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## POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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Starts: 25th October 23

**! Block Seminar ! Note times and locations**

Wednesday: 10-12 on the following dates:

- 24/10/2023 - 00/0030, Ketzerbach 11
- 15/11/2023 - 00/0030, Ketzerbach 11
- 29/11/2023 - 00/0030, Ketzerbach 11
- 06/12/2023 - 00/0030, Ketzerbach 11
- 13/12/2023 - 00/1010, Deutschhausstraße 3
- 10/01/2024 - 00/0030, Ketzerbach 11

**+ 2 full day blocks on:**

- Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> of January (10-17) - 101, Deutscher Sprachatlas, Pilgrimstein 16
- Friday, 2nd of February (10.30 -17) - 101, Deutscher Sprachatlas, Pilgrimstein 16

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Office Hours: Wednesdays: 15-16.30,

**please make an appointment by email before to ensure that there is space**

### Welcome to Political Behavior in the Middle East and North Africa!

Western views on citizens in the Middle East and North Africa are often formed by media reports, elite perceptions, or “expert” opinions. This type of source often portrays MENA citizens as radical, deeply religious, and/ or desperate, perspectives that are both inaccurate and paternalistic.

This seminar looks at the attitudes and behavior of ordinary citizens with the help of public opinion data, that is, data based on standardized questions that are asked in many MENA countries. We will draw on the Arab Barometer, a nationally representative opinion survey that has been conducted since the late 2000s in different Arab countries. These questions help us learn what average citizens think about issues ranging from religion, gender equality, political Islam, globalization, or the performance of state institutions. They also help us understand the types of behaviors citizens engage in, such as protest, voting, religious practice, or migration.

Methodologically, this seminar wants to enable students to develop sensible empirical hypotheses that are anchored in theory and will be investigated in class with data from the Arab Barometer. In the first part of the seminar, we will discuss readings, develop hypotheses for empirical investigation based on these readings, and look for suitable questions in the Barometer questionnaires. In the second part (block empirical sessions), we will investigate our different hypotheses with data from the Arab Barometer, both by country and comparatively.

To contextualize our analyses, we will look at specific countries and gather background information on them at the beginning. The number of countries depends on the number of participants in the seminar.

You are not required to have previous experience in analyzing and interpreting public opinion data. We will stick to very simple uses such as cross-tabulations and learn to do this step by step with simple Google sheets. However, you must be willing to engage with the logic of quantitative empirical analysis, from hypotheses to results.

**To participate in the block part of the seminar, participation in the first part of the seminar – where we will develop our hypotheses – is required (see also continuous assessment).**

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## ASSESSMENT

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*Studienleistung (continuous assessment):*

- *Present a reading* (participate in a group presenting a reading). In about 10-15 minutes you must present the question and main findings of a paper. -> We will devote Session 2 to how to read and present the type of papers used in this seminar.

*And*

- Participate in a short country presentation (session 8, 24th of January). The presentation consists of a few background indicators about a country, such as type of political regime, elections, unemployment, etc. A template will be distributed before.

*And*

- *Participate in in-class presentations of empirical findings* during the blocks

*Prüfungsleistung (exam):*

- Data report (around 10 pages), including tables or figures)
  - In your data report, you must do the following **for one of the hypotheses we examined in the seminar**
    - Motivate and explain the hypothesis (why is it relevant, what exactly is it saying)
    - Operationalize the hypothesis -> which concepts -> which questions in the ARAB Barometer?
    - Analyse the data for at least two countries
    - Describe the results
  - We will go through these steps for various topics over the course of the seminar

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## SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

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Date	Content
25-Oct	Introduction
15-Nov	Reading & Presenting an Empirical Paper
29-Nov	Gender Equality
6 -Dec	Preferences for Political Regimes
13-Dec	Political Participation
10-Jan	Emigration
<b>Blocks</b>	
19- Jan: 10-17	Country presentations, learning to analyze data, gender equality
2 - Feb: 10.30-17	Analyzing drivers of regime preferences, participation, emigration

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## SESSIONS

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### Session 1 (25-Oct): Introduction

Approach to learning  
Public opinion data in the MENA  
Themes  
Skills  
Requirements: SL and PL

### Session 2 (15-Nov): How to read & present an empirical paper

We will go through one empirical paper STEP-BY-STEP and identify the essential components of understanding and reading such a paper; essential for doing useful presentations later on.

### Session 3 (29-Nov): Attitudes toward gender (in)equality in the MENA

#### *Presentation of Readings (about 15 minutes each)*

- Seguino, Stephanie. 2011. "Help or Hindrance? Religion's Impact on Gender Inequality in Attitudes and Outcomes." *World Development* 39 (8): 1308–21.
- Wolbrecht, Christina, and David E. Campbell. 2007. "Leading by Example: Female Members of Parliament as Political Role Models." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (4): 921–39. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2007.00289.x>.

#### *Development of Hypotheses (in groups)*

- We will develop different hypotheses on drivers of attitudes toward gender equality in the MENA that we will investigate in the block sessions in January.

#### *Operationalization of Hypotheses with Survey Questions from the Arab Barometer (in groups)*

- We will examine the questionnaire of the Arab Barometer to see how we can operationalize relevant concepts (such as, in this case "attitudes toward gender equality")

### Session 4 (06-Dec): Preferences for Political Regimes

#### *Presentation of Readings (about 15 minutes each)*

- Ciftci, Sabri. 2013. "Secular-Islamist Cleavage, Values, and Support for Democracy and Shari'a in the Arab World." *Political Research Quarterly* 66 (4): 781–93.
- Collins, Kathleen, and Erica Owen. 2012. "Islamic Religiosity and Regime Preferences: Explaining Support for Democracy and Political Islam in Central Asia and the Caucasus." *Political Research Quarterly* 65 (3): 499–515.

#### *Development of Hypotheses (in groups)*

- We will develop different hypotheses on drivers of regime preferences in the MENA that we will investigate in the block sessions in January

#### *Operationalization of Hypotheses with Survey Questions from the Arab Barometer (in groups)*

- We will examine the questionnaire of the Arab Barometer to see how we can operationalize relevant concepts (such as, in this case “support for democracy/ preference for a political regime”

### Session 5 (13-Dec): Political Participation

#### *Presentation of Readings (about 15 minutes each)*

- Lust, Ellen. 2009. “Competitive Clientelism in the Middle East. Democratization by Elections?” *Journal of Democracy* 20 (3): 122–35.
- Sika, Nadine. 2021. “Youth Socio-Economic and Political Grievances: Bringing the ‘Political’ Back into Understanding Contestation in the MENA.” *Mediterranean Politics* 26 (3): 330–48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2020.1749813>.

#### *Development of Hypotheses (in groups)*

- We will develop different hypotheses on drivers of political participation in the MENA that we will investigate in the block sessions in January

#### *Operationalization of Hypotheses with Survey Questions from the Arab Barometer (in groups)*

- We will examine the questionnaire of the Arab Barometer to see how we can operationalize relevant concepts (such as, in this case “grievances” or “clientelism”

### Session 6 (10-Jan): Emigration

#### *Presentation of Readings (about 15 minutes each)*

- Helms, Benjamin. 2023. “Exit or Voice? Corruption Perceptions and Emigration.” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, May. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-023-09395-y>.
- Sirojudin, Siroj. 2009. “Economic Theories of Emigration.” *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* 19 (6): 702–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911350902910880>.

#### *Development of Hypotheses (in groups)*

- We will develop different hypotheses on drivers of the desire to emigrate that we will investigate in the block sessions in January

#### *Operationalization of Hypotheses with Survey Questions from the Arab Barometer (in groups)*

- We will examine the questionnaire of the Arab Barometer to see how we can operationalize relevant concepts (such as, in this case “corruption perceptions”, “desire to emigrate”.

**Important: All block times are s.t. (sharp)****Block 1: 19th of January from 10 :00 (sharp) to 17:00****Session 7. 10.00-12.00 Country Presentations**

- Background information on Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Jordan

Lunch break: 12.00-13.00

**Session 8: 13- 14.30 Analysing Data**

- Independent and dependent variables in empirical hypotheses
- Analyzing and presenting data with Google Sheets and Google Slides

Coffee Break 14.30 -15.00

**Session 9: 15.00-17:00 Attitudes toward gender equality in the MENA**

- Investigation of hypotheses developed in part 1 of the seminar
- Presentation & discussion of results

**Block 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> of February from 10 :00 (sharp) to 17:00****Session 10. 10.30-12.00: Religiosity and Preferences for Democracy**

- Investigation of hypotheses developed in part 1 of the seminar
- Presentation & discussion of results

Lunch break: 12.00-13.00

**Session 11: 13- 14.30: Political participation**

- Investigation of hypotheses developed in part 1 of the seminar
- Presentation & discussion of results

Coffee Break 14.30 -15.00

**Session 12: 15.00-17.00 : Emigration**

- Investigation of hypotheses developed in part 1 of the seminar
- Presentation & discussion of results
- Seminar evaluation