

## Saifedean H. Ammous

sha2106@columbia.edu

+961-71-112718

P.O. Box 13-5053; Beirut, Lebanon

---

### EDUCATION

**Columbia University, NY - USA**

2011 **PhD in Sustainable Development**

- One of the world's most selective PhD programs.
- Recipient of Columbia Faculty Fellowship.
- Dissertation: Alternative Energy Science and Policy: Biofuels as a Case Study.
- Advising committee: John Mutter, Tanya Heikkila, Klaus Lackner, Nassim Taleb, & David Nissen.

2007 **MPhil in Sustainable Development**

2006 **MA in Sustainable Development**

**London School of Economics, London - UK**

2004 **MSc in Development Management**

- Recipient of the Mohammad Bin Issa Al Jaber Foundation scholarship to fund LSE studies.
- Winner of the Irfan Ali Mowjee Award.
- Thesis: *The Quest for the Long-term Determinants of Economic Growth*.

**American University of Beirut, Beirut - Lebanon**

2003 **Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering**

### EXPERIENCE

**Lebanese American University, Beirut - Lebanon**

2011-Present **Assistant Professor of Economics**

- Taught Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Development Economics, International Economics.
- Designed & conducted senior seminars on Market Economics, and global financial crisis of 2008.

2013-Present **University Senator**

2013-Present **Chair of Business School Academic Council**

2009-2011 **Lecturer in Economics**

**Columbia University Center on Capitalism & Society, NY - USA**

2012-Present **Foreign Member**

2011 **Visiting Scholar**

- Researched economic dynamics and innovation with Nobel-Prize laureate Edmund Phelps.

**Thabit Economics, Wettingen - Switzerland**

2013-Present **Founder and Principal Consultant**

- Started and operated a private economic research & consultancy boutique.
- Led research & consulting services for various clients covering different socio-economic topics.

**Columbia University Middle East Research Center, Amman - Jordan**

2010-2013 **Lecturer in Economics**

- Designed and taught modules in economics to Jordanian civil servants.

**Columbia University, NY - USA**

2009 **Instructor**

- Created, designed the syllabus, and taught a 3-credit graduate course based on PhD dissertation.

2005-2006 **Head Teaching Assistant for Prof Jeffrey Sachs' Sustainable Development course**

2008-2010 **Member of Biofuels Working Group, headed by Prof Joseph Stiglitz**

**Daily Star Newspaper, Beirut - Lebanon**

2003 **Writer and Reporter**

**Zen TV Channel, Beirut, Lebanon**

2001 **TV Debate Show Host & Producer**

## RESEARCH

*Climate Change, the Knowledge Problem and the Good Life*. With Edmund Phelps. Forthcoming. Journal of Private Enterprise, Spring 2015.

*Economics beyond Financial Intermediation: Digital currencies' potential for growth, poverty alleviation and international development*. Forthcoming. Journal of Private Enterprise, Fall 2015.

*Energy Systems and the Knowledge Problem: The Case of Biofuels*. Center on Capitalism and Society Working Paper 85. April 2014.

*Arab Corporatism*. Chapter 4 in "Corruption and Economic Development". Cairo, Egypt: Economic Research Forum, 2012. Pp.161-190.

*Corporatism, Capitalism and the Arab Spring*. The Center on Capitalism and Society Working Paper No. 73. October 2011.

*Biofuels: Science and Policy in Alternative Energy*. 2010. PhD dissertation manuscript.

*Entrago's Virtual World Currency*. A design and implementation of a virtual currency to monetize and maximize celebrity-fan engagement. July 2013.

*Biofuels Policies and their Impacts*. With Joseph Stiglitz, Robert Howse, and Nazia Habib-Mintz. Initiative for Policy Dialogue's Hewlett project. January 2010.

## MEDIA & PRESS *(Illustrative; Non-Exhaustive List)*

- 2011-2014 Discussed socio-economic affairs on various satellite TV channels, in Arabic and English.  
Jan 2011 **Financial Times**. 'Tunisians set off on road from serfdom' with Edmund Phelps <http://bit.ly/i44202>  
April 2011 **Project Syndicate**. 'And now for an Arab economic revolution' <http://t.co/ayNaicF>  
June 2011 **Financial Times**. 'Too much aid will hobble Arab Spring'. <http://t.co/wwDu3Qj>

## SKILLS

Computer: Proficient in Stata, Mathematica, Matlab, ArcGIS, Simile, MS Office.  
Languages: Fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Arabic and English.  
Standardized test scores: GRE: 800 Quantitative, 620 Verbal. SAT: 720 Math, 590 Verbal.

## OTHER

- 2006-2009 **Arab Student Association –SIPA – Columbia University**
- Founded and served as President of the first Arab Student Association in Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.
  - Organized several successful fundraising, cultural and intellectual events.
- 2009-2015 **Amateur Football player & coach**
- Captain and coach of the Hamra Globetrotters amateur football (soccer) team in Beirut.

## REFERENCES

Edmund Phelps: [esp2@columbia.edu](mailto:esp2@columbia.edu)  
Nassim Nicholas Taleb: [nnt@fooledbyrandomness.com](mailto:nnt@fooledbyrandomness.com)  
Joseph Stiglitz: [jestiglitz@gmail.com](mailto:jestiglitz@gmail.com)  
Klaus Lackner: [Klaus.Lackner@asu.edu](mailto:Klaus.Lackner@asu.edu)  
Jeffrey Sachs: [sachs@columbia.edu](mailto:sachs@columbia.edu)  
John Mutter: [jmutter@ei.columbia.edu](mailto:jmutter@ei.columbia.edu)