

Call for Paper: Cooperatives as a Potential Pathway Beyond Neoliberalism

How has the neoliberal transformation in MENA affected cooperatives' structural and ideological frameworks? And to what extent could we think of the revival of the cooperatives' egalitarian origins as a part of an alternative to neoliberal capitalism?

This series aims to investigate the status of the Middle Eastern and North African cooperative sectors in terms of their role and their share in the economies of MENA countries.

The main themes of the series are:

- Examining the historical and present status of cooperative sectors across the MENA region and their relations to both the state and the market. The aim is to clarify the differences and similarities between the pre-and post-neoliberal eras in terms of legal regulation, ideological frameworks, effectiveness, and the independence of the cooperative sector.
- Extensive investigation of the neoliberal-oriented cooperatives in MENA since the neoliberal transformation in the 1970s and 1980s. This theme extends to analyzing the role of international institutions that provide funds and support for profit-oriented cooperatives. The purpose is to end up with a coherent conception of the outcomes of these neoliberal cooperatives and the limits of their ability to achieve equality and empowerment of marginalized people within society.
- Success stories: Monitoring and evaluating successful cooperatives that either achieved the original cooperative values and goals of equality, empowerment, and collective solidarity or achieved specific economic development goals (e.g. integrating the informal sector into the formal economy through cooperatives). The criteria for evaluating the success of cooperatives here is the extent to which cooperatives could meet the

economic and social needs of their members, achieve equality between members within the cooperative and in society as a whole, and cooperate with other cooperatives to promote a more equitable model of accumulation.

The series will consist of several case studies from the Middle East and North Africa. Case studies could be determined on national bases, cooperative sector bases, or specific cooperative organizations with experiences worth extensive investigation. We are also open to tackling more than one case in each study or even studies that cut across the whole of MENA or sub-regions within it. It is preferred that the selected researchers have appropriate experience in the sectors and countries on which they will work.

Application Criteria:

- It is a paid opportunity and your paper will be featured on our various online platforms as well as a chance to be featured in workshops, conferences or roundtables organized by the project.
- An abstract of 300-500 words about the proposed paper including the case of study, main questions, methodology, and the data collecting instruments, **Deadline: February 28, 2024.**
- The final paper is within the range of 5000-7000 words (including footnotes and citations) , **Deadline: June 15, 2024.**
- All submissions must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx), adhere to the Chicago Manual Style.
- Please direct your briefs, resume and writing samples to pathways@aucegypt.edu , and send us any questions you might have on our email.
- You can read more about the “Pathways from Neoliberalism:Voices from MENA” project on our [webpage](#).