

# Steve L. Monroe

## Academic and Professional Positions

- National University of Singapore, Assistant Professor of Political Science (2021 - Present)
  - Co-Director, Small States in Changing Global Orders, a Security in Context Research Initiative.
  - Governance and Local Development (GLD) Fellow (2024)
  - Guest-in-Residence, American University of Sharjah (Fall 2024)
  - Visiting Assistant Professor, The MacMillan Center, Yale University (Fall 2023)
- Yale-National University of Singapore (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
- 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, International Political Economy, Gender Politics, Small States

## Book

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

- *Winner of the APSA MENA Politics Section Award for Best Dissertation in 2020*

## Publications

“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, Available Online, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2024.

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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.

## Works in Progress

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

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

“The Politics of Anti-Corruption Crackdowns: The Case of Jordan,” with Sean Yom (Under Review).

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

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

“In the Shadows? Informal Enterprise in Non-Democracies,” with Kristin Fabbe and Allison Hartnett.

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\*Undergraduate Student

## Online Commentary

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.com/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 Blogs of 2023.

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

“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 (APSA), Annual Conference, Philadelphia, USA 2024.

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

“IMEC After October 7th.”

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

“Mirages of Reform.”

- American University of Sharjah, International Studies Seminar, UAE, 2024.
- University College London (UCL) 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 (MPSA), Annual Conference, Chicago, USA, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

- American Political Science Association (APSA), 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

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

International Political Economy, Independent Study (Fall 2021)

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

Job Search Committee - NUS Presidential Young Professorship (PYP) (Spring 2025)

Invited Chair - MESA Politics of Jordan Panel (Fall 2024)

Invited Discussant - APSA MENA Section’s Emerging Scholars Workshop (Fall 2023)

Head of Studies, Global Affairs Major (Fall 2022)

Best Dissertation Committee - APSA MENA Politics Section (Spring 2022)

Quantitative Political Science Research Workshop (Co-organizer) (2022-2023)

Singapore Political Economy Group Seminar Series (Co-organizer) (2021-2022)  
Global Affairs Working Paper Series (Organizer) (2021-2022)  
Job Search Committee - Global Affairs Assistant Professor IPE and Global Governance (Fall 2020)

## **Awards and Grants**

Governance and Local Development (GLD) Fellow (2024)  
Yale-NUS College SEED Grant - Ports of Development: Trade Diasporas, Innovation, and 19th Century Globalisation (USD 44,000)  
APSA MENA Politics Section Award for Best Dissertation in MENA Politics, 2020  
Bobst Center Fall Dissertation Grant (5,000 USD), 2017  
Bobst Center Summer Dissertation Grant (5,000 USD), 2016  
Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS) Language Grant, 2015  
POMEPS TRE Summer Research Grant, 2015  
FLAS Summer Grant Recipient, 2014  
PIIRS, Language Grant, 2014  
Charles S. 05 and Margaret D. Fayerweather Graduate Fellow in Politics, AY2013-2014

## **Fieldwork**

UAE and Kuwait (Archival, Fall 2024)  
Jordan (Interviews, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017; Survey and lab experiment, 2017. Total: 18 months)  
Bahrain and Kuwait (Interviews, 2009)

## **Languages**

Modern Standard Arabic (Advanced - Mid Oral Proficiency Level)  
French (Native)

## **Professional Affiliations**

Association for the Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS) – Junior Fellow  
Co-organizer, Middle East Political Economy Research Cafe, APSA 2018 Annual Conference

## **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

## **Contact**

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