



**Seminar #2 - (June 14) - Rabab El Mahdi**  
Asking Good Research Questions

**Readings:**

Thomas Shawn Mullaney, and Christopher G Rea. *Where Research Begins: Choosing a Research Project That Matters to You (and the World)*. Chicago, IL; The University of Chicago Press, 2022.



**Rabab El Mahdi** is Associate Professor of Political Science at The American University in Cairo and director of APS. She earned her PhD from McGill University in Montreal, where she wrote her dissertation on the impact of neo-liberal economic reconstruction on changing patterns of state-civil society relations in Egypt and Bolivia. Her field of specialization is comparative political economy and development, with a focus on Latin America and the Middle East. Previously she taught at Yale University and received several fellowships at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, and the Rockefeller Bellagio Center Residency.

### Seminar #3 - (June 20) Lauren Honig

#### Framing a Research Project

#### Readings:

Przeworski, A., & Salomon, F. (1995). *The Art of Writing Proposals*. Brooklyn, NY: Social Science Research Council.

Geddes, B. (2003). "Big Questions, Little Answers: How the Questions You Choose Affect the Answer You Get," in *Paradigms and Sand Castles: Theory Building and Research Design in Comparative Politics*. University of Michigan Press, pp. 27-48.



**Lauren Honig** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Boston College. She researches the comparative political economy of development with a focus on the politics of property rights, the roles of informal and customary institutions, and state-citizen linkages in African countries. Several of her current research projects examine land rights and plural systems of authority. This includes her book, *Land Politics: How Customary Institutions Shape State Building in Zambia and Senegal* (2022, Cambridge University Press). Her research has been published or is forthcoming in *Perspectives on Politics*, *African Affairs*, *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Politics*, *Democratization*, the *Journal of Politics*, and

*World Development*. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Fulbright Council, and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), among others. She has a PhD from Cornell University.

### Seminar #4 - (July 3) - Ellen Lust

#### Conducting a Systematic Literature Review (including Annotation and Note-Taking Software)

#### Readings:

Efron, S. E., & Ravid, R. (2019). "What is a Literature Overview?" In: *Writing the Literature Review: A Practical Guide*. New York: The Guilford Press. (Chapter in an e-book)

Randolph, J. (2009). "A Guide to Writing Dissertation Literature Review," *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*, 14, 13. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/guide-writing-dissertation-literature-review/docview/2366805377/se-2>

**Ellen Lust** is the Founding Director of the Governance and Local Development Institute at Yale University (est. 2013) and then at the University of Gothenburg (est. 2015) and is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. She received her M.A. in



Modern Middle East and North African Studies (1993), PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan (1997), and an honorary PhD from Yale University (2007). She was previously a faculty member at Rice University (1997-2000) and at Yale University (2000-2015), chair of the Council on Middle East Studies at Yale University, and a visiting scholar at the Institute of Graduate Studies (Geneva, Switzerland) and the Straus Institute at NYU. She is currently a Tällberg Stavros Niarchos Foundation Fellow. Ellen has conducted fieldwork and implemented surveys in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Zambia. She has authored numerous books, textbooks, and articles, including, most recently, *Everyday Choices: The Role of Competing Authorities and Social Institutions in Politics and Development* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). Her current research examines the role of social institutions in governance and developing governance indicators to systematically gauge sub-national variations in governance and development.

**Seminar #5 - (July 5) – Rabab El Mahdi and Ellen Lust**  
Considering Causality

**Readings:**

Ruffa, C., & Evangelista, M. (2021). "Searching for a Middle Ground? A Spectrum of Views of Causality in Qualitative Research," *Italian Political Science Review / Rivista Italiana Di Scienza Politica*, 51(2), 164-181. doi:10.1017/ipo.2021.10

Mahoney, J., & Goertz, G. (2006). "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis*, 14(3), 227-249. doi:10.1093/pan/mpj017

**Seminar #6- (July 12) – Erica Ann Metheney**  
Quantitative Literacy: Introduction to Quantitative Thinking (Session 1)

### Learning Outcomes:

After the session, participants will be able to:

- Explain the importance of quantitative literacy,
- Select appropriate data summary techniques for different data types,
- Critically evaluate graphical representations of data



**Erica Ann Metheny** is GLD's statistician and head of GLD Data. She holds a PhD in Statistics from Texas A&M University, and her professional interests include data and network analysis. As Head of the Data Team, Erica oversees all data-related tasks at GLD and develops solutions to increase efficiency. As GLD's Statistician, she provides feedback on analyses, explores new analysis methods, and helps develop analysis plans.

### Seminar #7 - (July 19)– Erica Ann Metheny

Quantitative Literacy: Confidence Intervals + Hypothesis Testing + Linear Models (Session 2)

### Learning Outcomes:

After the session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the purpose and general structure of a confidence interval,
- Interpret confidence intervals,
- Identify the various items that impact the width of a confidence interval,
- Describe the philosophical logic of hypothesis testing,
- Interpret output from a hypothesis test

### Seminar #8 - (July 27) · Erica Ann Metheny

Quantitative Literacy: Assessing Quantitative Work (Session 3)

**Learning Outcomes:**

After the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key components to assess in quantitative work,
- Identify common issues/mistakes/weaknesses in quantitative work,
- Identify best practices for common quantitative methods

**Seminar #9 - (August 16) - Marwa Shalaby**  
Conducting Interviews

**Readings:**

Aberbach, J., & Rockman, B. (2002). "Conducting and Coding Elite Interviews." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 35(4), 673-676. doi:10.1017/S1049096502001142

Roulston, K. (2010). "Considering Quality in Qualitative Interviewing." *Qualitative Research*, 10(2), 199-228.

Glas, A. (2021). "Positionality, Power, and Positions of Power: Reflexivity in Elite Interviewing." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 54(3), 438-442. doi:10.1017/S1049096520002048



**Marwa Shalaby** is an Assistant Professor in the departments of Political Science and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Shalaby's work focuses on the intersection of the politics of authoritarianism and women in politics. Her research also explicates the micro-dynamics and outcomes of electoral institutions under competitive authoritarianism, mainly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Shalaby's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Comparative Politics*, *Politics and Gender*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Parliamentary Affairs*, and *The Middle East Journal*, among many others. She has co-authored an edited volume, *The Evolving Role of Women after the Arab Spring*, with Valentine Moghadam (2016). Shalaby is currently working on a book manuscript on gender and authoritarian politics in MENA.

**Seminar #10 - (August 17<sup>th</sup>) – Lihi Ben Shitrit**  
Ethnographic Research

**Readings:**

Ben Shitrit, L. (2013). "Women, Freedom, and Agency in Religious Political Movements: Reflections from Women Activists in Shas and the Islamic Movement in Israel," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, 9(3), pp. 81-107. <https://doi.org/10.2979/jmiddeastwomstud.9.3.81>

Jones, C. W. (2015). "Seeing Like an Autocrat: Liberal Social Engineering in an Illiberal State," *Perspectives on Politics*, 13(1), pp. 24-41. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592714003119>





Lihi Ben Shitrit is the incoming director of the Taub Center for Israel Studies at New York University. She is also an associate professor at the School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia, Athens. Her research focuses on the intersections of gender, religion, and politics in the Middle East. She is the author of *Righteous Transgressions: Women's Activism on the Israeli and Palestinian Religious Right* (Princeton University Press, 2015) and *Women and the Holy City: The Struggle over Jerusalem's Sacred Space* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) as well as numerous articles and book chapters. Ben Shitrit's work has been supported by various fellowships including from Harvard Law School's Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World (2023), ACLS/Luce Religion, International Affairs and Journalism fellowship (2019-2020), Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative (2018-2019), University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (2017), and Harvard Divinity School's Women's Studies in Religion Program (2013-2014). She holds a Ph.D., M.Phil., and M.A. in political science from Yale University and a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University.



**Seminar #11 (August 23) - Cari Jo Clark**  
Focus Groups

**Readings:**

Goldsmith, L. J. (2021). "Using Framework Analysis in Applied Qualitative Research," *The Qualitative Report*, 26(6), 2061-2076. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2021.5011>

Hennink, M. M., Kaiser, B. N., & Weber, M. B. (2019). "What Influences Saturation? Estimating Sample Sizes in Focus Group Research," *Qualitative Health Research*, 29(10), 1483-1496., Chicago



**Cari Jo Clark** is an Associate Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. Her research is focused on the health effects of exposure to child maltreatment and intimate partner violence, the measurement of violence and its associated norms, and the design and evaluation of primary and secondary prevention strategies in institutions and communities. Her prevention research spans geographic locations from US-based to lower-income countries and settings from communities to institutions (e.g., universities and health care systems). She is currently involved in two ongoing evaluations in Nepal, including further research on the Change Starts at Home Project, piloting a mental health intervention for fertility treatment-seeking couples in Jordan, and secondary data analysis of the measurement

properties of partner violence and norms' scales in experiments. She has published over 100 manuscripts, book chapters, and working papers, which have appeared in journals such as *The Lancet*, *Pediatrics*, and *Social Science and Medicine*.

**Seminar #12 - (Sept 6 – NB – 1700 CEST) - Daniel Masterson**  
Experimental Research

**Readings: TBD**



**Daniel Masterson** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Previously, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Immigration Policy Lab at Stanford University. He has a PhD in Political Science from Yale University, an MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School, and a BA in Political Science from Bates College. He conducts research on conflict and refugee migration, refugee community organizing, and humanitarian aid, with a regional focus in the Middle East. His work has appeared in the *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. A number of media outlets have covered his research, including The New York Times, The New York Review of Books, and The Economist.

### Seminar #13 - (Sept 13) - Yusuf Magiya Archival Research

#### Readings:

Balcells, L., & Sullivan, C. M. (2018). "New Findings from Conflict Archives: An Introduction and Methodological Framework." *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(2), 137–146. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343317750217>

Cusack, T., Iversen, T., & Soskice, D. (2007). "Economic Interests and the Origins of Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review*, 101(3), 373-391. doi:10.1017/S0003055407070384

Cusack, T., Iversen, T., & Soskice, D. (2010). "Coevolution of Capitalism and Political Representation: The Choice of Electoral Systems." *American Political Science Review*, 104(2), 393-403. doi:10.1017/S0003055410000134

Ginzburg, C. (1991). "Checking the Evidence: The Judge and the Historian." *Critical Inquiry*, 18(1), 79–92. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1343716>

Greenstein, F. I., & Immerman, R. H. (1992). "What Did Eisenhower Tell Kennedy about Indochina? The Politics of Misperception." *The Journal of American History*, 79(2), 568–587. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2080047>

Kreuzer, M. (2010). "Historical Knowledge and Quantitative Analysis: The Case of the Origins of Proportional Representation." *American Political Science Review*, 104(2), 369-392. doi:10.1017/S0003055410000122

Kim, D. (2022). "Taming Abundance: Doing Digital Archival Research (as Political Scientists)." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 55(3), 530-538. doi:10.1017/S104909652100192X

Lieberman, E. S. (2010). "Bridging the Qualitative-Quantitative Divide: Best Practices in the Development of Historically Oriented Replication Databases." *Annual Review of Political Science*, 13, 37-59.

Lustick, I. S. (1996). "History, Historiography, and Political Science: Multiple Historical Records and the Problem of Selection Bias." *The American Political Science Review*, 90(3), 605–618. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2082612>



**Yusuf Magiya** is a Postdoctoral Associate at the Social Science Division at New York University Abu Dhabi. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at Columbia University in 2022. His research interests are at the intersection of the political economy of development, distributive politics, and identity politics; mainly focusing on the politics of taxation and state building in the Middle East and in the comparative context.

**Seminar #14 - (Sept 20) - May Tamimova**  
Participant Observation

### Readings:

Crane, Julia G. and Angrosino, Michael V. (1992). "Field Projects in Anthropology: A Student Handbook," Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc. (Project Five: Participant Observation, p. 64-74).

Birckhead, Jim. (2004). "And I Can't Feel at Home in This World Anymore: Fieldwork in Two Settings," in *Anthropologists in the Field: Cases in Participant Observation*, eds. Hume, Lynne., and Mulcock, Jane. New York: Columbia UP, pp. 95-107.



**May Tamimova** recently completed her PhD in Anthropology at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on everyday clientelism in Lebanon and political subjectivity under oppressive governance systems more generally. She is currently a post-doctoral researcher at Leiden University. Previously, May held research positions at the European University Institute, Orient Institute Beirut, and the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies.

**Seminar #15 - (Sept 27) - Robert Kubinec**  
Concepts and Measurement

**Readings: TBD**



**Robert Kubinec** is a political scientist who studies the influence of powerful business interests on policy outcomes in developing countries, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. In addition, he is involved in the development of Bayesian statistical methods for measuring difficult topics like corruption and political ideology. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Nature Human Behavior*, *Political Analysis*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, *Social Science Quarterly* and *PLOS ONE*. His book, [\*Making Democracy Safe for Business: Corporate Politics After the Arab Uprisings\*](#), explores the effect of powerful businesspeople on the democratization process in Egypt and Tunisia after the Arab Spring.

**Seminar #16 - (Oct 4) - Michael Robbins**  
Survey Research

**Readings: TBD**



**Michael Robbins** is the director and co-principal investigator of Arab Barometer. He has been a part of the project since its inception and serving as director since 2014. He has led or overseen more than 100 surveys in international contexts and is a leading expert in survey methods to ensure data quality. His work on Arab public opinion, political Islam, and political parties has been published in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, the *Journal of Democracy*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He received the American Political Science Association Aaron Wildavsky Award for the Best Dissertation in the field of Religion and Politics.

**Seminar #17- (Oct 11)**  
Participant Observation – Sarah Parkinson

**Readings TBD**

**Seminar #18 - (Oct 18) - Ellen Lust**  
How to Critically Assess Research Papers - Introduction to Peer Review and Application in Seminars.

**Seminar #19 - (Oct 25)**  
David Waldner - Process Tracing

**Readings:**

Waldner, D. (2014). "What Makes Process Tracing Good? Causal Mechanisms, Causal Inference, and the Completeness Standard in Comparative Politics," In A. Bennett & J. Checkel (Eds.), *Process Tracing: From Metaphor to Analytic Tool*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 126-152. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139858472.008>

Bennett, A. (2008). "Process Tracing: A Bayesian Perspective," in J. Box-Steffensmeier, H. E. Brady, and D. Collier (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 702-721. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199286546.003.0030>



**David Waldner** is Associate Professor in the Department of Politics at the University of Virginia. He teaches courses on research design, qualitative methodology, and comparative politics. His research interests are the political and economic development of the post-colonial world and qualitative causal inference. He is the author of *State Building and Late Development, Rethinking the Resource Curse* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) and multiple articles and chapters on qualitative inference. His current book projects are *Qualitative Causal Inference & Explanation* and *American Nation-Building from the American South to Afghanistan: Militarized Democracy*

*Promotion by an Imperfect Democracy*. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley

**Seminar #20 - (Oct 31)**  
**Academic Writing - Greg Soulliere**

**Seminar #21 (November 1)**  
**Presentation Skills - Christina El Saidi**

**Seminar #22 - (Nov 8) - Azita Berar-Awad**  
**Public Policy: from Research to Impactful Policy Briefs**





Azita Berar Awad has more than three decades of experience in international development cooperation and the UN system and has held for more than two decades senior leadership positions in the International Labour Organization (ILO), including that of Director, Employment Policy Department (2006-2017). Azita Berar has led policy analysis, initiated and directed research and publications and technical and policy reports in the fields of pro-employment macro-economic policies, poverty reduction strategies, gender equality, youth employment, informal economy and transition to formality; economic and social recovery for peace-building and disaster resilience including policies addressing refugees and displaced populations .

Azita Berar Awad has participated in and contributed to major global Summits and economic and social cooperation mechanisms such as the G20, BRICS, the World Summit for Women and the 2030 Development agenda. She has led and facilitated multiple dialogues and international negotiations including those leading to the formulation and adoption of several new international labour standards as well as setting in place innovative global policy and governance frameworks on employment and social policy. In 2016, under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) platform, she initiated an overarching multi-stakeholder partnership, the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and in 2020 co-created with universities in the Global South and Global North a policy research network on youth transitions. She is currently the Chair of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and of the Board of Trustees on Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights and Policy Director of the Global Labour Organization (GLO), a network of academics, research and policy institutions on labour markets. She lectures at several universities on the global governance of economic and social policies. Azita Berar Awad holds post graduate degrees in Development Economics and Political Science from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva and is the author of numerous publications and policy reports

**Nov 15 - Seminars for Individual presentations**



## Additional resources:

### Writing research questions:

- [Formulating a Research Question](#)
- [Writing Good Qualitative Research Questions](#)

### Databases:

- [Sage Research Methods Online](#)
- [Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods Knowledge](#)
- [Sage Project Planner](#)

### Reading and note-taking:

- [Reading a Scholarly Article](#)
- [Let's Get Critical: Reading Academic Articles](#)
- [How to Read a Paper](#)

[Coursera: Research Design: Inquiry and Discovery](#)

### Finding literature:

- <https://www.scopus.com/>
- <https://www.researchrabbit.ai/>