

Sami H. Miaari - Curriculum Vitae

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ADDRESS

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Gender: male

Place of birth: Sachnnin, Israel

Personal status: married with one child

CURRENT POSITION

Sep/2008-present: Max Weber Fellow for post-doctoral studies, European University Institute, Florence

Apr/2009-present: Households in Conflict Network (HiCN), Research Affiliate

EDUCATION

2008 **Ph.D.** in Economics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Thesis title: "The Labor Market Cost of Conflict"

Thesis advisor: Prof. Eytan Sheshinsky

- 2003 **M.A.** in Economics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, graduated with distinction
- 2000 **B.Sc.** in Mathematics and Economics, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2008 - 2009 Max Weber Fellowship for post-doctoral studies, European University Institute
- 2007 - 2008 Blazoska Fellowship for Ph.D. students
- 2004 - 2008 Hebrew University Economics Department Fellowship
- 2004 Wolfson Cathedra, Hebrew University Economics Department Financial Fellowship for Academic Excellence
- 2003 Hebrew University Economics Department Full Scholarship for Academic Excellence
- 2002 The Hebrew University Social Science Faculty, Luxembourg Foundation Award for Academic Excellence
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EXPERIENCE

Hebrew University Teaching Assistant for the following courses:

- 2006 - 2008 Public Economics
- 2005 - 2006 Introduction to Econometrics and Macro Economics (A)
- 2004 - 2005 Advanced Labor Economics (MA) and Macro Economics (A and B)
- 2003 - 2004 Labor Economics (BA) and Macro Economics (A and B)
- 2002 - 2003 Public Economics; Linear Algebra for Economists; Dynamics Models for Economists
- 2001 - 2002 Mathematics for Economists (A1 and A2)

Jezreel Valley College, Afula, Israel, Teaching Assistant - 2002-2003 Macro Economics (A and B)

Professional Experience

2004-2006: **World Bank Institute, Economics Division (West Bank and Gaza office)** short-term trainee for the following projects:

- Economic Monitoring: quarterly economic update; nationwide economic monitoring note; and monitoring monthly public finances
- Public Sector Fiscal Issues: monitoring wage bill and capacity; analysis of fiscal deficits and sustainability; analysis of financing gap
- Economic Impact of Settlements on the Palestinian Economy
- Econometric Analysis of Wage Differential Across Sectors
- Analysis of Efficiency of Public Sector Spending
- National Economic Memorandum: Enhancing the Prospects for Economic Recovery and Growth
- Public Expenditure Review in the West Bank and Gaza
- Palestine and Jordan Enterprise Surveys: provided data and analytical support to the Palestine and Jordan Enterprise Surveys for Manufacturing and Services

Hebrew University: Academic consultant to Arab students in the social sciences

2003-2004: **Industry and Trade Ministry:** Researcher in economic issues in Israeli society

Hebrew University: Academic consultant to Arab social sciences students

2002-2003: **Mosaawa Association:** Economic consultant to Arab local governments

Hebrew University: Academic consultant to Arab social sciences students

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Econometrics, Applied Microeconomics, Mathematics for Economics

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Apr 2009: London School of Economics, Department of Economics

Feb 2009: European University Institute, Department of Economics

Jan 2009: Haifa University, Department of Economics
Dec 2008: Bank of Israel, Jerusalem; Ben-Gurion University; Tel Aviv University
Nov 2008: European University Institute, Academic Careers Observatory
Conference. "University Autonomy and the Globalization
of Academic Careers"
Oct 2008: European University Institute, Max Weber Programme. "On
causality in economic research: the use of 'natural experiments'
and 'calibration'
Nov 2007: Bank of Israel, Jerusalem
May 2005: 22nd - Economic Conference of the Israel **Economics Association**

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

2005-2006 Member of Steering Committee in the Macro Institute Center for
Political Economics
2003-2004 Member of Steering Committee for the Van Leer Institute *Israeli Arab
Society Yearbook*
Young Arabic Researchers, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem
2001 Economic Forum, Sikkuy [Association for the Advancement of Civic
Equality], researching unemployment in the Arab population in Israel

WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

"Job Market Paper: "Ethnic Conflict and Job Separations." with Asaf Zussman
and Noam Zussman. (Under review)

The interaction between external and internal conflicts, especially ethnic and religious ones, is a prominent feature of world politics. We study the effect of the second Intifada, a violent conflict between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors which erupted in September 2000, on the labor market outcomes of Arabs relative to those of Jewish Israelis. The analysis relies on a large matched employer-employee dataset, focusing on firms that in the pre-Intifada period employed both Arabs and Jews. Our analysis demonstrates that until September 2000 Arab workers had a lower rate of job separation than their Jewish peers and that this differential was significantly reduced after the outbreak of the Intifada. We argue that the most likely explanation for this pattern is increased anti-Arab discrimination among Jews.

"The Labor Market Costs of Conflict: Closures, Foreign Workers, and Palestinian Employment and Earnings" with Robert Sauer. (Under review)

In this paper, we measure the implications of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for Palestinian employment and earnings. We quantify the conflict by the frequency of temporary closures of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the number of foreign workers in the Israeli labor market. Data on Palestinian employment and earnings were taken from the Palestinian Labor Force Survey (PLFS) of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The PLFS micro level panel data are combined with quarterly time series data on the number of foreign workers in Israel, the number of foreign worker permits issued by the Israeli government, and the frequency of temporary closures of the West Bank and Gaza Strip between 1999 and 2004.

Fixed effects estimates that exploit the number of foreign worker permits issued by the Israeli government as an instrument for the number of foreign workers yield large and statistically significant negative effects for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Palestinian employment rates in Israel and mean monthly earnings regardless of work location (Israel or West Bank and Gaza Strip). Closures also significantly reduce Palestinian employment rates in Israel and mean monthly earnings. The impact of foreign workers is relatively stronger than the impact of closures, because foreign workers are long-run substitutes for Palestinians in the Israeli labor market, while closures represent only a transitory, short-run restriction on the Palestinian labor supply. However, the impact of foreign workers also constitutes a permanent effect of closures.

“Public -Private Wage Differential in the West Bank and Gaza Before and During the Second Intifada”

This paper measures the public-private wage differential in the West Bank and Gaza and describes its dynamics before and during the second Intifada using data from the Palestinian Labor Force Survey (PLFS) of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). Because the distribution of individual characteristics as well as the returns thereto might differ across workers, I decomposed the wage differential into two components: a “human capital” effect and an “unexplained” effect. The results show that in the pre-Intifada period, the wage gap between the public and private sectors narrowed both in the West Bank and Gaza. However, a sharp increase was seen in the post-Intifada Period. Moreover, most of the increase in the wage gap comes from an increase in the “returns” to skill composition in the public sector (unexplained effect), rather than a change in the skill composition of public sector workers (human capital effect). Using recent quantile regression econometric techniques to analyze the public-private sector wage gap from 1998 to 2006 at various points along the wage distribution shows that the wage premium (penalty) for the public sector varies across the distribution, being higher (lower) at the lowest end of the wage distribution and decreasing (increasing) along the wage distribution; it becomes negative at the top percentiles.

"Unemployment Dynamics Among the Arab Minority in Israel: Evidence from Panel Data." *The Arab Community in Israel: Population, Society, Economy, Jerusalem: The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 2008. [in Hebrew]*

This article examines the phenomenon of unemployment among Israel’s Arab population and the causes of the increase in unemployment rates therein. Identification of individuals’ transition probabilities between labor market situations using panel-micro data of labor force surveys from 1990-2004 provides important

information that adds to our understanding of the causes of an increase in unemployment rates among Arabs as compared to those in the Jewish population characterizing the second half of the 1990s.

Two important conclusions arose from the present study. The first is that from calculations of yearly probabilities of transitions between labor market situations, unemployment, and non-participation in the labor force, it emerges that unemployment rates among Arabs are higher than those among Jews, and that the reason for this is that the probability of Arabs leaving the pool of the unemployed is lower, and the probability of their entering it is higher; moreover, these trends sharpen over time. Secondly, young people and those without education who are employed in traditional industries tend to lose their jobs more than do adults or educated workers employed in advanced industries. In addition, the article examines the increase in the number of foreign workers as a factor in the dynamic of the labor force and the resultant fluctuations in unemployment rates.

"The Struggle for Palestinian Hearts and Minds: Violence and Public Opinion in the Second Intifada" with David Jaeger, Esteban Klor, and Daniele Paserman. *NBER Working paper 13956, April 2008, and IZA DP 3439, April 2008.*

This paper examines how violence in the Second Intifada influences Palestinian public opinion. Using public opinion poll micro data linked to data on fatalities, we find that although Israeli violence discourages Palestinians from supporting moderate political positions, this "radicalization" is fleeting, and vanishes completely within 90 days. We do find evidence suggesting that major political events in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have had a longer-term impact on political preferences. Individuals who were teenagers during the period of the Oslo negotiations tend to have relatively moderate preferences, while those who were teenagers during the First Intifada tend to be relatively radical.

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Mother tongue
Hebrew: Mother tongue level
English: High level
Spanish: Beginner level

COMPUTER SKILLS

SAS, SPSS, STATA, Word, Excel, Pascal, Power Point

REFERENCES

Prof. Eytan Sheshinsky, Hebrew University, +972 (2) 588-3144; mseytan@mscc.huji.ac.il

Prof. Robert Sauer, Bristol University, UK; +44 (0)117 928 8421; Robert.Sauer@bristol.ac.uk

Prof. Daniele Paserman, Boston University; 617/353-5695; paserman@bu.edu

Dr. Michel Strawczynski, Bank of Israel, +972 (2) 655-2613; michels@boi.gov.il