

DANA EL KURD

dana.elkurd@dohainstitute.org

www.danaelkurd.weebly.com

ACADEMIC POSITION

Researcher & Lecturer, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, September 2017 – Present.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

authoritarianism, repression, Arab world/Middle East politics, protest, mobilization, international involvement, American foreign policy, survey methods, experimental methods, multi-method research

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science: Comparative Politics and International Relations, Department of Government, The University of Texas at Austin, 2017.

Dissertation committee: Zoltan Barany (Chair), Jason Brownlee, Robert Moser, Raul Madrid, Michael Findley. *Outside reader:* Amaney Jamal (Princeton University)

M.A., Political Science, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin, 2014.

Thesis titled *“Civil-Military Relations and Monarchical Survival: A Comparative Analysis of Morocco and Jordan”*

B.A. (with Honors in Major, University Honors, and *Summa Cum Laude*), Political Science and Economics, Minor in Quantitative Social Science, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, The Honors College, University of Houston, 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed:

El Kurd, D. (Forthcoming). “Mobilization across Class in the Palestinian Territories” in *The Power of Rules and the Rule of Power in Palestine*, edited by Alaa Tartir, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

El Kurd, D. (Forthcoming). “The Legacy of Repression: Polarization in the Palestinian Territories.” *Middle East Law and Governance*.

El Kurd, Dana & Andrew Stravers. (Forthcoming). "Strategic Autocracy: American Military Forces and Regime Type." *Journal of Global Security Studies*.

El Kurd, D. (R&R). "International Involvement in Political Polarization: The Cases of Iraqi Kurdistan and the Palestinian Territories." *Middle East Law and Governance*.

El Kurd, D. (2018, Jan). "Religiosity and its Political Effects." *Siyasat Arabiya*, Issue 30.

El Kurd, D. (2017, Dec). "Policing Expression: A Survey Experiment on Repression in Saudi Arabia." *Journal of Arabian Studies*.

El Kurd, D. (2017, Nov). "State Capacity and Its Impact on Public Opinion." *Siyasat Arabiya*, Issue 29.

El Kurd, D. (2014, Autumn). "Civil-Military Relations in Jordan: The Monarchy's Wavering Grasp." *Parameters*, 44(3).

Not Peer Reviewed:

El Kurd, D. (2018, May). "On Israel's 70th anniversary, what does the region think?" *The Monkey Cage* blog, *The Washington Post*.

El Kurd, D and Al-Shabaka Members. (2017, December). "Trump, Jerusalem, and the Future of Palestine." *Al-Shabaka* online.

El Kurd, D. (2017, October). " Hamas and Fatah's Step Forward Takes Palestine a Step Back; Why Reconciliation Hurts the Palestinian People." *Foreign Affairs*, Snapshot Online.

El Kurd, D. (2017, August). "Here's what made Palestinian protests in East Jerusalem last month so successful." *The Monkey Cage* blog, *The Washington Post*.

El Kurd, D. (2017, June). "The Dangers of Arab Normalization with Israel." *Arab Center Washington DC*, Policy Analysis.

El Kurd, D. (2017, March). "The Palestinian Response to Trump." *Foreign Affairs*, Snapshot Online.

El Kurd, D. (2017, February). "Mechanisms of Cooptation in the Palestinian Territories: Neutralizing Independent Civil Society." *Middle East Institute*, Essay Series on Civil Society and Political Transitions in the MENA Region and Southeast Asia.

El Kurd, D. (2015, October). "Intifada's Revenge." *Foreign Affairs*, Snapshot Online.

El Kurd, D. (2013, August). "The Military's Evolving Role in Jordanian Political Reform." *Political Reflections*, 36-40.

Under Review

El Kurd, D. (2018). "Palestinian Protests in East Jerusalem: Shifting Fortunes."

El Kurd, Dana & Majid Al-Dohan. (2017). "The Saudi Art Scene: A Case Study of Government Cooptation."

WORKING PAPERS/PROJECTS

Book Project (Under Review) - "Legacies of International Involvement: Authoritarianism and Polarization in Palestine"

"State-Society Relations in the Palestinian Territories: A Survey Experiment on Preferences for Democracy"

"The Effect of International Involvement on Collective Action: Comparative Analysis of Bolivia and Egypt"

"Violence versus Nonviolence: The Effect of Social Cohesion on Group Strategies in the Context of Institutional Collapse"

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS

Project on Middle East Political Science Junior Scholars Book Development Workshop – Princeton, NJ – November 2018

Workshop participant

American Political Science Association MENA Research Development Group – Boston, MA – August 2018

Workshop participant

Summer Program in Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University,
– Princeton, New Jersey, USA / Johannesburg, South Africa – June/July 2018 and 2019.

Fellow – presenting project on “***Legacies of International Involvement:
Authoritarianism and Polarization in the Palestinian Territories***”

Latin American Studies Association – Barcelona, Spain – May 2018

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***The Effect of International
Involvement on Collective Action: Comparative Analysis of Bolivia and Egypt***”

International Graduate Student Conference – Birzeit University, Ramallah, Palestine–
May 2018

Participant – presenting paper on “***Mobilization Across Class in the Palestinian
Territories***”

International Studies Association – San Francisco, CA – April 2018

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***The Interplay of Class and Conflict in
the Palestinian Territories***”

Jerusalem Symposium at the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies – Doha, Qatar
– February 2018

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***Palestinian Protests in Jerusalem:
Shifting Fortunes***”

Middle East Studies Association – Washington, DC – November 2017

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***Arab Opinion Index: Challenges and
Prospects for Future Research***”

International Panel on Exiting Violence – American University of Beirut, Lebanon –
September 2017

Invited talk on “***The Effect of Authoritarianism on the Use of Violence***”

American Political Science Association - San Francisco, CA - September 2017

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***The Effect of Authoritarianism on
Polarization and Social Cohesion.***”

Women of Color in Political Science workshop – San Francisco, CA – August 2017

Workshop participant

American Political Science Association's Middle East & North Africa Political Science Research and Publication Conference - Tunis, Tunisia - July 2017

Participant – presenting paper on “***The Effect of Authoritarianism on Polarization and Social Cohesion.***”

Project on Middle East Political Science - Washington DC - May 2017

Participant – presenting paper on ““***State-Society Relations in the Palestinian Territories: A Survey Experiment on Preferences for Democracy.***”

Southern Political Science Association - New Orleans, LA - January 2017

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***The Effect of Authoritarianism on Polarization and Social Cohesion.***”

Middle East Studies Association - Boston, MA - November 2016

Panel Organizer and Participant – “Experiments in the Middle East” panel, presenting paper on “***State-Society Relations in the Palestinian Territories: A Survey Experiment on Preferences for Democracy.***”

American Political Science Association, Middle East and North Africa Workshop - Beirut, Lebanon / Amman, Jordan - May/September 2016

Participant – presenting paper on “***State-Society Relations in the Palestinian Territories: A Survey Experiment on Preferences for Democracy.***”

Global Studies Association - Austin, TX - June 2016

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***The Effect of International Influence on Palestinian Domestic Politics.***”

Southern Political Science Association - San Juan, Puerto Rico - January 2016

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***Foreign Defense Investment: Regime Type and US Military Bases in the Middle East.***”

Southern Political Science Association - San Juan, Puerto Rico - January 2016

Panel Participant – presenting paper on “***De-mobilizing a Mobilized Society; The Effect of the Palestinian Authority on Political Expression.***”

Winter Experimental Social Science Institute Alumni Conference – NYU Florence - September 2015

Participant - presenting paper on “***Political Mobilization in Authoritarian Regimes.***”

Middle East Studies Association - Washington DC - November 2014

Panel Participant - presenting paper on *“Policing Expression: A Survey Experiment on Regional Variation in Saudi Arabia.”*

Midwest Political Science Association - Chicago, IL - April 2014

Panel Participant - presenting paper on *“Civil-Military Relations in Jordan: The Monarchy’s Wavering Grasp.”*

AWARDS

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **Project on Middle East Political Science**, to attend their **2018 Junior Scholars Book Development Workshop** at Princeton University

- Covering travel and expenditures

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **American Political Science Association MENA group**, to attend their **2018 Research Development Workshop** in Boston, MA at the APSA annual conference

- Covering travel and expenditures

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University** as a participating **Fellow**, to attend their **2018-2019 Summer Program in Social Science** in Princeton, NJ and Johannesburg, South Africa

- Covering travel and expenditures

Awarded the **Travel – Research – Engagement Grant** from the Project on Middle East Political Science at George Washington University

- Covering funds to conduct research in the West Bank on institutional collapse

Awarded the **College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Writing Fellowship** from The University of Texas at Austin

- Covering part of funds to complete dissertation research

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **Women of Color in Political Science** workshop to attend their **2017 workshop** in San Francisco, CA

- Covering travel and expenditures

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **American Political Science Association Middle East and North Africa Workshop** to attend their **2017 Research and Publication Conference** in Tunis, Tunisia

- Covering travel and expenditures

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **Project on Middle East Political Science** to attend their **2017 conference** at George Washington University

- Covering travel and expenditures

Awarded the **American Political Science Association Alumni Grant**

- Covering part of funds to build on dissertation research

Awarded **Palestinian American Cultural Center Scholarship**

- Covering part of funds to complete dissertation research

Chosen through competitive selection process by the **American Political Science Association** to attend their **2016 MENA workshop** at the American University of Beirut and in Amman, Jordan

- Covering travel and expenditures

Awarded **Pre-Dissertation Summer Fellowship** from The University of Texas at Austin in order to conduct preliminary fieldwork

- Covering travel and research expenditures during fieldwork stay

Awarded **Prestage-Cook Travel Award** from the Southern Political Science Association

- Covering travel expenditures for conference attendance

Declined **Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa** Research and Travel Grant in order to conduct fieldwork.

- Covering travel and research expenditures during fieldwork stay

Chosen through competitive selection process by **Winter Institute for Experimental Social Sciences** to attend their workshop in NYU Abu Dhabi

- Covering travel and expenditures

Awarded the **Professional Development Award** from The University of Texas at Austin

- Covering travel and expenditures for professional conferences

Selected by the Department of Government to attend the **Institute of Qualitative and Multi-Method Research** at Syracuse University

- Covering travel, tuition, and expenditures of summer workshop

EMPLOYMENT

Research Experience:

Researcher: Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha Institute, Doha, Qatar.
2017 – Present.

- Lead the team on the Arab Opinion Index, a regional survey encompassing 18,000 respondents from 16-20 Arab Countries.
 - Formulated new questions on topical issues such as the GCC crisis
 - Analyzed pilot survey results
 - Worked with regional partners to conduct the yearly survey
 - Generated reports for partners in Washington DC on the results of special surveys (i.e. such as Arab public opinion on Trump), which was utilized in subsequent press conferences on the subject
 - Coordinated with global partners to ensure accurate communication of survey results to the media
- Initiated the first annual Arab Graduate Student Conference by formulating the objectives, application process, rubric, and final schedule
 - Created a database of 326 students and over 40 departments for future collaboration
 - Garnered approximately 200 applications from around the world and across various disciplines, with 87 students accepted for the final conference
 - Saved \$35,000 on travel funds by utilizing external funding options and scholarships
- Serve on the editorial board of *Siyasat Arabiya*, a peer-reviewed Arabic political science journal
- Member of the Democratic Transitions Unit, conducting research and an annual conference on relevant topics related to democratization

Visiting Researcher: Democracy and Human Rights Program, Birzeit University, West Bank. 2015 – 2016.

- Special Research Awards:
 - *Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship*
- Utilized survey tools such as Qualtrics and quantitative tools such as STATA to conduct multivariate regression analysis
- Collaborated with Dr. Ghada Almadbouh and Dr. Helga Baumgarten on project concerning Palestinian politics
- Set-up an experiments lab at Birzeit for the purpose of conducting research on political mobilization

Consultant: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, The Hague, Netherlands, Feb – May 2016.

- Collaborate with senior project manager on preparing book manuscript for publication
- Create case study vignettes on security sector reform during constitutional transition periods, for online publication

Communications Intern: Rights Working Group, Washington D.C., Summer 2010.

- Special Research Award:
 - *Arab American Institute* Internship Fellowship
- Reported on immigration and racial profiling issues in terms of hearings, protests, and local activity
- Monitored local, state, and national news on policy developments
- Maintained and updated online media for the organization

Summer Institute Scholar: Drum Major Institute, New York, NY, Summer 2010.

- Developed and presented an immigration reform plan for future flows of labor

Teaching Experience:

Lecturer: Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Department of Political Science, 2017 – Present.

- Co-teach interdisciplinary quantitative methods courses in conjunction with a lecturer in the Department of Sociology
- Assist students in thesis projects related to the use of survey or quantitative methods

Supplemental Instructor: University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government, Jan 2014 – 2017.

- Conduct supplementary exam preparation and discussion sections for student enrichment.
- Assist professor in formulating tests and assignments.
- Run class projects and facilitate student group work.

Teaching Assistant: University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government, 2012 – 2014.

- Assist professors in formulating tests and assignments for introductory government courses.

- Work with students at all education levels and facilitate understanding of key topics.
- Example courses: Introduction to American Politics, Middle East Today, Comparative Legal Systems, America in the Cold War.

Graduate Mentor: Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program, University of Texas at Austin, July – Aug 2015.

- Mentor a group of Iraqi college students from various provinces during their time in the US.
- Organize a comparative project on civil rights and liberties for ethnic minorities both in the US and in Iraq.
- Teach research and presentation skills, and supervise the final presentation.

English 1300 Instructor/Writing Consultant/Studio Facilitator: University of Houston Writing Center, 2009 – 2012.

- Designed curriculum and taught introductory English 1300 class
- Facilitated “Writing in the Disciplines” studios for classes such as:
 - Undergraduate: Digital Media, Electrical Engineering, General Business, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Art History, Hotel and Restaurant Law and Ethics, Communication and Health Literacy, Math in Education, Architecture Research
 - Graduate: MBA program, Project Management seminar
- Assisted students at all educational levels through one-on-one meetings

Other Employment/Volunteer Work:

Program Coordinator: Houston Palestine Film Festival, Houston, TX, October 2016 – June 2017.

- Apply for grants and create database of future funding for arts related organizations.
- Collect and analyze audience survey data.
- Manage film submission process in preparation for annual festival.
- Update websites and all social media accounts.
- Generate newsletters and outreach with previous patrons.

Refugee Student Instructor: Muslim Community Support Services, Austin, TX, September 2015 – August 2016.

- Serve as afterschool instructor to elementary-aged group of Iraqi and Syrian refugee students and facilitated their transition to the US.

- Assist with homework, reading comprehension, and coordinate socialization activities.
- Developed first winter clothing drive which provided over 150 refugee children new winter coats and boots through a community volunteer program.
 - Conducted door to door outreach to gauge community need in various resettlement facilities, as well as to record clothing and shoe sizes for all children
 - Assembled teams for delivery of winter clothing packages

Refugee Student Mentor and Translator: Anderson High School, Austin, TX, September 2015 – August 2016.

- Mentor a group of Iraqi and Syrian refugee students and facilitated their transition to the US.
- Translate for students during class and in their interactions with school administrators.
- Develop volunteer program in conjunction with the University of Texas' Arab Student Association.

Graduate Assistant: Undergraduate Research Office at UT Austin, Austin, TX, Summer 2013.

- Conducted outreach to undergraduate students at campus-wide events, including orientation.
- Presented weekly sessions on the importance of research.
- Led one-on-one meetings with students and facilitated research opportunities.

Organizational Intern: Congressman Pete Olson's District Office, Sugar Land, TX, Summer 2009.

- Organized town hall meetings
- Served constituents and facilitated their casework
- Assisted in outreach to minority groups in the 22nd District

Organizational Intern: Texans Together, Houston, TX, Spring 2009 – Fall 2009.

- Assisted in organizing events for the community
- Conducted outreach and raised awareness on important bills in the Texas State Legislature

AFFILIATIONS

Member: American Political Science Association

Editorial Board: Siyasat Arabiya

Member: Al-Shabaka Policy Network

Member: Women of Color in Political Science alumni network

Fellow: Summer Program in Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, 2018-2019 cohort

Member: Middle East Studies Association

Member: International Studies Association

Member: Winter Experimental Social Sciences Institute alumni network

Member: Project on Middle East Political Science alumni network

Member: APSA MENA alumni network

Member: Southern Political Science Association

Co-Editor: Political Reflections Magazine (Middle East Section), Istanbul, Turkey, Summer 2013.

SKILLS

Arabic (Fluent in Reading, Writing, and Speaking), Experimental Methods, Survey Methods, Stata, Qualtrics