

Mohamed Amara

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Employment

- Since 2016 : Associate professor, Higher School of Economic and Commercial Sciences of Tunis (ESSECT).
- January - March 2019 : Research Fellow, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.
- 2011-2015 : Assistant Professor, Higher Institute of Management, Sousse, Tunisia.
- 2008-2011 : Teaching Assistant, Higher Institute of Computer Science and Management, Kairouan, Tunisia.
- 2004-2008 : Teaching Assistant, Higher Institute of Management, Tunis, Tunisia.

Affiliations

- Since June 2023 : Research Fellow, Economic Research Forum (ERF).
- Since 2016 : MENA Youth Policy Research Center (MYPRC).
- Since 2015 : Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS).

Education

- June 2015 : Habilitation in Management (Quantitative Methods), University of Tunis.
- July 2010: Ph.D. University of Paris I (Geography) and University of Tunis (Management: Quantitative Methods)
Ph.D. Dissertation: *Inégalités spatiales et développement local en Tunisie*
Committee: Denise Pumain (Supervisor); Mohamed Ayadi (co-Supervisor); Julie Le Gallo (evaluator); Zouhour Karray (evaluator); Pierre Beckouche; Samir Ghazouani.
- Junr 2004: M.Sc. Higher Institute of Management, Tunis (ISGT).
Specialization: Economic Modeling.
- Juin 2002: B.Sc. in management, High Business School of Tunis (ESCT).

Research fields

- Spatial Statistics and Spatial Econometrics
- Regional and Urban Economics
- Economic and Social Inequalities

Teaching

- Microeconomics, Questionnaire Design and Surveys Sampling, Applied Statistics,
- Operations Research and Data Analysis, Spatial Analysis, Spatial Econometrics,
- Advanced Econometrics, Data Analysis, Economic Development, Initiation to Stata.

Publications: Peer-reviewed journals

- 2022 "Agglomeration and firm performance in times of economic turmoil: Evidence from Tunisian firm-level data", Forthcoming in *Growth and Change*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/grow.12657>.
- 2021 "The Determinants of Self-Employment Entry of Palestinian Youth", Forthcoming in *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies* (With Rabeh Morrar and H  l  ne Zwick).
- 2019 "Firm and regional factors of productivity: A multilevel Analysis of Tunisian manufacturing", *Annals of Regional Science*, 63, 25–51 (with Khaled Thabet).
- 2019 "Rural-Urban Migration and Income Disparity in Tunisia: A Decomposition Analysis", *Papers in Regional Science*, 98(2), 1053-1083 (With Mohamed Ayadi and Hatem Jemmali).
- 2018 "Household and Contextual Indicators of Poverty In Tunisia: A Multilevel Analysis", *Social Indicators Research*, 137(1), 113-138 (With Hatem Jemmali).
- 2018 "Do Tunisian young children have equal chances in access to basic services? A special focus on opportunities in healthcare and nutrition", *Child Indicators Research*, 11(2), 382-403 (With Hatem Jemmali).
- 2018 "On Measuring and Decomposing Inequality of Opportunities among Children: Evidence from Tunisia", *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 13(1), 137-155 (with Hatem Jemmali).
- 2018 "Deciphering the relationship between internal Migration and regional disparities in Tunisia", *Social Indicators Research*, 135(1), 313-331 (With Hatem Jemmali).
- 2017 "Renewable energy consumption, International trade, oil price and Economic growth inter-linkages: the case of Tunisia", *Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 76, 620-627 (with Hatem Jemmali and Brini Riadh).
- 2016 "The linkages between Formal and Informal Employment Growth in Tunisia: a spatial Simultaneous-equations approach", *The Annals of Regional Science*, 56(1), pp. 203-227.
- 2016 "Tunisian Constituent Assembly Elections: how does spatial proximity matter ?", *Quality & Quantity*, 50(1), pp. 65-88 (with AbdelRahmen El Lahga).
- 2015 "Multilevel modelling of individual fertility decisions in Tunisia: household and regional contextual effects", *Social Indicators Research*, 124(2), pp. 477-499.
- 2015 "A Note on MAR and Jacobs Externalities in the Tunisian manufacturing industries", *Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences*, 8(2), pp. 151-167 (with AbdelRahmen El Lahga).
- 2015 "Assessing inequality of human opportunities: a new approach for public policy in Tunisia" , *Applied Research in Quality of Life*, 10(2), pp. 343-361 (With Hatem Jemmali).
- 2014 "Local employment growth in the coastal area of Tunisia: a spatial filtering approach", *Middle East Development Journal*, 6(2), pp. 255-284 (with Mohamed Ayadi).
- 2014 "Le territoire d'implantation: quel r  le pour la croissance des petites entreprises tunisiennes?", *Revue d'  conomie r  gionale et Urbaine* vol. 1, pp. 87-119 (with Salma Mhamed Hichri).
- 2014 "Gibrat's Law and peer group effect: the case of Tunisian small manufacturing companies", *Economics Bulletin*, 34(1), pp. 373-384.
- 2013 "Les march  s locaux du travail en Tunisie: espace et processus d'appariement", *Annals of Economics and Statistics*, Issue 109-110, pp. 131-162 (with Anis Bouabid and Lotfi Belkacem).
- 2013 "The local geographies of welfare in Tunisia: does neighbourhood matter?", *International Journal of Social Welfare*, Volume 22, Issue 1, pp. 90-103 (with Mohamed Ayadi).
- 2012 "Structure industrielle et d  veloppement local du littoral Tunisien, 1998-2004" , *Mondes en d  veloppement*, n 157, pp. 119-136 (with Khaled Thabet).
- 2010 "Centralit   des activit  s dans la r  gion urbaine de Tunis (1994-2004)", *Revue d'  conomie R  gionale et Urbaine* vol. 3, pp. 473-509 (with Mohamed Kriaa and Makrem Montacer).
- 2009 "Concentration et agglom  ration industrielles dans la m  tropole de Tunis", *Revue d'  conomie R  gionale et Urbaine*, vol. 3, pp. 599-624.

Contributions to Edited Volumes

- [2021] "Identification des ménages pauvres et vulnérables en Tunisie: Rapport technique de ciblage sur le modèle d'approximation des moyens", (with Imen Mouaddeb and Yuko Okamura), World Bank and CRES.
- [2020] "The care economy in Tunisia", in *The role of the care economy in promoting gender equality: Progress of Women in the Arab States 2020*, Economic Research Forum and UN Women–ILO (With El Lahga AbdelRahmen).
- [2017] "Fostering Micro-Entrepreneurship: Does Spatial Proximity Matter?" (with Maria Cristina Cinici and Daniela Baglieri). In Seweryn, R. and Rojek, T. *Knowledge-Economy-Society, Selected problems of dynamically developing areas of the economy*, pp. 137-144.
- [2013] "Structure industrielle et développement local du littoral tunisien, 1998-2004" (with Khaled Thabet). In Ben Soltane, K.B., Ghoufrane, A., Oulmane, N., Jallab, M.S and Thielen, G. *Commerce international, croissance et devenir de l'intégration en méditerranée*, ed. PUBLISUD, Paris, pp. 111-139.
- [2010] "Spatial Patterns and Geographic Determinants of Welfare and Poverty in Tunisia" (with Mohamed Ayadi). In the 15th *ERF Conference Proceedings*, chapter 7, pp. 155-182.

Papers under revision or review

- 2023 "Gender Gap in the Tunisian labor market participation : do contextual factors matter ?" Under review in *Feminist Economics*.
- 2023 "Public-private wage differentials in Tunisia: Consistency and decomposition" Under review in *LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations*.
- 2023 "Alternative targeting methods for social assistance programs: evidence from Tunisia" under review in *Social policy and administration* (with Khaled Nasri and Imen Helmy).

Policy Briefs

- 2022 "The Tunisian Social Protection System: Key Strengths and Challenges" (with Khaled Nasri and Imen Helmy), *ERF Policy Brief No. 93*
- 2022 "Alternative Targeting Mechanisms for Social Safety Nets in Tunisia" (with Khaled Nasri and Imen Helmy), *ERF Policy Brief No. 94*
- 2022 "Structural Change, Productivity, and Jobs Creation: Evidence from Tunisia" (with Faycel Zidi and Hela Jeddi), *No.GSYE008*
- 2020 "The care economy in Tunisia: Towards recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work" (with Abdel-Rahmen EL Lahga), *Policy Brief No. 5*

Working papers

- 2023 "Changement Structurel, Productivité et Création d'Emplois : Le Cas de la Tunisie" (avec Faycel Zidi, Hela Jeddi) (*Document de travail, GSYE-013*).
- 2022 "The landscape of social protection in Tunisia" (with Khaled Nasri and Imane Helmy) (*WP version ERF, 1592*).
- 2022 "Social Safety Nets in Tunisia: Comparison of Different Targeting Methods" (with Khaled Nasri and Imane Helmy) (*WP version ERF, 1579*).
- 2022 "Structural Change, Productivity and Job Creation: Evidence from Tunisia" (with Faycel Zidi and Hela Jeddi) AERC Working Paper (*Working Paper GSYE 013*).
- 2019 "Firm performance and agglomeration effects: Evidence from Tunisian Firm-level data" WP version ERF, 1297.

- 2018 “Gender discrimination in the Tunisian labor market: the youth crisis” (with Wajih Khallouli and Faycel Zidi) WP version ERF, 1263.
- 2017 “Public-private wage differentials in Tunisia: Consistency and decomposition” (with Wajih Khallouli and Faycel Zidi) WP version ERF, 1156.
- 2017 “Rural-Urban Migration and Income Disparity in Tunisia: A decomposition Analysis” (with Hatem Jemmali and Mohamed Ayadi) WP version ERF, 1085.
- 2016 “Deciphering the Relationship between Internal Migration and Regional Disparities in Tunisia” (with Hatem Jemmali) WP version ERF, 1043.
- 2016 “Firm and Regional Factors of Productivity: A Multilevel Analysis of Tunisian Manufacturing” (with Khaled Thabet) WP version ERF, 1041.
- 2015 “Household and Contextual Indicators of Poverty in Tunisia: A Multilevel Analysis” (with Hatem Jemmali) WP version ERF, 968.
- 2014 “Assessing Inequality of Human Opportunities: A New Approach for Public Policy in Tunisia” (with Hatem Jemmali). WP version ERF, 871.
- 2011 “Local employment growth in the coastal area of Tunisia: a spatial dynamic panel data approach (2002-2007)” (with Mohamed Ayadi). WP version ERF, 650.
- 2009 “Spatial Patterns and Geographic Determinants of Welfare and Poverty in Tunisia” (with Mohamed Ayadi). WP version ERF, 478.

Unpublished manuscripts

- [07/2022] “Impact of rural to urban migration on employment and welfare in Tunisia: evidence from two secondary cities” (with Nancy Lozano Gracia).
- [07/2017] “Gender Discrimination in the Tunisian labor market: the youth crisis”, the 54th colloquium of the Association de Science Régionale de Langue Française - ASRDLF and the conference of the Greek section of the European Regional Science Association - ERS-GR, Athens, Greece, 5-7 July 2017.
- [03/2017] “Public-Private wage differentials in Tunisia: consistency and decomposition”, ERF 23rd Annual conference, March 18-20, Amman, Jordan (with Wajih Khallouli and Faycel Zidi).
- [03/2016] “Firm and regional factors of productivity: A multilevel Analysis of Tunisian manufacturing”, ERF 22nd Annual conference, March 19-21, Cairo, Egypt (with Khaled Thabet).
- [10/2015] “Deciphering the relationship between internal migration and inequality in Tunisia” (with Hatem Jemmali). Colloque international: Politique économique et développement, 23-24 octobre 2015, Hammamet (Tunisie).
- [06/2015] “On measuring and decomposing inequality of opportunity among children: Evidence from Tunisia” (with Hatem Jemmali). 32th JMA, Montpellier, France.
- [03/2015] “Household and Contextual Indicators of Poverty In Tunisia: A Multilevel Analysis” (with Hatem Jemmali). ERF 21th Annual conference, March 20-22, Gammarth, Tunisia (Best paper in Microeconomics).
- [03/2014] “Assessing Inequality of Human Opportunities: A New Approach for Public Policy in Tunisia” (with Hatem Jemmali). ERF 20th Annual conference, March 22-24, Cairo, Egypt.
- [06/2013] “Le territoire, quel rôle pour la croissance des jeunes entreprises tunisiennes ?” (with Salma Hichri and Mohamed Ayadi). 50 ème colloque ASRDLF, 8-11 Juillet, Mons, Belgique.
- [06/2011] “Local employment growth in Tunisia’s coastal area: a spatial dynamic panel data approach” (with Mohamed Ayadi), CSAE Conference 2011: Economic Development in Africa, march 2011, Oxford.
- [06/2011] “Fonction d’appariement, rendements d’échelle et interaction spatiale” (with Anis Bouabid et Lotfi Belkacem), JMA 28èmes Journées de Microéconomie, Sousse, Tunisie, 2011.
- [06/2010] “Cartographie et Analyse spatiale multivariée de la Pauvreté en eau à l’échelle internationale”, 3ème Conférence Euro-Africaine en Finance et Économie, Maison des Sciences Économiques, Paris

3-4 Juin 2010 (with Hatem Jemmel).

[05/2010] "Measuring the knowledge spillovers in France departments: Comparison to a Spatial Econometrics Approach", *Regional Studies Association, Annual International Conference Pécs, Hungary-24th 26th May* (with Inès Moussa).

[04/2009] "Local employment growth in Upper-Normandy (France) : A small sample panel data model", *International Conference on Applied Economics and Time series Econometrics (ICAETE)*, India (with Dimitri Laroutis).

[08/2008] "Territoire industrialisé et croissance de l'emploi: une approche en panel dynamique appliquée à la Haute-Normandie", *XLV^e Colloque Colloque de l'Association de Science Régionale De Langue Française (ASRDLF)*, Rimouski, Québec, Canada, avec Dimitri Laroutis.

[09/2007] "Territoires industrialisés et croissance de l'emploi ?", *Le 56^{eme} Congrès annuel de l'AFSE (Association Française de Science Economique)*, Paris (avec Dimitri Laroutis).

[08/2007] "Analyse spatiale des déterminants du niveau de vie: cas de la Tunisie", *Joint Congress of ERSA (European Regional Science Association, 47th Congress) and ASRDLF (Association de Science Régionale de Langue Française, 44th Congress)*, Paris.

[06/2006] "Localisation intra-métropolitaine des activités dans la région de Tunis: une analyse en termes de centralité urbaine entre 1997 et 2004", *Les Cinquièmes Journées de la Proximité Bordeaux*, avec Mohamed Kriaa et Makrem Montacer.

Works in progress

"Are migrants second-class citizens in the urban labor markets? Evidence from two secondary cities in Tunisia", (with Nancy Lozano Gracia and Luc Chirstiaensen).

"Secondary cities and migrant's intergration in social and economic life : evidence from Jendouba and Kairouan in Tunisia", (with Nancy Lozano Gracia and Luc Chirstiaensen).

"Structural change, productivity growth and job creation : microeconomic evidence from Tunisia" (with Faycel Zidi).

"Structural Change and job creation in Tunisia: the lost decades" (with Faycel Zidi, Hela Jeddi, Nabil Dachraoui)

Training workshop, Fellowships & Awards

[2018] ERF-World Bank Workshop and Training on 'Structural Change, Resource Misallocation and Growth Dynamics in the MENA Region', February 28-March 1, 2018, Luxor, Egypt.

[2016] Economic Research (ERF) Forum Training workshop on 'Opinion Poll Data Analysis Using Multilevel Models', August 22-23, 2016, The American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon.

[2016] Summer School 2016 on 'Multidimensional Poverty Analysis' organised by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China.

[2015] Award of the best paper in microeconomics, ERF 21th Annual conference for the paper "Household and Contextual Indicators of Poverty In Tunisia: A Multilevel Analysis".

[2012-2013] Post-doc fellowship at the university of Messina (Economic department), Italy, via the **ERASMUS** student exchange programme.

[2010] Séjour scientifique de haut niveau (SSHN), Geography Cities 8504 (University of Paris I).

[2008] Geography Cities 8504 (University of Paris I).

[2007] Geography Cities 8504 (University of Paris I).

[2006] Séminaire Européen des Doctorants en Économie Régionale (SEDER), Bordeaux, 26-28.

Instructor

[2019] Training Workshop on "Analyse Statistique et Économétrie sous Stata", Centre de Recherches et d'Etudes Sociales (CRES), Ministère des Affaires Sociales.

[2015] Training for PhD students in Spatial Statistics and Spatial Econometrics, ASECTU (Association of Tunisian Economists).

Collaborative projects

[2023-2023] “La mobilisation des compétences tunisiennes dans le développement de la Tunisie et la réinsertion des Tunisiens de retour” **project supported by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)**

[2021-2022] “Impact of rural to urban migration on employment and welfare in Tunisia: evidence from two secondary cities”, (with Nancy Lozano Gracia) **project supported by the World Bank.**

[2021-2022] “Structural change, productivity and jobs creation in Tunisia”, **Project supported by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Economic Research Forum (ERF) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)**, (with Faycel Zidi and Hella Jeddi).

[2020-2021] “Reimagining Social Protection in Jordan and Tunisia”, **Project supported by the Ford Foundation and the Economic Research Forum.**

[2019-2021] “TUNISIA - Focus on Kairouan and Jendouba: two stories of migration and challenges”, **project supported by the World Bank.**

[2019-2021] “The targeting of social assistance programmes in Tunisia”, **Ministry of Social Affairs, project supported World Bank**

[2019-2020] “The Care economy in Tunisia: Main patterns and future challenges”, **UN Women - Economic Research Forum project** (with Abdel-Rahmen EL Lahga).

[2019-2020] “Linking human capital, labour markets and international mobility: an assessment of challenges in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia”, **project supported by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and The American University in Cairo.**

[2018-2019] “Examen National Volontaire sur la mise en oeuvre des ODD”, **PNUD project** (with Mohamed Haddar and Faycel Zidi).

[2018-2019] “Surplus de la main-d’oeuvre qualifiée et non qualifiée en Tunisie”, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

[2018-2019] “Analyse Rapide Intégrée du Plan 2016-2020 et des stratégies nationales de développement de la Tunisie” **PNUD project** (with Mohamed Haddar and Faycel Zidi).

[2017-2018] “SDGs Data gap analysis”, **PNUD project** (with Mohamed Haddar and Faycel Zidi).

[2017-2018] “Firm performance and agglomeration effects: evidence from Tunisian firm-level data”, **ERF project.**

[2016-2017] “La discrimination positive: un principe constitutionnel à concrétiser pour la promotion de l’emploi décent dans les régions” **Institut Tunisien de la Compétitivité et des Etudes Quantitatives (ITCEQ).**

[2016-2017] “Dynamics and Decomposition of Inequality of Outcomes and Inequality of Opportunities: A special focus on Tunisia” **ERF project** (with Hatem Jemmali).

[2015-2016] “Rural-Urban Migration and Income Disparity in Tunisia: A Comparative Analysis between Residents and Rural Migrants”, **ERF project** (with Hatem Jemmali and Mohamed Ayadi).

[2015-2016] “Migration and Inequality in Tunisia”, **ACSS project** (Arab Council for the Social Sciences) Research Grants Program Application 2015-2016 Cycle (With Hatem Jemmali).

[2012-2013] ‘**The Unfinished Revolution: Bringing opportunity, good jobs and greater wealth to all Tunisians**’, **World Bank project** (consultant).

[2009/2010] Développement économique et social, Croissance pro-pauvres et convergence vers les OMD des pays africains, **African Union Project** (with Mohamed Ayadi, AbdelRahmen El Lahga and Rami Ben Haj-Kacem).

Referees

Applied Economics incorporating Applied Financial Economics (1); *Social Indicators Research* (2); *Growth and Change*

Graduate Students Supervised and Doctoral Programs

Thesis

- [2017] Khaled Nasri (University of El Manar) "Pauvreté régionale multidimensionnelle et politique de ciblage : une analyse sur les données Tunisiennes" (Evaluator).
[2017] Besma Jellali (University of El Manar) "Hétérogénéités et appariements sur le marché du travail en Tunisie" (Evaluator).
[2017] Rafika Ben Yedder (University of El Manar) "Interactions stratégiques et modélisation des échanges en commerce international" (Evaluator).
[2016] Hela Bessibes (Auvergne University) "Women and Gender discrimination in Tunisia" (Evaluator).
[2016] Asma Zedini (University of Tunis) "Novel Essays on Monetary Poverty Analysis: Applications to the Tunisia Case" (Evaluator).

Master

- [2015] Yassine Jmal (ESSEC Tunis) "Réalisation d'une carte de la pauvreté en Tunisie" (Evaluator).
[2015] Hichem Bekri (ESSEC Tunis) "Analyse des mécanismes de transmission des prix en Tunisie: quels constats pour les prix agricoles et alimentaires?" (Evaluator).
[2015] Insaf Ben Messaoud (ESSEC Tunis) "Le système urbain Tunisien: une analyse comparée du modèle de Christaller" (Evaluator).
[2015] Hela Kachroudi (ESSEC Tunis) "Transport et IDE en Tunisie: quelle relation ?" (Supervisor).
[2015] Imen Talbi (ESSEC Tunis) "Une approche multiniveau de la pauvreté multidimensionnelle en Tunisie" (Supervisor).
[2012] Karima Jbir (Polytechnique Tunis) "Estimation des effets de pairs sur le taux de remboursement: cas de la BTS" (Co-supervisor with AbdelRahmen El Lahga).
[2012] Khouloud Said (ISG Tunis) "Estimation de l'impact des effets de pairs sur la performance de remboursement des emprunteurs: cas de la BTS" (Co-supervisor with AbdelRahmen El Lahga).

Language Knowledge

Arabic	reading 3 writing 3 speaking 3
French	reading 3 writing 3 speaking 3
English	reading 3 writing 2 speaking 2
Italien	reading 2 writing 1 speaking 1

References

These persons are familiar with my professional qualifications and my character:

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