

Irene Selwaness

Research Fellow, Equity and Social Policy, ODI, London, UK.

Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labour Economics, Development Economics, Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow	ODI, London, United Kingdom	Oct. 2021-present
Post-doctoral Fellow	The Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA	Dec. 2015- Mar. 2016
Post-doctoral Bixby Fellow	The Population Council, Cairo, Egypt	Jul. 2013- Oct.2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor	Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt	Fall 2021-present <i>(on secondment)</i>
Assistant Professor	Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt	Spring 2013-2021 <i>(on maternity leave since October 2016)</i>

- Teaching: Teaching undergraduate courses in Mathematical Economics, Econometrics II, Research Methodology in Applied Economics, History of Economic Thought, Introduction to Microeconomics, and Money and Banking; preparing and administering mid-term and final assessment and exams for undergraduate courses; and supervising and mentoring students in their graduation research projects (usually dissertations).
- Service activities: serving as a member in the Executive Committee of Scientific Research Development (committee in charge of set awards rules and giving awards to Faculty members who Publish in peer-reviewed journals) and in the Executive Committee of International Partnerships (committee in charge of international cooperation and partnership with international universities/research institutes); and participating in economic department weekly meeting, and annual colloquium.
- Research Activities: producing research papers for publication in academic journals and disseminating research in conferences and other scholar meetings; and serving as a reviewer for several international peer-reviewed journals.

Teaching Assistant

Université Paris 1– Panthéon Sorbonne,
Paris, France

Fall 2008-2010

- Statistics
- Microeconomics
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Access Programming

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- **International Labor Organization, Cairo office**, Diagnostic study on public spending for skills and employment in Egypt (2021-2022)
- **Economic Research Forum and International Labor Organization, Cairo office**, paper on the link between job creation and growth in Egypt, to be part of an annual regional report on Advancing the Decent Work Agenda in North Africa – ADWA.’ (2020-2021) - with Mona Amer and Chahir Zaki.
- **Alternative Policy Solutions, AUC, Egypt**, Policy paper on “Unleashing the employment potential in the Egyptian manufacturing sector: Assessing existing policies for SMEs and way forward.” (2020) - with Mona Amer.
- **Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt and UN Women**, Paper on “Care Work and Care policies in Egypt and Jordan” to be part of a regional report on Care Economy in the MENA region. (2019-2020) – with Imane Helmy.
- **The Ministry of Planning and AUC**, Cairo, Egypt, Paper on the “Challenges and Opportunities of the Egyptian Social Insurance System” under the Ministry’s project on updating the 2030 vision on Sustainable Development Strategy “SDS2030”: identifying the gaps in social economy. (2019)
- **The Ministry of Planning**, Cairo, Egypt, Projects on the needs and problems of the Egyptian labor market using Establishment Censuses. (2018-2019) – with Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and Khandker Wahedur Rahman.
- **The International Labor Organization (ILO)**, Cairo, Egypt, prepare a report and a brochure on labor market indicators to support the University Centers for Career Development (UCCD) in collaboration with AUC and USAID. (2018-2019; 2020)
- **World Bank**, Project on “Promoting Innovation for Inclusive Financial Access in Egypt.” (2017-2018)
- **The International Labor Organization (ILO)**, Cairo, Egypt, Projects to support the conditional cash transfer program implemented by the Ministry of Social Solidarity in Egypt. (2017)
- **The Population Council**, Cairo, Egypt, Project on “*Taqeem* Initiative: Evidence-Based Programming and Policymaking for Youth Employment in Egypt: Challenges and Way Forward.” (2015-2016) – with Mona Amer.
- **The Population Council**, Cairo, Egypt, Projects on the Panel Update of Survey of Young People in Egypt- SYPE2014.” (2013)

- **The International Labor Organization (ILO)**, Geneva, Switzerland, Preparation for on a capacity-building workshop in Cairo for the staff of The Central Agency for Public mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). (2012)
- **World Bank**, Projects on Social Dialogue and Labour Market Reform in MENA (Middle East and North Africa). (2012)
- **The Danish Egyptian Dialogue Institute (DEDI) and the Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA)**, Projects on the Welfare State: Evidence from Egypt. (2012)
- **World Bank**, Background Paper on Public and Private Sector, Intra-Government Coordination, and Intermediation for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Employability Flagship (April). (2011)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Labor Economics	Université Paris 1– Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris-France	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dissertation: “Three Essays on the Egyptian Labor Market” ▪ Panel: Véronique Simonnet (advisor), Lionel Fontagné (president), Ragui Assaad (main referee), Bernard Fortin (main referee), Mélika Ben Salem, and Thierry Kamionka. ▪ Grade: The doctoral School of Economics Panthéon Sorbonne (DS no.465) no longer delivers grade awards starting from September 1st 2009. 		
Master’s Degree	Université Paris 1– Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris-France	2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative Economics with specialization in Labor and Demographic Economics. ▪ Grade: Very good (16,1/20). Highest Honours - Ranked 1st. 		
B.A., Economics	Faculty of Economics and Political Science; Cairo University, Egypt	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highest Honours (Excellent with Honours; 93.6%) Ranked 1st, Economics Department 		

PUBLICATIONS – PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. Ghada Barsoum and **Irene Selwaness**. 2022. “Egypt’s reformed social insurance system: How might design change incentivize enrolment?” *International Social Security Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/issr.12294>
2. Mona Amer and **Irene Selwaness**. *Forthcoming*. “[Unleashing Employment Potential in the Manufacturing Sector: Developing SME Finance and the Way Forward](#)”. *International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies*.
3. Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and **Irene Selwaness**. 2022. The Impact of Marriage on Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa, *Feminist Economics*, 28:2, 247-279, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13545701.2021.2007415>

4. **Irene Selwaness** and Caroline Krafft. 2020. “The Dynamics of Family Formation and Women’s Work: What Facilitates and Hinders Female Employment in the Middle East and North Africa?” *Population Research and Policy Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-020-09596-6>
5. Rania Roushdy and **Irene Selwaness**. 2019. “Who Is Covered and Who Underreports: An Empirical Analysis of Access to Social Insurance in Egypt.” *Journal of International Development*, 31(8): pp.720-751, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3434>
6. **Irene Selwaness** and Rania Roushdy. 2019. “Young People School-to-Work Transition in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring: Early Evidence from Egypt.” *International Journal of Manpower*, 40(3): pp.398-432, <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJM-02-2018-0041>
7. **Irene Selwaness** and Chahir Zaki. 2019. “On the interaction between exports and labor market regulation: Evidence from the MENA countries” *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, 73: pp.24-33, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.qref.2018.05.011>
8. **Irene Selwaness** and Chahir Zaki. 2015. “Assessing the impact of trade reforms on informal employment in Egypt.” *The Journal of North African Studies* 20 (3): pp. 391-414, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2014.997717>

PUBLICATIONS – BOOK/REPORT CHAPTERS AND POLICY PAPERS

1. **Selwaness, I.**, Adam, T., Lawson, L., & Heady, L. (2022). *Guidance Note on Education Data Mapping in Sub-Saharan Africa: Moving from theory to practice* [Technical Report]. EdTech Hub. <https://doi.org/10.53832/edtechhub.0096>
2. **Irene Selwaness** and Maye Ehab. 2022. “[Social Protection and Vulnerability in Egypt: A Gendered Analysis](#)” In [The Egyptian Labor Market: Focus on Vulnerability and Gender](#). Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 257-294.
3. Amer, M., **Selwaness, I.** and Zaki, C. 2021. “Patterns of economic growth and labor market vulnerability in Egypt” In “[Regional Report on Jobs and Growth in North Africa 2020](#)” , edited by Assaad, R. and Marouani, M.A., International Labor Office and Economic Research Forum.
4. Mona Amer and **Irene Selwaness**. 2021. “[Unleashing Employment Potential in the Manufacturing Sector: Developing SME Finance and the Way Forward](#)”. Alternative Policy Solutions Policy Paper. The American University in Cairo, Egypt.
5. Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, Khandker Wahedur Rahman, and **Irene Selwaness**. 2019 “[Job Creation in Egypt: A Sectoral and Geographical Analysis Focusing on Private Establishments 1996-2017](#)” *Economic Research Forum Policy Research Report*. Cairo, Egypt.
6. **Irene Selwaness** and Imane Helmy. 2020. “The evolution of paid and unpaid care work in Egypt” In [Progress of Women in the Arab States 2020: The role of the care economy in promoting gender equality](#), pp.77-111.
7. Ibrahim Alhawarin, Nasma Berri, **Irene Selwaness**, Maia Sieverding. 2020. “The care economy in Jordan” In [Progress of Women in the Arab States 2020: The role of the care economy in promoting gender equality](#), pp. 114-145.
8. Ibrahim Al-hawarin and **Irene Selwaness**. 2019. “The Challenges of Social Security Coverage and Early Retirement in Jordan: What happened after the 2010 Pension Reform?” In [The](#)

[Jordanian Labor Market: Between Fragility and Resilience](#). Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 313-339.

9. **Irene Selwaness** and Mahmoud Messkoub. 2019. "The Coverage Gap in the Egyptian Social Protection between Challenges and Opportunities." In [Social policy in the Middle East and North Africa: The New Social Protection Paradigm and Universal Coverage](#). Rana Jawad, Nicola Jones, and Mahmoud Messkoub (eds.), Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 84-115.
10. Rania Roushdy and **Irene Selwaness**. 2015. "Duration to Coverage: Dynamics of Access to Social Security in the Egyptian Labor Market in the 1998-2012 Period." In [The Egyptian Labor Market in an Era of Revolution](#). Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 241-257.
11. Rania Roushdy and **Irene Selwaness**. 2015. "Young People's Labor Market Outcomes during a Period of Transition." In [Panel Survey of Young People in Egypt 2014: Generating Evidence for Policies and Programs](#). Rania Roushdy and Maia Sieverding (Eds.). Cairo: Population Council.

PUBLICATIONS – WORKING PAPERS

1. **Irene Selwaness** and Maye Ehab. 2019. "[Social Protection and Vulnerability in Egypt: A Gendered Analysis](#)" *Economic Research Forum Working Paper Series No. 1363*. Cairo, Egypt
2. Ibrahim Al-Hawarin and **Irene Selwaness**. 2018. "[The Evolution of Social Security in Jordan's Labor Market : A Critical Comparison Between Pre- and Post-2010 Social Security Reform.](#)" *Economic Research Forum Working Paper Series No. 1185*. Cairo, Egypt.
3. Rania Roushdy and **Irene Selwaness**. 2014. "[The Coverage Gap in the Egyptian Social Insurance System During a Period of Reforms and Revolts.](#)" *Economic Research Forum Working Papers Series No. 898*. Cairo, Egypt.
4. Seiverding, Maia and **Irene Selwaness**. 2012. "[Social Protection in Egypt: A Policy Overview.](#)" *Population Council Gender and Work in the MENA Region Working Paper Series No. 23*. Cairo: Population Council.
5. **Irene Selwaness**. 2012. "[Rethinking Social Insurance in Egypt: An Empirical Study.](#)" *Economic Research Forum Working Papers Series No. 717*. Cairo, Egypt.

PUBLICATIONS – POLICY BRIEFS

1. **Irene Selwaness** and Imane Helmy. 2020. "[The Care Economy in Egypt: The Road towards Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work](#)". ERF and UNWomen, Policy Brief No.2.
2. Ibrahim Alhawarin, Nasma Berri, **Irene Selwaness**, Maia Sieverding. 2020. "[The Care Economy in Jordan: The Road towards Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work](#)". ERF and UNWomen, Policy Brief No.5.
3. **Irene Selwaness**. 2012. "Scope on the Social Insurance in Egypt: Challenges and Suggestions." Arab Forum for Alternatives AFA, Policy Brief (*Arabic*). Cairo, Egypt
4. **Irene Selwaness** and Rania Roushdy. 2011. "[Who Is Covered and Who Underreports: An Empirical Analysis of Access to Social Insurance on the Egyptian Labor Market.](#)" *Population Council Gender and Work in the MENA Region Policy Brief Series No. 4*. Cairo: Population Council.

PRESENTATIONS

1. "The Evolution of Paid and Unpaid Care Work in Egypt: Towards recognition and redistribution?" Economic Research Forum/UNWomen Regional Dissemination on Care Work and Care Policies in The Arab States, Online meeting, December 8th, 2020.
2. "The Evolution of Paid and Unpaid Care Work in Egypt: Towards recognition and redistribution?" Economic Research Forum/UNWomen Regional Consultation on Care Work and Care Policies in The Arab States, Online meeting, July 9th, 2020.
3. "Social Protection and Vulnerability: A Gendered Analysis?" Economic Research Forum Policy Conference on The Egyptian Labor Market: A Focus on Gender and Economic Vulnerability, Cairo, Egypt, October 27-28, 2019.
4. "Social Protection and Exposure to Shocks: A Gendered Analysis?" Economic Research Forum Workshop on The Egyptian Labor Market: A Focus on Gender and Economic Vulnerability, Cairo, Egypt, July 3-4, 2019.
5. "The Dynamics of Family Formation and Women's Work: What Facilitates and Hinders Female Employment in the Middle East and North Africa?" Sustainability and Development Inaugural Conference, Ann Arbor, Mi, USA, November 9-11, 2018.
6. "The Evolution of Social Security in Jordan's Labor Market: A Critical Comparison Between Pre- and Post-2010 Social Security Reform" Economic Research Forum Workshop on The Jordanian Labor Market: Fragility and Resilience in the Face of Crisis, Cairo, Egypt, December 15, 2017.
7. "The Impact of Early Marriage on Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa." The Faculty of Economics and Political Science (Cairo University), the World Trade Organization Chair at Tunis Business School and the World Trade Organization joint 3rd MENA Trade Workshop on Firms and Trade Policies, Cairo, Egypt, May 17-18, 2017
8. "The Impact of Early Marriage on Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa." Economic Research Forum Annual Conference, Amman, Jordan, March 20, 2017.
9. "The Impact of Early Marriage on Women's Employment in the Middle East and North Africa." Economic Research Forum Workshop on The Economics of Life Course Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt, May 26, 2017.
10. "Transition from School-to-Work in Egypt: An update on Young People Labor Market Conditions in the Wake of the January 25th Revolution." The Population Association of America, 2015 Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA.
11. "Reforms and Employment in The Egyptian Labor Market: Evolution by Age from 1988 to 2006." The Population Association of America, 2015 Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA, 1-4 May 2015
12. "Transition from School-to-Work in Egypt: An update on Young People Labor Market Conditions in the Wake of the January 25th Revolution." Third Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 June 2014
13. "How Long It Takes to Get Social Insurance? Informality Dynamics on the Egyptian Labor Market during the 1998-2012 Period." Third Stochastic Modelling Techniques and Data Analysis Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 June 2014

14. "The Coverage Gap in the Egyptian Social Insurance System During a Period of Reforms and Revolts." Economic Research Forum Workshop on Labor Market and Institutions on Labor Market Performance and Outcomes, Cairo, Egypt, May 25, 2014.
15. "Who Is Covered and Who Underreports: An Empirical Analysis of Access to Social Insurance on the Egyptian Labor Market." University of Bath and the British Council Workshop on Strengthening Research Capacities and Networks for Social Policy in The Middle East and North African (Mena) Region, Rabat, Morocco, February 20-22, 2014.
16. "On the Interaction between Exports and Labor Market Regulations: Evidence from the MENA Countries' Labor Markets." The Second Joint Research Workshop between Faculty of Economics and Political Science (Cairo University) and University Paris 1 – Pantheon Sorbonne, Paris, France, September 10-11, 2013.
17. "Rethinking Social Insurance in Egypt: An Empirical Study." The fourth conference of the GDRI-DREEM: Evaluation of economic policies and institutional changes in the post-Arab Spring Mediterranean states, Florence, Italy, September 12-13, 2013
18. "Assessing the Impact of Trade Reforms on Informality in Egypt." IZA Workshop on Labor Markets and Labor Policy in MENA Countries, Tunis, Tunisia, March 15-16, 2013
19. "Assessing the Impact of Trade Reforms on Informality in Egypt." The European Trade Study Group (ETSG) 2012 Annual conference, Leuven, Belgium, September 13-15, 2012
20. "Rethinking Social Insurance in Egypt: An Empirical Study." ERF 18th Annual Conference, Cairo, Egypt, March 25-27, 2012.
21. "Reforms and Employment in The Egyptian Labor Market: Evolution by Age from 1988 to 2006." The 15th Annual Conference of the African Econometric Society, Cairo, Egypt July 7-9, 2010.
22. "Reforms and Employment in The Egyptian Labor Market: Evolution by Age from 1988 to 2006." The Second PhD Conference in Economics 2009, in Memory of Vassilis Patsatzis, Athens, Greece.

AWARDS AND GRANT FUNDING

- 2020-2022. Ford Foundation. A New Social Contract: Reimagining Social Protection in Jordan and Tunisia. \$350,000 grant (with Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft)
- 2017-2018. Research Grant to prepare a paper on "The Relationship between Family Formation and Women's Work: What Facilitates and Hinders Female Employment in the Middle East and North Africa?" under a project entitled 'Comparative Labor and Human Development Research Using Labor Market Panel Surveys Data.' Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt. \$11000 (with Caroline Krafft)
- 2013-2014. Research Grant to prepare a paper on "How Long It Takes to Get Social Insurance? Informality Dynamics on the Egyptian Labor Market during the 1998-2012 Period?" under a project entitled 'The Impact of Labor Market Regulations and Institutions on Labor Market Performance and Outcome.' Economic Research Forum, Egypt. \$16000 (with Rania Roushdy)
- 2013-2014: Fred H. Bixby Postdoctoral Fellowship, Population Council
- 2007-2010: Three-years Research Allowance from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.

- 2006-2007: Eiffel Excellence Scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France.

SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), French (fluent), Arabic (native)
Computing: STATA.

MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Reviewer: *Journal of Economic Issues, Population and Development Review, Journal of Economic Studies, Middle East Development Journal, Social Sciences Quarterly, International Journal of Manpower, Travail et Emploi.*
- Research Fellow, Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt (2020-present)
- Research Associate, Economic Research Forum, Cairo, Egypt (2015-2020)
- Research Fellow, Global Labor Organization (2017-present).