

Leila Aghabarari

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PROFILE HIGHLIGHTS

- Robust experience in financial economic analysis and policy advice
- Proven track record in analytical and advisory services in Europe, South Asia, Latin America, Middle East, and Africa.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills in English and Farsi and familiar with Italian, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, and Arabic.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant

September 2020-present

UNHCR and World Bank – Copenhagen, Denmark

Developing a research and operation module for financial inclusion in refugee's life.

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant

May 2020-present

World Bank, Central and West Africa Region – Washington D.C.

Co-authoring a paper on Credit Cycles in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Contributed to the analysis and technical note and Focus Group discussion guide for women financial inclusion initiative in Nigeria.

External Researcher

November 2015-present

Central Bank of Brazil

Co-authoring a paper about the lending behavior of credit unions during the financial crisis using a confidential credit registry dataset from the Brazilian Central Bank.

Co-authoring a paper on the cross-border transmission of international monetary policy and its real effects on Brazilian economy through lending channels. This paper uses Brazilian credit register matched with firm- and bank-level information.

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant

January 2020-June 2020

World Bank, South Asia – Washington D.C.

Contributed to the operations and analysis of the Strengthening Afghanistan Financial Intermediation (SAFI) project.

Led the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) of Afghanistan.

Contributed to the most recent Banking Sector Review of Afghanistan. The objective of this technical note is to undertake a sector-wide assessment for the legal and regulatory environment, governance and banks' risk management practices in Afghanistan.

Contributed to the Modernizing Afghan State-Owned Banks Project. This strategy is part of a National Program to Reform and Modernize the Financial Sector. The program's main objective is to transform towards a modern, efficient and stable financial sector that supports inclusive economic growth in Afghanistan.

Contributed to the analysis and operational missions of the Payments Automation and Integration of Salaries in Afghanistan (PAISA) project.

Contributed to the Financial Sector Rapid Response Project (FSRRP) in Afghanistan.

Co-authored a research paper on precautionary savings and conflict in Afghanistan, to provide a better understanding of the accumulation of precautionary wealth by households as a result of labor income uncertainty as well as the variation in this precautionary motive in the presence of conflict.

Developed two policy notes on Investment and savings under uncertainty in Afghanistan.

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant
World Bank, MENA – Washington D.C.

January 2020-June 2020

Led the development of a guidance note for COVID-19 related policies in Iraqi Financial Sector.
Contributed to the Iraq Financial Sector Assessment-2020.
Contributed to the Iraq Financial Sector project.

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant
World Bank, West Balkans – Washington D.C.

May 2018-June 2018

Led the practical guide on the diversification of financial markets in six Western Balkan countries.

Financial Sector Specialist, Consultant
World Bank, Research Group – Washington D.C.

March 2015-July 2016

Developed a bank ownership and performance dataset for Global Financial Development Report (GFDR 2017).

Developed a global panel dataset using banks' balance sheet data from Bankscope. Generated an algorithm to identify the ultimate ownership of banks around the world and studied the performance of international banks (Global ultimate owners) in terms of profitability and risk taking.

Contributed to the development of Global Financial Development Report-2017 (Bankers without borders).

Intern

June 2015-September 2016

International Monetary Fund, Middles and Central Asia – Washington D.C.

Developed a heatmap for credit ratios in MCD (Oil-importers and -exports) countries.

Developed a note and presentation on credit cycles in MCD countries.

EDUCATION

University of Milan, PhD in Economics

December 2015

PhD Thesis: Banks' Lending During the Global Financial Crisis

University of Tilburg, Visiting PhD in Finance

June 2013-June 2014

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, M.Sc. In International Trade, Finance, And Development

July 2011

University of Tehran, B.Sc. In Theoretical Economics

September 2009

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, Matlab, E-views, LateX.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS and WORKING PAPERS

Credit Cycles in Countries in The Mena Region — Do They Exist? Do They Matter? With Ahmed Rostom. Global Economy Journal 20 (No.1), May 2020.

Is There Help Indeed, if There is Help in Need? The case of credit unions during the global financial crisis. With Andre Guettler, Mahvish Naeem, and Bernardus Van Doornik. Central Bank of Brazil, Working Paper No. 511. January 2020.

The Transmission of Real Effects of Monetary Policy: Evidence from Brazil. With Sophia Chen, Deniz Igan, and Bernardus Van Doornik.

Practical Guide on the Potential of Capital Markets Development in Small Economies. With Jaeger, Johanna, Zsolt Bango, Ana Fiorella Carvajal, Fiona Elizabeth Stewart, Tanya Konidaris, Sonia Marie Cattarinussi Iacovella, Alexander S. Berg, Candice Dionnca Armstrong, and Iñigo de la

Lastra. No. 138610. The World Bank, 2019.

Are Credit Cycles Different in the MENA Countries Compared to Advanced Countries? With Ahmed Rostom. Topics in Middle Eastern and African Economies Proceedings of Middle East Economic Association Vol. 22, Issue No. 1, May 2020.

Conflict and the nature of precautionary wealth. With Ahmed Mohamed Tawfick Rostom and Rishabh Sinha. Working paper No. 8453. The World Bank, 2018.