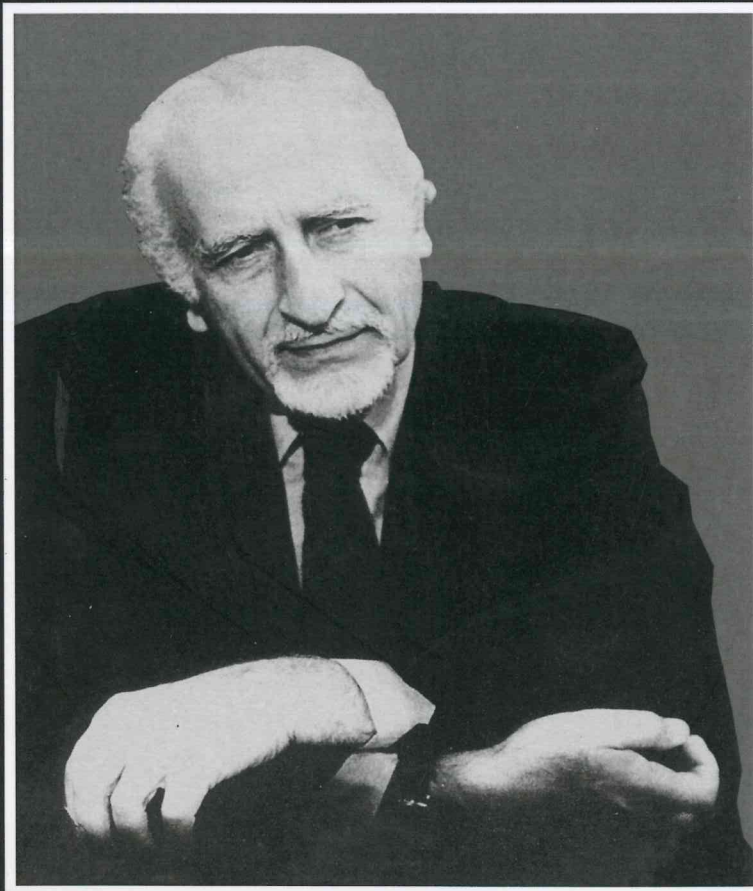




Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)

The Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture

Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture is an educational and advocacy event to commemorate the contribution of Professor Yusuf Sayigh to Palestinian development studies. The Lecture is organized by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)



The YSDL for this year is funded by



Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute, or Ma'had Abhath As-Syasad Al-Iqtisadiya Al-Filastini (MAS), is an autonomous Palestinian research institute dedicated to producing sound and innovative policy research, relevant to the economic and social development in Palestine.

Founded in June 1994, MAS started working from its East Jerusalem-based headquarters. However, restrictions on access and other constraints by the Israeli occupation forced MAS to relocate in 1996 to rented premises in Ramallah, and in 2010 it moved to its current owned premises in Al-Masyoun neighborhood in Ramallah, built with the help of a grant from the Korean Government.

MAS is governed by a Board of Trustees enjoying autonomous legal and financial status and consisting of prominent public personalities who are appointed through an internal process for replacing outgoing members after a term of three years that may be renewed only twice. The Board is non-partisan, non-sectarian with no ideological affiliation and is responsible for ratifying MAS's policies, regulations, and organizational structure as well as for reviewing and approving its annual research plan and budget.

JAWWAL

Since its establishment in 1999, Jawwal has provided the Palestinian public with efficient and high-quality services, striving to maintain its position as the first cellular service-provider in the Palestinian market.

Jawwal believes that Palestinian economic development should respond to the needs of all segments of the society. The company itself is a supporter and patron of the youth, children, sports and culture of Palestine.

Despite the obstacles imposed by the Israeli occupation upon the Palestinian telecommunications sector in general, Jawwal is determined to provide the best possible services to its subscribers.



معهد أبحاث السياسات الاقتصادية الفلسطيني (ماس)
Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)

The Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture

Yusuf A. Sayigh (1916-2004) was the foremost Palestinian development economist of his generation, a scholar and patriot whose critical mind was devoted to the cause of his people. Professor Yusuf Sayigh pioneered research on Arab economic integration and on prospects for sustained Palestinian development that paved the way for these issues to become disciplines in themselves. In his role as member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee and in establishing its strategic and economic planning capacities, he was noted for his intellectual independence and principled positions. Professor Sayigh's tireless work in leading the preparation of the PLO's Palestinian Development Program (PDP), published in 1993, crowned his professional career and national role.

Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) is dedicated to producing high-quality economic research and analysis on Palestinian development policy issues. MAS research aims to contribute to both enhanced economic policymaking as well as greater public awareness of the multifaceted nature of the Palestinian "development problématique". Professor Sayigh was a member of the first Board of Trustees of MAS.

In the tradition of our institution and in tribute to the intellectual and national contribution of Professor Yusuf Sayigh, in 2009 MAS launched the "Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture", intended as an annual public address delivered in Palestine by eminent scholars, policy-makers and development practitioners from around the world and the region.

The Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture is envisaged as an institutionalized educational and advocacy exercise to commemorate the contribution of Professor Yusuf Sayigh to Palestinian development studies.

The Inaugural 2009 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was organized jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The distinguished Lecturer Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the United Nations, a prominent development economist and advocate, spoke on "**Development Strategy Lessons from the Global Economic Crisis**".

The 2010 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by the eminent lecturer Prof. Mushtaq Khan, Lecturer of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, who spoke on "**Post-Oslo State Building Strategies and their Limitations**".

The 2011 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by the eminent lecturer Prof. Issam Shahrour, Lecturer in Civil and Urban Engineering at the University of Science and Technology of Lille, France. Prof. Shahrour lecture was "**Knowledge Society: Challenges and Opportunities for Economic and Territorial Development- Role of Higher Education and Research Institutions**".

The 2012 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Dr. George Abed, Senior Counselor and Director for Africa and the Middle East at Institute of International Finance-Washington DC, titled "**The Political Economy of Change in the Arab World**".

The 2013 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Prof. Robert Wade, Professor of Political Economy and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science, titled "**New Industrial Policy: the Entrepreneurial State as a Complement to Private Entrepreneurs**".

The 2014 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Prof. Matthias Weiter, Professor of Development Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, titled "**A Three-Level-Model of Societal Change- to Analyse and Design Societal Change Processes**".

The 2015 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Prof. Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, titled "**Trade Agreements and Their Impact on the Development Project**".

The 2016 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Prof. Atif Kubursi, Professor of Economics at McMaster University- Canada, titled "**Why has Arab Development been so Elusive**".

The 2017 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture was delivered by Prof. Heiner Flassbeck, University of Hamburg, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), titled "**Economic Policy in the New Age of Liberalism – Radical Rethinking is Unavoidable**".

The 2018 Yusuf A. Sayigh Development Lecture will be delivered by Prof. Erik S. Reinert, Professor of Technology Governance and Development Strategies at Tallinn University of Technology- Estonia, and founder and chairman of the "Other Canon Foundation", titled "**Post-Cold War Economics: Redefining International Trade Theory and Economic Development**".



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Yusuf Abdallah Sayigh Biography

Yusuf Sayigh was born in 1916 in Al-Bassa, in the Palestinian Galilee and he lived and worked in Palestine from 1925 until the Nakba in 1948. He received his Bachelors in Business Administration in 1937 and his Masters in Economics from the American University in Beirut (AUB) and his PhD in Political Economy in 1957 from Johns Hopkins University.

While working in Jerusalem in 1946, Professor Sayigh authored a monograph on "Arab Land Hunger in Palestine", which was included in the Report submitted to the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry by the Arab Office. In it he devised an original system for evaluating land. In the final year before the Nakba he was appointed Director of the Beit al-Mal (National Treasury), where he worked out an ingenious taxation system combining poll and income taxes.

Upon his return to the AUB he became Professor of Economics from 1957 to 1974 and during that period was a visiting scholar at Harvard, Princeton and Oxford Universities. He subsequently acted as a consultant to a number of economic organizations such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Arab Oil Producing Countries (OAPEC), the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Oxford Energy Centre, among others.

Yusuf Sayigh was a lifetime member of the Palestinian National Council since the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1964 and was elected as member of its Executive Committee from 1968-1969. He established the PLO Planning Centre and was its first Director, from 1968-1971. He subsequently was president of the PLO's Palestinian National Fund and member of its Executive Committee from 1971-1974. From 1990-1993, Professor Sayigh assembled, supervised and led the PLO team of economists and other experts who prepared the Palestinian Development Programme that was designed to guide the construction of a new Palestinian economy. He was also a founding member of the Centre for Arab Unity Studies, the Arab Thought Forum and the Economic Research Forum.

Professor Sayigh's writings focused on the challenges of development in Third World countries and in the Arab world in particular. He wrote about the oil economies and the prospects for Arab economic integration among other things. In addition to over 70 scholarly articles in English and Arabic, Professor Sayigh published 28 books, and is most remembered for ground-breaking contributions such as:

- ✧ The Economic Impact of the Arab Refugee Problem on Lebanon, Syria and Jordan (1955)
- ✧ The Israeli Economy (1963 and 1966, in Arabic)
- ✧ Entrepreneurs of Lebanon: The Role of the Business Leader in a Developing Economy (1962)
- ✧ The Economies of the Arab World (1978)
- ✧ The Determinants of Arab economic Development (1978)
- ✧ Arab Oil and the Palestine Question in the 1980s (1981, in Arabic)
- ✧ The Arab Economy: Past Performance and Future Prospects (1982)
- ✧ Arab Oil Policies in the 1970s (1983)
- ✧ The Economic Underpinnings of an Independent Palestinian State (1991, in Arabic) and
- ✧ Elusive Development: From Dependence to Self-reliance in the Arab Region (1991)



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The Yusuf Sayigh Development Lecture 2018

" Post-Cold War Economics: Redefining International Trade Theory and Economic Development"

Delivered by

Prof. Erik Reinert

Professor of Technology Governance and Development Strategies,

Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Abstract

Economist and historian Ibn-Khaldun (1332-1406) is deservedly famous for his long-term cyclical theories of history. This lecture postulates a similar cycle in economic theory and ideology, specifically looking at the relationship between international trade and economic development. It is argued that the 2016 election of Donald Trump represents an ideological shift at the core of the world economy similar to previous shifts, and that this shift creates a window of opportunity for the poorer parts of the world.

Our understanding of the importance of manufacturing industry for development – for the ‘wealth of cities’ – dates back to Italian economists Giovanni Botero (1589) and Antonio Serra (1613). David Ricardo’s theory of comparative advantage (1817) contradicted the importance of industry, but in the revolutionary year 1848 Ricardo’s theory was refuted along the whole political axis, including by liberalist John Stuart Mill who emphasized the need for ‘infant industry protection’.

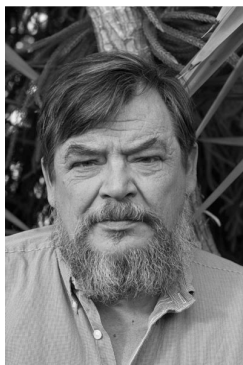
Facing a communist threat to an impoverished Germany after WW II the 1947 Marshall Plan re-industrialized Europe, again refuting David Ricardo. At the very core of the Marshall Plan was a profound understanding of the relationship between a nation’s economic structure and its carrying capacity in terms of population density. We argue that it is necessary to rediscover this theoretical understanding now, above all in the interest of the Middle East and Africa, but indirectly also in the interest of Europe.

We can observe, then, that the theoretical link between economic structure and economic development has been cyclically discovered and unlearned: Good times in the core economies create abstract theories producing ‘free trade imperialism’, while weakening hegemony again rediscovers protectionism. During the Cold War, David Ricardo’s trade theory – which already was well over 100 years old – achieved an unprecedented ideological importance. In the historical pattern Trump’s rediscovery of protectionism fits well with England’s rediscovery of protectionism in the first part of the 20th century.

In 1947, a possible communist takeover of Germany was a threat big enough for the West to temporarily abandon free-trade imperialism. The threat now is the 821 million people worldwide who were undernourished in 2017 according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Migration cannot solve their problems. Industrialization and economic diversification can.



Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)



Prof. Erik S. Reinert

Professor of Technology Governance and Development Strategies at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Prof. Reinert is a Norwegian Economist born in 1949. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from St. Gallen University in Switzerland, a Master's degree in Business Administration from Harvard University, and a PhD in Economics from Cornell University in New York. He is a Professor of Technology Governance and Development Strategies at Tallinn University of Technology, and the Founder and Chairman of the “Other Canon Foundation”, a network for heterodox economic research.

Prof. Reinert’s research interests and publications focus around the theory of uneven development, the history of economic thought and policy, and the role of the state in economic development. His writings are characterized by a critique of mainstream and classical economic theories, and they have aroused much debate.

His book, “How Rich Countries Got Rich, and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor”, published in 2007, received much attention in economic and academic circles, especially at a time when the global economic crisis was unfolding. The book has been translated into more than 20 languages and won the Myrdal Prize in economics and the Norwegian Selvaag Prize, both in 2008. Despite the attention, the book remains controversial.

Contrary to the dictum of the dominant neo-classical economic theory, the book shows how rich countries developed through a combination of government intervention, protectionism, and strategic investment rather than through free trade. In this context, Dr. Reinert writes: “when our leaders lecture poor countries on the right path to riches they do so in almost perfect ignorance of the fact that our economies were founded on protectionism long before they could afford the luxury of free trade”. In the same context, Dr. Reinert argues how self-regulating markets (free market economy) are not the answer for a more prosperous world.

Even a review of the orthodox economic outlook of the Daily Telegraph concurred that, “the neo-liberal 'Washington Consensus' that prevails today in the World Bank, the IMF and the US State Department ignores history and tells agrarian Third World states they must give way to trade liberalisation, deregulation and unrestricted inward investment, and that they can prosper simply by making themselves efficient at selling their natural resources and produce at world market prices”. All this, says Dr. Reinert, is based on willfully unrealistic economic assumptions and to a great degree of rich-world self-interest, whose effect is to keep poor countries poor and uncompetitive, and to widen the divide between “them and us”.



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Yusuf Sayigh's Contribution to Arab Economic Integration

Leila Farsakh¹

Yusuf Sayigh was a classical development economist and one who was profoundly Arab nationalist. Already in 1961, he wrote that development is not just about wealth or growth but about having a “better distribution of income and increased welfare for the masses”. Only then, he continued, “can such a society be said to have achieved development in a full sense of involving both economic and social progress...the content of development is social, political and technological as well as economic”. Sayigh saw development as both an individual quest and a collective/national project of economic and social empowerment. It is about social justice and redistribution of wealth, but in much more comprehensive terms than what is meant today by the “trickle-down effect of growth”.

Sayigh was concerned with sustainable or, what was then called, balanced growth. At a time when development economists such as W.W. Rostow and others were stressing the importance of industrial growth in developing countries, Sayigh was emphasizing the importance of developing agriculture. Like Arthur W. Lewis before him, he argued that agriculture played a central role not just in providing food to the population but also in channeling savings and inputs to industry. Above all, agricultural growth was central to distributing wealth to the poor and thus creating a more equitable and just society. He had no qualms about advocating land reform and argued against relying merely on market forces to induce agricultural productivity and welfare. His writings on the Arab oil economies in the 1970s focused on the necessity of integrated development between the various sectors of the economy, or investing oil revenues in developing the industrial and manpower sectors in these countries. He lamented the failure of Arab oil producing countries to diversify their economic production, to create a productive- rather than consumerist-labor force, and to invest in the economic complementarity of their neighboring Arab countries. He predicted the ephemeral (short-lived) growth in Arab oil producing countries would be a result of their over reliance on oil price fluctuations and their accumulation of financial capital, that ended up mostly being invested in the West rather than in Arab land.

When it came to defining the means to achieve development, Sayigh was an advocate of state led development. Like most of development thinkers in the 1950s and 1960s, he believed that the market cannot create sustainable equitable growth on its own. Sayigh was conscious of the specific challenges that the Developing World faced as late industrializers, as they faced stronger international competition than their predecessors. Sayigh also argued that developing nations faced more difficult domestic problems, ranging from the resistance of traditional leadership to change, to fast population growth rates and strong popular demands for income redistribution. These conflicting demands were not easily reconcilable through the market.

Coming from a developing country, Sayigh saw a key role for nationalism, as an ideology and as a policy, in bringing about sustainable development. While aware that state led development can go wrong, since it can foster clientelism and inefficiencies, he believed that a responsible and accountable national leadership would prevent corruption and ensure that development would be sustainable and equitable. Development could not be dissociated from democracy in his view, for it necessitated the existence of a vibrant responsible opposition force. His idealism and hopes of the 1960s were dashed by the failures of oil producing states' leaders of the 1970s, namely their lack of vision for falling in the trap of becoming rentier economies, despite all their nationalism. He also lamented the limits put on popular participation in decision making process, which he thought prevented people from holding their leadership accountable to their promises of development.

¹ Adapted from "Development and Occupation: Revisiting Palestinian Economy in Light of Yusuf Sayigh's Legacy", in Michael Hudson (ed.), *Palestine and the Palestinians Today*, (London: Routledge, forthcoming 2010)

In describing the book and the writer, the Financial Times says that Dr. Reinert, “is fighting an intellectual war with neo-classical economics, the academic orthodoxy since the 19th Century”. “And unlike much of the writing produced by opponents of contemporary globalisation, [it is] a serious book by a serious writer that deserves to be read”.

Dr. Reinert has been a visiting professor at various universities, among them the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (several times), the Ural Federal University, Ekaterinburg, Russia and the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 2012, Dr. Reinert held the Tun Ismail Ali Distinguished Chair at the National University of Malaysia (UKM), Kuala Lumpur. In Norway he has worked with the Sámi ethnic minority, teaching at Sámi University College in Kautokeino.



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Yusuf Sayigh's Contribution to Palestinian Development Economics

Raja Khalidi

Among his many contributions to Palestinian development thought, two specific concepts are especially notable in Yusuf Sayigh's work on the subject. In both cases, his elaboration of the basic truths about the relation between development, sovereignty and freedom are relevant to any people, with or without a state, struggling to develop a vision of economic self-determination in an increasingly open and interdependent global economy. And in the Palestinian context they have endured the test of time and actual experiences since then.

Professor Sayigh's first in-depth analysis of the Palestinian economy under occupation was published in the mid-1980s. He had already distinguished himself with his dogged insistence that development was incompatible with foreign occupation: in his words, "prolonged occupation provides a hostile terrain for development". While economic growth may have been witnessed under Israeli occupation since 1967, Sayigh was one of the few observers at the time to point out that this did not add up to development. In those years, when some Palestinian economists and NGOs believed that there might be room for "Development under Occupation", Sayigh was not convinced. For him, developmental resistance and steadfastness (*soumoud*) was a better, and the only feasible, economic policy goal in the absence of national sovereignty. "It is a futile exercise to speculate whether self-reliant development can be achieved in the Occupied Territory Only after the disappearance of the occupation can nationally conceived and designed, well-integrated and energetic development be sought and pursued with a degree of hope".¹

Unfortunately, this wisdom was not translated into a concrete economic vision and policy in Palestine after signing of the 1993 accords between the PLO and Israel. Instead, too many policy-makers, economists and international institutions chose to ignore the obvious and simple lesson of the preceding two decades of occupation. They pursued shaky concepts and frameworks for managing development under occupation and more recently, "reform" of pre-State institutions in conditions of prolonged conflict. By then, Sayigh had completed his greatest achievement, the preparation of the PLO's "Programme to Develop the Palestinian Economy 1994-2000". This ambitious and vast undertaking, which only somebody of his intellectual and national credentials could lead, was the original PDP. The PDP has been replicated in name only by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in subsequent years under different wording, from the Palestinian Development Plan (PDP) of the mid-1990s to the more recent Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP). Unlike these latter-day PDPs, which largely aimed to match PNA funding needs with donor-driven reconstruction priorities, the original PDP expressed a strategic national vision with coherent sectoral programmes- a statement of economic principles and practices directly relevant to the needs of an economy emerging from prolonged occupation.

Among its distinctive features, the original PDP upheld the intellectual tradition already established by Professor Sayigh, as well as the basic political truths he had already enunciated. As a corollary of his earlier vision about occupation and development, Sayigh sought to identify the underpinnings and principles for economic viability, or as he termed them, the "muqawwamat" (fundamentals) of Palestinian

¹ "Dispossession and pauperization: the Palestinian economy under occupation" in Abed, G. (ed), *The Palestinian economy: studies in development under prolonged occupation*, (New York, Routledge, 1988) pp. 279-280.

development. Here again he left no room for confusion: despite the "interim self-governing arrangements" bequeathed by the Oslo Accords, only through achieving sovereignty would viable and sustainable development prospects emerge for Palestine. And until then, only a national programme and a heterodox economic restructuring and reconstruction policy could hope to steer the economy towards sovereignty and development. This vision, so evident and yet neglected in the 20-odd years since it was elaborated, is Yusuf Sayigh's enduring legacy in the arena of Palestinian economic development thought. Through the years of "self-government" prior to the Al Aqsa Intifada as well as those since of tentative preparations for statehood, his most important lesson still awaits recognition.