

The public defence of the Ph.D in Economic Sciences of Eltalla Abdl-Hakeem will take place on **Monday November 22** at 5 pm on the Etterbeek-campus of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels, in Building E, level 0, room 12.

The Ph.D thesis is called 'Essays on the Palestinian Economy'. Promoter: Prof. dr. Luc Hens.

### **Essays on the Palestinian Economy**

Since the Oslo Accords in 1993, the Palestinian economy of the West Bank and Gaza has developed more slowly than the economy of its neighbors. This research reviews the economic performance since the start of the occupation in 1967 and argues that the economic and political environment during the occupation caused severe economic distortions. To study the effects of the distortions, we constructed a computable general equilibrium model of the Palestinian economy that is based on the IFPRI's standard computable general equilibrium model, and we updated the World Bank 1998 social accounting matrix of Palestine. The study addresses these issues: the role of transaction costs that result from the closures regime, the effects of foreign aid (in particular aid to help reconstruct Gaza after the 2008-2009 war), and the possible effects of a devaluation of a hypothetical Palestinian currency and a new monetary arrangement for Palestine. (EconLit D580, F140, F510, O530)