

# Michael Robbins

Arab Barometer  
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## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Michigan, 2012.

*Dissertation:* Bound by Brand: Opposition Party Support Under Electoral Authoritarianism

*Major:* Comparative Politics

*First Minor:* Methodology

B.S. Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 2003.

## Employment

Project Director, Arab Barometer, 2014-present.

Senior Research Specialist, Department of Politics, Princeton University, 2014-present.

Sponsored Affiliate, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, 2018-present.

Research Fellow, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, 2014-2017.

Research Associate, Pew Research Center, 2012-2014.

Research Assistant, Arab Barometer, 2005-2011.

Consultant, World Bank, Middle East and North Africa Division, February-April 2005.

## Awards and Grants

Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), U.S. Department of State, 2017-2021.

Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2018-2020.

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), 2016-2020.

USAID Grant #OAA-A-15-00075, 2015-2018.

Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics, American Political Science Association, 2013.

Research Fellow, Dubai Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, February 2009-June 2010.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Three-Year Graduate Fellowship, 2006-8; 2009-10.

## Academic Publications

"New Frontiers in Detecting Data Fabrication." *Advances in Comparative Survey Methods: Multi-national, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts (3MC)*, Timothy Johnson, Beth-Ellen Pennell, Ineke Stoop, & Brita Dorer (eds.), Wiley, 771-804, 2018.

"The Ascendance of Official Islams." *Democracy & Security* 13(4): 363-391, 2017 (with Lawrence Rubin).

"Youth, Religion and Democracy after the Arab Uprisings." *The Muslim World* 107(1): 100-126, 2017.

"Don't Get Duped: Fraud through Duplication in Public Opinion Surveys." *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* 32(3): 283-291, 2016 (with Noble Kuriakose).

"The State of Social Justice in the Arab World: The Arab Uprisings of 2011 and Beyond." *Contemporary Readings in Law and Social Justice* 8(1): 127-157, 2016 (with Amaney Jamal).

"After the Arab Spring: People Still Want Democracy." *Journal of Democracy*, 26(3): 80-89 (October), 2015.

"Political System Preferences of Arab Publics." In *The Arab Uprisings Explained* edited by Marc Lynch. Columbia University Press, 2014 (with Mark Tessler).

"The Rise of Official Islam in Jordan." *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 14(1): 59-74 (March), 2013 (with Lawrence Rubin).

"Arab Attitudes toward Democracy and Governance: Findings from the 2010-2011 Arab Barometer". *Journal of Democracy* 23(4): 89-103 (October), 2012 (with Mark Tessler and Amaney Jamal). Reprinted in *Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World* edited by Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.

"The Effect of Elections on Public Opinion toward Democracy: Evidence from Longitudinal Survey Research in Algeria." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(10): 1255-76 (October), 2012 (with Mark Tessler).

"What Leads Some Ordinary Men and Women in Arab Countries to Approve of Terrorist Acts Against the United States?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(2): 305-28 (April), 2007 (with Mark Tessler). Reprinted in *Public Opinion in the Middle East: Survey Research and the Political Orientations of Ordinary Citizens* by Mark Tessler. Indiana University Press, 2011.

## Forthcoming Publications

"Improving Data Quality in Face-to-Face Survey Research." Forthcoming in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (with Carolyn Logan, Pablo Parás, & Elizabeth J. Zechmeister).

## Additional Publications

“Political System Preferences after the Arab Spring.” Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Research Memo. November 3, 2014 (with Mark Tessler).

*The World’s Muslims: Politics, Religion and Society.* The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. April 2013 (contributing author).

*The World’s Muslims: Unity and Diversity.* The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. August 2012 (contributing author).

“What Accounts for the Success of Islamist Parties in the Arab World?” Dubai Initiative Policy Brief, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, 2009.

“Women in Local Economic Development—Aden,” Report Prepared for Port Cities Development Program. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2006.

“Building Capacity for Public Opinion and Social Research: A Resource Booklet for Academic Institutions in the Arab World and Elsewhere.” Internal Document. University of Michigan and US Department of State, 2005 (with Lindsay Benstead).

*Unlocking the Employment Potential: Toward a New Social Contract.* Washington, DC: World Bank, 2004 (contributing author).

## Media Publications

“How states can wield ‘official Islam’ to limit radical extremism.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, November 3, 2017 (with Lawrence Rubin).

“Talk of rigged elections undermines democracy.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, October 21, 2016 (with Mark Tessler).

“What do ordinary citizens in the Arab world really think about the Islamic State?” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, July 27, 2016 (with Mark Tessler and Amaney Jamal).

“Five years after the revolution, more and more Tunisians support democracy.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, May 20, 2016.

“Yes, you can trust international surveys. Mostly.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, March 26, 2016.

“When it comes to democracy, Egyptians hate the player but Tunisians hate the game.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, October 16, 2015.

“What the Arab street thinks of Iran—and of US policy toward Iran” *The Conversation*, July 14, 2015.

“How Jordan uses Islam against the Islamic State.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, November 19, 2014 (with Lawrence Rubin).

“Arab views on governance after the uprisings.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, October 29, 2014 (with Mark Tessler).

“Is Israel’s blockade worth fighting for?” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, August 4, 2014 (with Amaney Jamal).

“Algerians vote for stability.” Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog, April 17, 2014.

“Tunisians voted for jobs, not Islam.” ForeignPolicy.com (with Mark Tessler), December 7, 2011.

“What Egyptians mean by democracy.” ForeignPolicy.com (with Mark Tessler), September 20, 2011.

## **Book Reviews**

“Political Succession in the Arab World: Constitutions, family loyalties and Islam.” International Journal of Middle East Studies 43:2, 347-9, 2011.

## **Working Papers and Current Projects**

“Passive Support for the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from a survey experiment” (with Amaney Jamal and Mark Tessler).

“Why do Jordanians prefer Shia over Sunni Refugees? A Conjoint Experiment on Sectarian Bias among Ordinary Citizens.”

“The Effect of the Arab Spring on Support for Democracy: Evidence from an Unplanned Quasi-Experiment.”

“Economic Evaluations and Support for Democracy: Evidence from the Global Barometer Survey.”

“Devotion at Sub-national Level: Ramadan, Night-time Lights, and Religiosity in Egyptian Governorates.” (with Sabri Ciftci & Sofya Zaytseva).

“Comparative Understandings of Sharia in MENA.” (with Christine Fair, Rebecca Littman, & Elizabeth Nugent).

“Public Opinion in MENA” (with Lindsay Benstead & Justin Gengler).

## **Conference Presentations and Invited Talks**

“The Arab Barometer Project.” Stanford University, The Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford University, Palo Alto, April 6, 2018.

“Public Perceptions of Well-Being in the Middle East and North Africa.” Global Barometer Survey Roundtable, United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain, UAE, February 5, 2018.

"Encouraging Cooperation on Cross-National Surveys." Workshop on Strengthening Links between Cross-National and Cross-Cultural Social Surveys, City, University of London, London, September 11-13, 2017.

"Ensuring Data Quality: Lessons from the Arab Barometer." APSA Working Group on Data Quality in International Survey Research Methods, American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, August 31 - September 3, 2017.

"How Can Opinion Polls Contribute to the Effectiveness of Policy Making? Experiences from the Arab Barometer." Trends Behind the Numbers: Bridging Policies and Needs. NDI & CRRC Conference. Tbilisi, Georgia, January 23, 2017.

"Countering Passive Support for Radicalization: Evidence from the Arab Barometer." Human Factors in the Defense Against Terrorism. NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme Conference, Dead Sea, Jordan, November 21-23, 2016.

"Don't Get Duped: Fraud via Duplication in Public Opinion Surveys." Princeton University, September 28, 2016.

"Support for Democracy and Economic Performance." Princeton University, September 27, 2016.

"Passive Support for the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from a survey experiment." American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, September 1-4, 2016.

"Passive Support for the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from a survey experiment." After the Uprisings: Political, Economic, and Social Transformations in the Middle East and North Africa. University of Edinburgh, May 31, 2016.

"Passive Support for the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from a survey experiment." After the Uprisings: Public Opinion, Gender and Conflict in the Middle East. Kansas State University, May 5, 2016.

"Do Tunisians Continue to Support Democracy? The Arab Barometer Surveys a Changing Country and People." Arab Barometer Tunisia Launch Event. Tunis, April 27, 2016.

"Passive Support for the Islamic State in the Middle East and North Africa: Evidence from a survey experiment." After the Uprisings: The Arab World in Freefall, Fragmentation or Reconfiguration? Princeton University, March 4-5, 2016.

"Don't Get Duped: Fraud via Duplication in Public Opinion Surveys." NORC Data Fabrication Workshop. Bethesda, MD, February 23, 2016.

"Survey Question Design." Conference on Non-Formal Education in the Middle East and North Africa. Center for Strategic Studies. Amman, Jordan, November 8, 2015.

"Experiences from the Arab Barometer: Conducting a survey in one language(?)." GESIS Symposium on Competencies and Knowledge in Questionnaire Translation and Cross-Cultural Questionnaire Development. Mannheim, Germany, September 29, 2015.

"Falsification in Survey Research: Detecting Near Duplicate Observations." American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, September 3-6, 2015.

"The Rise of Official Islams." American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, September 3-6, 2015.

"Support for Democracy and Economic Performance." Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, September 1-2.

"Views of China in the Arab World." China Center for Contemporary World Studies, Beijing, July 1, 2015.

"Political Trust in Non-Democracies." Forum on Global Barometer Surveys, Fudan-Duke Center for Global Attitudes about Politics and Society, Fudan University, Shanghai, June 28-29, 2015.

"The Effect of the Arab Spring on Public Opinion: Evidence from the Arab Barometer" World Association for Public Opinion Research Regional Conference, Social and Economic Survey Research Institute, Qatar University, March 8, 2015.

"Preventing Data Falsification in Survey Research: Lessons from the Arab Barometer." Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, February 13, 2015.

"Youth, Religion and Democratic Change in the Arab World." Youth in the Middle East Working Group. Georgetown University. Washington, DC, November 20-21, 2014.

"Regime Preference and Support for Democracy in the Arab World." The Global Barometers Survey Conference. National Taiwan University. Taipei, Taiwan, November 8-9, 2014.

"How People Understand Democracy in the Arab World." The Global Barometers Survey Conference. National Taiwan University. Taipei, Taiwan, November 8-9, 2014.

"The Effect of the Arab Spring: Evidence from the Arab Barometer." Public Opinion in the Arab World: What do the latest surveys tell us? United States Institute of Peace. Washington, DC, October 31, 2014.

"Political System Preferences after the Arab Spring." Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Conference on The Arab Uprisings Explained. Washington, DC, October 3, 2014.

"The Effects of the Arab Spring: The Robustness of Perceived Inequality in Survey Research." CRRC Methodological Conference. Tbilisi, Georgia, June 25, 2014.

"Using Propensity Score Matching to Estimate Causal Effects." CRRC Methodological Conference Pre-Workshop. Tbilisi, Georgia, June 24, 2014.

"New Public Opinion Data and Analysis." Project on Middle East Political Science 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, May 23-24, 2014.

"The World's Muslims: Religion, Politics and Society"

Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, Arlington, October 8, 2013.

Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, Arlington, September 17, 2013.

USAID, Washington, July 22, 2013.

Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, Arlington June 5, 2013.

"The World's Muslims: Unity and Diversity" Foreign Service institute, Department of State, January 30, 2013.

"Voting for Islam: Popular Support for Ennahda in Tunisia." Middle East Studies Association Annual Meetings, Denver, November 17-20, 2012.

"The Effect of the Arab Spring on Support for Democracy: Evidence from an Unplanned Quasi-Experiment."

American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans, August 30-September 2, 2012.

Arab Spring Exploratory Conference, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, May 3-4, 2012.

"Islam Is Not the Solution: The Challenge Islamist Parties Face in Mobilizing Support on Economic Issues." American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Seattle, September 1-4, 2011.

"The Rise of Official Islam in Jordan." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, March 31-April 3, 2011.

"How Political Islam Affects Regime Policy." 2010 Dubai Initiative Conference, Harvard Kennedy School. May 3-4, 2010.

"What Accounts for the Success of Islamist Parties in the Arab World?"

Harvard Kennedy School. December 3, 2009.

Center for Political Studies Interdisciplinary Workshop on Politics and Policy, University of Michigan. November 18, 2009.

American Political Science Association Annual Meetings. Toronto, September 3-6, 2009.

Harvard Kennedy School. May 6, 2009.

Dubai School of Government, Dubai, UAE. April 28, 2009.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, April 2-5, 2009.

"What Leads Voters to Support the Opposition Under Authoritarianism? Evidence from Jordan." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, April 2-5, 2009.

"The Politics of Jordan." International Economic Development Program, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. January 23, 2008.

"Overt Religious Practice and Integration among Muslim Immigrants in Three European Countries." University of Michigan Muslims in Europe Research Workshop, Ann Arbor, November 1-2, 2007 (with Ken Kollman and Mark Tessler).

"Gauging the Political Spectrum: Support for democracy and political Islam in the Arab world." Dubai School of Government, Dubai, UAE. November 29, 2007.

"The Effect of Elections on Public Opinion towards Democracy: Evidence from Longitudinal Survey Research in Algeria." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 12-15, 2007.

## Teaching Experience

Michigan in Washington/University of California in DC (UCDC) program

PS 497: Middle East Politics after the Arab Spring, Fall 2014

PS 497: Middle East Politics and the Arab Spring, Spring 2012

## Languages and Fieldwork

Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Arabic Dialect, Spanish

Eight months of fieldwork in Jordan and the West Bank

Semi-structured interviews with party and civil society elites

Conducted election survey in Jordan

## Skills

Statistical languages: Stata and SPSS

## Professional Activities

Reviewer: *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Chinese Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Contemporary Readings in Law and Social Justice*, *Global Media Journal*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Social Sciences*, *Journal of Terrorism and Political Violence*, *New Middle Eastern Studies*, *Party Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Politics and Governance*, *Politics & Religion*, *Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociology & Criminology*, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, *World Politics*.

Assistant Editor, *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, 2016.

Editorial Advisory Board, *International Relations and Security Studies*.

Advisory Board, *Comparative Survey Design and Implementation*.

Advisory Board, ArabTrans.



Country Expert, *Varieties of Democracy*, 2014 & 2017.

Country Expert, The Electoral Integrity Project, 2014.

Aaron Wildavsky Award for Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics Committee Member, 2013-14.