

Economic Policy and Research in the UAE and Beyond First International Academic Conference

Speaker Biographies

Session 1: Bridging Policy and Academic Research



HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLA BIN TOUQ AL MARRI

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Cabinet Member and Minister of Economy

H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri was appointed Minister of Economy of the UAE under the new government structure approved in July 2020.

Prior to his appointment, H.E. Al Marri held important positions in the government as a senior, top-ranking official. He was the Secretary General of the UAE Cabinet since 2017, during which he was instrumental in strengthening the interdependence between the federal and local governments. In this role, he also spearheaded many initiatives to take the pulse of the people and know their sentiments, as well as build the UAE's long-lasting relations with international organizations such as the World Economic Forum.

H.E. Al Marri is also the former Director General of the Executive Office of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. He was part of the high-profile team that was behind the launch of 'Area 2071,' the nucleus of the future envisioned in the UAE Centennial Plan 2071.

Furthermore, the UAE Minister of Economy, in his previous post, took part in the unveiling of the Hatta Economic Zone development project and the relaunching of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development.

In addition, he was the CEO of the Dubai Future Foundation, enabling him to play a vital role in the successful launch of Dubai 10X and other initiatives of national importance. The Dubai 10X initiative, in particular, aims to strengthen the emirate's bid to become the city of the future.

H.E. Al Marri is a member of the Boards of Directors of different federal entities. His memberships allow him to actively support the development of priority sectors in the country such as the Golden Visa initiative, which seeks to attract talented individuals from across the world to the UAE.

The UAE Minister of Economy holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Sheffield in the UK. He is a graduate of the UAE Government Leaders Program and Mohammed Bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development.



**HER EXCELLENCY NOURA BINT
MOHAMMED AL KAABI**

UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Culture and Youth; President of Zayed University

Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi was named Minister of Culture and Youth in July 2020.

Prior, H.E. Al Kaabi was appointed as Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs to act as the key link between the Cabinet and the Federal National Council.

H.E. Al Kaabi is Chairwoman of the Media Zone Authority - Abu Dhabi (MZA) and twofour54. She is also a board member of the UAE's National Media Council, Abu Dhabi Media, Image Nation, the Abu Dhabi Sports Council and the United Arab Emirates University.

H.E. Noura Al Kaabi holds a B.A. in MIS from UAE University in 2001 and has also completed the Executive Leadership Programme from London Business School in 2011.



**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. ZAKI ANWAR
NUSSEIBEH**

UAE Minister of State; Cultural Adviser to the President of the UAE; Chancellor of UAE University

His Excellency Dr. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh currently serves as the Cultural Advisor to His Highness the President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and as Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University.

His continuous government service dates from 1968, prior to the foundation of the UAE and thereafter. From the late 1960s, His Excellency acted as the personal interpreter and adviser to His Highness, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, founder and President of the UAE. He served as a Minister of State in the UAE Government and as Cultural Adviser to the UAE Ministry of Presidential Affairs. He also was the inaugural Director of the UAE Federal Ministry of

Information and established and managed the Office of Public and Cultural Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. As Deputy Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, and as member of the Board of what is now the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, His Excellency developed many of the strategies that promulgate understanding of UAE culture and values and advance international political, economic, and societal cooperation.

His Excellency assisted the establishment of the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in 2006 and acted as the Chairman of its Board of Trustees. He chairs the UAE National Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee and is a member of the Board of the Emirates Diplomatic Academy, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, the Board of the *Institut du Monde Arabe* in Paris, the Board of the International Prize for Arab Fiction, and the Board of Abu Dhabi University. He has also held Board roles at the Middle East Center at the London School of Economics, the *Alliance Française* in Paris,

the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, and the ‘Friends of Bayreuth: The Wagner Society’ – in both Germany and Abu Dhabi.

His Excellency holds a Master’s degree in Economics from Queen’s College, University of Cambridge and an honorary Ph.D. in Human Sciences from the Al Quds Arab University in Jerusalem.

His Excellency has been honored with Arab and international awards for cultural diplomacy by numerous foreign governments and international institutes. These awards include: Exceptional Excellence Award Personality of the Year 2019 - Beirut Institute Summit; Personality of the Year 2018 Emirates Literary Festival (2018); Cultural Diplomat of the Year 2017, Abu Dhabi Cultural Summit; Officer of the French Legion d’Honneur 2015; the Golden Medal of Arts 2014 from the Kennedy Centre Washington 2014; Commander of the Order of British Empire CBE (2013); Commander’s Cross of the German Order of Merit (2013); the European Foundation for Culture “European-Arab Culture Prize” in Leipzig (2013); the Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation Cultural Personality of the Year Award UAE (2013); the European Academy of Science and Arts Ring of Tolerance in Frankfurt (2012); Medal of Merit to Culture “Gloria Artis”- Republic of Poland (2010); Commander of the French Order of Arts et Lettres (July 2008); Abu Dhabi Award (2007); Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria (January 2007); Commander of the French Order of the Palmes Academiques (February 2007); Grand Officer Star of Italian Solidarity (August 2007); Chevalier of the French Legion d’Honneur (May 2001); Officer of the Spanish Order of Merit (July 1999); Commander of the British Royal Victorian Order - CVO (July 1989); Commander of the Italian Order of Merit (1983); Officer of the French Order of Merit (August 1980); and Officer of the Jordanian Order of Independence (1969).



JUAN SANCHEZ

Provost and Chief Academic Officer, American University of Sharjah (AUS)

As Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Juan Sanchez sets AUS’ overall academic priorities and has management responsibilities for academic affairs at the university, colleges and school. In his role of Chief Academic Officer, he works with the deans and the faculty to sustain and advance the highest standards of scholarly achievements at AUS, and to ensure the success of our students through the delivery of high-quality academic programs.

Prior to joining AUS in January 2019, Dr. Sanchez served as Vice President for Research at the University of Texas at Austin for more than 16 years, where he was also appointed as a Temple Foundation Endowed Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Before joining the University of Texas at Austin, he served as

Assistant, Associate and Full Professor at Columbia University in New York. As an educator, he has supervised 17 Ph.D. and 7 M.S. students at both Columbia University and at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Sanchez’s research interests and expertise are in computational materials science and engineering, with a focus on alloy theory and on the modeling and simulation of materials properties from first principles. He has contributed extensively to the scientific and engineering literature in materials science and engineering. He holds a Ph.D. and Master of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the National University of Córdoba, Argentina.



RAGHU SUNDARAM

Richard R. West Dean, Edward I. Altman Professor of Credit and Debt Markets and Professor of Finance, NYU Leonard N. Stern School of Business

Raghu Sundaram is Dean and the Edward I. Altman Professor of Credit and Debt Markets at NYU's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. He was appointed Dean on January 1, 2018, having previously served as Vice Dean for MBA Programs and Online Learning.

Dean Sundaram's work in finance spans a number of areas including agency problems, executive compensation, corporate finance, derivatives pricing, and credit risk and credit derivatives. He has also published extensively in mathematical economics, decision theory, and game theory. His research has appeared in leading academic journals in finance and economics, as well as in several practitioner-oriented

journals. He is the author of two books: *A First Course in Optimization Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and *Derivatives: Principles and Practice* (McGraw-Hill, 2010).

Dean Sundaram has taught courses across Stern's Undergraduate, MBA, Ph.D., and Executive Education programs. Of all the awards he has received over the years, he is most proud of being the inaugural recipient of Stern's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007. He has a long record of service to the School and the University, including as chair of the Tenured and Tenure-track Faculty Senators Council and as a member of NYU's Presidential Search Committee in 2014. Dean Sundaram currently serves as a member of the Academic Council of Krea University and Advisory Council of Shiv Nadar University Delhi-NCR, both in India, and the Advisory Board of the Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Beijing, China.

As Dean and Vice Dean, Dean Sundaram has led the launch of multiple new degree programs, including two one-year MBA programs, a number of specialized master's programs, and the extension of the School's New York City-based Executive MBA program to Washington, DC. He has overseen Stern's entry into online education and the establishment of several new, high-profile initiatives at the intersection of entrepreneurship and technology, notably the Endless Frontier Labs. He also established the School's first Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Prior to joining NYU Stern in 1996, Dean Sundaram was on the faculty of the University of Rochester from 1988-96. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Madras, India, an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University.



MARIËT WESTERMANN

Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi

Mariët Westermann is vice chancellor and chief executive of NYU Abu Dhabi. She previously served as executive vice president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, where she oversaw grantmaking and research. Westermann was also the first provost of NYU Abu Dhabi and director and professor of NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, associate director of research at the Clark Art Institute, and a faculty member at Rutgers University. As a historian of Netherlandish art she has authored numerous scholarly and museum publications, including the widely read *A Worldly Art: The Dutch Republic 1585-1718*, and curated the exhibition *Art and Home: Dutch Interiors in the Age of Rembrandt* (Denver Art Museum and Newark Museum). Her current research investigates the garden of Eden in the Judaic, Christian, and Islamic traditions. She earned a BA at Williams College and a Ph.D. at the Institute of Fine Arts. Westermann serves on the boards of ALIPH

(The International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas), the Educational Testing Service, and the Rijksmuseum, and chairs the Scholar Rescue Fund.

Session 2A: Markets and Economic Development Around the World



H.E. ABDULAZIZ ALNUAIMI

Assistant Undersecretary, Commercial Affairs Regulatory Sector, UAE Ministry of Economy

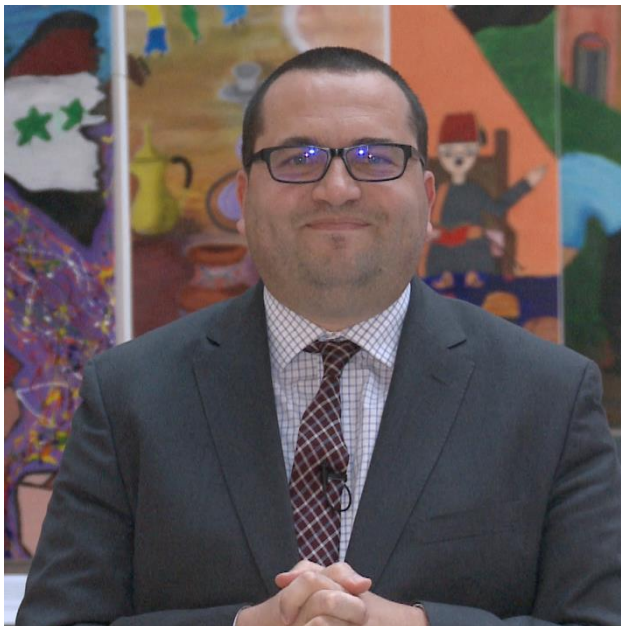
H.E. Abdulaziz Alnuaimi currently serves as the Assistant Undersecretary of the Commercial Affairs Regulatory Sector in the UAE's Ministry of Economy. In this role, he overlooks the strategic and operational aspects of the sector, deploying both legislative and non-legislative tools to spur the country's economic growth in line with the leadership's vision and directives.

Prior to joining the Ministry, Alnuaimi contributed to the investments for the UAE sovereign fund through event-driven strategies such as activism and M&A arbitrage, in addition to various other alternatives assets. He later joined a private office where he helped operate high tech and competitive intelligence applications. His expertise focuses on operational

strategies for scale and growth, toward shareholder value creation, as well as establishing strategic partnerships between government and private sectors in various domains.

Alnuaimi has also served as the director of a Boston-based satellite company 'Analytical Space'; the vice president of Harvard Club; and a higher committee member of Mubadala's Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit "GMIS," in addition to serving as the managing partner of the strategic partnerships and alliances firm 'Picture Advisors.' At the moment, he is the chairperson of Harvard Business School Alumni Angels Association of the GCC.

He earned his Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School, and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the American University of Sharjah. He is also a Charter Alternative Investment Analyst "CAIA" holder.



RABAH AREZKI

Senior Fellow, Harvard University

Rabah Arezki is a senior fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a former Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management at the African Development Bank. Previously, he was the Chief Economist for the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank. He was also the Chief of the Commodities Unit in the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund and a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution. Mr. Arezki is the author and co-author of numerous academic journal publications and other publications, including the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *Economic Journal*, the *European Economic Review*, the *Journal of International Economics*, the *Journal of Development Economics and Economic Policy*. Mr. Arezki is the co-editor, and co-author of five books around natural resources and climate issues. Many of Mr. Arezki's

research papers and policy work have been cited extensively in academic circles and in prominent media outlets such as the Economist, the Financial Times, the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. Mr. Arezki is also a frequent contributor to the Project Syndicate, Finance and Development magazine, VoxEU, Jeune Afrique and an associate editor of the Revue d'Economie du Développement and was the Editor of the IMF Research Bulletin.



YAW NYARKO

Professor of Economics, NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi

Yaw Nyarko is Professor of Economics at NYU and the Director of NYU Africa House, the Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED), and the NYU Abu Dhabi DevLab, as well as Co-Director of the Development Research Institute (DRI). As Co-Director of DRI, he was awarded the 2009 BBVA Frontiers in Knowledge Award on Economic Development Cooperation. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD).

His research interests focus on the areas of economic development, theoretical economics, models of human capital as engines of economic growth, brain drain and skills acquisition, labor economics, and migration. His current research focuses on technology and economic

development, commodities exchanges and markets in Africa, and determinants and returns of labor migration from South Asia in the UAE, as well as the impacts of various policy measures on the mobility of labor within the UAE.

He is the Chair of the Econometric Society Africa Regional Standing Committee. He has served as a consultant to organizations including the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations, and the Social Science Research Council. As the former Vice Provost of NYU, he managed a portfolio that included the oversight and establishment of campuses in Abu Dhabi, Accra, and Shanghai. Yaw Nyarko received his B.A. from the University of Ghana and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University.



ROHINI PANDE

Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics, Yale University

Rohini Pande is the Henry J. Heinz II Professor of Economics and Director of the Economic Growth Center, Yale University. She is a co-editor of *American Economic Review: Insights*.

Pande's research is largely focused on how formal and informal institutions shape power relationships and patterns of economic and political advantage in society, particularly in developing countries. She is interested the role of public policy in providing the poor and disadvantaged political and economic power, and how notions of economic justice and human rights can help justify and enable such change.

Her most recent work focuses on testing innovative ways to make the state more accountable to its citizens, such as

strengthening women's economic and political opportunities, ensuring that environmental regulations reduce harmful emissions, and providing citizens with effective means to voice their demand for state services.

In 2018, Pande received the Carolyn Bell Shaw Award from the American Economic Association for promoting the success of women in the economics profession. She is the co-chair of the Political Economy and Government Group at Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a Board member of Bureau of Research on Economic Development (BREAD) and a former co-editor of *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. Before joining Yale, Pande was the Rafik Harriri Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School, where she co-founded Evidence for Policy Design.

Pande received a Ph.D. in Economics from London School of Economics, a BA/MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University and a BA in Economics from Delhi University.

Session 2B: Academics in Policy Panel



JEAN FARES

Senior Advisor to the Minister of Economy in the UAE

Dr. Jean Fares is an Economist and Senior Advisor to the Minister of Economy in the UAE. His work currently focuses on economic policy, planning and governance, and economic development. Prior to joining the Ministry of Economy, Dr. Fares was a senior advisor in the UAE Prime Minister's Office working on strategic planning, public policy, government agenda and innovation. He led several partnerships with international organizations and represented the UAE in international fora. He also worked as Policy Advisor to the UAE Minister of Labor and member of the Labor Ministry's policy council. Dr. Fares spent several years at the World Bank in Washington DC, working on the Bank's global employment agenda, its World Development Report, as well as its operations in countries including Bosnia, China and Turkey. Earlier in his career, Dr. Fares was Assistant Professor at the American University of Beirut, and Senior Analyst in the Bank of Canada. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Montreal and

an M.A. in Economics from the University of Western Ontario.



FRANÇOIS BOURGUIGNON

Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi and Paris School of Economics

François Bourguignon is an Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics. He was the Director of the Paris School from 2007 to 2013. Previously, he was the Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank in Washington, DC. He spent most of his research career as a Professor at the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His work focuses mainly on inequality and corrective policies in developed and developing countries as well as at the global level. He has authored numerous academic papers and books. He is also active in the international development community, lecturing and advising leading international agencies and governments.

Bourguignon’s recent books include “Handbook of Income Distribution” Volume 2, Elsevier (co-edited with

A.B. Atkinson, 2014); “The globalization of Inequality,” Princeton University Press, 2015; “Pauvreté et développement dans un monde globalisé,” Arthème Fayard, 2015; “Handbook of Economic Development and Institution” (coedited with J-M Baland, J-P Platteau and T. Verdier), Princeton University Press, 2020.



RICARDO HAUSMANN

Director, Harvard Growth Lab

Ricardo Hausmann is the founder and Director of Harvard’s Growth Lab and the Rafik Hariri Professor of the Practice of International Political Economy at Harvard Kennedy School. Under his leadership, the Growth Lab has grown into one of the most well regarded and influential hubs for research on international development.

His scholarly contributions have had a significant impact on the study and practice of development. These include the development of the Growth Diagnostics and Economic Complexity methodologies, as well as several widely used economic concepts, such as Dark Matter, Original Sin, and Self-discovery. His work has been published in some of the top journals in the world, including *Science*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of*

Sciences, *Journal of International Money and Finance*, *Economic Policy* and the *Journal of Economic Growth*, among many others. These publications have been cited more than 42,000 times, and their main findings have been highlighted in mass media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*.

Since launching the Growth Lab in 2006, Hausmann has served as principal investigator for more than 50 research initiatives in nearly 30 countries, informing development policy, growth strategies and diversification agendas at the national and sub-national levels.

Before joining Harvard University, he served as the first Chief Economist of the Inter-American Development Bank (1994-2000), where he created the Research Department. He has served as Minister of Planning of Venezuela (1992-1993) and as a member of the Board of the Central Bank of Venezuela. He also served as Chair of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee. He was Professor of Economics at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion (IESA) (1985-1991) in Caracas, where he founded the Center for Public Policy. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University.

Session 3A: Economic Policy and Economic Development in the UAE



LINDA SMAIL

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Zayed University

Linda Smail is an Associate professor in the college of Interdisciplinary Studies at Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates where she teaches Mathematics and Statistics courses. She obtained her PhD in Mathematics from the Applied Mathematics Laboratory at Marne-La-Vallée University, France in 2004. Her research interests include graphical models and Bayesian Networks. Dr. Smail is particularly interested in inference in Bayesian Networks and learning in graphical models with a focus on exact inference algorithms for Bayesian networks. Her primary scholarly goal is to conduct research and use Bayesian Networks in different fields from Medical, Entrepreneurship, to decision making under uncertainty. Dr. Smail is active in pursuing research in applied mathematics and statistics, but after she joined Zayed University an unexpected opportunity to work with faculty from the Business,

Nutrition, and Public Health departments on their research and their students' senior projects. It ignited in her a passion for interdisciplinary research.



ADAM KRZYMOWSKI

Professor of Economics, Zayed University

Professor Adam Krzymowski participated in the most significant strategic processes concerning Poland's foreign policy that adapted Poland to EU and NATO membership requirements. He was a member of teams appointed by the Prime Minister of Poland, which developed the national strategy concerning these matters.

Between 1999-2008, Professor Krzymowski worked in the Office of the Committee for European Integration. In 2008, he represented his country in the first governmental-parliamentary delegation to the European Space Agency in Paris, leading Poland to join that organization. Between 2008-2011, Professor Krzymowski was a Counsellor to the Prime Minister of Poland, responsible for foreign policy, including the Middle East. In the period between 2011-2015, he was the Ambassador of Poland in the UAE. Professor

Krzymowski represented Poland at the International Renewable Energy Agency. During the second half of 2011, he was the European Union Representative in the UAE. In the same year, he participated in the EU-GCC Joint Council, the International Contact Group for Libya. In 2012, he headed the delegation to the first meeting of the International Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development of the Friends of the Syrian People, and he participated in the International Contact Group on Afghanistan. In 2013, he headed the delegation at the meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative. In 2014, he represented Poland at the International Conference on Countering Piracy. In 2015, he was the head of the delegation at the International Contact Group on Afghanistan. In early 2016, Professor Krzymowski assumed the post of Senior Advisor to the UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation responsible for Expo 2020 Dubai.

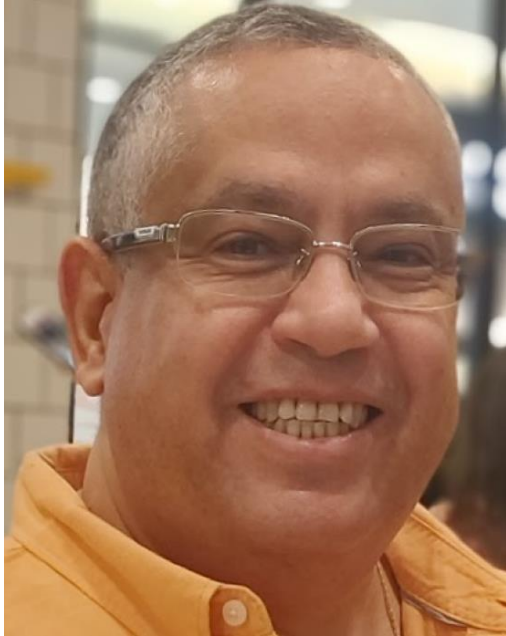
From the start of his career, Professor Krzymowski has combined his academic practice with work in government administration and diplomacy. He has been delivering lectures at various universities including Sorbonne University, New York University in Abu Dhabi, and currently at Zayed University. Professor Krzymowski is also a prolific author of scholarly publications. The research areas cover, among others, International Relations, international security, International Political Economy (IPE), global and regional challenges, international institutions and international law, modern diplomacy.



MOHAMMAD ARZAGHI

Associate Professor of Economics, American University of Sharjah

Mohammad Arzaghi received his Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University in May 2006. His research interests are in Urban Economics, Real Estate Economics, Migration, and Political Economy. He is a faculty member at the Department of Economics at the American University of Sharjah. He has work experience at the World Bank, US Census Bureau (BRDC), and NBER. His publications include “Networking off Madison Avenue” at *Review of Economic Studies*, a seminal work on knowledge spillovers, clustering, and agglomeration, cited by the New York Times. He was ranked 54 by IDEAS in the top 100 young economists list in 2009. He is a member of the Dubai Real Estate Council and a Research Fellow at the Economic Research Forum.



WASSEEM MINA

Associate Professor of Economics, United Arab Emirates University

Wasseem Mina is an Associate Professor of Economics at the College of Business and Economics, United Arab Emirates University, an affiliated Associated Professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, and a Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum, Cairo. Dr. Mina's research has been on institutions and capital flows focusing on FDI, IMF programs, labor markets, social protection, social cohesion, and trade policy. He has published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *World Development*, the *World Economy*, *Applied Economics*, *Global Development Finance*, *Journal of International Financial Markets Institutions and Money*, and *Journal of Multinational Financial Management*. He serves as an Associate Editor of *Research in International Business and Finance* and is on the International Advisory Board of the *African Review of Economics and Finance*.



AHMED SHOUKRY RASHAD

Senior Economist, Dubai Economy and Tourism

Ahmed Shoukry Rashad is a senior economist at Dubai Economy and Tourism (DET). Before joining DET, he was a visiting assistant professor at Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Germany. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Philipps University Marburg, Germany, and MA from the American University in Cairo. He has more than ten publications in peer-reviewed journals. He has been an Economic Research Forum Research Fellow since 2016 and a member of the Arab Council for the Social Sciences. He is a consultant for the UNDP and Op-Ed Columnist at El-Shorouk News.

Session 3B: Finance and Economic Development



ISMAIL RADWAN
Lead Economist, World Bank GCC

Ismail Radwan is the World Bank Group lead economist for the GCC. He was based in Kuwait between 2018-2020, and is now based in Riyadh. Ismail has 30 years of experience in private sector development and public sector reform issues in Europe, MENA, Africa, and Asia.

Ismail's work includes economic development, trade and growth strategies, private sector development, innovation and technology, special economic zones, and governance. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Ismail was a principal economist with PwC London where he worked around the world for a variety of blue-chip clients.

Ismail studied economics at Oxford University receiving a BA and MA with honors before obtaining his Master's degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He has lived and worked in more than fifty countries. Ismail is originally from Cairo, Egypt and speaks English, Arabic, and French.

GHULAM MUJTABA MIAN
Professor of Finance, Zayed University



Ghulam Mujtaba Mian is Professor of Finance at Zayed University. He has previously served as Associate Dean of College of Business and Chair of Department of Finance. Before moving to Zayed University in 2015, he was Associate Professor (with tenure) at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Assistant Professor at National University of Singapore. He obtained his PhD from University of Sydney.

His research focuses on issues related to stock markets and behavioral finance. His work has been published in premier journals such as *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Journal of Financial & Quantitative Analysis*, and *Accounting Review*, and presented at the annual meetings of the American Finance Association and European Finance Association.

Professor Mian has received several teaching awards, and has extensive experience of conducting training sessions for senior corporate executives and civil servants in Australia, Singapore, and Hong Kong. He also co-managed the Doctor of Business

Administration (DBA) program at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, which was a flagship program of the university and provided research training to senior executives in the Greater China region.



HEITOR PELLEGRINA

Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi

Heitor Pellegrina is an Assistant Professor in the Social Science Division of New York University Abu Dhabi. Pellegrina's research is in trade and development economics, with a topical focus on agricultural trade, productivity, migration and the environment. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University. His pre-doctoral studies were at the University of São Paulo where he earned his B.A. and M.A.



EFSTATHIOS POLYZOS

Assistant Professor of Finance, Zayed University

Efstathios Polyzos is Assistant Professor of Finance at Zayed University, College of Business. He holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the University of the Aegean. He received his Bachelor's degree in Economics at the University of Warwick and a Master of Arts in Banking and Finance at the Open University of Cyprus. Additionally, he holds a Master of Science in Computer Science from Staffordshire University. He has extensive experience in the banking sector and has also worked as a freelance consultant and researcher, participating in various academic and business projects on FinTech and financial innovation. In addition, he has worked as a software engineer for various private companies.

His major fields of interest are banking regulation, agent-based financial modelling, financial innovation and FinTech, financial stability, machine-learning forecasting and econometric modelling. He has published papers in

notable journals, including *Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions & Money, International Review of Financial Analysis, Economics Letters, Annals of Tourism Research, and Economic Modelling*.

Hosted By



NADIA EL CHEIKH

Vice Provost for Cultural and Research Engagement

Nadia came to NYU Abu Dhabi from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in Lebanon, where she was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a Professor of History. Prior to the deanship at AUB, she held several academic leadership positions as Director of the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, Chair of the Department of History and Archaeology, and Interim Associate Provost.

Nadia has a distinguished academic career, holding a bachelor of arts degree in History and Archaeology from AUB and a PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard

University. She is a highly accomplished scholar of the Abbasid Caliphate and Byzantium, with a focus on women, gender, and Islam. Nadia has published two monographs: *Women, Islam and Abbasid Identity* and *Byzantium Viewed by the Arabs*; and co-authored *Crisis and Continuity at the Abbasid Court: Formal and Informal Politics in the Caliphate of al-Muqtadir*. In 2019, she received a \$1 million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for an oral history project, *The Arab Oral History Archive: Gender, Alternative Histories, and the Production of Knowledge*. Nadia has co-edited four volumes and contributed to several anthologies and journals.

Nadia is a highly regarded international speaker and has been visiting professor and scholar at Harvard, Columbia, University of California Los Angeles, Amherst College, and New York.



PAULA ENGLAND

Dean of Social Science at NYU Abu Dhabi

Paula England is Dean of Social Science and a Professor of Social Research and Public Policy at NYUAD. She is also a Silver Professor at NYU.

One branch of England's research concerns gender inequality at work and at home; she has written on the sex gap in pay, occupational segregation, how couples divide housework, and the wage penalty for motherhood.

Her more recent work deals with changing family patterns in the US and how they differ by social class. She studies the higher rates of unintended births among disadvantaged single young adults. She is also studying changes in sexual behavior among youth and young adults.

England was President of the American Sociological Association in 2014-2015 and was editor of the American Sociological Review in 1994-1996. In 2018, she was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences.