

Steve L. Monroe

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Academic and Professional Positions

- National University of Singapore, Assistant Professor of Political Science (2021 - Present)
- Yale-National University of Singapore (Yale-NUS) College, Assistant Professor (2020 - 2025)
- Harvard Kennedy School, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Middle East Initiative (2019 - 2020)

Education

- Ph.D., Politics, Princeton University, 2019
 - Dissertation Committee: Amaney Jamal (Chair), Helen Milner, Faisal Z. Ahmed
- M.A., The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, 2013
- B.A., International Relations, *with honors*, Stanford University, 2010

Research and Teaching Interests

Comparative and International Politics of Development, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), International Political Economy, Gender Politics, Small States

Book

Mirages of Reform: The Politics of Elite Protectionism in the Arab World (Cornell University Press, 2025)

- Reviewed: Foreign Affairs, Mediterranean Politics
- Named one of the *Best of Books in 2025 by Foreign Affairs*
- American Political Science Association - MENA Politics Section
Best Dissertation Award 2020

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“The Politics of Anti-Corruption Crackdowns in Autocracies: The Case of Jordan,” with Sean Yom, *Forthcoming, Mediterranean Politics*.[†]

“The Blessings of Scarcity: The Cold War Origins of Smaller States’ Prosperity,” with Muhammad Bin Khalid (‘24)*, Available Online, *Perspectives on Politics*, 2025.

“Candidate Qualifications and Out-Group Support: Evidence from Afghanistan,” with Jasmine Bhatia, *Comparative Political Studies*, volume 58, no. 13, 2025, pp. 2831 - 2865.

“Insecurity and Support for Female Leadership in Conflict States: Evidence from Afghanistan,” with Jasmine Bhatia, *British Journal of Political Science*, volume 54, no. 3, 2024, pp. 771 - 792.

[†]Coauthor is lead author.

*Undergraduate Student.

“Earned Income and Women’s Segmented Empowerment: Experimental Evidence from Jordan,” with Carolyn Barnett and Amaney Jamal, *American Journal of Political Science*, volume 65, no. 4, 2021, pp. 954 - 970.

“Down and Out: Founding Elections and Disillusionment with Democracy in Egypt and Tunisia,” with Sharan Grewal, *Comparative Politics*, *lead article*, volume 51, no. 4, July 2019, pp. 497 - 539.

“No Arab Bourgeoisie, No Democracy? The Entrepreneurial Middle Class and Democratic Attitudes since the Arab Spring,” with Nimah Mazaheri, *Comparative Politics*, volume 50, no. 4, July 2018, pp. 523 - 550.

“Salafis in Parliament: Democratic Attitudes and Party Politics in the Gulf,” *Middle East Journal*, *lead article*, volume 66, no. 3, Summer 2012, pp. 409 - 424.

Editor-Reviewed Publications

“What Trump Gets Right and Wrong about US - MENA Trade,” *Forthcoming*, *Middle East Journal*.

“Boundaries of Protectionism: Ethnic Politics and Crony Capitalism in Jordan,” in *Crony Capitalism in the Middle East*, ed. Ishac Diwan, Adeel Malik and Izak Atiyas. Oxford University Press, 2019, pp. 263 - 288.

Works in Progress

“Civil Conflict and Transnational Identity,” with Matthew Nanes and Risa Toha.

“The Costs of Exit: Female Labor Migration and Gender Equality in Countries of Origin,” with Lim Tian Jiao (‘23)* and Thiti Thitipankul (‘23)*.

“The Commander’s Daughter: Dynastic Ties And Voter Support for Female Candidates in Post-Conflict States,” with Risa Toha.

“Electorate Size and Female Representation: Evidence from State Legislative Assemblies in India,” with Isabella Gupta.

“Diasporas, Port Modernization and 19th Century Globalization,” with Isabella Gupta and David Jacks.

Online Commentary

Mirages of Reform, *POMEPS Podcast (S. 15, Ep. 3)*, Jan. 20, 2026, <https://pomeps.org/mirages-of-reform-s-15-ep-2>.

Mirages of Reform: The Politics of Elite Protectionism in the Arab World, *The New Books Network Podcast*, Aug. 19, 2025, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/mirages-of-reform>.

Steve L. Monroe’s Mirages of Reform, *The Page 99 Test*, Jun. 14, 2025, <https://page99test.blogspot.com/2025/06/steve-l-monroes-mirages-of-reform.html>.

Mirages of Reform: The Politics of Elite Protectionism in the Arab World, *Governance Uncovered Podcast*, Governance and Local Development Institute, May. 6, 2025, <https://on.soundcloud.co>

m/b3zxoCztXQxJT9u49.

The India-Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor: An Early Assessment, *Economic Research Forum (ERF) Policy Portal Forum*, Oct. 31, 2023, <https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2023/10/30/the-india-middle-east-europe-economic-corridor-an-early-assessment/> .

– One of the most read ERF Policy Portal Blog posts of the year.

Small Gulf States in World Markets, *The APSA - MENA Politics Newsletter*, volume 5, no. 4, October 2022, pp: 60 - 65.

Scottish Independence: How Do Small Economies Fare?, with Marlene Jugl, *Economics Observatory*, May. 18, 2022, <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/scottish-independence-how-do-other-small-economies-fare>

What Small States can Learn From the Gulf - and vice versa, *Economic Research Forum (ERF) Policy Portal Forum*, Mar. 22, 2022, <https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2022/03/22/small-states-can-learn-gulf-vice-versa/>.

Practicing Islam in Egypt, Consociational Power Sharing, and Women's Segmented Empowerment in Jordan, with Carolyn Barnett, *POMEPS Podcast (S.10, Ep. 3)*, Starts at 11:36, Jan. 22, 2021, <https://pomeps.org/practicing-islam-in-egypt-a-conversation-with-aaron-rock-singer-s-10-ep-3>

Remote Work and Women's Employment in MENA: Opportunity or Pitfall?, with Carolyn Barnett and Amaney Jamal, *Economic Research Forum (ERF) Policy Portal Forum*, Dec. 15, 2020, <https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2020/12/15/remote-work-womens-employment-mena-opportunity-pitfall/>

Public Sector Employment in MENA: A Comparison with World Indicators, *Economic Research Forum (ERF) Policy Portal Forum*, Aug. 31, 2020, <https://theforum.erf.org.eg/2020/08/31/public-sector-employment-mena-comparison-world-indicators/>

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

“Small States in a Changing Global Order.”

– Security in Context, University of Vienna, Austria, 2025.

“Jordan's Balancing Act: Seeking Stability Amid Regional Turmoil.”

– Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore (Virtual), 2025.

“Earned Income and Women's Segmented Empowerment: Experimental Evidence from Jordan.”

– APSA MENA Research Workshop, Kuwait University, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 2024.

“The Commander's Daughter: Dynastic Ties And Voter Support for Female Candidates in Post-Conflict States.”

– NYU Abu Dhabi Political Science Seminar, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2024.

– American Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Philadelphia, USA, 2024.

– Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2024.

“IMEC After October 7th.”

– The International Monetary Fund, Middle East and Central Asia Division (Virtual), 2024.

“Mirages of Reform.”

– Princeton University, Workshop on Arab Political Development USA, 2025.

– University of Toronto, Political Science Seminar, Canada, 2025.

- Rice University, Political Science Seminar, USA, 2025.
- Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, IR Brown Bag Series, Singapore, 2025.
- American University of Sharjah, International Studies Seminar, UAE, 2024.
- University College London Political Science Department (Virtual), 2024.
- Tufts University Political Science Seminar, Somerville, USA, 2023.
- Harvard Kennedy School’s Middle East Initiative, Cambridge, USA, 2023.
- Yale Comparative Politics Seminar, New Haven, USA, 2023.
- Singapore Political Economy Seminar, Singapore, 2021.
- Book workshop, hosted by Yale-NUS College, (Virtual), 2021.

“Electorate Size and Female Representation: Evidence from State Legislative Assemblies in India.”

- Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, 2024.

“The Blessings of Exit: Female Labor Migration and Gender Equality in Countries of Origin”

- Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, 2023.

“Candidate Qualifications and Out-Group Support: Evidence from Afghanistan”

- American Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Los Angeles, USA, 2023.
- International Studies Association, Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, 2023.

“The Blessings of Scarcity: The Cold War Origins of Smaller States’ Prosperity.”

- American Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Los Angeles, USA, 2023.
- Asian PolMeth Conference, Singapore, 2023.
- Singapore Political Economy Seminar, Singapore, 2022.
- Yale-NUS College Global Affairs Working Paper Series, Singapore, 2022.
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA, 2022.

Workshop: Post-Pandemic Inclusive Economic Recovery in the Middle East and North Africa

- The Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Istanbul, Turkey, 2022.

Teaching

Emerging Markets and Economic Governance (Fall 2025)

International Development (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

International Political Economy, (Fall 2021, Spring 2026)

Research Methods in the Social Sciences (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Senior Capstone (Honors Thesis) Seminar (2022 - 2023)

Small States in Peace and War (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

Southwest Asia and North Africa: Politics and Societies (Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2023)

Service to the University

Job Search Committee - NUS Presidential Young Professorship CP / IR Search (Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

Head of Studies, Yale-NUS Global Affairs Major (Fall 2022)

Yale-NUS Global Affairs Working Paper Series (Organizer) (2021-2022)

Job Search Committee - Yale-NUS Global Affairs Assistant Professor IPE and Global Governance (Fall 2020)

Service to the Discipline

Singapore Political Economy Group Seminar Series (Co-organizer) (2021-2025)

Invited Chair - Middle East Studies Association Politics of Jordan Panel (Fall 2024)

Invited Discussant - American Political Science Association MENA Politics Section's Emerging Scholars Workshop (Fall 2023)
Best Dissertation Committee - American Political Science Association MENA Politics (Spring 2022)
Quantitative Political Science Research Workshop (Co-organizer) (2022-2023)

Awards, Fellowships and Grants

Governance and Local Development Fellow (2024)
Guest-in-Residence, American University of Sharjah (Fall 2024)
Visiting Assistant Professor, The MacMillan Center, Yale University (Fall 2023)
Yale-NUS College SEED Grant (USD 44,000) - Ports of Development: Diasporas, Innovation, and 19th Century Globalisation (2023)
APSA MENA Politics Section Award for Best Dissertation in MENA Politics (2020)

Fieldwork

UAE and Kuwait (Archival, Fall 2024)
Jordan (Interviews, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017; Survey and lab experiment, 2017. Total: 18 months)

Languages

Modern Standard Arabic (Advanced)
French (Native)

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS) – Faculty Fellow

Community Service

Club Rainbow (Singapore), English Tutor, Spring and Fall 2023
Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative: English Co-Instructor, Fall 2015; Tutor, Spring 2016, Spring 2019

Updated January 2026