

Sarah Mansour is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (FEPS), Cairo University, Egypt. She has obtained both her Masters and PhD degrees in Economics from Warwick University in the UK. Sarah has also been a Carnegie Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University from June till September 2016. Sarah has been the director of the Center for Institutions, Economics and Law in Egypt and the Master in Law and Economics of the Arab Region Programme(MLEA), a joint programme between FEPS and the Institute of Law and Economics at Hamburg University from November 2017 till November 2019.

Sarah is interested in using behavioural economics and experimental methods to address issues related to the political economy of the Egyptian transition and issues on sustainable development. She has conducted six lab experiments on students and two lab-in-the-field experiments on Egyptian, Syrian, Tunisian and Jordanian subjects. She has travelled to Atlanta in January 2013 to pilot her first experiment at the Experimental Economics Center at Andrew Young School for Policy Studies. On her return, she prepared the lab at FEPS with both software and computer dividers for her real experiments that started to take place at Cairo University in March 2013. Sarah is also interested in topics related to social capital and economic development. She has been teaching courses on "Public Finance", "Microeconomics", "Behavioral and Experimental Economics" and "Economic Development" to undergraduate students, "Sustainable Development" and "Microeconomic Theory" courses to postgraduate students.

A Sample of Sarah's experimental work includes:

a. An Economic Laboratory Experiment on: "Political Institutions and Welfare: Does Throwing the Bums Out Promote Efficiency?"

This study is jointly conducted with Prof. Sally Wallace and Prof Vjollca Sadiraj (Georgia State University, USA) and Prof Mazen Hassan (Cairo University, Egypt).

This study includes a laboratory-experiment on 270 Egyptian students. This project is considered the first known economic laboratory experiment in Egypt. Its main purpose is to examine the significance of a number of factors assumed to affect levels of tax compliance in Egypt using a laboratory based tax compliance experiment. It tests the economic implications of a change in a constitutional rule – the right to recall officials. The aim of this study is to assist policy-makers, in this transitional period, better understand the behavioral aspects of taxpayers' decisions to comply with the tax system- something critical to the country's fiscal sustainability.

b. "Polarizing Information and Support for Reform: Experimental Evidence from Egypt".

This study is jointly conducted with Prof. Rebecca Morton (New York University, USA), Dr Nicholas Haas (Aarhus University) and Prof Mazen Hassan (Cairo University, Egypt).

The study examines whether political polarization in elections is an obstacle to reform in an incentivized laboratory experiment using natural ideological differences in both Egypt and the US. Specifically, the authors create political societies which subjects join based on ideological preferences. Then, voters

choose between enacting a reform, which will lead to higher payoffs for all (but has a differential benefit for supporters of one of the political societies) versus not enacting the reform and everyone facing the same lower payoffs. They find that when voters are provided with information that support for the reform varies across ideological societies in previous sessions, they are significantly more likely to report that their vote choices are influenced by their society membership to a greater extent than when such information is not provided. They also find some evidence that the information influences voter choices in the election. Their results suggest that ideological polarization can impede reform in elections.

c. A lab-in-the-field experiment on: "When Syria was in Egypt's Land: Egyptians Cooperate with Syrians, but less with each other".

This study is jointly conducted with Prof. Stefan Voigt (Hamburg University), Prof Mazen Hassan (Cairo University) and Prof May Gadalla (Cairo University).

The study examines the concept of integration of Syrian refugees in the host countries through the use of a number of experimental games.