# Steve L. Monroe

steve.monroe@nus.edu.sg
www.stevelmonroe.com

## 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

## Books

**Mirages of Reform: The Politics of Elite Protectionism in the Arab World (Cornell University Press, 2025)**
−Named one of the Best of Books in 2025 by Foreign Affairs
−American Political Science Association - MENA Politics Section Best Dissertation Award 2020
−Reviewed: Foreign Affairs, Mediterranean Politics

**The Blessings of Scarcity: State Size and Capacity in the Middle East**
−Under Contract at Cornell University Press
– Manuscript Submission: June 2028

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

"The Blessings of Scarcity: The Cold War Origins of Smaller States' Prosperity," with Muhammad Bin Khalid ('24)*, *Perspectives on Politics*, volume 24, no. 2, 2026, pp. 762 -781.

"The Politics of Anti-Corruption Crackdowns in Autocracies: The Case of Jordan," with Sean Yom, *Mediterranean Politics*, Available Online.†

"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.

*Undergraduate student.
†Coauthor is lead author.

"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

"Can Trump Break the Middle East's Non-Tariff Barriers?," *Middle East Journal*, volume 79, no. 2, Spring 2026, pp. 175 - 182.

"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

"Conflict Abroad, Context at Home: How Distant Conflicts Can Harm Intergroup Relations," with Matthew Nanes and Risa Toha (Under Review).

"The Blessings of Men's Exit: International 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.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 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

"The Blessings of Men's Exit: International Labor Migration and Gender Equality in Migrants' Countries of Origin."

– Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Political Economy Series, Singapore, 2026.

"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.

"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.

Workshop: Post-Pandemic Inclusive Economic Recovery in the Middle East and North Africa
- The Hollings Center for International Dialogue, Istanbul, Turkey, 2022.

## Teaching

Development
Emerging Markets and Economic Governance
International Political Economy,
Research Methods in the Social Sciences
Senior Honors Thesis Seminar
Small States in Peace and War
Southwest Asia and North Africa: Politics and Societies

## Honors Thesis Supervision

2026: Adwaith Sanka; Tham Mei Shuen (Co-Supervised)
2025: Ellisha Khairy (Co-Supervised; Sheila Hayre Prize for Outstanding Capstone); Shim Yew Brian; Regine Sun; Teera Al Tal
2023: Michael Sagna (Global Affairs Best Capstone Award); Andrea Yeong Xiu; Nii Lantey Malik Aryee-Boi; Nur Aina Binte Sapari
2022: Guilia De Benedictis (Global Affairs Best Capstone Award); Wisha Jamal; Yasmine Messaikeh
2021: Elesin Teo; Hie Guan Jie

## Service to the University

Job Search Committee - NUS Presidential Young Professorship CP / IR Search (Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Fall 2026)

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)
Reviewer: Comparative Politics, Democratization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Studies in Comparative and International Development

## Awards, Fellowships and Grants

Foreign Affairs - Best of Books of 2025 List for *Mirages of Reform: The Politics of Elite Protectionism in the Arab World*
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 August 2026