

Eslam Alaa ElBahlawan

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Personal Summary

Dr. Eslam ElBahlawan is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (2025–2027) at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. He earned his PhD in Cultural and Social Anthropology from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, and also holds an MA in Economics from Tanta University, Egypt, as well as MA in development economics from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar, and MPhil in Economic Sociology and Labour Studies from the University of Milan. His research examines Islamic devotional practices, transnational Sufism, and Middle Eastern diasporas, focusing on the intersections of digital humanities, material culture, and religious life. His current MSCA-funded project, MULID: Multi-disciplinary Understanding of Legacy and Influence of Devotions, investigates the enduring legacy of Sufism through mulid celebrations in Egypt, exploring how these rituals shape religious authority, cultural memory, and community identity across local and global contexts.

Areas of Interest: Cultural and Social Anthropology, Islamic Studies, Migration Studies, Religious Studies, Development Studies.

Research Experience

- **Postdoctoral Fellowship (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions 2024):** Grant Agreement no. 101210680. At the Islamic Studies chair, University of Bayreuth, Bavaria, Germany. Project Title: Multi-disciplinary Understanding of Legacy and Influence of Devotions (MULID) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101210680>
- **Consultant** at International Organization for Migration IOM, IOM Cairo, Egypt, in The Counter Trafficking Team of the protection division (April 2022 - February 2023).
- **Researcher** at The Aging African in Diasporas project (TAAD), “Riccardo Massa” Department of Human Sciences for Education of the University of Milan-Bicocca, (August 2020-December 2022).
- **Graduate Researcher** at Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies (NASP), University State of Milan, Italy, (October 2017 – November 2018).
- **Research Assistant** at Development Economics, *Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Doha, Qatar* (October 2015 – July 2017).
- **Research & Development Manager** at *International Integrated Systems*, Alexandria–Suez branch – Cairo branch (July 2014 – June 2015).
- **Economic Analyst** at *International trade office group (ITOG)* Alexandria head office (January 2014 – June 2014).
- **Marketing Director** at *Gothica Company*, Egypt, (June 2011– June 2013).

Teaching Experience

- **Lecturer** at Department of Sociology and Social Research- *University of Milano-Bicocca*. Course *Demography and Tourism* (February 2024- September 2024).
- **Visiting Scholar** at *Institute for African Studies, Bayreuth University, Germany* (October 2022 – February 2023).

- **Teaching assistant** at Development Economics, *Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Doha*, Course Labour Economics (Fall 2017).
- **Lecturer** at *The Higher Institute for Commercial Studies (HICS)*, Al-Mahalla Al-Koubra, Egypt. Courses Macroeconomics & Microeconomics (2012- 2015).

Education

- **Università degli studi di Milano-Bicocca- Milan- Italy**
PhD in *Cultural and Social Anthropology*, "*Riccardo Massa*" Department of Human Sciences for Education, Cohort 35, Milan, Italy (November 2019- December 2023).
Thesis: "Everyday Life in a City of Diversity: Egyptian Minority in Milan between Religion and Materiality".
- **Università degli studi di Milano – Milan- Italy**
MPhil, Former PhD in *Economic Sociology and Labour Studies (ESLS)* program, The Graduate School in Social and Political Science, Milan, Italy (October 2017- November 2018).
- **Doha Institute for Graduate Studies- Doha - Qatar**
Master of Arts in *Development Economics*, School of Public Administration and Economic Development. Doha, Qatar (2015– 2017).
- **University of Tanta – Tanta - Egypt**
 - Pre-master in *economics*, Economics Department, Faculty of Commerce (2011-2013).
 - Pg. Diploma in *Banking Studies*, Economics Department (2009-2010).
 - B.Sc. of *Commerce*, Accounting Department, Faculty of Commerce (2004- 2008).

Conferences & Workshops presentations

- **2025-June:** 4th International Forum on Migration Statistics- IFMS 2025- OECD & IOM, Malmö, Sweden, "Measuring irregular migration Panel.
- **2025-February:** Migration Working Group meeting at The CERC in Migration and Integration- Toronto Metropolitan University. Presented: "Embodied faith: Material religion and Egyptian diaspora in Milan".
- **2024- September** 20th International Conference of MEEA, Istanbul Topkapı University.
- **2024-July, EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology**, P192, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
- **2022-October** *Islam, Deportation and Return*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany.
- **2018-May** at the *1st International Academic Conference on Economics and Business, the Lebanese University*, Beirut, Lebanon.
- **2017-May** at *Middle East Economic Association 16th Conference* Ankara, Turkey.
- **2016-July** the *Economic Research Forum (ERF)* training workshop "Applied Micro-Econometrics and Public Policy Evaluation" Cairo, Egypt.
- **2016-June** the International student case competition *IFAMA Conference* Aarhus, Denmark.
- **2016-March** the *Middle East Economic Association 15th Conference* Doha, Qatar.
- **2009-MAR** workshop (Building foundations and institutions) made by *International*

Republic Institute in Amman, Jordan.

Publications

Published:

- Peer-reviews Journal articles
 - **2025** Religious Recognition and Policy Dilemmas: Everyday Life of the Egyptian Diaspora in Milan - with Mawa Mohamed. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and policies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2025.25>
 - **2024**- with Scaglioni, Marta. The Egyptian community in Milan: ideas of home and care. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 14(1) 136-150. <https://doi.org/10.1086/729928>
 - **2018**- The economic impact of immigration on the host countries: The case of Saudi-Arabia (with A. Al-Maadeed). *Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies, electronic journal* 20(1), 69- 83, *Middle East Economic Association and Loyola University Chicago*, from <https://ecommons.luc.edu/meea/261/>
 - **2018**- How Cognitive Aspects of Potential Entrepreneurs Response to the Political Fluctuations and Economic Crisis in Egypt. *Review of Economics and Business Administration*, (2018) 2(2), 289-318. Retrieved from <https://www.ul.edu.lb/faculte/research.aspx?facultyId=11>
 - **(Accepted- 2025)** Embodied Faith: Material Religion and Egyptian Muslim Diaspora in Milan, with Mawa Mohamed. *Journal of Contemporary Islam*.
- Book Chapters:
 - **2024** - An In-depth Analysis of Women's Social Solidarity in Abu-Shouk IDP Camp Darfur. With Dr. Mawa Mohamed & Leila Omar. Book: *Global Insights on Women Empowerment and Leadership*". Book Editor: Malika Haoucha. **IGI-Global**. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3693-2806-4.ch007>
- Reports:
 - **2023**- Searching for a Better life: Irregular migration in the centre Mediterranean route. Research project. *International Organization for Migration (IOM Egypt)*.
 - **2022**- Ageing and well-being within the African Communities in Milan: Quantitative Analysis by Measuring the Well-Being Index. *The Aging African Diaspora Project (TAAD)*. University of Milano-Bicocca. <https://taad.it/>.
 - **2022**- Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Human Mobility in Egypt. (November 2022- COP 27). Technical Report. *International Organization for Migration (IOM Egypt)*.
- Thesis:20-12-2023 "Everyday Life in a City of Diversity: Egyptian Minority in Milan between Religion and Materiality". University of Milano-Bicocca.
<https://www.boa.unimib.it/handle/10281/455339>
- Reviews:
 - **2025**- *Journal of Social Encounters*. (9)1. Review Essay: Ibn Khaldun on Sufism
An Analysis of "The Requirements of the Sufi Path: A Defense of the Mystical Tradition

Work in Progress:

- The Material Religion Aspects of Egyptian Coptic Christians in Italy.
- Assessing the Effect of Corruption in Education Sector on Earnings; Evidence from MENA region.

- Return Migration in Egypt and the Relationship between Educational and Labour Market Success.

Editorial Board and membership:

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- Serving as associate editor on the editorial board of *International Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies (IJCIS)*, ISSN: 2998-0658 | EISSN: 2998-0666, IGI Global.
 - Member at The European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).
 - Special Guest Editor the Journal of Social Encounters (ISSN: 2995-2212) Issue Spring 2026.

Extra-Curricular-Activities

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- Native Language: *Arabic (Egyptian- MSA)*, *English*: Excellent, *Italian*: Basics.
 - Software and Statistical programs (STATA, SPSS, E-Views, Atlas, Office365)
 - Field experience: Italy; Egypt; Germany; Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

Fellowships, and Grants:

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- 2024 HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF action, grant agreement no. 101210680.
 - 2022 Irregular Migration routes. IOM Egypt (10,000\$). Cairo, Egypt.
 - 2021 The Aging African in Diaspora (TAAD), (€8,000), Milano-Bicocca
 - 2017 Milan University PhD Scholarship for two academic years (€16,000).
 - 2015 Doha Institute for Graduate Studies two years Master Scholarship.
 - 2017 fellowship from *16th Middle East Economic Association and TED University in Turkey*.
 - 2016 IFAMA conference (Student Case Competition) grant from Doha Institute (2000\$).