

Sebastian Ille

Department of Economics
The American University in Cairo
AUC Avenue, New Cairo 11835, Egypt
✉ sebastian.ille@aucegypt.edu

Current Appointments and Positions

Associate Professor of Economics, The American University in Cairo since 2024
Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), Advance HE since 2019

Education

PhD in Economics, University of Siena (Italy), Supervisor: *Alan Kirman*, co-supervisor: *Herbert Gintis* 2011
Master (Sc.) in Economics and Management Science, Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany), visiting scholar École Normale Supérieure de Cachan (Paris, France) & University of Siena (Italy) 2006
Bachelor (Sc.) in Economics and Management Science, Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany) 2003

Experience - Previous Appointments and Positions

Associate Professor of Economics 2018 - 2024
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY · LONDON

Associate Director of Research & Knowledge Exchange for the Social Sciences 2023 - 2024
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY · LONDON

Head of Research Cluster: Social Dynamics and Behaviour 2023 - 2024
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY · LONDON

Editor-in-Chief 2015 - 2022
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE JOURNAL, WILEY

Director of Centre for Identity, Cooperation and Crisis 2017 - 2020
NEW COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES (ACQUIRED BY NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Director of Postgraduate Studies in Economics 2017 - 2020
NEW COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES (ACQUIRED BY NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics 2016 - 2018
NEW COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES (ACQUIRED BY NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)

Assistant Professor 2014 - 2016
LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (LEBANON)

Visiting Professor 2014
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY (THAILAND)

Lecturer 2014
UNIVERSITY OF PISA / SANT'ANNA SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES (ITALY)

Research Fellow / Post Doctorate 2011 - 2013
SANT'ANNA SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES, LABORATORY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT (ITALY)
• Supervisors: *Giovanni Dosi*, *Giorgio Fagiolo*

Selected Consultancies

Home Office Analysis and Insight , on the decision-making of asylum seekers, asylum trajectories, and complexity analysis	2022
Canadian Embassy in London , on the political and regional situation in the MENA and Middle East, with special focus on Egypt and Lebanon	2021
World Commission on Forced Displacement , on the political and economic situation in Jordan, and the situation of migrants in Germany	2019
Egyptian Ministry of Education , on the quality of primary education in Egypt and private tuition	2014

External Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

The American University in Cairo - Intramural Grant , “Climate Change and Migration: Building Inclusive, Resilient Societies in Egypt”, PI - EGP 544000 (successful)	2025
UKRI Cross-Disciplinary Grant , “History as Complex Systems – 18th to early 20th century maritime networks and colonial dynamics in the Lloyd’s Register”, Co-PI in collaboration with University of Edinburgh- (under consideration)	2025
Impact Engines - A new model for 21st century problem solving, Northeastern University , “Project 9: Leveraging Commercial Consumer Tracking Datasets to Shape and Scale Evidence-based Policymaking”, Co-PI - \$482704	2024
Minerva Research Initiative , “Understanding the Role of Social and Cultural Infrastructure for Resilience Building and the Implications for U.S. National Defense”, Co-PI - \$2.7 million (unsuccessful)	2024
Bilateral Academic Research Initiative (BARI) Social Science Program , “Leveraging complex systems and network analyses to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the social dynamics of conflict”, Co-PI - \$2.82 million (unsuccessful)	2023
British Academy - Measurement of Social and Cultural Infrastructure , “Bonding, Bridging and Linking: Measuring Social and Cultural Infrastructure using a Complex Adaptive System Analysis”, PI - £77,767.20 (unsuccessful)	2023
FY24 Transforming Interdisciplinary Experiential Research (TIER 1) , “Forced Migration & Policy Responses in an Era of Global Change”, Co-PI- \$47,062.00 (successful)	2023
Nuffield Foundation: Research, Development and Analysis Fund , “Refugee Entrepreneurship as a Pathway to Levelling up in Britain”, Co-PI- £740,765.00 (unsuccessful)	2023
FY23 Transforming Interdisciplinary Experiential Research (TIER 1) , “Establishing Project 8 at Northeastern: Innovative research combining public and private datasets to address SDGs”, Co-PI- \$49,983.00 (successful)	2022
Home Office Analysis and Insight , “Asylum Seeker Decision-Making”, Co-PI UK - £250,000 (successful)	2022
CHANSE: Transformations: Social and Cultural Dynamics in the Digital Age , “Digital battlefields for democracy in the post-communist states: workings, meaning and consequences”, PI UK - €140,000 (unsuccessful 2 nd round)	2021
Sustainable Development Programme 2018, The British Academy , “Aid and Dignity: A Framework for Measurement”, Lead Applicant and co-PI, collaborative grant with The Busara Center for Behavioral Economics - £101,851 (unsuccessful)	2018
World Commission on Forced Displacement, Chumir Foundation , “Germany and Jordan case studies”. co-Pi, collaborative grant with Overseas Development Institute - £1,100,000 (successful)	2018
INET , “Correlations in Complex Heterogeneous Networks”, Fellowship - €23,000	2012
INET , “How multi-level selection and learning affects economic institutions”, Lead Applicant, Fellowship, €23,000	2011
Full scholarship , for a duration of 4 years at the University of Siena - €80,000	2006

Policy Briefs

Asylum seeker decision-making in journeys to the United Kingdom , with Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S. and Miles, L., <i>Home Office - Asylum, migration and integration fund</i>	2025
Complexity of Choice in Asylum Seeker Decision Making , with Taraboulsi-McCarthy, S. and Miles, L., <i>UNU Policy Brief</i>	2023
Germany as an Immigration Country: From Denial to Integration , with Mansour-Ille, D.; Mosel, I.; Hagen-Zanker, J., <i>World Commission on Forced Displacement: Research Report on Forced Displacement</i>	2019
Jordan: Between the Making of a Nation and the Politics of Living , with Mansour-Ille, D.; Haysom, S.; Hagen-Zanker, J., <i>World Commission on Forced Displacement: Research Report on Forced Displacement</i>	
Forced Private Tutoring in Egypt: Quality Education in a Deadlock between Low Income, Status and Motivation , <i>The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies</i>	2014

Selected Publications in International Refereed Journals

On the stressful interaction of monetary and fiscal targets , with Dat Thanh Nguyen and Edgar Sanchez Carrera, <i>International Review of Economics & Finance</i> , 104:104708.	2025
Why do firms choose to greenwash: an evolutionary analysis of greenwashing incentives and deterrents , with Edgar Sanchez Carrera, <i>Macroeconomic Dynamics</i> , 29(e140).	2025
Can patterns of household purchases predict the outcome of US presidential elections? , with Sabina Crowe and Michael Gmeier, <i>Economics Bulletin</i> , 44(3).	2024
The effects of a green monetary policy on firms financing cost , with Andrea Bacchiocchi and Germana Giombini, <i>Journal of Economic Interaction and Coordination</i> , 19.	2024
Memory retrieval and harshness of conflict in the hawk-dove game , with Ennio Bilancini, Leonardo Boncinelli, and Eugenio Vicario, <i>Economic Theory Bulletin</i> , 10(2).	2022
The Evolution of Sectarianism , <i>Communications in Nonlinear Science and Numerical Simulation</i> , 97.	2021
Warlord Politics and Economic Clientelism in Lebanon , with Dina Mansour-Ille, <i>The Economics of Peace and Security Journal</i> , 16(1).	2021
Macrodynamic Modeling of Innovation Equilibria and Traps , with Edgar Sanchez Carrera and Giuseppe Travaglini, <i>The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics</i> , 21(2).	2021
Shadow education in Africa: Private supplementary tutoring and its policy implications , <i>International Review of Education</i> , 67(5).	2021
On Revolutionary Waves and the Dynamics of Landslides , Special Issue: Nationalism and Ethnicity in the Humanities, co-edited with A. C. Grayling, <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> , 20(3).	2020
Forced private tutoring in Egypt: Moving away from a corrupt social norm , with Mike Peacey, <i>International Journal of Educational Development</i> , 66.	2019
Can nudges affect students' green behavior? A field experiment , with Ajla Cosic and Hana Cosic, <i>Journal of Behavioral Economics for Policy</i> , 2(1).	2018
Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel (eds.) Sectarianization: "Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East" , <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> , 18(2).	2018
Democratization and Inequality: Empirical Evidence for the OECD countries , with Adrian Risso and Edgar Sanchez Carrera, <i>Environment and Planning C</i> , 35(6).	2017
Towards Better Economic Models of Social Behaviour? Identity Economics , <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> , 17(1).	2017
Rational Atrocities and State Formation : A Game Theoretic Approach to the Case of ISIS , with Dina Mansour-Ille, <i>The Economics of Peace and Security Journal</i> , 10(2).	2015
The Dynamics of Norms and Conventions under Local Interactions and Imitation , <i>International Game Theory Review</i> , 16(3).	2014
Clash of Identities: Understanding Social Conflict in Post-Arab Spring Egypt , with Dina Mansour-Ille and Mervat Madkour, in <i>Identity, Difference and Belonging</i> , Interdisciplinary Press, eds. Mansour, Milne & Ille.	2014
The Theory of Conflict Analysis , <i>International Journal of Mathematics, Game Theory and Algebra</i> , 21(2).	2013
Inter-Cultural Limbo: The Dilemma of Western Education in Traditional Societies: Egypt as a Case-Study , with Dina Mansour-Ille and Mervat Madkour, in <i>Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging</i> , Interdisciplinary Press.	2013

Monographs & Textbooks

Models of Society and Complex Systems , Routledge	2022
Identity, Difference and Belonging (editor) , with Dina Mansour-Ille and Andrew Milne, <i>Inter-Disciplinary Press/Connexions</i>	2014
The Moral Economy of Social Change in Egypt , with D. Mansour-Ille, <i>under review</i> , Routledge	

Selected Invited Talks and Contributions in Conference Proceedings _

Penn State University, <i>African Studies Global Virtual Forum</i> , Social Dynamics and Coordination Failures	2022
The 5th International Conference on Nation-Building 2021, <i>Innovative Strategies for Crisis Recovery and Nation-Building</i> , Challenges in a Post-Pandemic World	2021
University of Cambridge (UK), <i>St. Catharine's Political Economy Seminar Series</i> , The Evolution of Sectarianism: A Political Economy Approach	2019
University of Urbino (Italy), <i>Dynamic Models in Economics and Finance</i> , The Evolution of Sectarianism and The Low-Innovation Trap	2018
The Rahmania Annual Seminar on Social Media and Its Effects in the Arab World (Italy) , Reinventing Revolutions	2017
Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (US) , The Evolutionary Foundations of Sectarianism	2017
Queen Mary, University of London (UK), <i>Deconstructing Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism, Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i> , Towards Better Economic Models of Social Behaviour? The Avail and Challenges of Identity Economics	2015
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, <i>Beijing Normal University Exchange Program (Italy)</i> , Coordination Failures & Exchange: Contracts, Norms, and Powers	2013
University of Cambridge (UK), <i>Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism</i> , Theorizing Revolutions and Conflicts: A Game Theoretic Analysis of the Arab Spring	2012

Programmes (Co-)Designed

Sustainability Analytics, Master's Degree with focus on statistical skills, strategic thinking, socio-political analysis
Cognition, Choice and Change, Interdisciplinary Master's Degree with faculties of History and Philosophy
Economics, Undergraduate Programme (revision 2021)

Selection of Courses Designed and Taught

Competitive Strategy and Game Theory (ECON5215, The American University in Cairo), design, development, and teaching of graduate course
Labor Economic (ECON3071, The American University in Cairo), design, development, and teaching of undergraduate course
Microeconomics I and Microeconomics II (NCHC533 & NCHC534, Northeastern University · London), design, development, and teaching of undergraduate course
Social Choice and Social Systems (INPR1500, Northeastern University - Boston), design, development, and teaching of undergraduate course
Topics in Economics (NCHC438, Northeastern University · London), design, development, validation and teaching of undergraduate course
Economic History (NCHC433, Northeastern University · London), design, development, and teaching of undergraduate course
Principles of Microeconomics (NCHC437, Northeastern University · London), design, development, validation and teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate course
Principles of Macroeconomics (NCHC436, Northeastern University · London), design, development, validation and teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate course
Economics of Organizations & Management (ECO340, Lebanese American University), design, development and teaching of BSc course
Special Topics: Behavioral Economics (ECO402, Lebanese American University), design, development and teaching of BSc and MSc courses
Microeconomics (ECO201, Lebanese American University), co-development and teaching of BSc course
Business Environment and Concepts (ECO201, Continuing Education Program, Lebanese American University), co-development and teaching of BSc course
Special Topics in Microeconomics (Summer Program, Chulalongkorn University), design, development and teaching of BSc course
Evolutionary and Heterodox Game Theory (International Doctoral Program in Economics, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies), design, development and teaching of PhD course
Introduction to Game Theory (Pisa University), design, development and teaching of MSc course
Public Economics (Pisa University), design, development and teaching of MSc course