



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

*AUC International Conference on Research in African Challenges (ICRAC)*

*Track B: Trade, Responsible Business and Labor Market for Poverty Reduction*

SUB-TRACK B4: TRADE, STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

**Chair: Dr. Rami Galal,**

**Co-chair: Dr. Stefan Dercon**

Sustainable poverty reduction results fundamentally from structural transformation that involves the relative growth of employment in labor intensive and higher-productivity sectors. Unlike East Asia, this phenomenon has not been seen in Africa or the Middle East. In these regions, most of the growth did not sufficiently involve a movement of resources from rural poor areas to urban rich ones in the form of expansion of high-tech industries. At the heart of the problem is market failures, ill-advised government policies, and poor human capital development. Trade barriers have also impeded the expansion of labor intensive export oriented industries. This session would invite submissions to address the topic at hand from different angles. Submission can be at the macro- or microeconomic level, covering one or a group of countries comparatively.

#### **Biographies**

**Rami Galal** is an assistant professor of economics at The American University in Cairo (AUC). Rami Galal is an Assistant Professor of Economics at The American University in Cairo. His research covers issues in development economics, labor economics, and inequality in the Middle East and North Africa. He has also worked with the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of London (SOAS) and holds an MA in Economics from the American University in Cairo, and a BSc in Economics and Philosophy from Boston University.

**Stefan Dercon** is Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and the Economics Department, and a Fellow of Jesus College. He is also Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies. Between 2011 and 2017, he was Chief Economist of the Department of International Development (DFID), the government department in charge with the UK's aid policy and spending. In this position, he provided strategic advice, and was responsible for ensuring the use of evidence in decision making.

Before joining the University of Oxford, he held positions at the University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the Catholic University of Leuven, and WIDER (Helsinki), part of the United Nations University.

His research interests concern what keeps some people and countries poor: the failures of markets, governments and politics, mainly in Africa, and how to achieve change. Current research work focuses



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on the psychological challenges of poverty, the political economy of development, the challenges of industrialization in Africa, the challenges and opportunities of new technologies, and how to organize and finance responses to natural disasters and protracted humanitarian crises.

His latest book, "Dull Disasters? How Planning Ahead Will Make A Difference" was published in 2016, and provides a blueprint for renewed application of science, improved decision making, better preparedness, and pre-arranged finance in the face of natural disasters.