

CALVERT W. JONES

University of Maryland
Dept. of Government and Politics
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Academic Employment

University of Maryland, College Park, 2015 – the present

Associate Professor, Department of Government and Politics (2021 – the present)
Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Politics (2015-2021)

The City College of New York (CUNY), 2013 - 2015

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

Education

Yale University

May 2013

Ph.D. in Political Science

Dissertation Title: "Bedouins into Bourgeois? Social Engineering for a Market Economy in the UAE"
Committee: Ellen Lust (Chair), James Scott, Thad Dunning

Yale University

May 2011

M.A. and M.Phil. in Political Science

Subfield Certifications: Comparative Politics, International Relations, Middle East Politics, Methodology

University of Cambridge

June 2007

M.Phil. in International Relations

M.Phil. Thesis: "Networked Threats to States and Their Weaknesses"
Areas of Focus: International Security, Non-State Actors
Advisor: Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni

University of California, Berkeley

May 2006

M.I.M.S (Two Year Master's Degree in Information Management and Systems)

M.I.M.S. Thesis: "Intelligence Reform: The Logic of Information Sharing"
Areas of Focus: Networked Collaboration, Innovation, Organizational Theory
Advisor: AnnaLee Saxenian

Columbia University (Columbia College)

May 2003

B.A. *cum laude* in Philosophy (Major) and Computer Science (Minor)

Publications

Books

Jones, Calvert W. [*Bedouins into Bourgeois: Remaking Citizens for Globalization*](#). 2017. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Reviewed by [Madawi Al-Rasheed on the Middle East Centre Blog at the London School of Economics \(LSE\)](#), in a Critical Dialogue for *Perspectives on Politics*, and also in outlets such as the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Arabian Studies*, and *Mediterranean Politics*.

Articles (Peer Reviewed)

Jones, Calvert W. Conditionally accepted in 2025. "Authoritarian Reforms and External Legitimacy." *International Organization*.

Jones, Calvert W. and Michael Cowan. 2025. "Pro-Democratic, but Not Anti-Authoritarian? Understanding Ambivalent Attitudes Toward Regimes." *Comparative Political Studies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140251369320>

Jones, Calvert W. and Jocelyn Sage Mitchell. 2025. "Social Desirability and Political Sensitivity: Interviewer Gender Effects on Men in Five Arab Countries." *Public Opinion Quarterly*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfaf016>

Jones, Calvert W. 2024. "Does Interacting with Women Encourage Civic and Prosocial Attitudes? Evidence from Simulated Contact Experiments in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 11(1): 12-26. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2023.15>

Jones, Calvert W. and Jocelyn Sage Mitchell. 2023. "Women Reporters as Experts on Security Affairs in Jordan? Rethinking Gender and Issue Competency Stereotypes." *Mediterranean Politics*. 28(3): 434-462.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2021.1996765>

Jones, Calvert W., Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, and Justin D. Martin. 2021. "Ambivalent Sexism? Shifting Patterns of Gender Bias in Five Arab Countries." *International Studies Quarterly* 65(2): 277-293.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqab007>

Jones, Calvert W. and Teresa M. Bejan. "Reconsidering Tolerance: Insights from Political Theory and Three Experiments." 2021. *British Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 604-623. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123419000279>

Adler, Eric and Calvert W. Jones. "What Do Classicists Think? Perspectives on Politics, Scholarship, and Disciplinary Crisis." 2019. *TAPA* (the flagship journal of the Society for Classical Studies - the largest professional association for scholars of ancient Greece and Rome, similar to APSA for political scientists) 149(2): 89-116. <https://doi.org/10.1353/apa.2019.0019>

Jones, Calvert W. "Adviser to the King: Experts, Rationalization, and Legitimacy." 2019. *World Politics* 71(1): 1-43. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0043887118000217>

Cited in the *New York Times*, including a [front-page article](#), and the [Huffington Post](#).

Jones, Calvert W. and Celia Paris. "It's the End of the World and They Know It: How Dystopian Fiction Shapes Political Attitudes." 2018. *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4): 969-989.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592718002153>

Cited in the [NYT newsletter](#) ("The Interpreter").

Jones, Calvert W. "[New Approaches to Citizen-Building: Shifting Needs, Goals, and Outcomes.](#)" 2018. *Comparative Political Studies* 51(2): 165-196. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414017695335>

Jones, Calvert W. "[Seeing Like an Autocrat: Liberal Social Engineering in an Illiberal State.](#)" 2015. *Perspectives on Politics* 13(1): 24-41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592714003119>

First article in the issue, featured on the cover, and cited in the [Wilson Quarterly](#).

Jones, Calvert W. "[Exploring the Microfoundations of International Community: Toward a Theory of Enlightened Nationalism.](#)" 2014. *International Studies Quarterly* 58(4): 682-705.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/isqu.12115>

Cited in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Times Higher Education*.

Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, Mette and Calvert W. Jones. "[Assessing the Dangers of Illicit Networks: Why al-Qaida May Be Less Dangerous Than Many Think.](#)" 2008. *International Security* 33(2): 7-44. <https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.2008.33.2.7>

Based on my MPhil thesis at the University of Cambridge, cited in the *New Yorker*, and selected for reprint in Brown, Michael E., Owen R. Coté, Sean M. Lynn-Jones, and Steven E. Miller. *Contending with Terrorism: Roots, Strategies, and Responses* (MIT Press, 2010), a specially curated collection of influential papers dealing with terrorism including papers by Max Abrahms, Erica Chenoweth, Audrey Kurth Cronin, Andrew Kydd, Paul Staniland, and Barbara Walter.

Jones, Calvert W. "[Intelligence Reform: The Logic of Information Sharing.](#)" 2007. *Intelligence and National Security* 22(3): 384-401. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02684520701415214>

Included as required reading in a course at the CIA's Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis.

Jones, Calvert W. "[Al Qaeda's Innovative Improvisers: Learning in a Diffuse Transnational Network.](#)" 2006. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 19(4): 555-569. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09557570601003205>

Jones, Calvert W. and Sarai Mitnick. "[Open Source Disaster Recovery: Case Studies of Networked Collaboration.](#)" 2006. *First Monday* 11(5).

Cited in *Science*.

Additional Publications

"[How Dystopian Narratives Can Incite Real-World Radicalism.](#)" 2020. *Aeon* (invited article, with Celia Paris, April 15).

"[All the King's Consultants: The Perils of Advising Authoritarians.](#)" 2019. *Foreign Affairs* 98(3): 145-154. (invited essay for print edition)

[Invited Critical Dialogue and Review of Begüm Adalet, *Hotels and Highways: The Construction of Modernization Theory in Cold War Turkey*](#) (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press). 2019. *Perspectives on Politics*: 17(4): 1121-1126. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S153759271900361X>

"[Shaping a New Emirati Identity.](#)" 2019. Invited digital article for Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale [Italian Institute for International Political Studies, ISPI] within "Identity-Seekers: Nationhood and Nationalism in the Gulf Monarchies" (edited by Eleonora Ardemagni).

"[What Happens When Consultants Work for Authoritarian Regimes.](#)" 2019. *Harvard Business Review* (invited digital article).

"Social Engineering in Rentier States." 2019. *The Politics of Rentier States in the Gulf: POMEPS Studies Series 33*. Project on Middle East Political Science, George Washington University.

"[Dystopian fiction makes people more willing to justify political violence. Should you worry?](#)" 2019. *Washington Post: Monkey Cage*, January 12 (with Celia Paris).

"[There's a frenzy of consultants in the Persian Gulf. Sometimes they do more harm than good.](#)" 2019. *Washington Post*, Op-Ed Section, January 11.

["Can Saudi Arabia's crown prince remake his people?"](#) 2017. *Washington Post*, Outlook Section, B1. December 3.

[Review](#) of Bernard Haykel, Thomas Hegghammer, and Stéphane Lacroix, *Saudi Arabia in Transition: Insights on Social, Political, Economic and Religious Change* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press). 2016. *Perspectives on Politics* 14(1): 251-252.

["The Surprising Effects of Study Abroad."](#) 2015. *Washington Post: Monkey Cage*, August 20.

["To Cheat or Not to Cheat: Evidence on Ethical Decision-Making From a Study of Arab Youth."](#) 2015. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, UAE, Working Paper No. 11.

[Review](#) of Amaney A. Jamal, *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press). 2012. *The Middle East Journal*. 67(2): 326-328.

["A Horse of a Different Color: Exploring Classic Questions in New Ways."](#) 2012. *Newsletter of the American Political Science Association, Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR)* 10(1): 31-36.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.912204>

["Economic, Social, and Political Attitudes in the UAE: A Comparison of Emirati and Non-Emirati Youth in Ras Al Khaimah."](#) 2011. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, UAE, Working Paper No. 01.

"Exploiting Structural Weaknesses in Terrorist Networks: Information Blitzkrieg and Related Strategies." 2009. In *Ideas as Weapons: Influence and Perception in Modern Warfare*, ed. G.J. David, Jr. and T.R. McKeldin III. Washington, DC: Potomac Books.

"Networks Unleashed: Mobile Communications and the Evolution of Networked Organizations." 2007. In *Displacing Place: Mobile Communication in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Sharon Kleinman. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing (with Patricia Wallace).

Conference Papers and Invited Presentations

"Gender and Entrepreneurial Orientations: Evidence from the Gulf." Invited presentation at Yale University, New Haven, CT, scheduled for September 30, 2025.

"Do Modernizing Monarchs Impress? How Reforms Undertaken by Authoritarian Regimes in the Middle East Influence External Legitimacy." Paper selected for presentation at the Second Gulf Studies Symposium (GSS), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., April 11, 2025.

"The Devil We Know, or the Devil We Don't Know? Understanding the conditions under which US citizens support pro-democracy movements against authoritarian regimes." Paper selected for presentation at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 10, 2025 (with Erica De Bruin).

"Who Gets Away with Democratic Backsliding? Support for Anti-Democratic Actions taken by Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Actors." Paper selected for presentation at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 10, 2025 (with Erica De Bruin).

"State-Led Social Engineering in the Middle East: Intended and Unintended Consequences." Invited presentation at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and the SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C., December 6, 2024.

"Do Modernizing Monarchs Impress? How Reforms Undertaken by Authoritarian Regimes in the Middle East Influence US Perceptions of Legitimacy." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting (virtual in 2024), November 11, 2024.

"The Changing Landscape of Politics and Business in the Gulf after the Abraham Accords." Invited presentation at Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 3, 2024.

"Authoritarian Do-Overs: How Reforms Influence International Legitimacy." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 5, 2024.

"When is Anti-Democratic Behavior Seen as Appropriate?" Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 6, 2024 (with Erica De Bruin).

"Research and Practice: Reconsidering the Links Within and Across." Invited presentation for the REMENA (Research Ethics in the Middle East and North Africa) Project, Tunis, Tunisia, May 16, 2023.

"Does Interacting with Women Encourage Civic and Prosocial Attitudes? Evidence from Simulated Contact Experiments in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Invited poster presentation, BSOS Research Showcase Event at the University of Maryland, May 4, 2023.

"Corrupt State or Corrupt Society? Disentangling Contexts of Corruption and Implications for Political Culture." Invited presentation at Tulane University, April 20, 2023.

"When is Anti-Democratic Behavior Seen as Appropriate? Assessing the Role of Contingency." Paper selected for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (hybrid), Chicago, IL, April 15, 2023 (with Erica De Bruin).

"Of Triggers and Tripwires: Antecedent Conditions, Action Types, and Support for Democratic Backsliding." Paper selected for presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, March 18, 2023 (with Erica De Bruin).

"Accelerating Social Change in the Gulf: Experiments on Gender Mixing," Invited presentation for the Middle East Dialogue hosted by the Policy Studies Organization, Historic Quaker House, Washington, D.C., March 15, 2023.

"Of Triggers and Tripwires: Antecedent Conditions, Action Types, and Support for Democratic Backsliding." Paper selected for presentation at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL, January 13, 2023 (with Erica De Bruin).

"Comments on *The Political Economy of Cultural Heritage in the Middle East* (book proposal for 3rd book in series, edited by Hicham Alaoui and Robert Springborg)." Invited presentation at symposium, online, October 8, 2022.

"Pro-Democratic, but not Anti-Authoritarian? Understanding Ambivalence of Attitudes toward Democracy and Autocracy." Paper selected for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (hybrid), Chicago, IL, April 9, 2022 (with Michael Cowan).

"The Politics of Comedy: How Comic Critics and State Branding Efforts Influence International Opinion toward an Authoritarian Regime." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, December 1, 2021, Montreal, Canada (with Jessie Moritz).

"Comments on *The Political Economy of Education in the Arab World* (Lynne Rienner 2021, edited by Hicham Alaoui and Robert Springborg)." Invited presentation at book launch, Istituto Affari Internazionali (virtual), Rome, Italy, May 13, 2021.

"Comic Critics: Investigating How Comedy in Authoritarian Regimes Influences International Opinion." Paper selected for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (virtual due to COVID pandemic), April 16, 2021 (with Jessie Moritz).

"Corrupt State or Corrupt Society? How Differential Sources of Corruption Influence Social Trust and Political Cynicism in Jordan and the US." Paper selected for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (virtual due to COVID pandemic), April 15, 2021.

"Reimagining Foreign Policy in the Middle East and North Africa." Invited presentation, Johns Hopkins University, cohosted by the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), December 3, 2020.

"A Woman's Place Is in the War Room? Rethinking Gender and Issue Competency Stereotypes in Jordan." Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Maryland, December 2, 2020 (with Jocelyn Sage Mitchell).

"A Woman's Place Is in the War Room? Rethinking Gender and Issue Competency Stereotypes in Jordan." Invited presentation, University of California, Los Angeles, November 20, 2020 (with Jocelyn Sage Mitchell).

"Title TBA." Invited presentation at Dartmouth College, scheduled for April 27, 2020 (rescheduling due to travel restrictions).

"The King's Adviser: Rethinking the Role of Experts in the Gulf Monarchies." Invited presentation at Yale University, scheduled for April 16, 2020 (rescheduling due to travel restrictions).

"The Black Box of Authoritarian Governance." Invited presentation at Columbia University, scheduled for March 26, 2020 (rescheduling due to travel restrictions).

"Interacting with Women May Enhance Men's Civic-Mindedness: Evidence from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 15, 2019.

"Managing Exits from Armed Conflict (MEAC) Survey Instrument Workshop." Invited participant, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. New York, USA: June 4-5 2019.

"The Social Effects of Gendered Infrastructures: Evidence from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Invited presentation at the 2019 Institute for Middle East Studies Annual Conference, George Washington University, April 12, 2019.

"Bedouins into Bourgeois." Invited presentation at the book conversation series hosted by the Sadat Chair, University of Maryland, March 28, 2019.

"Effects of Expert Involvement in Authoritarian Settings." Invited presentation at the US State Department, February 15, 2019.

"Shaping the Post-Petroleum Society: Nationalism and Social Engineering in the Gulf." Invited presentation at Princeton University, November 13, 2018.

"Social Engineering in Rentier States." Invited presentation at George Washington University, September 28, 2018.

"Kindness to Others? The Nature and Limits of Tolerance in Contemporary Qatar." Paper selected for presentation at the Annual Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, August 31, 2018 (with Jocelyn Sage Mitchell).

"Social Engineering in the UAE: Lessons Learned." Invited presentation at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington, D.C., May 17, 2018.

"Bedouins into Bourgeois." Invited presentation at George Washington University, March 23, 2018.

"The Nature of Tolerance in Contemporary Qatar." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 19, 2017 (with Jocelyn Sage Mitchell).

"Gender and Media: A Nationally-Representative Six-Country Survey Experiment." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 2, 2017 (with Jocelyn Sage Mitchell and Justin D. Martin).

"When, How, and Why Do Portrayals of Dark Times Deactivate the Public?" Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 31, 2017 (with Celia Paris).

"Gender Segregation as Social Engineering: Exploring the Civic Costs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait." Paper presentation at the DC Area Comparative Politics Workshop, George Mason University, May 8, 2017.

"Gender Segregation." Invited presentation at the University of California, Berkeley, March 2, 2017.

"Urban Climate Issues: Social Science." Invited presentation at the MENA Climate, Water, Livelihoods and Governance Workshop, University of Maryland, February 14, 2017.

"Building Citizens for Globalization: Evidence from the UAE." Invited presentation at the Queen Rania Foundation for Education and Development, Amman, Jordan, November 6, 2016.

"Doing the Right Thing: Gender and Ethical Decision-Making in Kuwait." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 18, 2016.

"Reconsidering Tolerance: Theory and Practice for the 21st Century." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, September 2, 2016 (with Teresa Bejan).

"The Challenge of Being Good: Youth and Ethical Decision-Making in the UAE." Invited presentation at the Gulf Comparative Education Society (GCES) Annual Symposium, Kuwait City, Kuwait, April 7, 2016.

"Disruptive Effects of Fiction: Dystopian Narratives and Political Attitudes." Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Maryland, February 10, 2016.

"It's the End of the World and They Know It: How Dystopian Fiction Shapes Political Attitudes." Paper selected for presentation at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 9, 2016.

"Outsourcing the State: The Expert-Ruler Nexus and Implications for Governance in the Arab Gulf." Invited presentation at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, December 7, 2015.

"Does Diversity Influence Ethical Decision-Making? Experimental Evidence from Middle Eastern Youth." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 24, 2015.

"It's the End of the World and They Know It: Effects of Dystopian Pop Culture on Youth Political Attitudes." Paper selected for presentation at the New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT, April 24, 2015 (with Celia Paris).

"Outsourcing the Nation: Networks of Foreign Experts in the Arabian Peninsula." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 30, 2014.

"Outsourcing the Nation: The Uncertain Role of Foreign Experts in Nation-Building in the Persian Gulf." Paper selected for presentation at the Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention, New York, NY, April 25, 2014.

"Learning to Lead? Praise, Intrinsic Motivation, and Citizen Entitlement." Paper selected for presentation at the Gulf Comparative Education Society (GCES) Annual Symposium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, April 9, 2014.

"Innovators...for the Nation? Hazards of Using Nationalism to Motivate Entrepreneurship." Paper selected for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, October 12, 2013.

"Creating the New Capitalist Man: Intended and Unintended Outcomes of Social Engineering in the United Arab Emirates." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, September 1, 2013.

"Representation Without Taxation: The King's Dilemma 2.0." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 30-September 2, 2012. (Conference cancelled due to hurricane)

"Building Citizens for the Arab Knowledge Economy." Paper selected for presentation at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 26, 2012.

"From Subjects to Citizens? Rights, Obligations, and the New Politics of Citizenship in the Arab Gulf." Paper selected for presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, September 2, 2011.

"The New Rentier Citizen: Political Attitudes and the Evolving Social Contract in the UAE." Paper selected for presentation at the University of Cambridge, UK, July 8, 2011.

"Understanding Economic and Civic Culture in the UAE: A Comparison of Emirati and Non-Emirati Student Attitudes in Ras al Khaimah." Paper selected for presentation at the Gulf Comparative Education Society (GCES) Annual Symposium, Ras al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, March 16, 2011.

"Dilemmas of Dark Networks: Why a Networked Structure May Fail to Empower Illicit Actors." Paper selected for presentation at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, New York City, NY, February 15, 2009 (with Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni).

"Online Impression Management: Case Studies of Activist Web Sites and Their Credibility Enhancing Tactics During the Kosovo War." Paper selected for presentation at the University of Oxford, UK, September 10, 2005.

Teaching and Mentoring

University of Maryland

2015 – the present

- Courses:
 - Authoritarianism (GVPT 888A)
 - Government and Politics of the Middle East (GVPT 485, previously 459E)
 - International Political Relations (GVPT 200)
 - The Challenge of Authoritarianism (GVPT 203, I-series course)
 - Comparative Political Ideology (GVPT 459Y)
- Undergraduate Advising:
 - Courtney Kaufman (honors thesis advisor; student earned high honors and won competitive policy fellowship with Helsinki Commission)

- Linnea Collins (honors thesis advisor)
- Graduate Advising:
 - Lujain Alotaibi (mentorship committee, chair)
 - Ojashwi Pathak (dissertation committee, member)
 - Flavia Batista Da Silva (mentorship committee, member)
 - Jordan Dewar (mentorship committee, member)
 - Lizzie Irlbacher (dissertation committee, member)
 - Brian Wendelgass (mentorship committee, member)
 - Completed:
 - Taylor Vincent (dissertation committee, member)
 - Thair Abu Ras (dissertation committee, member)
 - Ted Ellsworth (dissertation committee, co-chair with Kathleen Cunningham)
 - Connor Kopchick (dissertation committee, co-chair with Kathleen Cunningham)
 - Xiaonan Wang (dissertation committee)
 - Hamad Althunayyan (doctoral committee)
 - Tegan George (mentorship committee)
 - Analia Gomez (doctoral committee)
 - Brandon Ives (doctoral committee)
 - Joan Timoneda (doctoral committee)
 - Diana Partridge (doctoral committee)
- Invited participant to "Book Writing, A Rendezvous with Young Scholars," a series organized by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) in the Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, December 7, 2020.

The City College of New York (CUNY)

2013 – 2015

- World Politics (PS 10400)
- Transnational Networks in International Relations (INTL 31177)

Yale University

2009 – 2013

Teaching Fellow for three undergraduate courses:

- International Security
- International Relations
- Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (writing intensive)

Dubai School of Government

2011

- Comparative and International Politics of the Middle East and North Africa (graduate course co-taught with Noora Lori)

Johns Hopkins University, Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

2003

Teaching Assistant for two college-level courses for pre-college students:

- Data Structures and Algorithms (in Computer Science), Franklin and Marshall College
- Logic: Principles of Reasoning (in Philosophy), Loyola Marymount University

Research and Professional Experience

Markle Foundation, New York, NY

June – August 2005

Research assistant for Stefaan Verhulst (Chief of Research) and the Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, focusing on international relations and security.

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

January – April 2005

Research assistant for Professor Abraham Sofaer, Stanford University, in international security.

World Learning for International Development, Washington, DC

2003 – 2004

Served as principal writer and researcher on two successful grant proposals to USAID. Work on policy papers in Washington, DC offices led to two overseas assignments:

- **Hanoi, Vietnam.** Worked with Ann Hudock, Senior Advisor for Democracy and Governance, to develop new projects in Vietnam, such as a web portal for local artisans to access international markets.
- **Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia.** Worked with Jill Benderly, Co-Director of STAR, a ten-year regional program to promote economic and political development in the post-Yugoslav republics, especially by facilitating entrepreneurship among women.

Computer Ethics Institute (CEI), Washington, DC

2003 – 2004

Developed grant proposals and edited publications (part-time) for CEI, affiliated with the Brookings Institution.

Fieldwork Experience and Research Skills

My fieldwork and research experience includes a variety of multi-method approaches, primarily in the Middle East:

- Carried out extensive palace ethnography in the UAE, including interviews with a ruling monarch;
- Designed, piloted, and administered a survey to 5,076 high school students across the UAE in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ras al Khaimah, and Fujairah, using a difference-in-difference research design;
- Conducted over one hundred in-depth and semi-structured interviews, primarily in the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, and Morocco;
- Designed and administered numerous experiments focusing on factors affecting attitudes of Arab youth in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE;
- Organized focus groups in Morocco and the UAE; and
- Used interpretive methods to analyze visual symbolism and state-sponsored spectacles in the Gulf.

In addition, I obtained fieldwork experience in Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, assisting with negotiations on strategies to nurture innovation and knowledge-based economies in the region. This experience included discussions with high-level government officials, such as the Minister of Education in Syria, Vice Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia, and Executive Director of the Al Sabah Center for Giftedness and Creativity in Kuwait. Through my work with World Learning, an international development NGO, I also obtained significant fieldwork experience in Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Vietnam, where I conducted interviews and helped design strategies for women's entrepreneurial development.

Research and Teaching Interests

My research interests focus broadly on social engineering, political behavior, and the making of citizens, especially in the authoritarian political contexts of the Middle East. I am interested in teaching a wide range of courses in comparative politics and international relations that are related to my research interests, including Middle East Politics; International Politics; Nationalism & Citizen Formation; Authoritarianism; Comparative Politics and Political Theory; Comparative Political Ideology; Tolerance and Multiculturalism in Comparative Perspective; Comparative Political Behavior; Social Engineering and its Critics; International Security; Terrorism; and Transnational Networks in Global Politics.

Honors and Awards

- 2019. Winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award (awarded by the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland)
- 2018. Winner of the Elmer Plischke Annual Faculty Research Award (University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics)
- 2015. Winner of a Research and Scholarship Award (RASA) at the University of Maryland (awarded on the basis of a university-wide competition for semester- and summer-long research fellowships)
- 2014. Selected by the Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA) to receive Honorable Mention for the Best Fieldwork Award

- 2014. Invited to deliver keynote address at the 21st Century Academic Forum Conference, "Fostering Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship," at Brown University
- 2013. Selected to participate in the annual Junior Scholars Book Development workshop at Yale University, organized by the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS)
- 2010. Winner of a Doctoral Research Scholarship from Al Qasimi Foundation, UAE
- 2009. Obtained "Distinction" (highest grade) for performance on Yale University's Middle East Politics comprehensive exam
- 2008. Selected for Yale University's competitive Program in Grand Strategy
- 2006. Winner of a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to study International Relations at the University of Cambridge
- 2004. U.C. Berkeley Fellowship Recipient for graduate education
- 2003. Awarded departmental honors for Philosophy at Columbia University

Grants

- 2022. Winner of a Dean's Research Initiative (DRI) grant from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS), University of Maryland, for "A Global Experimental Lab." \$14,986.
- 2021. Global Classrooms teaching grant (Office of International Affairs and the Sadat Chair at the University of Maryland). \$2000. Supported development of a Global Classroom pilot for my course, Comparative Politics of the Middle East (GVPT 485), for which I worked with a colleague teaching international relations at a university in Saudi Arabia to design a collaborative survey investigating different interpretations of cosmopolitanism and global citizenship.
- 2021. Winner of the Rapoport Family Foundation Collaborative Summer Research Award. \$5,000. Project on Ambivalence Toward Regimes (with Michael Cowan).
- 2020. Hamilton College, Levitt Council. \$18,000. Project on Public Attitudes Towards Military Intervention in Politics (with Erica De Bruin).
- 2019. I-Series course development grant (University of Maryland). \$5000. Supported development of a new i-Series course, "The Challenge of Authoritarianism" (GVPT 203).
- 2012. TRE Grant from George Washington University's Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). \$3000. Project Title: "Building Citizens by Decree: Top-Down Social Engineering in the United Arab Emirates and Unintended Consequences."
- 2010. Dissertation Research Grant from Yale University's MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. \$15,000. Project Title: "The Innovative Society: Globalization, Economic Culture, and Citizen-Making in the Arab Gulf."
- 2008. Smith Richardson Foundation. \$3000. Project Title: "Arabic Language Study in Syria."
- 2008. Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy (International Security Studies, Yale University). \$2940. Project Title: "Grand Strategy in Middle East."

Languages

Arabic: Proficient

Studied at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (2006) and Cambridge (2007); completed courses in Intermediate and Advanced Arabic at Yale (2007-2009); lived with an Arab family in Syria for 6 weeks as part of an Arabic language immersion program (2008); and obtained private tutoring in Gulf Arabic at Yale (2010).

German: Intermediate

Studied at the Goethe Institut in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin and lived with a German family for 6 weeks (2001); took German literature and philosophy classes at Columbia, taught in German (2001); and enrolled at Humboldt Universität, Freie Universität, and Technische Universität in Berlin as part of a semester abroad with the Berlin Consortium (2002), taking standard philosophy classes taught in German.

Spanish: Conversational

Studied at the Instituto Internacional in Madrid, Spain (2000) and lived with a Spanish family for 6 weeks.

Professional Service

- Service at University of Maryland (2015-the present):
 - Comparative Politics field chair (2024-the present)
 - BSOS Spring Awards Selection Committee (2024)
 - Executive Committee (2020-2021)
 - Graduate Admissions Committee (2015-2016; 2020-2021; 2023-2024)
 - Faculty Workload Committee (2020)
 - Selection Committee for Comparative Field Awards (2019, 2025)
 - Chair Search Committee (2019)
 - UK Fellowships Committee (2018-2023)
 - Merit Committee (2018-2019)
 - Undergraduate Studies (2017-2019)
 - University Honor Council (2016-2017)
 - Discussant for Comparative Politics Workshops (March 2016, November 2016, February 2019, September 2019, March 2020, March 2022, December 2023)
- Service to governmental institutions:
 - "Managing Exits from Armed Conflict (MEAC) Survey Instrument Workshop." Invited participant, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. New York, USA: June 4-5 2019 (also listed under Conference Papers and Invited Presentations).
 - "Effects of Expert Involvement in Authoritarian Settings." Invited presentation at the US State Department, February 15, 2019 (also listed under Conference Papers and Invited Presentations).
- Service to the discipline:
 - Invited member of Middle East Scholar Barometer Advisory Committee (2021-the present), providing comments and feedback for a survey of the views and opinions of Middle East scholars on political and international relations issues in the region.
 - Invited member to participate in a multi-year transnational, interdisciplinary project (2020-the present), "A Special Commission on Social Science Research in the Middle East and North Africa: Developing Guidelines for the Conduct of Responsible, Ethical and Constructive Social Inquiry," organized by Lisa Anderson, Columbia University and Saloua Zerhouni, Mohammed V University, and funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. <https://www.mei.columbia.edu/remena-about>. First meeting, December 10, 2020.
 - Editorial Board member for *Comparative Political Studies* (2024-the present).
 - Editorial Advisory Board member for *Gulf Education and Social Policy Review* (2019-the present).
 - Best Fieldwork Award Committee, APSA Comparative Democratization Organized Section, 2015.
 - Sage APSA Paper Award Committee, APSA Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Organized Section, 2015.
- Service at The City College of New York, CUNY (2013-2015): IR Search Committee, Engaged Scholarship Committee, President's Online Courses Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Faculty Council.
- Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Middle East Journal*, *International Security*, *Administration and Society*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Politics and Gender*, *Science and Public Policy*, and *Journal of Arabian Studies*.

Media Attention

My work has been cited in venues ranging from *Science* and the *New Yorker* to the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Arab Weekly*, and *Huffington Post*. For example, I was quoted in a front-page *New York Times* article on the role that foreign consultants play in authoritarian regimes (["How McKinsey Has Helped Raise the Stature of Authoritarian Governments"](#)).

My research on illicit networks was discussed by Malcolm Gladwell in a *New Yorker* article (["Annals of Innovation--Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted."](#)) My work on decentralized, networked forms of disaster recovery assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the East Asian Tsunami was cited in *Science* (["911.gov"](#)). Other media articles in which my research has been discussed include: Ahmed, Akbar Shahid. 2019. ["Khashoggi's Murder Should Have Made Saudi Arabia a Pariah. 7 Men Made Sure That Didn't Happen."](#) *HuffPost*, October 9; Ayyub, Rami. 2018. ["Avoiding the pitfalls of social engineering in the Middle East."](#) *The Arab Weekly*, January 28; Bothwell, Ellie. 2015. ["News Blog: Can Study Abroad Lead to an 'Enlightened Form of Nationalism'?"](#) *Times Higher Education*, September 4; Chriswell, Kaitlyn. 2015. "Study Abroad Heightens Nationalism but Decreases Perceived Foreign Threats." 2015. *Alliance for International and Cultural Exchange*, August 27; Reilly, Sam. 2015. ["Students Return with Heightened Nationalism After Studying Abroad."](#) *The Diamondback* (University of Maryland Newspaper), September 10; Ahmed, Afshan. 2012. ["Study Shows Which UAE Schools Have Most Motivated Students."](#) *The National*, July 3; Drutman, Lee. 2008. ["Is al-Qaeda Still a Threat?"](#) *Pacific Standard*, November 14.