

Mehdi el Harrak
Phd Cadidate at the Sorbonne Law School

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Subject of Thesis: **The offset agreements in an international trade context** under the direction of Professor François Ameli.

Current Research

Nowadays governments nearly always require foreign companies to sign an offset contract as a condition for signing a public procurement contract in the country concerned. The aim is to compensate for the resulting loss of activity for the national economy when a public procurement contract is awarded to a foreign company by obliging that company to invest in the buying country. In practice this investment can be a transfer of the technology used to manufacture the product being sold and/or localized manufacturing of the product in the buying country. This is what is known as direct offset since there is a direct link with the public procurement contract. Investment can also benefit the national economy without having any link to the public procurement contract; in this case we talk about indirect offset. The logic behind these contracts is a form of indirect taxation which benefits the development of the buying country. Offsets are imposed by the buying country which validates correct performance of the offset contract as regards the expected benefit for the national economy.

During my PhD, I work within the offset department of AREVA.

I am currently investigating the contentious legal relationships between government procurement and the related offset contracts.

Research ambition

My plans include national development of the purchasing country, technology transfer, localisation and new legal solutions.

Education and Qualification

Since November 2013	PhD Candidate	Sorbonne Law School
2011 – 2012	Master 2, International and Comparative Law of Arab countries	Sorbonne Law School
2011 – 2012	Master of Law (LLM, Business Law of Arab countries)	University Paris 2 Panthéon ASSAS
2010 – 2011	Master of Law, private law	University Paris 2 Panthéon ASSAS
2007 – 2010	Bachelor in Law	University Paris 2 Panthéon ASSAS

Publication

el Harrak (M), Sylvain (C), “Free trade agreements and offset”, International Business Law Journal, Thomson Reuters, 2015, n°5

Conferences

- Speaker for The Chair for Ethics and Financial Norms (Wednesday 4th November 2015)
- Speaker during the ECCO Symposium # 11 in London (Thursday 19th November 2015)

Teaching experience

- Lecturer at the Countertrade & Offset Academy (ESSEC Business School) since 2015 and at Business France.
- Teaching Assistant in International Public Law at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) of SciencesPo Paris since 2015.

Work experience

Areva Offset Department (PhD Contract) since January 2014

Internships

- SCP Le Foyer de Costil (Law firm) – September, October and November 2010
- Institut des Hautes Etudes sur la Justice (IHEJ) – from December 2012 to April 2013

Membership

European Club for Countertrade & Offset (ECCO):

- Deputy General Secretary since April 2013;
- Member of the World Bank Committee; and
- Member of the Editorial Committee.