

TBS Policy and Practice Seminar Series

This seminar series is organized by the new Major in Global Affairs at the Tunis Business School (TBS), with sponsorship from the World Trade Organization (WTO) Chair and the London School of Economics Middle East Centre. The seminar series will bring together leading analysts, academics, political and civil society actors to explore issues related to Tunisia's International Political Economy in light of the Transition.

Seminars in 2018-2019

List of seminars

Date: October 25th, 2018

Speaker: Mr. Mohamed Issa, Expert, International Trade Centre, Geneva

Topic: ITC's Market Analysis Tools.

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Seminars in 2016-2017

List of seminars

Date: May 24th, 2017

Speaker: Marcelo Olarreaga is Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva and Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London. Before joining the University of Geneva he worked as an economist in the Research Department of the World Bank, as well the Economics Research Division of the World Trade Organization. He has also been an invited professor at CERDI (France), the Graduate Institute (Switzerland), INSEAD (France), Institute CLAEH (Uruguay), SciencePo-Paris (France), Universidad de la República (Uruguay) and the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He holds an MA from the University of Sussex, and a PhD in Economics from the University of Geneva. He is currently doing research on the political economy of trade policy and trade agreements, barriers to developing countries exports and distributional and poverty impacts of trade reforms..

Topic: On the heterogeneous effect of trade on unemployment.

Time: 1:30pm

Date: May 11th, 2017

Speaker: Laryssa Chomiak is a political scientist and the Director of the Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) since 2011. She received her Ph.D. in comparative politics from the University of Maryland in 2011. Her upcoming book on the politics of dissent in Tunisia was based on doctoral field-research in Tunisia between 2008-2010 and postdoctoral research following the 2011 Revolution. Her work has appeared as book chapters and journal articles in Middle East Law and Governance, The Journal of North African Studies, Portal 9 and Middle East Report. Dr. Chomiak has received research fellowships from the Fulbright Commission (Morocco), the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX/Ukraine) and The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS/Tunisia). She is a member of the advisory board of Middle East Law and Governance and the Harvard in Tunisia Program.

Topic: Protesting Tunisia: Continuity and Rupture in Contemporary Politics.

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 27th, 2017

Speaker: Max Ajl is a doctoral student in the department of Development Sociology at Cornell University. He is based in Tunis, where he is researching state agricultural development policy and the politics of price fixing during the era of state-directed development. His fields of expertise include comparative international development, world-systems theory, Middle East political economy, and rural political economy. His academic writing has been published in many venues, including Historical Materialism, MERIP, and the Journal of Palestine Studies. He has presented at universities in Tunisia and across North America, including at Cornell, Columbia, and the University of California – Berkeley. He co-edits the Palestine page at Jadaliyya. He is also a member of the Political Economy Project, linked to the Arab Studies Institute, and works on the pedagogy project. His most recent piece was “The Hypertrophic City versus the Planet of Fields,” in *Implosions/Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization*, edited by Neil Brenner (Berlin: Jovis Verlag).

Topic: The Political Economy of Food Sovereignty: Global South Programs for a New Economic Order

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 20th, 2017

Speaker: Charles Tripp is Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East. His research interests include the nature of autocracy, state and resistance in the Middle East, the politics of Islamic identity and the relationship between art and power. He is currently working on a study of the emergence of the public and the rethinking of republican ideals across the states of North Africa. Together with other colleagues in the department he has been one of the founders of the Centre for Comparative Political Thought at SOAS. His publications include *Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism* (Cambridge University Press, 2006); *A History of*

Iraq (Cambridge University Press, 2007) His most recent book is *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Topic: Building National Identities in Divided States: the case of Iraq

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 13th, 2017

Speaker: Chaima Bouhlel is currently the president of Al-Bawsala (a non-profit NGO established under Tunisian law and having for goal to control the parliamentary and governmental activity of the Tunisian politicians). She graduated from Harvard University in political philosophy and biochemistry. She has been the project leader of “Marsad Baladiya” from 2014 until her election as the president of Al-Bawsala.

Topic: Decentralization as the Missing Pillar for Democracy in Tunisia

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 12th, 2017

Speaker: Mehdi Barhoumi is a rights and governance expert, with eight years of experience in the field. He has a strong understanding of a variety of issues affecting fragile and conflict-affected states, including security sector reform, rule of law, corruption, youth inclusion and radicalisation in the Middle East and North Africa region, and operational and structural conflict prevention. He previously worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IREX in projects covering Tunisia and Libya. Mehdi studied Political Science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University.

Topic: Jeunes des quartiers populaires et transition politique

Time: 1:30pm

Date: March 29th, 2017

Speaker: Dr. Shana Marshall is Associate Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies and Research Faculty member at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs. She earned her PhD in International Relations and Comparative Politics of the Middle East at the University of Maryland in 2012. Her dissertation is entitled “The New Politics of Patronage: The Arms Trade and Clientelism in the Arab World.” Dr. Marshall’s work has appeared in *The Middle East Report (MERIP)*, *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle East Policy*, *Jadaliyya*, and the Carnegie Middle East Center. Prior to coming to George Washington University, Dr. Marshall was a research fellow at The Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University and the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance at Princeton University. Her current research focuses on patterns of military entrepreneurship in Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE.

Topic: Protests Movements in an Era of Right-Wing Politics: Recognizing Trends in the Middle East and the United States

Time: 1:30pm

Date: February 23th, 2017

Speaker: Dr. Gaëlle Krikorian was until recently an advisor on Access to Knowledge and Intellectual Property issues for the Greens at the European Parliament. She has a PhD in sociology at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and is a member of the Interdisciplinary Research Institute on Social Issues. Social Sciences, Politics and Health (IRIS) in Paris. She conducted research in sociology on the way health issues and intellectual property are negotiated in Free Trade Agreements and how government build their position and policies. She is the author of articles about the Commons, Intellectual property issues, Access to medicines, Access to knowledge. She co-edited a book on social mobilizations in this field: Access to Knowledge in the Age of Intellectual Property (Zone Books Eds: New York). Before doing research on these topics she was an activist: during almost 10 years she was with the AIDS group Act Up.

Topic: Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA)

Time: 1:30pm

Date: November 4th, 2016

Speaker: Dr. Sami Ben Sassi, Lecturer in Managerial Economics, Birmingham Business School, University of Birmingham.

Topic: Estimating informal trade across Tunisia's land borders

Abstract: This paper uses mirror statistics and research in the field to estimate the magnitude of Tunisia's informal trade with Libya and Algeria. The aim is to assess the scale of this trade and to evaluate the amount lost in taxes and duties as a result as well as to assess the local impact in terms of income generation. The main findings show that within Tunisian trade as a whole, informal trade accounts for only a small share (5 percent of total imports). However, informal trade represents an important part of the Tunisia's bilateral trade with Libya and Algeria, accounting for more than half the official trade with Libya and more than total official trade with Algeria. The main reasons behind this large-scale informal trade are differences in the levels of subsidies on either side of the border as well as the varying tax regimes. Tackling informal trade is not simply a question of stepping up the number of controls and sanctions, because differences in prices lead to informal trade (and to an increase in corruption levels among border officials) even in cases where the sanctions are severe. As local populations depend on cross-border trade for income generation, they worry about local authorities taking action against cross-border trade. At the same time, customs officials are concerned about the risk of local protests if they

strictly enforce the tariff regimes in place. This issue will become even more significant if fuel prices in Tunisia rise again as a result of a reduction in the levels of domestic subsidies.

Time: 2:00 pm

Date: October 27th, 2016

Speaker: Dr. Altay Atlı is a research associate at the Asian studies stream of Istanbul Policy Center, and teaches courses on international political economy, international economics and comparative Asian political economy at Boğaziçi University and other universities in Istanbul. After graduating from the German High School of Istanbul, he received a B.A. degree in economics from Boğaziçi University, an M.A. degree in international business from Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, and completed his Ph.D. at the Department of Political Science and International Relations of Boğaziçi University. Research interests of Dr. Altay Atlı cover international political economy, business-government relations, economic diplomacy, political economy of Turkish foreign policy, and Turkey's relations with Asian countries. Dr. Atlı, who has worked as a research coordinator at the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK), provides consulting services for public and private institutions on international relations, global affairs, and Asian economies; writes a regular column for the Hong Kong based "Asia Times"; appears on television programs in channels like Bloomberg, Turkish Radio Television (TRT), Kanal 24, CCTV, Channel News Asia commenting on developments in world economies and on Turkey's foreign relations. More information on Dr. Atlı's work can be found in his personal web site at www.altayatli.com.

Topic: The Political Economy of Turkey's Foreign Policy towards the MENA Region

Time: 1:30 pm

Date: September 29, 2016

Speaker: Mrs Nejla Ghachem Cherif, PhD

Topic: Présentation du Projet d'Accès aux Marchés des Produits Agroalimentaires et de Terroir (PAMPAT)

Time: 1:30 pm

Date: September 20, 2016

Speaker: Dr. Sarah Feuer is an expert on politics and religion in North Africa. She completed her doctorate in politics at Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies in 2014, and wrote her dissertation on state-religion relations in Tunisia and Morocco. Dr. Feuer is currently a Soref Fellow, a highly competitive, one-year research position designed to enable young scholars who have already earned their master's or doctoral degrees to transition to policy-relevant research and analysis at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Topic: The upcoming US elections.

Time: 1:30 pm

Seminars in 2015-2016

List of seminars

Date: 14 May 2016

Speakers: Professor Farhat Horchani, Minister of National Defence

Topic: Regional Security and Economic Integration

Time: 1:30 pm

Date: 28 April 2016

Speakers: Professor Chiheb Bouden, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Mr Daniel H. Rubinstein, Ambassador of the United States to Tunisia

Topic: Potential of Tunisian-American partnership

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Auditorium, TBS

Date: 21 April 2016

Speaker: Chafik Ben Rouine, Observatoire Tunisien de l'Economie

Topic: The Independence of Tunisia's Central Bank: Challenges and Implications for the Tunisian Financial System

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: 14 April 2016

Speaker: Dr. Shamel Azmeh, London School of Economics

Topic: "Transient global value chains and preferential trade agreements"

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: 7 April 2016

Speakers :

Dr. Hamza Meddeb, Middle East program at the European University Institute in Florence & Carnegie Middle East Center

Hendrik W. Kruse, University of Gottingen

Topics:

"Dilemmas of Reform: Political, economic and security constraints in Tunisia today",

"An estimation of tariff pass-through in Tunisia"

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: 17 March 2016

Speakers:

Dr Kenichi Kashiwagi, University of Tsukuba

Dr Kiyokazu Ujii, University of Tsukuba

Topics: Tunisia-Japan Trade

“Development of Vertical Integration of Olive Oil Production towards the Creation of Innovative Value Chain between Tunisia and Japan”, Dr. Kashiwagi

“Japanese Consumption of Olive Oil: Choice Experiment and Other Approach”, Dr Ujii

Time: 10 am

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: 25 February 2016

Speaker: Sonia Barbaria, Souk Ettanmia representatives

Topic: “Entrepreneurship-led inclusive growth “

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: Saturday, 12 December 2015

Speaker: Dr Ali Abdul Kader Ali, London School of Economics

Topic: “The re-ordering of Syria’s economy: Transformation of liberalisation and war”

Time: 11 am

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2015

Speakers:

Michaela Dodini, Chef de la Section Commerciale, Délégation de l’Union Européenne en Tunisie

Saoussen Ben Romdhane, Chargée des questions commerciales, Délégation de l’Union Européenne en Tunisie

Topic:

“Négociations d’un Accord de Libre Echange Complet et Approfondi Tunisie-UE”, Michaela Dodini

“Libéralisation des services dans le cadre de l’ALECA”, Saoussen Ben Romdhane

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 25 November 2015

Speaker: Dr. Yonit Percival, SOAS and Queen Mary

Topic: “The Case of the Vanishing Corporate Veil in Investor-State Arbitration”

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Amphi 5, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 11 November 2015

Speaker: Jamel Aouididi, Business Sector Representative

Topic: “l’ALECA et l’Accord de Partenariat Economique de 1995: ramifications notamment sur le tissu industriel local”

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Amphi 5, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2015

Speaker: Chafik Ben Rouine, Observatoire Tunisien de l’Economie

Topic: “Economic Reforms and Tunisia’s Transition: The role of the World Bank and IMF”

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Amphi 5, TBS

Date: Saturday, 31 October 2015

Speaker: Tito Basu, ACST Teacher

Topic: “The ethics of trade and migration: examining different approaches”

Time: 11 am

Place: Amphi 5, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2015

Speaker: Giorgia Albertin, IMF Resident Representative in Tunisia

Topic: “Tunisie: Perspectives économiques et de réforme”

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Smart Center, TBS

Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Speaker: Max Ajl, PhD Candidate at Cornell University (US)

Topic: “World Wheat, Big Farmers, and the Origins of Tunisian Food Dependence”

Time: 1:30 pm

Place: Amphi 5, TBS

Seminars in 2014-2015

List of seminars

Date: March 4th, 2015

Speakers:

Karim Trabelsi (Oxfam)

Achref Aouadi (I-Watch)

Mohamed Dhia Hammemi (Independent researcher /journalist)

Topic: Addressing Inequality in Tunisia: Public Finances and Resource Allocation.

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 16th, 2015

Speaker: Fawaz A. Gerges is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and holder of the Emirates Professorship in Contemporary Middle East Studies. He was also the inaugural Director of the LSE Middle East Centre from 2010 until 2013. He earned a doctorate from Oxford University and M.Sc. from the London School of Economics. Gerges has taught at Oxford, Harvard, and Columbia, and was a research scholar at Princeton and the chairholder of the Christian A. Johnson Chair in Middle Eastern Studies and International Affairs at Sarah Lawrence College, New York. His special interests include Islam and the political process, social movements, including mainstream Islamist movements and jihadist groups (like the Muslim Brotherhood and Al Qaeda), Arab politics and Muslim politics in the 20th century, the international relations of the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflict, state and society in the Middle East, American foreign policy towards the Muslim world, the modern history of the Middle East, history of conflict, diplomacy and foreign policy, and historical sociology.

Topic: American foreign policy towards the Middle East: change and continuity?

Time: 1:30pm

Date: April 17th, 2015

Speaker: Kenichi KASHIWAGI, Ph.D. from the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

Topic: What Lessons can be Learned from Rapid Growth to Stagnation of Japan's Economy?: Implications to Tunisia.

Abstract: Currently Japan has been suffering from shrinking domestic industries during the period of the prolonged economic stagnation, and growing government debt along with increasing old aged population. On the other hand, Tunisian economy faces many challenges since the mid-1990s as a consequence of concluding a free trade agreement with the EU. Industrial modernization through upgrading productivity and competitiveness of domestic industries for the expansion of production and export as well as job creation for increasing working age population are current issues after the revolution in particular. Reviewing factors and mechanism of economic development of Japan from historical perspectives, the objective of this presentation is to identify similarities and differences regarding

macroeconomic conditions, structure of comparative advantage and sources of growth between Japan and Tunisia, in order to find implications to Tunisia. Based on the lessons learned from Japan's rapid growth to stagnation to recovery in the context of East Asian experience, pros and cons of government intervention to market and role of visible hand for sustainable economic growth are discussed. As an example of upgrading and revitalization of domestic industries, challenges for development of olive oil sector and possible collaboration for its promotion between Tunisia and Japan are presented.

Time: 1:30pm
