Ayman Tibi

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
University of Mannheim | Mannheim, Germany

atibi@mail.uni-mannheim.de
aymantibi.github.io
+49 157 39253469

Education

Ph.D. in Economics *University of Mannheim* 2022–Present
Advisor: Antonio Ciccone | Expected graduation: 2027

M.Sc. in Economics *University of Mannheim* 2022

B.A. in Economics *American University of Beirut* 2020

Research Fields

Primary International Trade, Development Economics
Secondary Geoeconomics

Research

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Economics of a Trade Policy for Peace

I study how trade agreements can be used to advance geopolitical objectives, focusing on a U.S.-fostered agreement that grants Egyptian firms tariff-free access to the U.S. market conditional on sourcing inputs from Israel. Using firm-level data, I find that the agreement increased Egyptian exports to the U.S. and imports from Israel, while generating export spillovers to other destinations. I develop a quantitative heterogeneous-firm trade model to evaluate its aggregate effects and alternative policy designs. The findings reveal a trade-off between high sourcing requirements and firm utilization of the agreement, highlighting how stricter requirements limit the trade linkages these agreements seek to create to foster political cohesion.

Special Mention, IMF MENA 2026 Conference.

DRAFT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

When Trade Preferences Become Easier to Use: Evidence from Jordan

I examine how relaxing non-tariff eligibility rules affects trade, focusing on the U.S.–Jordan Free Trade Agreement as a less restrictive alternative to the Jordanian Qualifying Industrial Zones program. Using product-level trade data, I find that exporters shifted to the less restrictive regime, exports of more exposed products increased, and new products entered the U.S. market. The findings show how eligibility requirements can limit the use of trade preferences and trade integration.

Prepared for the *Emerging Markets Review*'s Special Issue on Rethinking MENA Integration.

DRAFT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Public Investments and Conflict: Evidence from Nigeria

with Ayah Bohsali

We examine how conflict shapes public investment using new Nigerian procurement and constituency-project data and an instrumental variables strategy. Public investment falls at conflict onset, but, conditional on conflict occurring, more frequent conflict is associated with higher investment, particularly in physical infrastructure. The findings suggest strategic responses to conflict in public investment allocation.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Spillovers of IT across Regions and Industries: Evidence from Indian Tech Parks

with Tanay Agrawal

Summary: We study how the expansion of India's IT sector through technology parks generates spillovers across regions and industries. Exploiting the staggered opening of IT parks, we examine effects on manufacturing and consumer services, the adoption of computer and software inputs, and long-run productivity gains among exposed firms.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Women's Labor Supply after Husband Job Loss and Death: Evidence from Egypt

with Qincun Yao

We study how Egyptian women's employment responds to husbands' job loss and death. Using an event-study difference-in-differences design, we find little response to job loss but a substantial increase after widowhood, especially among poorer and less-insured households, with much of the adjustment through informal employment.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Physical Capital Shocks: Evidence from Allied Dismantling of German Firms after WWII

with Jochen Streb

Using historical German firm-level data and the Allied dismantling of German industrial firms after World War II, we investigate the effect of capital destruction on long run firm performance.

Research & Policy Experience

Independent Economic Consultant Mar. 2026–Present

Prepared a policy report on the GCC construction sector, assessing the effects of the U.S.–Iran war on activity, input costs, and supply chains.

Research Assistant Feb. 2024–Mar. 2025

Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)

Contributed to a quantitative model of the regional economic effects of EU cohesion policy funds.

Research Assistant May–Aug. 2023

University of Mannheim

Assisted Prof. Elu von Thadden with the numerical implementation of a macro-finance model of public debt and private-sector balance sheets.

Consulting Intern 2019

Mindsets Strategy & Decisions

Policy Intern 2018

Lebanese Center for Policy Studies

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Advanced Microeconomics 2023–Present

University of Mannheim (master's level)

Led exercise sessions and helped prepare exams in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

Teaching Assistant, Master in Management Course: Leadership and Motivation Jan 2026

University of Mannheim

Assisted in grading the exams of the course

Selected Conferences & Seminars

April. 2027	ERF Conference — Cairo, Egypt
March. 2027	CEPR Conference — Oxford, UK
Oct. 2026	Arab Graduate Students Conference — Doha, Qatar
Jun. 2026	IMF MENA 2026 Conference — Rabat, Morocco
Apr. 2026	Invited seminar, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) — Hamburg, Germany
Oct. 2025	Industrial Policy for Africa, World Bank Conference — Nairobi, Kenya

Honors & Awards

2022–2024	CDSE PhD Funding, University of Mannheim
2020	Suad Sabbagh Sanioura Memorial Prize, American University of Beirut

Additional Information

Professional Service: *International Economics and Economic Policy*

Software: Stata, R, Python, MATLAB, LaTeX

Languages: Arabic (native), English (fluent), German (working proficiency), French (working proficiency)

References

Antonio Ciccone
Professor, University of Mannheim
antonio.ciccone@uni-mannheim.de

Jan Schymik
Professor, University of Mannheim
jan.schymik@uni-mannheim.de

Philipp Ager
Professor, University of Mannheim
philipp.ager@uni-mannheim.de