

Philipps-Universität Marburg
Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS)

Course Outline

Course Title:	Political Economy of Natural and Environmental Disasters in the MENA Region (LV-10-772-223)
Semester:	Winter Semester 2018/2019
Type of Course:	Seminar
Level:	B.A.
Credits:	6 LP
Study Program:	B.A. Near and Middle Eastern Studies (Specialization Economics)
Modules:	For B.A. Oriental Studies: OWi3 For B.A. Near and Middle Eastern Studies: Economics of the Middle East Interdisciplinary/Optional Module for other Bachelor programs (e.g., B.Sc. Economics, B.Sc. Business Administration)
Language:	English
Date:	17 October 2018 – 13 February 2019, 14:15 – 15:45 p.m. (weekly), except on 21 and 28 November 2018
Location:	CNMS, Deutschhausstr. 12, Room: 00A03
Research Group:	Economics of the Middle East (FB02/CNMS)
Instructor:	Sven Fischer, M.A.
Office Location:	CNMS, Room: 01A41, Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4 – 5 p.m.
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Course Contents and Objectives:

Natural and environmental disasters are affecting the daily-life of many people recurrently. The negative effects of these incidents and phenomena are especially in developing countries a high burden and cause many casualties, because of lacking prediction methods, disaster-proof infrastructure, and quality of health systems as well as inefficient institutions and crisis management. According to a World Bank (2014) report, over the past 30 years, disasters have affected more than 40 million people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and have cost their economies about US\$20 billion. Between 2008 and 2013, more than 120 disasters have caused an average of US\$1 billion per year in damages and losses. The report highlights the synergy of natural disasters, rapid urbanization, water scarcity, and climate change as a serious challenge for the region. This makes it exceptionally interesting to look into the political economy of natural and environmental disasters in the MENA region.

In this course, we will deal with natural and man-made disasters and their implications for the political economy of MENA countries. Our focus is on the effects of disasters on economic performance and socio-economic development. The seminar starts with a theoretical introduction to relevant growth and development models, followed by theories related to natural disasters and its relationship to socio-economic factors. Based on this theoretical input, students will give presentations in class, reviewing the theoretical input and analyzing specific empirical aspects of natural and environmental disasters in the MENA region.

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- master the basic models and theoretical links between disasters and socio-economic development.
- test these theories in the analysis of specific research questions on the MENA region.
- identify links between economics and other issue areas within the MENA region, apply analytical tools from various fields and thus take on an interdisciplinary view.
- take part in scientific discussions and write an academic paper in English.

Enrollment

Enrollment for this course via Marvin. Registration for the seminar paper (Hausarbeit) and presentation via LSF. Please make sure not to miss the deadlines of your study programs.

Teaching Timetable:

The course is taught in Winter Semester 2018. The seminar sessions take place weekly on Wednesdays (except on 21 and 28 November 2018) 14:15 – 15:45 p.m. from 17 October 2018 to 13 February 2019. Room: 00A03.

During the first sessions, you will be assigned a topic for your presentation and paper. Your presentations will be in January and February 2019.

Course Evaluation

Students from B.A. Orientwissenschaft / Nah- und Mitteloststudien:

The grade in the paper will be your grade for the course. Your presentation will not be graded. However, both parts are mandatory for passing the course.

Students from B.Sc. Volkswirtschaftslehre (and other FB02 programs):

The final grade consists of two parts. The presentation counts 1/3 and the written paper counts 2/3. Both parts are mandatory for passing the course.

Please note that attendance is mandatory.

The **deadline for the seminar paper (Hausarbeit) is 31 March 2019.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In the papers and presentation slides, always indicate if you got an information from an author other than yourself (e.g. from books, articles, websites, unpublished work)!

Stealing body of work or ideas (i.e. NOT indicating its source and displaying it as your own) is PLAGIARISM. This is both unethical and illegal!

Failure to comply will be considered as fraud and result in grading down your work to 0 points = 5,0, which means you have failed the course. In addition, your case will be forwarded to the Prüfungsausschuss for academic prosecution.

Seminar Plan (Winter Semester 2018/2019)

Session	Date	Contents	Literature
1	17.10.2018	Introductory session - Course organization - Introduction to the topic and region	<i>Essential reading:</i> CRED, 2018
2	24.10.2018	Economic theory and natural disasters	<i>Essential reading:</i> Kellenberg and Mobarak, 2011 <i>Additional reading:</i> Cohen and Werker, 2008 Strömberg, 2007
3	31.10.2018	Natural disasters and economic growth: empirical evidence	<i>Essential reading:</i> Felbermayr and Gröschl, 2014 Klomp, 2016 <i>Additional reading:</i> Loayza et al., 2012 Mochizuki et al., 2014
4	07.11.2018	Disasters in the MENA region	<i>Essential reading:</i> World Bank, 2014 <i>Additional reading:</i> WRR, 2017
5	14.11.2018	Earthquakes I	<i>Essential reading:</i> Deif et al., 2017 <i>Additional reading:</i> Barone and Mocetti, 2014 Paudel and Ryu, 2018
	21.11.2018	Reading Week at FB10. https://www.uni-marburg.de/fb10/studium/projektwoche Please read the suggested literature!	<i>Essential reading:</i> World Bank, 2014
	28.11.2018	No session due to Dienstreise. Please read the suggested literature!	<i>Essential reading:</i> Foulger et al., 2018

6	05.12.2018	Earthquakes II	<i>Essential reading:</i> Foulger et al., 2018 <i>Additional reading:</i> Shapira et al., 2018
7	12.12.2018	Water, heat and dust I	<i>Essential reading:</i> Devlin, 2016 Hanif, 2017 <i>Additional reading:</i> Gherboudj et al., 2017 World Bank, 2018
8	19.12.2018	Water, heat and dust II	<i>Essential reading:</i> Madani, 2014 <i>Additional reading:</i> World Bank, 2018
	22.12.2018 - 11.01.2019	Christmas Break	
9	16.01.2019	Pollution and environmental degradation	<i>Essential reading:</i> Gholipour and Farzanegan, 2018 <i>Additional reading:</i> Biswas et al., 2012 Farzanegan and Markwardt, 2018 Laylin, 2018
10	23.01.2019	Student presentations	
11	30.01.2019	Student presentations: Topic 1: Natural Disasters and Institutions Topic 2: Natural Disasters and Political Stability	

12	06.02.2019	Student presentations: Topic 3: Natural Disasters and Investments Topic 4: Natural Disasters and Humanitarian Aid	
13	13.02.2019	Student presentations: Topic 5: Natural Disasters and Migration Topic 6: Environmental Degradation and Institutions	

Basic Literature:

Barone, G., and Mocetti, S., 2014. Natural disasters, growth and institutions: A tale of two earthquakes, *Journal of Urban Economic* 84, pp. 52-66. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2014.09.002>

Biswas, A. K., Farzanegan, M. R., and Thum, M., 2012. Pollution, shadow economy and corruption: Theory and evidence, *Ecological Economics* 75, pp. 114-125. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.01.007>

Cohen, C., and Werker, E. D., 2008. The Political Economy of “Natural” Disasters, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:6, pp. 795-819. Available at: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0022002708322157>

CRED, 2018. Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017, Report by Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. Available at: https://www.cred.be/sites/default/files/CRED_Economic_Losses_10oct.pdf

Deif, A., Al-Shijbi, Y., El-Hussain, I., Ezzelarab, M., and Mohamed, A. M. E., 2017. Compiling an earthquake catalogue for the Arabian Plate, Western Asia, *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences* 147, pp. 345-357. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jseas.2017.07.033>

Devlin, J. C., 2016. “Water Scarcity in the MENA Region”, In: Devlin, J. C., 2016. *Economics of the Middle East: Development Challenges*, World Scientific Publishing, pp. 85-110.

- Farzanegan, M. R., and Markwardt, G., 2018. Development and pollution in the Middle East and North Africa: Democracy matters, *Journal of Policy Modeling* 40:2, pp. 350-374. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2018.01.010>
- Felbermayr, G., and Gröschl, J., 2014. Naturally negative: The growth effects of natural disasters, *Journal of Development Economics* 111, pp. 92-106. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2014.07.004>
- Foulger, G. R., Wilson, M. P., Gluyas, J. G., Julian, B. R., and Davies, R. J., 2018. Global review of human-induced earthquakes, *Earth-Science Reviews* 178, pp. 438-514. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2017.07.008>
- Gherboudj, I., Beegum, S. N., and Ghedira, H., 2017. Identifying natural dust source regions over the Middle-East and North-Africa: Estimation of dust emission potential, *Earth-Science Reviews* 165, pp. 342-355. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.earscirev.2016.12.010>
- Gholipour, H.F., and Farzanegan, M. R., 2018. Institutions and the effectiveness of expenditures on environmental protection: evidence from Middle Eastern countries, *Constitutional Political Economy* 29:1, pp. 20-39. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10602-017-9246-x>
- Hanif, U., 2017. Socio-Economic Impacts of Heat Wave in Sindh, *Pakistan Journal of Meteorology* 13:6, pp. 87-96. Available at: http://www.pmd.gov.pk/rnd/rndweb/rnd_new/journal/vol13_issue26_files/7_Socio_Economic_Impacts_of_Heat_Wave_in_Sindh.pdf
- Kellenberg, D., and Mobarak, A.M., 2011. The Economics of Natural Disasters, *Annual Review of Resource Economics* 3, pp. 297-312. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-resource-073009-104211>
- Klomp, J., 2016. Economic development and natural disasters: A satellite data analysis, *Global Environmental Change* 36, pp. 67-88. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2015.11.001>
- Laylin, D., 2018. Environmental and Wildlife Degradation in Iran, Issue Brief of Atlantic Council South Asia Center. Available at: <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/issue-briefs/environmental-and-wildlife-degradation-in-iran>
- Loayza, N. V., Olaberria, E., Rigolini, J., and Christiansen, L., 2012. Natural Disasters and Growth: Going beyond the Averages, *World Development* 40:7, pp. 1317-1336. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2012.03.002>
- Madani, K., 2014. Water management in Iran: what is causing the looming crisis?, *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 4:4, pp. 315-328. Available at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264936452>

Mochizuki, J., Mechler, R., Hochrainer-Stigler, S., Keating, A., and Williges, K., 2014. Revisiting the ‘disaster and development’ debate – Toward a broader understanding of macroeconomic risk and resilience, *Climate Risk Management* 3, pp. 39-54. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2014.05.002>

Paudel, J., and Ryu, H., 2018. Natural disasters and human capital: The case of Nepal’s earthquake, *World Development* 111, pp. 1-12. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.06.019>

Shapira, S., Aharonson-Daniel, L., and Bar-Dayyan, Y., 2018. Anticipated behavioral response patterns to an earthquake: The role of personal and household characteristics, risk perception, previous experience and preparedness, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 31, pp. 1-8. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2018.04.001>

Strömberg, D., 2007. Natural Disasters, Economic Development, and Humanitarian Aid, *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21:3, pp. 199-222. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/30033741>

World Bank, 2014. Natural Disasters in the Middle East and North Africa: A Regional Overview, Report No. 81658, Urban, Social Development and Disaster Risk Unit. Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/211811468106752534/pdf/816580WP0REPLA0140same0box00PUBLIC0.pdf>

World Bank, 2018. Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa, MENA Development Report, International Bank of Reconstruction and Development. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27659>

World Risk Report (WRR), 2017. WorldRiskReport: Analysis and prospects 2017, Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, Bonn. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WRR_2017_E2.pdf