**People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Ministry of Higher Learning and Scientific Research**

**Abderrahmane Mira University, Bejaia**

 

**The Faculty of Economics, Business and Management Sciences (FEBMS) in**

**collaboration with the *Laboratory of Economics & Development* is organising**

**on the 15th and 16thof June 2020, the first international conference devoted to:**

***The Informal Economy and Gender Inequalities***



**Chairwoman of the conference**: Dr. Hassiba Gherbi

PhD in Economics, Universites of Bejaia (Algeria) and Paris-Est Créteil (France).

**Honorary** **Chairmen**: Pr. Boualem Saidani, Rector of Abderrahmane Mira University, Bejaia

Pr. Kamal Oukaci, Dean of the FEBMS, Abderrahmane Mira University, Bejaia

**Call for papers**

The informal economy encapsulates informal employment of the workers in the informal sector, the formal sector and households, who do not benefit from social protection (ILO, 2013, Charmes, 2019). It plays a significant role with respect to job and wealth creation in the MENA countries, wherein it accounts for over half the total of non-agricultural employment (ILO, 2018), but this role is controversial in terms of development. The informal economy exerts a negative influence, regarding low level of productivity and high precariousness of the jobs created, as well as a substantial tax shortfall and a duality in the business environment that endangers the regulatory framework. The informal economy, however, generates jobs and incomes, acting as a safety valve for the least protected segments of the population.

The labour market segmentation dividing formal and informal employment goes hand in hand with an income gap (wage gap) between the men of employed women. Women in North Africa make up on average less than a quarter of the urban labour force, which is one of the lowest rates in the world (World Bank, 2018). Despite a much lower participation rate in labour force, women participate in informal activities at least as much as men (ILO, 2012). In Algeria, the rate of informal female employment (24%) in the private sector is higher than that of men; in Egypt, as in Tunisia, over a quarter of employed women work in the informal sector.

Statistics most often underscore the contribution of women to the informal economy, including within the household, in terms of employment and output as well as income. Since these activities are partly home-based, they are not easily measureable, nor are they investigated or valued as such.

This conference intends to provide a state of the art of the informal economy in Algeria, North Africa and other countries of the MENA region. It will tackle various topics and use different investigation methods. It is part of a gender approach, which aims at identifying the place of women on the labour market in these countries, whereby access to employment allowing them to conquer rights and gain social inclusiveness.

Comparative analysis is strongly encouraged. The communication of this conference will be able to mobilize earnings functions, quantile regressions upon the income distribution and Oaxaca-Blinder models of decomposition, as well as (quasi) experiments of the "before-after" type, with (propensity score) matching and counterfactual, according to gender divide and the formal/informal employment segmentation.

The conference will discuss orientations towards the formalisation of the informal sector and informal employment (taxation, regulation and social protection), as well as gender inequalities on the labour market, with respect to a transition to the formal economy.

**Research topics**

Contributions will include but are not limited to the following topics:

1. The various approaches (dualist, structuralist, institutional, etc.) as regards the scope, trends and participants of the informal economy: controversies and converging views.

2. Relevance and completeness of measures (direct vs. indirect methods) of the informal economy: Surveys (households vs. enterprises), national accounts and computable general equilibrium, econometric modeling.

3. The determinants of access to the informal sector and informal employment: voluntary choice vs. last resort? What may explain differentiation between men and women: human capital and preferences on the labour supply side and/or profiles requirements on the labour demand side?

4. Female informal wage employment and male / female income differentials: are they industry driven?

5. Informal entrepreneurship and gender: to what extent do aspirations vs. constraints differ?

6. The transition from the informal to the formal economy: tax relief, simplification of regulation and / or extension of social protection? Which devices with respect to efficiency, fairness and costs? Should there be positive discrimination towards women?

**Scientific Committee**

M. Achouche (Bejaia), P. Adair (Paris Est Créteil, France), J. Ait-Soudane (Rabat, Maroc), A. Belkacem Nacer (ENSSEA, Alger), R. Boudjema (ENSSEA, Alger), Y. Bellache (Bejaia), C. Bounoua (Tlemcen), O. Babou (Tizi-ouzou), M. Bouznit (Bejaia), S. Boumoula (Bejaia), M. Boukrif (Bejaia), J. Charmes (IRD), [D. Coletto](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Diego_Coletto) (GliStudi di Milano-Bicocca- Italie), H. Gherbi (Bejaia), F. Kern (Strasbourg, France), M. Kertous (Brest, France), M. Lassassi (CREAD), D. Musette (CREAD), M. Musette (CREAD), A. Mouhoubi (Bejaia), K. Oukaci (Bejaia), A. Souag (Mascara), F. Talahite (CRESPPA-CNRS, France), A.Tansel (Ankara, Turquie), H. Zidouni (ONS).

**Steering Committee**

M. Amghar, O. Amir, M. Aroun, A. Alilat, M. Azougui, L. Berkouk, B. Bekka, T. Benmouhoub, B. Gana, I. Hammache, N. Imadaly, S. Kaci, R. Medjmedj, M. Mahmoudi, D. Rézki, H. Touati, H. ZidelKhil, R. Zidat.

**Schedule**

Deadline for submission of communication proposals: **January 31, 2020**

Date of the Scientific Committee Decision: **28 February 2020**

Registration deadline: **April 28, 2020**

Deadline for sending the full paper: **28 April 2020**

Deadline for sending the final program of the conference: **May 28, 2020**

Beginning of the conference: **May 15, 2020**

Proposals should be submitted no later than **31 January 2020** in a two-page Word document containing the following information:

• An abstract of **1000 words** (including title, text, list of keywords and five major references).

• Name and surname of the author and co-author (s) of the communication, professional status, contact details (Email, mobile phone), institutional affiliation.

• Abstracts should be submitted in English, French or Arabic.

• Communication can be presented in English, French or Arabic.

Abstracts will be assessed by the Scientific Committee. Authors whose abstract is selected should submit their full paper (8,000 words maximum and 16 single spaced pages)no later than **April 28, 2020**.

After the conference, a selection of papers will be proposed for publication in *Cahiers du CREAD* or in an Anglo-Saxon journal (e.g. *European Journal of Comparative Economics*, *European Journal of Development Economics* or *Middle East Development Journal*).

**Overview of the wilaya of Bejaia**

The wilaya of Bejaia is located in the North East of Algeria, in the region of Kabylie on its Mediterranean coast. It gave its name to candles. It is from Bejaia that Arabic numerals became popular throughout Europe. Bejaia enjoys many natural sites and historical relics, which still bear witness to the splendor of its long history. Its urban fabric is characterized by an uninterrupted continuity of occupation since the highest antiquity. It has a large industrial center, an important port and an international airport.

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**Registration Fees**

Conference registration fees cover documentation, coffee breaks, lunches, dinners and accommodation. These fees are:

• 8000 Algerian dinars (100 Euros) for lecturers and professionals;

• 4000 Algerian dinars (40 Euros) for PhD students.

**Abderrahmane Mira University, Bejaia**

The Faculty of Economics, Business and Management Sciences

In collaboration with the *Laboratory of Economics and Development*

**1st International Conference**

***The informal Economy and Gender Inequalities***

**Aboudaou Campus, June 15th and 16th 2020**

**COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL**

First Name: Name:

Institutional affiliation: Discipline:

**** PhD student **** Lecturer/Researcher **** Other (please mention):

Professional address:

Cellular phone:

Email:

Abstract enclosed hereafter (2 pages and 1,000 words: title, keywords and five major references).

Presentation of the communication in: French **** English **** Arabic ****

Please send back no later than **January 31st 2020** to the following address:

Contact: [informel.genre@gmail.com](mailto:informel.genre@gmail.com)

Tel: +213 55995 4023