and now it takes us hours. Nazif’s reforms have made our day to day operations simpler and more efficient and changed the environment to give hope to what could become a thriving private sector in Egypt.”

But the components of the index of competitive success on which Egypt did well were measures of the *implementation* of macroeconomic policy changes like reducing inflation and taxation and cutting government spending, successes which actually worsened another indicator, Egypt’s debt to GDP ratio. However its ranking on the other components measuring the *results* declined between the years 2000 and 2004, including health and primary education, market efficiency, and innovation. (See graph and table of rankings on ERF website, under “Recent Publications,” in a summary of the report, entitled “Ready for Take-Off: Samir Radwan assesses Egypt’s competitiveness on the Global Scale.”)

The report goes on to innumerate the many neoliberal microeconomic reforms that are still needed to improve Egypt’s scores on these indicators, such as diversifying imports, raising labor productivity, stimulating more private investment, and “boosting Egypt’s very low level of research and development.” It then goes on to recommend “an appropriate industrial strategy” with “a comprehensive set of policies,” to be implemented by the National Competitiveness Council, which will “bring together Egypt’s private and public sector, along with civil society leaders to form a common vision and unify action... It would set priorities, provide advice to the government and monitor progress, making recommendations based on the latest data, the best expertise, and the insights among Egyptian experts from many parts of society.”

These recommendations reveal two critical limitations in the logic of this “vision.” First, the micro reforms are almost exactly the same recommendations that were being made to the Egyptian government by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund when this author did research on liberalization and privatization in Egypt in 1984 and again in 1994. The measures of “success” are the same as in the late 1990s, namely *implementation* of the macroeconomic policy changes required under Egypt’s stabilization and structural adjustment programs. But the measures of actual changes in the *results* of these reforms remain weak. So, sticking close to the neoliberal policy line, this report recommends more of the same kind of reforms. The problem, in this analysis, lies not with the nature of the reforms or the overall program, but with the belief that, still, after more than two decades, they have not been implemented fast enough or fully enough. Is any scholar among ERF affiliates willing to ask the deeper question about whether the fault may lie in the economic reform programs themselves? (See Pfeifer 1999, and “Contested Boundaries” below). Second, the vision entails an “industrial strategy” and a “comprehensive set of policies” starting at the highest levels of the government. It seems that a large measure of

long-range planning and state-directed resource allocation are needed for successful development. This contradicts the neoliberal commitment to the “free market” and turns it into merely a question of who is in control of economic planning and the allocation of resources. For example, the owner of the agency for the distribution of Egyptian-made and imported cars who works with the international automaker mentioned above was appointed Minister of Transport in the Nazif cabinet.

There is still a strong tendency for those economists who do not address political/social issues in connection with their research, and who toe the line of the Washington Consensus, to be heard more readily by the international agencies, the World Bank and IMF, and by the ruling elites that adopt neoliberal policies. Challengers of the Washington Consensus can be forced out of their positions, as Joseph Stiglitz, and later William Easterly (see below) were from the World Bank, or relegated to non-economics departments of their universities, as Dani Rodrik is to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Some examples of the continued efforts by the Washington Consensus to dominate the research agenda and output are given in Appendix D, which covers recent book series on MENA economics. These are only the most recent examples of the one-way “universalization of social science” from the West to other regions of the world, via programs promoting economic development of some sort (Mitchell 2003b: 8). This intellectual straightjacket “Provides a way of incorporating the non-west into a universal story, whose narrative is always that of global history, which means the history of the west,” a process by which “the object of study remains defined and grasped only in terms of its relationship to the west” (Mitchell 2003b: 20). However, that narrative remains under contention.

#### Contested Boundaries of Economic Theory and Method

The two contradictions in the concluding “vision” of *The Egyptian Competitiveness Report* combined with the lack of strong positive results from economic reforms over the last two decades have not gone unnoticed by critics of neoliberalism. The World Bank and IMF were rebuked from both without and within beginning in the late 1980s for their lack of concern about the recession-, unemployment- and poverty-inducing effects of first stabilization, and then structural adjustment and economic reform programs. While the IMF remains defensive about this and has not changed its posture, the World Bank undertook a “reform” of its own in the 1990s. One vocal and consistent critic of neoliberalism is Dani Rodrik, of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Rodrik, who is of Turkish origin but, while not having done research specifically on MENA economies for a long time, has published many papers on why the Washington Consensus has not worked, and how alternative policies, such as in India and China, have worked to promote economic growth. A summary of Rodrik’s views, and his review of the World Bank’s self-critique, *Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform*, published in 2005, gives a good sense of the state of the controversy (see Rodrik’s papers at <http://ksghome.harvard.edu/~drodrik/papers.html>).

The World Bank’s defense strategy since the 1990s has been to help organize and fund regional research projects like ERF and international comparative projects through the Global Development Network (GDN), and to begin taking the negative effects of structural adjustment programs into consideration as “part five” (seemingly priority #5) of its standard country profile analysis. These shifts created room for dissenters from the neoliberal agenda to participate in the ERF and GDN research networks and to make their voices heard, at least from the margin, as the following examples show.

Example 1. In chapter four of ERF’s country profile of Palestine, the chapter in which governance and institutions are discussed and governments of the region are typically vilified for

their autocratic style, corruption and incompetence, and blamed for the lack of success of “economic reform,” the report actually compliments the Palestinian Authority for having done a decent job under extremely difficult circumstances in the Oslo period, 1994-2000. The chapter details how and how well the PA functioned, and argues that it was Israeli intransigence in dealing with the final status issues that made it impossible for the stateless PA to truly govern. These issues were supposed to have been settled by 1998 (after 5 years of the Oslo peace process) and included borders, settlements, Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees, all crucial to the economic viability of a Palestinian state.

Example 2. Reviewing the ERF’s Twelfth Annual Conference in 2005, the ERF Newsletter of Spring 2006 reports that:

*Dr. Eddy Lee, Senior Advisor, ILO started off his presentation by highlighting the existing rhetoric about reform and economic development. Each country has its own development trajectory that does not necessarily represent orthodox solutions to development problems.*

According to the review, Lee went on to describe the heterodox development policy of Malaysia after independence, a successful East Asian NIC that might serve as a model to MENA countries like Egypt. Malaysia used a combination of protectionism, including two phases of import substitution industrialization, with broad but selective openness to the world market to develop both its domestic economy and its international competitiveness. Furthermore, it simultaneously used public investment in social infrastructure to rapidly improve education and healthcare, and to actively redistribute resources so as to reduce poverty overall and, in particular, to reduce disparities among ethnic groups that could have destabilized the political system. Lee even dares to mention the term “capitalist class” -- an acknowledgment that socio-economic classes exist, a virtually taboo concept in World Bank sponsored reports -- and concludes that:

*These redistributive policies did not come without costs. For example, the political sponsorship of a Malay capitalist class had led to charges of crony capitalism and corruption which was the subject of discontent even by the Malay community. However, these allocative inefficiencies were accepted as part of achieving the overriding goal of social harmony.*

*Generally, the shortfalls in corporate governance and large resources costs reduced growth and competitiveness. Nevertheless, despite these policy errors, the Malaysian economic performance has been impressive.*

Example 3. William Easterly, an author well-known for his work on the importance of framing institutions for economic growth but otherwise neoclassical in his methods and assumptions, presented a paper at the GDN meeting in Cairo in 2003. His mailing and email addresses were through the World Bank at that time and he indicates that the “large, cross-country, cross-time database” he and his assistant put together, the “Global Development Network Growth Database,” is available to other researchers at the World Bank’s website: [www.worldbank.org/research/growth](http://www.worldbank.org/research/growth). Yet the paper, “The Lost Decades,” February 2001, analyzes these data to show that there was greater economic growth in the 1960s-1980s period in the developing countries than in the period after 1990. He asks the question outright of how it is possible that despite myriad economic reforms in so many countries, these programs did not lead

to significant growth, suggesting that the period 1960-1979 may have been a special case of world-wide growth in which both OECD and developing countries participated, and that the “reforms” of the subsequent years did nothing to address the real causes of the growth slowdown.

Example 4. The GDN published a book based on the papers presented and the heated discussions that took place at its Cairo conference in January 2003, with one chapter specifically addressed to the Arab world (Dinello and Squire, eds., 2005).<sup>13</sup> The editors’ introduction states that the aim of the conference was to let scholars from the “developing” world have a chance to make independent evaluations of the impact of globalization on the countries in their regions. The editors’ reiterate that GDN’s dual mission is to build research capacity in the social sciences and to bridge the gap between research and policy in the developing world (pp. xii-xiii). Like ERF, GDN aims to “foster home-grown expertise” and many of the 600 conference participants (mostly from the developing regions of the world) stressed the “importance of human intervention grounded in local knowledge – as opposed to advice imposed from outside – as a means of increasing the benefits of globalization and mitigating its detrimental effects” (p. xiii).

Based on the debates at the conference, Dinello and Squire summarize the arguments and evidence on the positive and negative impacts of globalization. The positive impacts were that (1) greater involvement in international trade is correlated with, but does not necessarily cause, higher growth (see WB 2002, Dollar and Kray 2001); (2) trade with growth (“globalization”) can lead to reduced poverty, as in Uganda and Vietnam, e.g., Dollar and Kray found that the income of poor rises by about as much as the income of the non-poor; and (3) integration with the global economy leads to increased political and social stability (e.g., see Summers 1999 on Japan and other East Asia). The negative impacts were that (1) globalization can lead to sharp rises in inequality, as in China, the Central and Eastern European countries, and the former Soviet republics, and (2) international financial integration can lead to increased volatility, as in the East Asian crisis 1997.

Dinello and Squire posit that these positive and negative impacts can be reconciled partly by recognizing that different arguments use different measures, assumptions, time periods, and examples. But this was not just a matter of methodology, as the aim of the conference was to come up with a common platform that could guide policy. This led to the “Cairo Consensus,” so named to contrast it with the neoliberal “Washington Consensus” of World Bank and IMF structural adjustment and reform packaging.

The Cairo Consensus entailed two dimensions. (1) Increased integration in the world economy is necessary (though not sufficient) for avoiding marginalization and for decreasing inequality among countries. Inward looking countries do not grow fast, and globalization offers great *potential* for development. However, (2) policies must be adapted to local conditions in order to mitigate negative effects of globalization. While good governance institutions and sound macroeconomic policy and structural reforms are essential, countries also need policies that help domestic producers adjust to the competitive pressures brought by increased trade and to prevent capital flight. Furthermore, they must simultaneously invest in physical and social infrastructure, encourage the private sector, spread the benefits of growth widely to countervail against rising inequality, and provide a strong safety net and adequate compensation for losers. Clearly this is a much taller order than the standard Washington Consensus prescription.

Chapter 2 of the volume, “Globalization and Inequality in the Arab Region” by Ali Abdel Gadir Ali, from the Arab Planning Institute of Kuwait, argues that evidence for that region shows inequality *declining* in the region in the 1990s, even as it experienced much slower growth than elsewhere. Their evidence indicates that the poor benefit only half as much as the non poor when

growth is faster (as compared to Dollar and Kraay's one-to-one outcome cited above). Dr. Ali agrees with the Cairo consensus as modified above, citing Rodrik 2001 (p. 2), to the effect that, while the developing world should adopt technology and bring in capital from the world market, globalization by itself does not lead to development: "Policymakers need to forge a domestic growth strategy, relying on domestic investors and domestic institutions" to resolve conflicts arising from increased integration with the world economy (Ali, p. 60).

Example 5. Turkish researchers Ebru Voyvoda and Erinc Yeldan published a research paper, "Macroeconomics of Twin-Targeting in Turkey: A General Equilibrium Analysis," in September 2006 on the website of the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst ([www.umass.edu/peri/](http://www.umass.edu/peri/)). This paper is part of an international project to find alternative growth strategies for the unsuccessful neoliberal programs introduced into many developing countries. It was not sponsored by a Middle East regional economic organization, although the authors are part of the network of MENA economists, in the departments of economics at METU and Bilkent Universities, respectively, and Yeldan was a contributor to the ERF's 2002 *Economic Trends*.

The "twin targets" of the title are the standard neoliberal recommendations to reduce government spending, in this case not only to eliminate the budget deficit but to create an actual surplus, and to create a Central Bank policy that focuses only on reining in inflation, impervious to other pressures arising from the contractionary (recessionary) consequences of these policies. Using a computable general equilibrium model (CGE) of the Turkish economy based on Turkish data, Voyvoda and Yeldan demonstrate that the IMF's assumptions and logic are flawed. What Turkey got instead of renewed growth was not only the short-run choking off of domestic investment and rising unemployment in both the public and private spheres, but also the financial crisis of November 2000 resulting from speculative rather than productive foreign investment (similar to the financial crises of East Asia in 1997 and Russia in 1998). When growth resumed in Turkey, it was tepid and "jobless," that is it failed to create much new employment. The authors then gently and incrementally adjusted the assumptions of the program so as to alter the Turkish economy's projected growth path in a way that focuses on "employment-based" growth, with the primary agenda shifted from reassuring bankers and foreign investors that the market is open for them (as in the IMF vision) toward raising the job and income generating opportunities for ordinary people as the basis of long-run sustainable development.<sup>14</sup>

Other examples might include conferences in and about the region in which scholars keep raising non-neoclassical ideas. Professor Kamil Mahdi at the Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies at Exeter University, proposed a conference in 2002 entitled "Arab Economies and the WTO and Prospects for Inter-Arab Cooperation," which suggests that regional rather than simply global integration may be a good strategy. Dr. Ibrahim Saif, of the Institute for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, proposed a conference in 2002 emphasizing the testing of economic theory against the empirical realities of the Jordanian economy, which suggests that standard economic theory is contestible and may have to be altered to accommodate new evidence from outside the "intellectual straitjacket" of the western-defined "universal story," as Mitchell put it. The idea of planning keeps recurring, as in the international conference on "New Approaches to the Design of Development Policies" in Beirut in 2006, organized by the Arab Planning Institute (Kuwait), headed by the same Dr. Ali who wrote chapter 2 of the Dinello and Squire *Globalization...* volume discussed above. Rodrik even goes so far as to suggest that "industrial policy" is an essential component of a developing country's growth strategy (Rodrik 2007), the same non-neoclassical idea that arose in the recommendations of *The Egyptian Competitiveness*

*Report.* In sum, the field of “MENA economics” shows signs of evolving into a real and productive dialectic between “MENA” and “economics.”

## CONCLUSION

Post-modernist approaches provide both problems and opportunities for the relation between MES and economics. Among the problems is the deconstruction or self-destruction of traditional liberal development theory after the debt crises of the 1980s and the demise of the Soviet system after 1990, a system that offered, however imperfectly, the idea that an economy could be organized on other than the model of private-property-and-pursuit of profit that characterized capitalism. Into the vacuum leapt neoliberal economics, as embodied in the Washington Consensus institutions. It is no accident that the intellectual counterparts of “neo-liberal” economists, ‘neo-conservative’ political thinkers also became increasingly influential, then powerful, over the 1990s. Their attack on “big government,” social welfare and alternative lifestyles within the U.S., their ambition to project US power abroad, especially in MENA, and their connections to large corporations and wealthy conservatives who finance the right-wing think tanks, are logically tied to their critiques of US academia and to the rise of neoliberal economic policies (see Lockman 2004b).

These neo-conservative critiques argue that academia is too relativistic, too insistent on a political correctness that attempts to redress problems of gender, race, and class inequality, too open to political philosophies that stray from their definition of American patriotism, and too understanding of foreign cultures and societies – in other words, altogether too close to post-modernism. This critique pushes us toward a program to reassert certainty in ideology, including narrowly-conceived economic theory, and to return to an imagined American culture of absolute truths and unchallengeable standards of learning, thinking, and behaving, as well as to the imagined free-market economy of the pre-Keynesian era. The tension between the certainty offered by narrowly-conceived economic method versus the varied and changing realities of economic life in regions like MENA is analogous to the current US debate over the god-given certainty of “intelligent design” versus the process of evolution which generates constant change and variability, situational specificity and path-dependency.

MENA economists thus have to struggle to do their research facing critiques from opposite directions, from the neoclassical-model side and from the post-modernist side – the first absolutely certain that their science reveals hard reality and the second always questioning how “reality” is constructed and then deconstructing it. While Middle East studies in general has to confront the cultural and political attacks of the neocons, MENA economists have to contend with the poor fit between the Washington Consensus’ neoliberal policies and MENA societies. They face the need to reconceive a viable theory of how to understand and, if desirable, transform MENA countries in a global context in which their economies and societies are judged to be inferior. Much of the recent work in the economics of MENA addresses this question, albeit not always self-consciously.

Perhaps Middle East Studies could strengthen itself, in response to neoconservative attack and in its relevance to the contemporary problems of people and societies of the region, by bringing this new wave of economics into the core of its programs, course offerings, and debates. By the same token, the discipline of economics could be made more interesting and relevant to its students and to a more general audience if it were to test and modify its theories in the crucible of real societies in varied cultural and historical settings such as are provided by the

countries of the MENA region. Mutual strength could be drawn from Middle East Studies advocates and regional economists talking to each other through seminars, conferences, and regular organizational meetings.<sup>15</sup> Grappling openly with the seemingly intractable contradiction between the field of Middle East studies and the discipline of economics could contribute to not only an exciting and fruitful dialectic of knowledge production on economies of the Middle East, but also a model for a new conception of “comparative economic systems” around the globe.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Valuable discussions of the poor fit between social science and cultural studies can be found in Sullivan and Ismael 1991, in particular the chapters on economics by Farah and al-Bustany, and in Rached and Craissati 2003, in particular the chapters by Handoussa, Fergany, and Ibrahim.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage was similar to that of the year 2000: 1.8% of 2,823 members (MESA 2000: 116).

<sup>3</sup> There is no separate accounting for “political economy” in the 2005 and 2006 programs.

<sup>4</sup> In the introductory chapter to his edited volume, and with uncanny prescience, Ibrahim Oweiss estimated in 1990 that, if the informal economy were accounted for, the GDP of Egypt would just about double (Oweiss 1990).

<sup>5</sup> An extreme version of this occurred in Turkey in the 15 years after the military coup that brought Turgut Ozal to power in 1980, and that finally opened the Turkish economy to Washington Consensus reform and structural adjustment. Economists who connected their work with political and social questions prior to the coup, usually challenging the status quo, were virtually cleaned out of economics departments. The main research came to focus on Turkey’s international trade and exchange rates and on domestic monetary policy. The Central Bank of Turkey came to employ an army of young economists focused only on these price and market phenomena, especially where econometrics could be employed. This trend reversed somewhat after 1995, to the point that the CBT financed one of its employees to begin graduate work in the non-traditional economics department at UMass-Amherst in 2005, but, as we shall see under MEEA conferences below, the CBT’s preoccupation with finance and exchange wields a large influence.

<sup>6</sup> Stiglitz’ highly successful book, *Globalization and its Discontents* (2002) recounts this story with many illuminating examples from various parts of the globe. Mitchell offers a deeper and more detailed example for the case of Egypt (2002: Chapters 7, 8, and 9). Pfeifer compares a set of four MENA cases (2000, 1999).

<sup>7</sup> ERF’s definition explicitly excludes Israel from its purview, perhaps to avoid political conflict within the organization or because of Israel’s structural similarity to Western Europe’s “developed” economies.

<sup>8</sup> The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development has its headquarters in Kuwait and is funded by Gulf oil exporters. The European Commission is the executive arm of the European Union, charged with carrying out the policies of the EU and administering the budget. The Ford Foundation is a private foundation in the United States, known for its support of liberal causes, which has offices and programs in several countries of the region. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is funded by the United Nations and does research on the non-Western economies, with a somewhat more humanistic twist than the World Bank and the IMF. The World Bank and its sister, the International Monetary Fund, were founded in 1947 by an international conference held in Bretton Woods NH and led by the United States. Located in Washington DC, the World Bank’s original function, as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was to organize economic assistance to war-devastated Europe. During the Cold War, the United States and its allies broadened the World Bank’s mandate to providing project development aid to the non-Western countries outside the Soviet sphere. After the demise of the Soviet Union, the World Bank’s mandate shifted again to promoting whole-economy economic reform and adjustment programs throughout the non-Western world.

<sup>9</sup> For a review of the deficits and some proposals for research agendas for the region’s social scientists, see Ben Hafaiedh and Ibrahim, the latter as part of a complex IDRC study.

<sup>10</sup> The 2003 panel led to an article by Tarik Yousef in the AEA’s *Journal of Economic Issues*, laying out the many problems and defects of the MENA economies, and the need for essentially neoliberal reform with a reconceived “social contract.” It was accompanied by a complementary article by Timur Kuran reviewing his long-argued critiques of Islamic economics and other delusions of non-neoclassical economic strategy for MENA. [get citation]

<sup>11</sup> A useful volume on this topic is *Financialization and the World Economy*, edited by Gerald Epstein (Elgar 2005), in which there is a chapter on “The Making of the Turkish Financial Crisis,” by Yilmaz Akyuz and Korkut Boratav.

<sup>12</sup> This repeated a central panel from the conference co-sponsored by the MEEA and SOAS at the University of London the previous summer, leading to a special issue of the venerable British *Economic Journal*.



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<sup>13</sup> The book, *Globalization and Equity, Perspectives from the Developing World*, was edited by Natalia Dinello, Principal Political Scientist, and Lyn Squire, President, Global Development Network, (Wash DC: Edward Elgar 2005). Squire, with a Cambridge University Ph.D., was then at World Bank, as chief economist of the Middle East and North Africa Vice-Presidency, Director of the Research Dept, and Director of the 1990 World Development Report on Poverty.

<sup>14</sup> The researchers propose not to put government spending into deficit again but merely to reduce by half the amount of the government budget surplus targeted by the IMF model. Government should then use the retained funds to invest in social infrastructure, that is to improve education and healthcare sufficiently to raise productivity growth to the average it attained in the 1970s (it has been lower than that for the 25 years of neoliberal programming). This has three beneficial effects on the macroeconomy: it stimulates private spending spun off from the employment created by public spending, it improves the quality of the labor force, and it makes private domestic investment more attractive and profitable. In addition, they propose that the Central Bank take growth as well as inflation into account. While keeping the interest rate low enough to encourage domestic private investment, the Central Bank should also keep the exchange rate competitive to encourage exports and to discourage imports, causing domestic consumption to shift to favor domestic production. Perhaps most radical, and anathema to free-market neoliberalism which promotes the unfettered flow of capital across international borders, they propose that the Central Bank maintain capital controls so as to reduce speculative foreign portfolio investment and to encourage foreign direct investment into the productive sectors. The results of their projections, on the assumption that real wages remain fixed (the buying power of the wage is stable as demand for labor rises), are that unemployment falls each year from 10% in 2003 to about 7% in 2010, that GDP growth is one percentage point higher than the IMF's projection each year through 2010, and that the stock of national debt stabilizes at 3% of GDP, higher than what the IMF model specifies but equal to the standard held up for the European Union's member countries.

<sup>15</sup> An entertaining and poignant plea for such "an eclectic solution" is made by AUC economist Galal Amin (2006).

TABLE 1. UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE COURSES ON ECONOMIES (OR POLITICAL ECONOMY) OF MENA

University or College	MES program	Econ Faculty affiliated with MES program	Econ Course(s) taught by Economist	Course(s) on Contemporary Pol Econ MENA taught by non-economist
American University	SIS, inc ME	Yes	not evident on website	yes, pol science
<b>Arizona, Univ. of</b>	CMES	no	no	Yes, geography
Binghamton - SUNY	MENAS concentration	no	no	Yes, history, ant, pol science
Boston College	Prog Minor ME& Islm Stud	yes	yes	
Boston University *	no	no	no	Yes, intl relations
Brandeis University *	MES	Yes	yes	
<b>Brigham Young Univ</b>	Nt'lLang ResCtr;major MES	fac NA website	no	NA website
Brown University *	IR,Dev Stud	yes	yes	
Bryn Mawr, College of	"MES Initiative"	no	no	Yes, pol science
Bucknell, College of	IR, ME conc	no	no	Yes, pol science, history
<b>California, Univ. of</b>				
<b>Berkeley *</b>	CMES	no econ; ag&res econ	no	IASTP-PEIS: Turkey
Davis	no	no	yes	
<b>Los Angeles</b>	CMES+NELC+major MENAS	yes, one faculty	no, 2006-07 but dev,intl etc	distant via geography, history
San Diego	no	yes	yes	
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	CMES	no	yes, but ancient econ	yes, history
Santa Cruz	no	no	no	
California Inst Tech *	no	no	no	
Califor State, Bakersfield	no	no	yes, dept applied econ	
California State, Fresno	no	no	yes, one econ	
California State, Fullerton	no	no	yes, one econ	
Case West Reserve U *	no, but Ctr for Policy Stud	no	no	yes, pol science
Catholic Univ. of America	no	no	no	yes, anthro
Central Florida, Univ of	no	no	no	yes, pol science
<b>Chicago, University of *</b>	CMES	no	no	yes, pol science
Claremont Grad Program	no	no	no	yes, public policy
Colby College	IS: ME	no	no	
Colorado, Univ of	no	no	yes	
<b>Columbia University *</b>	NELC; ME Institute	no	no	
Connecticut, Univ. of	MES prog	yes	yes, modern econ history	
Cornell University *	Dept of NES	no	no	
Denison University	no	no	yes, one econ (last 2002)	
Duke University *	no	no	no	
DuPage, College of	no	no	no	yes, pol science
Eastern Illinois Univ.	no	no	occasional topic	
<b>Emory University *</b>	Israel Stud; former CMES; dept ME&SoAsian Stud	no	yes, Israel, pol econ oil. 2003 last econ MENA	
Florida State Univ.	Asian Stud: ME	no	yes	
Fordham University	MES	no	no	yes, pol science

University or College	MES program	Econ Faculty affiliated with MES program	Econ Course(s) taught by Economist	Course(s) on Contemporary Pol Econ MENA taught by non-economist
George Washington Univ.	no	no	no	yes, pol science
<b>Georgetown University</b>	NRC, Arab Studies	yes	yes, 3 courses	
Georgia, University of	Asian Stud: ME	no	no	
<b>Harvard University *</b>	Center for MES	yes, econ historian	yes, econ history	
Hofstra University	no	no	yes, 2 courses	
Hood College	MES minor	no	no	
<b>Illinois, Univ.Urb-Cham</b>	Prog So Asia+ME	yes	no	yes, history, pol science
Indiana U Bloomington *	NELC	no	no	yes, history
Indiana State University	no	no	yes, 1 course every 2 yrs	
Johns Hopkins *	SAIS;MES interdept major	no	no	yes, history, pol science, intl PE
Kansas, Univ of	IR prog; African Studies	yes	yes, but not ME	
Loyola University Chicago		no, but MEEA website	no	
Mass Inst Tech *	IS; interdept minor MES	no	yes	
Massachusetts, Univ of	Five-College Cert MES	yes	yes, thru 5-College Cons	
McGill University	yes, thru pol science	no	no	yes, pol science
Miami, University of	no	no	no	yes, pol science
<b>Michigan, Univ. AnnArb *</b>	CMENAS	rec: ant, pol sci, hist	no	yes, geography
Michigan, Univ. Dearborn	no	no	yes, one econ	
Middlebury College	IS: MES + disc major	no	no	
Montgomery County CC	no	no	no	yes, history
Nassau Comm College	no	no	no	yes, 2 history
New Hampshire, Univ of	no	no	NA from website	yes, pol science
New Jersey, College of	Intl Pol Econ	no	no	yes, pol science
New School University	no	no	no	yes, geography
New York, State U.Albany	Asian Studies	no	no	yes, ant, history, Jewish studies
<b>New York University *</b>	Kevorkian CMES;dept NES	no	no	yes, political science
New York, Upstate Cons	yes, under development	NA website	NA from website	
North Carolina State Univ	IS: South Asia + ME	no	no	yes, history, pol science
North Carolina, Univ. of	Asian Studies: ME conc	yes	no	yes, Asian Studies, history
Northeastern University	International Affairs	no	no	yes, soc-anthro pol science, history
Northwestern University *	Asian: ME	no	yes, econ history	
<b>Ohio State University *</b>	NELC; Center for MES	fac econ, not course	yes, ag and dev econ	yes, pol science
Ohio Wesleyan Univ	Intl stud: ME	one	no	
Cleveland State Univ	IR: Africa&ME conc;MES min	no	no	yes, pol science
Old Dominion University	Intl Stud: ME	no	not specific to MENA	yes,geog, hist, pol science,soc
<b>Pennsylvania, Univ. of *</b>	Asian Stud: ME:ME Center	yes	no	yes, history, pol sci, IR
Pittsburgh, University of	Islm Stud Cons	yes	yes, one econ	yes, pol science
<b>Princeton University *</b>	Dept NES; Intl&Reg Stud	no	no	yes, 2 pol sci & NES (1 phy)
Puget Sound, Univ of	Intl Pol Econ	no	no	yes, intl PE 3 courses
Purdue University	no	no	no	yes, hist & women studies
Queens College (CUNY)	Asian Stud	no	no	yes, pol science
Rochester, Univ. of *	no	no	no	

University or College	MES program	Econ Faculty affiliated with MES program	Econ Course(s) taught by Economist	Course(s) on Contemporary Pol Econ MENA taught by non-economist
Saint Anselm College	no	no	no	yes, hist, pol science
San Francisco State U.	MES+Islam Stud minor	no	no	yes, intl relations
Sewanee Univ of South	Dev, Asian, 3rd Wld Std	no	yes, eco gender & Islam	
Smith College	Five-College Cert MES	yes	yes	
Southern California, U. *	MES minor	yes	yes, 2 courses	yes, intl relations
Stanford University *	MELC minor; MA at AUB	no	yes	yes, history
Swarthmore College	Peace+Conf Stud	no	no	yes, history
Syracuse University	MES minor	no	no	yes, pol science
Tacoma, Washington	IS (Glob stud)	NA website	not specific to MENA	yes, pol economy
Temple University	no	no	no	yes, 2 history
Texas A&M, School Govt	IS	NA website	NA website	yes, pol science (gov't)
<b>Texas, Univ. Austin *</b>	CMES	no	no	yes, two in pol science (gov't)
Toledo, Univ of, OH *	Glob Stud: MES major	NA website	no; intl econ only	
<b>Utah, University of</b>	IR & MES; ME Center	yes, 3 faculty	yes, one course	
Vanderbilt University *	Jewish, Isl Stud	no	no	yes, pol science
Virginia Tech University	Asian Area Stud	yes, one faculty	no	
Virginia, University of	MES	no	yes, one course	
<b>Washington, Univ. of</b>	Intl Studies; ME Center	yes	no	yes, three sociology
Washington Univ, MO *	J,I and NES interdept major	no	no	yes thru JIES
Wesleyan Univ	Intl Studies	no	one course long ago	
West Point, Academy at	no	no	no	yes, geog, pol sci, history
William & Mary	IR: MES major	no	no	yes, soc, pol sci, history
Wisconsin, Univ. of	Intl Pol Econ;MES major	ag + applied econ	no	yes, hist, pol sci
Wooster, College of *	no	no	no	
<b>Yale University*</b>	NELC: MES	no	no	yes, 2 or 3 IR or IS
Yeshiva University	no	no	yes, one course, half Israel and half other ME	
<u>Notes</u>				
<b>Name in bold Italics</b> indicates institution was or is now Title VI national resource center according to DOE.				
* Indicates university ranked by NSF among top 30 research institutions by amount competitive federal research support (Fig. 12 from Case Western Reserve University 2003).				
<u>Sources</u>				
Websites of Department of Education and of Title VI institutions with NRCs in Middle East studies; google searches for "Courses in Economics+Middle East," and "Courses in Middle East Economics;" email inquiries to MESA 2006 members listed under "Economics" and "Political Economy."				

**TABLE 2. SENIOR ASSOCIATES OF ERF 2006, EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Gov't Office</b>	<b>Int'l Org</b>	<b>Business Affiliation</b>	<b>Academic</b>
Samir Abdullah	PhD Eco Prague	PLO: PEC DAR, MAS			Birzeit
Sultan Abou Ali	PhD Eco Harvard	Egypt: minister		Arab Investors' Fed	Zagazig
Hassan Abu Libdeh	PhD BioStats Cornell	PLO: PEC DAR, MAS			Cornell, Birzeit
Abdullah Al Dardari	MA Eco USC	Syria: minister, planning	UNDP		
Jassim Al-Mannai	PhD Eco Sorbonne	Bahrain: ministry econ	Arab Mon Fund	Gulf Investment Corp, several others	
	Harvard Bus School				
Ali Ali	NA	Kuwait: Arab Plan Institute			
Jawad Anani	PhD Eco U Georgia	Jordan: ministries		consultant	
Chedly Ayari	NA	NA			
Adel Beshai	NA	NA			AUC
Youssef Boutros-Ghali	PhD Eco MIT	Egypt: ministries, central bank	IMF		Cairo Univ
Kemal Dervis	PhD Eco Princeton	Turkey: minister, Parliament	UNDP, World Bank		METU, Princeton
Hazem El-Beblawi	PhD Eco U Paris	Egypt: export agencies	UNDP, ESCWA		various
Abdullah El-Kuwaiz	PhD Eco St Louis U	Saudi: agencies	Arab Mon Fund	various	
Abda El-Mahdi	MSc Eco LSE	Sudan: central bank	Islamic Dev Bank	consultant	
Habib El-Malki	NA				
Faika El-Refaie	PhD Eco Colorado State U	Egypt: Central Bank	Arab Mon Fund		
Issam El-Zaem	NA				
Ahmed Galal	PhD Eco Boston U	Man Dir ERF	World Bank		
Bernard Hoekman	PhD Eco U Mich	[Dutch national]	World Bank, GATT		
Jalaleddin Jalali	PhD Eco Princeton	Iran: research inst	World Bank	consultant, WTO	Iran: research institute
Taher Kanaan	PhD Eco Cambridge	Jordan: ministries; agencies; Pal: MAS	UNCTAD, AFESD		
Robert Kasparian	PhD Eco U St Joseph	Lebanon: Stats agency			Univ St Joseph, U Paris
Robert Mabro	SOAS	[Lebanese national]	Oxford Inst Energy		Oxford
Michel Marto	PhD Eco USC	Jordan: agencies, central bank	World Bank		
Ali Mashayekhi	PhD MIT Sloan School	Iran: research institutes			
Mahmoud Mohieldin	PhD U Warwick UK	Egypt: minister			Cairo U
Hicham Mutwalli	PhD Law&Eco Paris U	Syria: central bank	AFESD, World Bank, IMF		
Mustapha Nabli	PhD Eco UCLA	Tunisia: agencies, minister	World Bank	consultant	U of Tunis
Massoud Nili	PhD Eco U Manchester	Iran: planning			Tehran Tech U

Jeffrey Nugent	PhD Eco New School U	[US national]	IMF, ESCWA		USC, others MENA
John Page	PhD Eco Oxford	[US national]	World Bank		SAIS Johns Hopkins
Christopher Pissarides	PhD Eco LSE	Cyprus, UK	World Bank, OECD		
Samir Radwan*	PhD Eco London Univ	Egypt: adviser to prime minister	ILO		Cairo U, AUC
Guven Sek	PhD Eco METU	Turkey: central bank councilor			TOBB Univ
Rusdu Saracoglu	NA				
Paul Schultz	PhD Eco MIT	[US national]	RAND		Yale
Lyn Squire	PhD Eco Cambridge		World Bank, GDN		
Nabil Sukkar	PhD Eco Indiana U	[Syrian or Lebanese]	World Bank	London investment bank, Saudi Bus group, consultant Syria	
<u>Notes</u>					
*Dr. Radwan was managing director of ERF for three years, 2003-2006, but this is not mentioned in the biography.					
<u>Source:</u> <a href="http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=affiliates">http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=affiliates</a>					

**TABLE 3. MEEA NEW MEMBERS 2001-2005**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL	as % of total
Total	30	40	56		34	160	
With regional names	22	35	42		23	122	76%
Working in the region	12	17	23		15	67	42%
Non-academics	8	2	11		3	24	15%

"Non-academics" include World Bank, IMF, USAID, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Petroleum Finance Corporation, Central Bank of Turkey, Saudi Telecom, and other banks and businesses.

Source: MEEA Fall Newsletters

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF ECONLIT ENTRIES AND DISSERTATIONS, BY REGION AND SAMPLE COUNTRIES

		ECONLIT, FOR 1970-2006 (1)		DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS, 1954-2006 (2)	
	Total Entries	Journal Articles	Edited Volume Chapters	Dissertations	
<b>By Region</b>					
Latin America	3,461	2,302	1,133	26	495
East Asia	0	0	0	0	150
South Asia	0	0	0	0	34
Central America	24	11	13	0	93
South East Asia	0	0	0	0	13
Africa, all (3)	2,929	1,830	1,088	11	1,131
Sub-Saharan Africa	118	45	73	0	6
North Africa	0	0	0	0	22
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>By Country</b>					
Mexico	689	466	214	9	1,353
China	3,330	2,314	988	28	1,533
India	2,181	1,545	629	7	1,063
Indonesia	458	278	178	5	608
Turkey	279	198	80	1	302
Iran	136	97	39	0	241
Egypt	125	82	43	0	264
Algeria	19	10	9	0	48
<b>Total 4 MENA countries</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>855</b>

(1) Search ECONLIT database for region or country by "Geographic Descriptors" and economics by "Subject," last search 20 Oct 2007.

(2) Search DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS ONLINE for region or country and economics each as "Keyword," last search 19 Oct. 2007.

(3) The proportion for North Africa was relatively small. Page one of the Journal Articles (the most recent batch), for example, had 50 entries, out of which four were MENA: one Tunisia, one Egypt, one Sudan, and one all MENA.



TABLE 5. CONTENT SUMMARY OF MEEA CONFERENCE PAPERS 2002-2006

TABLE 6: CONTENT SUMMARY OF MEEA CONFERENCE PROGRAMS 1997-1999																					
				2001	(%)	2002	(%)	2003	(%)	2004	(%)	2005	(%)	2006	(%)	2007	(%)	Average % for All Relevant Years			
<u>Poster Session:</u>				NA																	
	Total Number of Papers			0		9		14		17		23		20		12					
	Number on Finance (%)					1	11%	5	36%	6	35%	6	26%	6	30%	6	50%	31%			
	Number on Turkey (%)					0		5	36%	4	24%	8	35%	7	35%	3	25%	26%			
<u>Panel Sessions (non-poster):</u>																					
	Total Number of Panels			8		6		5		5		5		5		5 + 2***					
	Number on Finance (%)			4	50%	1 + 1*	33%	1 + 1**	40%	1	20%	2	40%	1	20%	3	38%	34%			
	Number on Turkey (%)			2	25%	0 + 1*	17%	0		0		0		1	20%	0		9%			
	Total Number of Papers			38		21		26		24		25		26		18 + 7***					
	Number on Finance (%)			14	37%	4	19%	4 + 3**	27%	10	42%	12	48%	12	46%	10	40%	37%			
	Number on Turkey (%)			13	34%	5	24%	6	23%	7	29%	6	24%	11	42%	8	32%	30%			
<u>Notes</u>																					
	* including roundtable on Turkish Financial Crisis																				
	** including roundtable w/ speakers from IMF, World Bank, Petroleum Finsance Corporation																				
	*** including 2 pre-ASSA sessions on previous day																				
Source: MEEA newsletters and conference programs (meeaa.org)																					

**TABLE 6. ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS 1997-2006**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Conf or Wkshop</u>	<u>Title or Theme</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Key Speakers' Affiliation if given on web, besides academic</u>	<u>Agenda on Web</u>	<u>Abstracts on Web</u>	<u>Papers on Web</u>
Sep-97	4th Annual Conf	Reg Trade, Fin and Labor	Beirut, Leb		no	yes	
Oct-97	Workshop	Globalization	Kuwait		no	yes	
Sep-98	5th Annual Conf	Reg Trade, Fin and Labor	Gammarth, Tunisia		no	yes	
	NA 6th Ann Conf						
Nov-98	Workshop	Population Challenges	Cairo: Semiramis Hotel	IMF, World Bank, Reg Inst, Academia	no	yes	
Nov-99	[date unclear]						
Oct-00	7th Annual Conf	Trade Lib, Mon policy & Macro Perf, labor, fertility, poverty & soc-eco	Jordan: Semiramis Hotel	Nicholas Stern-Chief Economist of the World Bank	yes	yes	yes
	NA Conf 2001						
Aug-01	Workshop	Poverty - Co-Sponsor World Bank	Yemen	Min Plan Yemen, Min Soc Aff & Labor Yemen, Chief Economist MENA Region World Bank	yes	yes	yes
Jan-02	8th Ann Conf	Finance, Industry, Trade, Labor	Cairo		no	yes	yes
Oct-02	9th Ann Conf	Finance, Macro, Trade, Labor, Sectoral, Governance	Amer U, Sharjah, UAE	Ruler Sharjah, Dir Gen Arab Mon Fund, Chancellor AUS	yes	yes	yes
Dec-03	10th Ann Conf	Trade, Fin &Macro, Sect, Labor	Marrakesh, Mor		no	yes	yes
Dec-04	11th Ann Conf	Fin, Sect, Macro, Labor, Trade	Beirut Metropolitan Hotel	Chef Econ &Senior VP World Bank, Min Inv Dev Egypt, Min Eco Trade Leb, Min Plan Iraq, IMF	"Hi lites"	yes	yes
Dec-05	12th Ann Conf	Fin, Sect, Macro, Labor, Trade Plenaries: Institutionalizing Reform, Exchange Rate Regimes	Cairo Grand Hyatt Hotel	Prime Min Egypt, Min Trade Egypt, Dir Arab Mon Fund, Chair Arab Bus Council, ILO, World Bank - 2, OECD	yes	yes	yes
Dec-06	13th Ann Conf*	Fin, Sect, Macro, Labor, Trade Plenary:Oil Impact on Global Economy	Kuwait: AFESD	NA, except talks by Dir Al Hayat Bus Desk & Prof King Fahd Petrol Univ**	yes	yes	yes
Notes:	* Info on Planned Conf on Web and in ERF Newsletter Winter 2006 before it happened						
	** Talks in advance in ERF Newsletter Winter 2006, pp. 4-5 and 5-6						
Sources: ERF website ( <a href="http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=conference">http://www.erf.org.eg/middle.php?file=conference</a> ); ERF Newlsetters 2006Spring &Winter							

<b>Appendix A: Journal Articles on Economies of MENA</b>		
<b>Appendix A1. Journals in which articles appeared 2000-2005</b>		
<b>Journal Name</b>	<b>Years of Publication</b>	<b>Number of Articles</b>
African Political Economy, Review of	31	1
Applied Economics	37	8
Applied Economics Letters	11	2
Applied Financial Economics	15	3
Agricultural Economics	34	2
Cambridge Journal of Economics	28	1
Challenge	47	1
Conflict Management and Peace Science	21	1
Contemporary Economic Policy	22	1
Defense and Peace Economics	16	2
Developing Areas, Journal of	37	2
Developing Economies	43	2
Development	47	1
Development and Change	36	1
Development and Economic Policies, Journal of	7	2
Development Economics, Journal of	73	1
Development Economics, Review of	7	1
Development Studies, Journal of	41	1
Eastern Economic Journal	30	1
Economia Internazionale/International Economics	57	1
Economic Development and Cultural Change	54	7
Economic Integration, Journal of	19	3
Economic Journal, the	114	1
Economic Perspectives, Journal of	18	2
Economic Research, Journal of	9	1
Economic Systems Research	15	1
Economics and Finance, Quarterly Review of	46	2
Economics of Education Review	26	3
Education Economics	12	1
Emerging Markets, Journal of	9	1
Emerging Markets Finance and Trade	41	1
Empirical Economics	29	1
Energy and Development, Journal of	30	4
Environment and Planning	36	2
European Review of Agricultural Economics	31	1
Family Planning, Studies in	36	2
Financial History Review	11	1
Financial Management and Analysis, Journal of	17	1

Food Policy	29	2
Global Journal of Economics and Finance	2	2
Global Social Policy	4	1
Health Economics, Journal of	23	1
Housing Economics, Journal of	14	1
Income and Wealth, Review of	50	1
Indian Development Review	3	1
International Advances in Economics Research	10	1
International Development, Journal of	17	2
International Economics, Journal of	58	2
International Journal of Business	10	1
International Journal of Forecasting	19	1
International Journal of Social Economics	31	1
International Labour Review	144	2
International Migration	42	1
Kyklos	58	1
Labour Economics	12	1
Middle East Business and Economics Review	17	6
Middle East Economics and Finance, Review of	3	6
Middle East Journal	58	1
Monetary Economics, Journal of	50	1
OPEC Review	29	1
Open Economies Review	16	1
Oxford Development Studies	32	1
Oxford Economic Papers	57	1
Pakistan Development Review	42	1
Palestine Studies, Journal of	34	2
Policy Modeling, Journal of	26	3
Population Studies	58	1
Population and Development Review	31	1
Public Choice	117	1
Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance	44	2
Regulatory Science, Journal of	44	1
Russian and Eastern European Finance and Trade	41	1
Small Business Economics	21	2
Social Service Review	79	1
Urban and Regional Development Studies, Review of	17	1
World Development	33	10
World Economy, The	28	3

## **Appendix A2. Topics and Geographic Coverage of 117 Journal Articles 2000-2005**

<b><u>Topic Category</u></b>	<b><u>Specific Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Geographic Coverage</u></b>
<b><u>Economics of Conflict</u></b>		
	Israel Palestine conflict	Israel/Palestine
	Intifada cost to Israel	Israel/Palestine
	Conflict	India/Pakistan
	Military spending and economic growth	Egypt, Syria, Israel
	Impact US sanctions	Iran
	War and Sanctions Impact	Iraq
	Law and Economics	Iraq
	Political violence impact on currency	Egypt
	Economics of conflict	Israel/Palestine conflict
<b><u>Topic: Economic Growth and Performance</u></b>		
	Development, Reform since 1950	All MENA
	Underdevelopment and stagnation	All MENA
	Growth	Morocco
	Economy	Algeria
	Economy	Palestine
	Economy	Palestine
	Growth history 1968-2000	Palestine
	Growth under Liberal regime, 1886-1945	Egypt
	Political economy of growth and inflation	Iran
	Periphery surplus	Turkey
	Slow integration	GCC
<b><u>Topic: Foreign Aid</u></b>		
	Aid impact	Palestine
	Aid from Arabs and int'l donors	All MENA
<b><u>Topic: Macroeconomic Policy</u></b>		
	Shock therapy (stabilization)	Iraq
	Hyperinflation	Iraq
	Stabilization	Egypt
	Fiscal analysis	Compare Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE
	Monetary Policy	Saudi Arabia
	Public Spending and Growth	GCC
	Public Spending and Growth	Tunisia
	Trade Shocks and Macroeconomics	Saudi Arabia
	Military debt	Arab World
<b><u>Topic: Microeconomic impact of government spending</u></b>		
	Government spending and tourism	GCC
	Brain drain to US	Iran
	Public services	Iran
	Food subsidies	Egypt
<b><u>Topic: Private investment</u></b>		
	Private investment	Iran
	FDI and growth	Arab
	"Upstream" Privatization of oil industry	Oil countries
	Direct Foreign Investment	Turkey
<b><u>Topic: Natural resources extraction and use</u></b>		
	Oil and manufacturing	Gulf
	Oil and Water resources	Saudi Arabia
	Water and conflict	Tigrus-Euphrates region
	Water	Jordan
	Water Technology	Tunisia
	Free Trade and Water Distribution	all MENA

<u>Topic: Exchange rates</u>		
	Exchange rates, rice prices	Iran
	Exchange rates	Turkey
	Exchange rates	Turkey
	Exchange rates, domestic markets, & int'l trade	MENA
<u>Topic: Capital markets</u>		
	Stock market	Tunisia
	Stock markets	MENA
	Stock markets	All Arab
	Stock market	Jordan
	Financial deepening, business cycle	UAE
	Capitalization	Turkey
	Capital Markets and development	All Arab
	Performance emerging markets	MENA
<u>Topic: Banking and Finance</u>		
	Banking and Finance	Tunisia
	Banking and Finance	Tunisia
	Bank performance	Tunisia
	Banking	Bahrain
	Financial institutions	Ottoman empire
	Competition in banking	Arab ME
	Banking efficiency	Turkey
	Banking productivity	Turkey
	Financial Crisis	Turkey
	Formal and informal credit markets	Egypt
	Lending to small and medium-size enterprises	Tunisia
	Migration and capital markets	MENA
<u>Topic: Demography</u>		
	Adolescence	Egypt
	Childbearing	Five Arab countries
	Reproduction and Women	Palestine
	Census and Population	Palestine
	Housing and Population	Saudi Arabia
	Religion and fertility	MENA
	Mortality	Iraq
	Healthcare	Palestine
	Demographic shocks, CGE modeling	MENA
<u>Topic: Income and Poverty</u>		
	Mortgage markets and poverty reduction	All MENA
	Poverty and Gender	Jerusalem
	Modeling Poverty	Egypt
	Food prices and wages	Egypt
	Poverty	Egypt
	Trade and gains to poor	Iran
	Poverty	Egypt
	Rural non-farm income and inequality	Egypt
<u>Topic: Economics of Education</u>		
	Diff returns to schooling by gender	Palestine
	Returns to schooling	Ethiopia
	Education	Saudi Arabia
	Education and Family Background	Arab World
	Education and earnings	Iran
	Returns to education	Libya
<u>Topic: Liberalization; liberalization and labor</u>		
	Privatization	Turkey

	Liberalization of services	Tunisia and Egypt
	Trade, Liberalization, employment and wages	Tunisia and Egypt
	Public/private wages and gender employment	Turkey
	Wage Flexibility pre and post structural adjustment	Turkey
	Male/female wage differences	Libya
	Testing export-led growth hypothesis	Jordan
	Export-led growth and female labor	Turkey
	Foreign trade and input intensity (input/output)	Turkey
	Trade and gains to poor	Iran
	Job creation	Morocco
	Globalization and labor	Arab
	Wage formation and recurrent unemployment	MENA
	Income and Prices	Tunisia
	Labor and Inflation	Turkey
	Trade liberalization	Turkey
	Trade Liberalization and labor demand	Turkey
	Clothing Exports	Turkey
	Agadir agreement, free trade	Arab
	Trade bloc performance	GCC
	Trade Liberalization, poverty and equity	MENA
	Exports and Economic Growth	Arab World
	Trade liberalization, products and growth	MENA
	Trade policy	West Bank/Gaza
	Trade with Japan	GCC
	Environmental Regulation and Exports	Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Cyprus, Turkey
	Imports and inflation	Kuwait
	Agriculture and trade	GCC
	Credit and Agriculture	Tunisia
	Agriculture reform, CGE model	Turkey
	Food demand	Tunisia
	Meat consumption, cointegration econometrics	Tunisia
	Relation financial and real sectors	Oman
	Manuf firms performance	Tunisia
	SEOs vs. privatized firm performance	MENA
	Sales forecasting, public enterprises	Egypt
	Gov't production investment goods & productivity	All MENA
<u>Topic: Relation with EU</u>		
	Relation with EU	Turkey
	Relation with EU	Turkey
	Relation with EU	Turkey
	Migration to EU	Turkey
<u>Topic: Labor</u>		
	Employment and Unemployment, Gender	Jordan
	Employment of Indian workers	GCC
	Immigrants	UAE
	Migration to EU	Turkey
	Migration	Algeria, Nigeria
	Econ of Peace and Labor impact	Palestine
	Labor flows	Palestine
	Labor	Palestine
	Migrants and language skills	Israel

**APPENDIX B. BOOKS PUBLISHED 2001-2005**

**Appendix B1. Book Subjects and Locations – Total Number of Titles = 169**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>No. Titles</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b><u>Economic Development, Backwardness, Reform</u></b>	<b><u>51</u></b>	
Research for Development		MENA
MENA lags behind		Iran
Reform and Stabilization		Turkey
Political economy		Turkey
Turkey since 1970		Turkey
Turkey and EU		Turkey
Economy in crisis		Turkey
Negative impact neoliberalism		Turkey
Institutional change and globalization		MENA
Fiscal policy		MENA
Globalization and Islam		Morocco
Political economy		Jordan
Economy of Israel		Israel
Political economy		Israel
Political Economy		Egypt
Economy		Iran
Political economy		Iran
Political economy		Iran
Political economy		Lebanon
Economy of Lebanon		Lebanon
Political economy of reform failure		MENA
Business and economic crisis		Jordan, Kuwait
Economy of		Saudi Arabia
Economic development		Saudi Arabia
Political economy of		Saudi Arabia
Oil crisis		Saudi Arabia
Economic reform		Saudi Arabia
Economic reform		Jordan
Economy of Palestine		Palestine
Economic policy		Palestine
Economic development		Palestine
Globalization		MENA
Glob and Women		MENA
Glob and women		Egypt
Institutional reform		Egypt
Institutional reform and econ dev		Egypt
Poetics of political economy		Egypt
Privatization and deregulation		Gulf
Privatization and labor		MENA
Food and economic policy		MENA
End of Oil Era		MENA
Policy and economic performance		Arab World
Development		Arab World
Economic collapse		Arab World
Political economy of		Morocco and Tunisia
Liberalization and Democracy		Tunisia



	Liberalization and Democracy			MENA	
	Democracy and Economic reform			MENA	
	Political economy			Iraq	
	Tragedy			Middle East	
	Development challenges			Arab World	
<b><u>Demography, human capital, labor, gender</u></b>			<b><u>31</u></b>		
	Demography			MENA	
	Human capital and population			MENA	
	Human capital			MENA	
	Population and development			Gulf	
	Labor mkts, human capital, household behavior			MENA	
	Women and work			MENA	
	Migration			Egypt, Sudan	
	Women and agriculture			MENA	
	Community schools			Egypt	
	Child Labor			Egypt	
	Labor market			Egypt	
	Women and welfare			Egypt	
	Poverty and charity			MENA	
	Poverty and charity			Egypt	
	Poverty			Egypt	
	Glob and Women			MENA	
	Elite			Egypt	
	Labor			Palestine	
	Labor			Palestine	
	Globalization and employment			MENA	
	Employment creation			MENA	
	Employment and social protection			MENA	
	Modernizing Women			MENA	
	Gender in Morocco			Morocco	
	Human Capital			MENA	
	Manufacturing and Labor			MENA	
	Middle class in Morocco			Morocco	
	Class, ethnicity and gender			Israel	
	Social policy reform			MENA	
	Workers and peasants			MENA	
	Textile workers			Israel	
<b><u>Economic History and geography</u></b>			<b><u>18</u></b>		
	Economic history			Egypt	
	Economic history			Egypt	
	Economic history			Egypt	
	Economic history			Palestine	
	Economic history			Palestine	
	Ottoman Jerusalem			Palestine	
	History			Tunisia	
	Economic history of Muslim Mediterranean			Mediterranean	
	Economic geography			Egypt	
	Geography			Egypt	
	Red Sea ports in 13 <sup>th</sup> century			Egypt, Arabia	
	Sahel			Tunisia	

	Debt in ancient Near East			MENA	
	Ottoman finance			Ottoman Empire	
	Consumption in Ottoman Empire			Ottoman Empire	
	Trade in Safavid Iran			Persia	
	Modernity			Iran	
	Charity in Medieval Islam			Muslim countries	
<b><u>Politics (in sense of “political economy”)</u></b>			<b><u>20</u></b>		
	Al-Asad			Syria	
	British Muslims			U.K.	
	Government and Politics			MENA	
	Liberalization and Democracy			Tunisia	
	Refugees			Palestinian	
	Second Intifadha			Palestine	
	Politics			Palestine	
	Flaws in Middle East Peace Process			Israel/Palestine	
	Governance and Oil			Oil exporters	
	Political reform			MENA	
	State formation			Palestine	
	Religious radicalism and political economy			MENA	
	Political crisis			Turkey	
	Political reform and external capital			MENA	
	Econ reform and (illusion of) democracy			Egypt	
	Women’s movement			Egypt	
	Influence colonialism on culture and politics			MENA	
	Geopolitics			MENA	
	Globalization and political development			MENA	
	Islamism in Jordan			Jordan	
<b><u>International relations</u></b>			<b><u>7</u></b>		
	IR			MENA	
	IR			MENA	
	Regional trends and US strategy			MENA	
	Muslim Mediterranean			Muslim Mediterranean	
	Relations between Egypt and oil states			Egypt, Oil states	
	Palestinian diaspora			Palestine and others	
	Islam and globalization			Islamic world	
<b><u>Islamic economics</u></b>			<b><u>8</u></b>		
	Islamic banking after 30 years				
	Islam and Globalization				
	Critique of Islamic economics				
	Islamic banking				
	Islamic banking				
	Islam and the Built Environment				
	Women, labor and Islam			Jordan	
	Islam and domestic workers from Indonesia				
<b><u>International trade</u></b>			<b><u>6</u></b>		
	Trade policy and economic boundaries			MENA	
	Foreign direct investment			Turkey	
	Foreign direct investment			Sudan, Saudi Arabia	
	Harnessing trade for development			MENA	

	Euro-Mediterranean economies				Mediterranean
	Regulatory integration				Mediterranean
<b><u>Oil and Energy</u></b>				<b><u>4</u></b>	
	Energy in Caspian				Caspian Sea
	End of Oil Era				MENA
	Governance and oil				MENA
	Oil and the future				MENA
<b><u>Microeconomics</u></b>				<b><u>3</u></b>	
	The firm in Iran				Iran
	Technology transfer and culture				MENA
	Housing				Israel
<b><u>Banking and Finance</u></b>				<b><u>1</u></b>	
	Banking and finance				Arab World
<b><u>Conflict</u></b>				<b><u>11</u></b>	
	Water and Conflict Resolution				Middle East
	Water and Poverty				MENA
	Terrorism and civil war				MENA
	Sanctions and terrorism				MENA
	Deconstruction of Oslo accords				Israel/Palestine
	Conflict				Israel/Palestine
	Security in MENA				MENA
	Political economy of war and peace				Israel
	Peace agreements				Israel/Palestine
	Impact of sanctions				MENA
	Political economy				Israel/Palestine
<b><u>Non-Governmental Organizations</u></b>				<b><u>4</u></b>	
	NGOs				Arab World
	NGOs				Palestine
	Women and capital in NGOs				MENA
	NGOs				MENA
<b><u>Irrigation, agriculture</u></b>				<b><u>2</u></b>	
	Irrigation				Eastern Mediterranean
	Water				MENA
<b><u>Anthropology</u></b>				<b><u>2</u></b>	
	Reissue of Egyptian Peasant				Egypt
	Upper Egypt				Egypt
<b><u>Orientalism</u></b>				<b><u>1</u></b>	
Source: MEEA Newsletters, Fall 2001-2005					

**Appendix B2. Publishers "New and Recent Book Titles," 2001-2005**

<b><u>Publishers</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL by Publisher</u></b>
Ashgate		2	2	2	1	7
AUC	1	3	3		6	13
Brookings Institution				1		1
California, Univ. of at Berkeley				1		1
Cambridge	6	3	1	2	4	16
CDL Press		1				1
Columbia		1				1
Council on Foreign Relations		1			1	2
Duke Univ. Press				1		1
Edward Elgar		3				3
Edwin Mellen	1		1			2
EJ Brill				2		2
Frank Cass				1		1
Harvard					1	1
IB Tauris	5	1	3	3	1	13
Indiana Univ. Press			1			1
Institute for Palestine Studies		1				1
Intellect Ltd.				1		1
International Dev. Research Center (Ottawa)	1		1			2
Ithaca		1	1			2
JAI Press	1		1			2
Kegan Paul		1				1
Kluwer			1			1
Kumarian	1					1
Lexington	1		1			2
Lynne Rienner	2		2	1		5
Manchester Univ Press		1				1
Minnesota, Univ. Of	1					1
National Defense Univ. Press				1		1
Nova Science Press		2				2
OECD	1					1
Oklahoma, Univ of	1					1
Palgrave	3	3	2	2	3	13
Pluto		1			1	2
Princeton Univ Press				2	1	3
Quorum	1					1
RFF Press, Washington DC					1	1
Routledge	1	6	8	5	2	22
Royal Institute of International Affairs			1			1
Saqi Press			1			1
Singapore Word Science Publishers	1					1
SPON Press		1				
St. Martin's	2			1		3
Stanford Univ Press	1					1
State Univ of New York	3		1		1	5
Sussex Academic Press	1			3		4
Syracuse Univ Press		1		1		2
Taylor and Francis				3	1	4
Texas, Univ. of				1		1

Thunder's Mouth			1			1
Transaction Books				1		1
University Press of America					1	1
Westview Press			1			1
Wiley					1	1
Yale Univ Press					1	1
Zed Press	1	1				2
<b><u>TOTAL by Year</u></b>	36	34	33	35	27	165

Source: MEEA Fall Newsletters, 2001-2005

### **Appendix B3. Most Frequent Publishers of Books, 2001-2005**

Publishers with 5 or more books:

Ashgate  
AUC  
  
Cambridge  
IB Tauris  
Lynne Rienner  
Palgrave  
Routledge

Publishers with 2-4 books:

Council on Foreign Relations  
Edward Elgar  
Edwin Mellen  
EJ Brill  
International Development Research Center, Ottawa  
Ithaca  
JAI  
Lexington  
Nova Science  
Pluto  
Princeton  
St. Martin's  
SUNY  
Sussex  
Taylor and Francis  
Texas  
Zed

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Source: MEEA Fall Newsletters, 2001-2005.

## APPENDIX C. MEEA'S Annual Volumes

MEEA's now-defunct series of annual volumes, *Research in Middle East Economics*, published by JAI Press, provides an example of another type of book outlet for work on the MENA region. Of the six volumes, the first two volumes (1996 and 1997) were conceived in a journal format, with articles from any subarea of economics accepted for consideration, peer reviewed, and accepted or rejected. Volumes 3 through 6 were organized around special topics and co-edited by the series editor and a guest editor. Volume 3 (Roy and Pfeifer 1999) evaluated the economic dimensions and outcomes of the Oslo Accords' Paris Protocol, and the way in which they were and were not implemented. Volume 4 (Cinar 2001) was on gender and work in the region. Volume 5 (Lofgren 2003) was dedicated to the topic of food and agriculture, and Volume 6 (Colton and Neaime 2004) to the increasingly popular topic of money and finance.

Throughout the period of publication, one can see the shift from focus on issues of labor and the productive sectors to focus on trade and finance, similar to the trends in published articles and conference papers. Altogether sixty-four articles were published in the six-volume series. See list of contents below. Of those 64, more than one-third (22) were in the category of Demography, Human Resources, Employment, and Income, including 15 in the special volume on women and work in the Middle East. Thirteen were in the category of water, agriculture and food security, including eleven in the special volume on food and agriculture. Thirteen were in the category of money and finance, including eleven in the special volume of the same name. There were six articles on trade, only four on development and growth, two on the oil sector, two on Islamic economics, and just one each on NGOs and industry.

As in journal articles, leaving aside the special volume on Israel/Palestine, this series provides additional evidence that Turkey is the most attractive and most central economy for research in the region. In terms of geographic coverage, 15 articles referred to the whole of MENA, while just one referred to the Arab World specifically, and three referred to Muslim countries in general. Thirteen of the 64 (20 percent) were about Turkey, nine each about Egypt and Palestine, five about Iran, three about Tunisia, two each on Israel and Jordan, one each on Lebanon, Yemen, the Gulf, and Saudi Arabia, and one comparing the four leaders in economic reform, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco. A number of MENA countries are not given specific coverage, namely Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, and Oman.

The series was ended partly due to the difficulties of the editing and publishing process, and partly due to the advent of a new publication, *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance* (see "web publishing" in text), which many members thought of as a replacement for the annual volume and which had significant overlap in the list of editors and referees.

## Contents of RMEE 6-Volume Annual Series, 1996 – 2004

### Topics

### Locations

#### Demography, Human Resources, Employment, Income – 22 articles

Demography, Human Capital (and Growth)	all Muslim
Employment Crisis	Egypt
Poverty and Inequality	Egypt
Israeli closure policy	Palestine
Vulnerability of Palestinian Labor	Palestine
Bakery workers' wages	Iran
Labor	Turkey
15 articles on Women and Work -- special volume	5 MENA, 6 Turkey, 2 Iran, 2 Palestine, 1 Egypt

#### Monetary policy, Finance and stock market – 13 articles

Monetary policy	MENA
Stock market	Turkey
11 articles – special volume:	5 MENA, 2 Turkey, 1 Palestine, 1 Lebanon, 1 Tunisia, and 1 on Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia

#### Water and Agriculture – 13 articles

Water and Agriculture	Egypt
Peace agreements and agriculture	Palestine
Food security and agriculture	-- 11 articles, special volume: 3 MENA, 3 Egypt, 2 Turkey, 2 Tunisia, 1 Yemen

#### International Trade – 6 articles

Terms of trade and trade balance	Turkey
Trade in the Gulf	Gulf
International trade	Iran
Barter trade	Egypt
Trade among Israel, Jordan and Palestine	Israel, Jordan, Palestine
Trade competition between Jordan and Palestine	Jordan, Palestine

#### Development and Growth, Country Studies – 4 articles

Development, Economic Policy, Reform, Growth	all MENA
Palestinian Economy Future	Palestine
Peace and Israeli Economy	Israel
Arab Economies Future	Arab World

#### Oil Sector – 2 articles

Oil Trade, OPEC	US/Saudi Arabia
Gov't subsidies and demand for oil	Iran

#### Islamic economics – 2 articles

Profit sharing and investment	all Muslim
Monetary system and interest-free banking	all Muslim

#### NGOs and Aid – 1 article

Donor Assistance to Palestinians	Palestine
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#### Industry – 1 article

Industrialization, military	Egypt
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#### Special Volume on Israeli/Palestinian Accords Volume 3 (1999)

Israeli closure policy
Palestinian Economy Future



Donor Assistance to Palestinians  
 Peace and Israeli Economy  
 Trade among Israel, Jordan and Palestine  
 Trade competition between Jordan and Palestine  
 Vulnerability of Palestinian Labor  
 Arab Economies Future

Special Volume on Women in Economy – Volume 4 (2001)

Gender Gap	all MENA
Gender Inequality	Turkey
Fertility, Education, and household resources	Iran
Women's Work	Iran
Females at risk	all MENA
Female labor force participation and econ adjustment	all MENA
Women and work and econ adjustment	all MENA
Women and Employment	Egypt
Gendered Labor market segmentation	Bethlehem
Gendered Labor Market segmentation	Palestine
Self-employed women and wages	Turkey
Female Managers	Turkey
Islam, women and work	Turkey
Women and work in 2-income households	Turkey

Special Volume on Food and Agriculture – Volume 5 (2003)

Food Security, Poverty and Economic Policy	MENA
Agriculture and Trade	MENA
Livestock in Dry Areas	MENA
Food subsidy system	Egypt
Wheat production and market reform	Egypt
Prices, investment and agriculture mechanization	Egypt
Food security	Tunisia
Agro exports	Tunisia
Agriculture	Yemen
Agriculture change and water	Turkey
Food security and rural-urban migration	Turkey

Special Volume on Money and Finance – Volume 6 (2004)

Financial integration and stock markets	MENA
FDI and FTA with EU	Tunisia
Investment, savings and capital markets	Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia
Financial liberalization and growth	MENA
Determinants of private savings	MENA
Banking and risk management	Selected MENA
Mergers and acquisitions in banking	Turkey
Currency substitution	MENA
Palestinian monetary policy	Palestine
Currency dollarization	Turkey
Macro and exchange rate policy	Lebanon

## Appendix D: Book Series Undertaken since 2002 on MENA Social Science

This is a sampling of recent book series on economies of the Middle East and North Africa that the author has found useful in teaching and research.

### A. World Bank Series: MENA Development Reports

1. *Unlocking the Employment Potential in the Middle East and North Africa, toward a New Social Contract* (2004), main author Tarik Yousef.

2. *Gender and Development in the Middle East and North Africa, Women in the Public Sphere* (2004), main authors Mustapha Nabli and Nadereh Chamlou.

3. *Trade, Investment, and Development in the Middle East and North Africa, Engaging with the World* (2003), Dipak Dasgupta and Mustapha Nabli.

### B. Books close to the World Bank outlook, but concerned with the specific differences among countries in the region.

1. Cordesman, Anthony H. and Khalid R. Al-Rodhan, *The Changing Dynamics of Energy in the Middle East*, Westport CT: Praeger Security International, in cooperation with Washington DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2006.

Two Volumes:

Vol. 1. chapters 1-3, on general patterns.

Vol. 2, chapters 4-6 on specific MENA countries and subregions, and chapters 7-9 future forecasting for the global energy industry and MENA.

2. Nugent, Jeffrey and Hashem Pesaran, eds, *Explaining Growth in the Middle East*, Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2007.

Two parts:

Part 1, chapters 1-6, on general patterns in the region

Part 2, chapters 7-13, case studies of specific MENA countries: Egypt (2 papers), Turkey (commissioned for this volume), Iran, Tunisia, Algeria, and the U.A.E.

The preface indicates that “the book originated in a very ambitious project compiled by the Economic Research Forum... and sponsored by the Global Development Network (GDN) which links the various regional networks [for Latin America and the Caribbean, for Africa, etc]. Various researchers (both individuals and teams) were commissioned to write papers on various aspects of the development process in the region, both country-specific as well as thematic contributions relevant to the region as a whole. Each of the resulting papers was presented and discussed formally at a conference organized by the ERF [and then reviewed by the editors and two referees at least twice].”

C. Lynne Rienner Publishers has put out many books on the Middle East, some of which contain critiques of the Washington Consensus vision and program. In recent years these include the following.

1. The third edition of Alan Richards and John Waterbury's *A Political Economy of the Middle East* (2007), which is used as a main textbook in many courses on the economics and political economy of MENA.
2. Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein Posusney (eds), *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East, Gender, Economy and Society* (2003)
3. Valentine M. Moghadam, *Modernizing Women, Gender and Social Change in the Middle East* (2003), second edition.

#### D. Routledge Series on the Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

While Routledge publishes other series that are closer to the World Bank approach, this series aims to go beyond (or around) it by incorporating more historical, institutional and comparative analysis. It is also, although perhaps not consciously, moving away from the nation-state and national economy units of analysis that dominate the economics of developing countries. Six volumes have been published so far, in addition to one published by Curzon Press just before Routledge took it over.

1 Hassan Hakimian and Jeff Nugent (eds), *Trade Policy and Economic Integration: Economic Boundaries in Flux* (2003)

2 Mushtaq Khan (ed, with George Giacaman and Inge Amundsen), *State Formation in Palestine: Viability and Governance during a Social Transformation* (2004)

3 Leila Farsakh (2005), *Palestinian labour Migration to Israel*

4 Sohrab Behdad and Farhad Nomani (eds), *Islam and the Everyday World: Public Policy Dilemmas* (2006)

5. Tarik Yousef (ed), *Labor Markets and Policy Reform in the Middle East and North Africa: The Unraveling of Social Contracts* (2008)

6. Serdar Seyan, *Economic Performance in the Middle East and North Africa* (2008)

7. Hassan Hakimian and Ziba Moshaver, *The State and Global Change, the Political Economy of Transition in the Middle East and North Africa* (Curzon 2001).

C. Stanford University Press has a series, called Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures, which does not have an economics focus but aims to add political economy works to its roster. The volumes in the works for this series so far are:

*The Struggle for Sovereignty: Palestine and Israel, 1993-2005*, edited by Joel Beinin and Rebecca L. Stein, forthcoming February 2006

Forthcoming in fall 2006 are:

*America's Kingdom: Myth-Making on the Saudi Oil Frontier*, by Robert Vitalis

*Creative Reckonings: The Politics of Art and Culture in Contemporary Egypt*, by Jessica Winegar

Commissioned for publication in 2007 and 2008, respectively:

*Hizbullah*, by Rula Jurdi Abisaab and Malek Abisaab

*The Muslim Brotherhood*, by Joel Gordon

**When the Twain Shall Meet:  
Middle East Area Studies and the Discipline of Economics**

**Karen Pfeifer  
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