

Erin A. Snider

Contact Information

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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of International Affairs
The George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University (From September 2013)
College Station, Texas

Carnegie Fellow, New America Foundation
September 2017-August 2019

Postdoctoral Fellow in Regional Political Economy (Middle East)
Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance,
Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and
International Affairs, 2012-2013

Education

University of Cambridge
Gates Scholar, Department of Politics and International Studies,
PhD 2011

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of
London 2003
MSc in Middle East Politics. Awarded 1st class, Distinction

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA.
B.A., *summa cum laude*, International Relations (Concentration:
Middle East and Africa), and English
Minor in French 1999

Research Interests

Political Economy of Development in the Middle East,
International Political Economy, Democratization, Foreign
Assistance, International Relations of the Middle East,
Globalization and Democracy, Political Economy of Climate
Change in the MENA

Book

Marketing Democracy: The Political Economy of Democracy Aid in the Middle East, Cambridge University Press, 2022

Containing Change: The Politics of Transitional Aid in the Middle East
[book project in progress]

Publications

“Containing Change: The Politics of Transitional Aid in Egypt after the Arab Uprisings,” *Globalizations. Special Issue on IPE and the Middle East. Forthcoming*

“US Democracy Aid and the Authoritarian State: Evidence from Egypt and Morocco” *International Studies Quarterly*, 62:4, 1 December 2018, pp 795-808.

“International Political Economy and the Middle East,” Symposium on IR Theory and Middle East Studies, *PS: Political Science and Politics* Volume 50, Issue 3, July 2017

“Supporting the Arab Spring: The Future of U.S. Democracy Promotion in Egypt” (with David M. Faris) *Middle East Policy*, Fall 2011, Volume XVIII, Number 3

Invited

Book Reviews

Manal Jamal. *Promoting Democracy: The Force of Political Settlements in Uncertain Times* (New York: New York University Press: 2019) *Political Science Quarterly*. Spring 2021

Sheila Carapico. *Political Aid and Arab Activism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014) *Middle East Journal* Spring 2015

Other Writing

“States, Markets, and Power: International Political Economy and the New Middle East,” *International Relations Theory and the New Middle East*, Project on Middle East Political Science, Symposium Series, George Washington University, September 2015

“Democracy Aid in the Middle East,” APSA Comparative Democratization Section, Symposium on Democracy Aid in Challenging Contexts, Volume 14, No. 3, October 2016

Select Research
in Progress

“The Ethics of International Democracy Assistance” *Under Review*

“Ideational Capture: Social Networks and the Limits of Discourse in Middle East policy-making” (with David M. Faris)

“Climate Change and Democratic Erosion in the Middle East” (with Karim El Kafrawi)

“Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid”

“The Politics of Economic Change in El Sisi’s Egypt”

Fellowships,
Grants & Awards

Texas A&M University, T3: Texas A&M Triads for Transformation, multidisciplinary seed-grant program part of the President's Excellence Fund, \$30,000.00 (with Danila Serra and

Kalena Cortes) project title: 'Diversity and Inclusion through Role Models'. January 2021

Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Dean's Excellence Award, \$4,735.00. February 2020

Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Faculty Research Grant, Bush School, Texas A&M University. 2018, \$2,230.00

American University, Washington, DC. Bridging the Gap Policy Engagement Fellowship, 2018. \$3,000.00

Texas A&M University, Arts and Humanities Fellow, 2018. \$15,000.00 (over three years)

Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Faculty Research Grant, Bush School, Texas A&M University. 2017. \$2,230.00

Carnegie Corporation/New America Foundation, Carnegie Fellow, New America Fellows Program. 2016-2018. \$50,000.00

Texas A&M University, Division of Research, PESCA Grant, 2016. \$9,800.00

Faculty Research Grant, Middle East Initiative, Bush School, Texas A&M University. 2015. \$10,000.00 Mapping Democracy Aid Networks in the Middle East

Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Faculty Research Grant, Bush School, Texas A&M University. 2015. Field work support, Morocco. \$2,480.00

Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs, Faculty Research Grant, Bush School, Texas A&M University. 2014. Field work support, Tunisia. \$2,480.00

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Regional Political Economy, Princeton University, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, 2012-2013

George Washington University, Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Research Grant for fieldwork in Morocco. Summer 2012

Transatlantic Postdoctoral Fellowship for International Relations and Security, 2011-12. Placement at the U.S. Institute of Peace, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Chatham House (declined).

Gates Scholar, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, University of Cambridge, 2005-2010

Fulbright Fellow, Fulbright Commission, Egypt. 2007-2008.

American University in Cairo, Affiliated Research Fellow
Department of Political Science. Spring 2007

Overseas Research Student Award, United Kingdom. 2005-2009

International Development Fellow, Catholic Relief Services, 2005
Community Services Project, Serbia (declined)

Presentations and Invited Talks

“Diversifying Conversations in International Political Economy: Insights from the Global South,” upcoming participant on roundtable discussion, annual meeting of the International Studies Association, March 18, 2023, Montreal.

“Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid,” upcoming presentation at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, panel on Responding to Democratic Backsliding, March 15, 2023, Montreal

“Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid,” presentation at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, panel, ‘Why Promote Democracy? Critical New Directions in Democracy Research’ September 17, 2022, Montreal

“Marketing Democracy,” Invited book talk, Stanford University, Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) and the Program on Arab Reform. April 19, 2022

“Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid.” Invited talk at the London School of Economics, Department of International Relations, October 25, 2021.

“Labor Transformation and Regime Transition: Lessons from the Middle East and North Africa,” Cornell IRL School and Project on Middle East Political Science Virtual Workshop. Discussant. April 29, 2021.

“Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid,” presentation at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. Panel on Liberal Interventions in the Middle East: Social Control and Structural Violence. April 8, 2021

“Author Meets Critics: Manal A. Jamal’s Promoting Democracy: The Force of Political Settlements in Uncertain Times (New York University Press, 2019). Discussant on Roundtable. Annual meeting of the International Studies Association. April 6, 2021

“Marketing Democracy: The Political Economy of US Democracy Aid in the Middle East,” Invited talk at the London School of Economics’ International Relations Research Seminar, November 17, 2020.

"The Changing International Political Economy of the Middle East," Invited talk at Academic Exchange retreat on the Illiberal Turn and the Future of the Middle East, June 4-6, 2019, Lake George, New York

"International Donor Aid after the Arab Spring," presentation at the European International Studies Association (EISA), 6th European Workshops in International Studies, Krakow, Poland, June 26-29, 2019 for the panel, "International Political Economy and the Middle East: Beyond Mutual Neglect."

"International Political Economy and the Middle East," presentation for workshop on Political Economy in the Middle East, annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2018.

"Economies in Transition: International Donor Assistance after the Arab Uprisings," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2017

"Ideational Capture: Social Networks and the Limits of Discourse in Middle East policy-making," (with David Faris, Roosevelt University), paper presented at the annual meetings of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, November 2016, and the American Political Science Association, September 2017

"Ethics and Democracy Promotion," Invited talk, Workshop on Ethics and Political Science, Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University, September 15, 2015

"The New Political Economy of Aid and Transition in the Middle East," APSA, San Francisco, September 4, 2015

"Ordering Change: International Political Economy and the Arab Uprisings," Invited paper by the Project for Middle East Political Science, George Washington University, and Aarhus University for workshop on "IR Theory and a new Middle East." Aarhus, Denmark. May 8, 2015

"The Ethics of International Democracy Assistance," ISA, February 2015, New Orleans. Panel on "New Perspectives and Research in Democracy Assistance."

"The Ethics of International Democracy Assistance," APSA, August 2014, Washington, D.C. Panel on the Political Economy of Regime Change

"Engineering Transition: The New Political Economy of Aid and Transition in the Middle East." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, panel on foreign aid and international cooperation. March 24, 2014, Toronto.

"The Political Economy of Aid and Transition in the Middle East," paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies

Association, panel on 'The Political Economy of the Arab Spring: Pre and Post Uprising Analyses.' October 12, 2013, New Orleans.

"Marketing Democracy." Presentation, International Relations Faculty Colloquium, Department of Politics, Princeton University. May 13, 2013.

"A Critical Engagement with the Study of Middle Eastern Cities." Conference. Princeton University May 10, 2013. Discussant, Panel on "Governing the City."

"Aiding the Revolution or the Status Quo? Reconsidering Western Aid for Democracy after the Arab Spring," Paper presented at the Middle East Institute-National University of Singapore 2012 Conference, "Arab Uprisings, Examining the Possibilities and Risks," May 24-25 2012. Singapore.

"The Political Economy of Democracy Assistance in the Middle East" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, panel on U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East. San Diego, CA, November 2010

"The Political Economy of Democracy Assistance in the Middle East: U.S. Assistance for Democracy in Morocco and Egypt since 1990," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), panel on the political economy and legitimacy of democracy aid. Washington, D.C. September 2010

Panelist, The Role of External and Domestic Actors in Democracy Promotion, 13th DGAP-Friedrich Ebert Stiftung New Faces Conference, "Democratization and Security in the Middle East and North Africa" March 17-20, 2010, Istanbul, Turkey

"United States Assistance for Democracy in Egypt: A Critical Analysis of USAID Efforts in Egypt since 1990." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Washington, D.C. November 2008.

"Reinforcing the Status Quo? Evaluating the Political Economy of Economic Reform in the Middle East." Panelist, Roundtable discussion on the challenges to democratization in the Middle East and North Africa, American University in Cairo's Annual Research Conference, April 2008.

Fulbright Association, Middle East Fellows Research Conference, Tunis, Tunisia, April 2008. Invited to present a talk on democratization and economic reform in Egypt.

"USAID and Democracy Assistance in Egypt." Paper presented at the Third Annual British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Graduate Conference, University of Oxford. July 2007.

"Democracy: Indigenous Movements or Imposed by the West?" Awarded graduate bursary to attend panel at the Keynes Forum

on Britain and the Broader Middle East in London. November 2006.

“Reconstructing Afghanistan: Economy and Society.” Panelist at the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) at the City University of New York. February 2002.

Courses Taught

The Political Economy of the Middle East
 The Politics and Practice of Democracy Promotion
 The Politics and History of the Arab Uprisings
 The Politics of Modern Egypt
 Issues in Modern Egyptian Politics [Graduate Study Abroad in Cairo, in partnership with the American University in Cairo, Fall 2015]

PhD Students Advised (Committee Member)

Benjamin Peterson, Texas A&M, Department of Political Science (2021)

Nada Al-Jamal, Texas A&M, Department of History

University Service

Reviewer, Avilés-Johnson Fellowship Program to increase diversity among Texas A&M University’s graduate student population. 2021

Co-organizer, Data Driven Social Sciences Research Seminar Series, Fall 2019-2020

Lecture, “Political Transitions in the Middle East,” Mays Business School Honors Program. October 23, 2014

Committee Member, Texas A&M University Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee. April 2014

Keynote speaker, Presentation on U.S. Policy and Egyptian Politics, 59th Annual MSC Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) on the Middle East [*Caught in the Sandstorm: From Persia to the Sahara*], February 22, 2014

“Syria’s Refugee Crisis: Regional and International Implications,” Invited Panel Presentation. The MSC Wiley Lecture Series on “The Syrian Enigma: A Continuing Crisis.” November 14, 2013

“Egypt’s Revolution” Invited Lecture by the Department of International Studies, November 11, 2013

“Egypt in Transition: Opportunities and Challenges After Morsi,” Invited lecture by the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest. October 24, 2013.

Departmental
and Bush School
Service

Co-organizer, Department of International Affairs Faculty Research Seminar Series, 2020-2021

Ad Hoc Committee on Voting, 2020

Bush School Uncorked Podcast, February 19, 2019. Podcast focused on my research on foreign aid in the Middle East

Diplomatic Historian (tenure track line) Search Committee Member, 2018

The Bush School's "What's Next?" Series. Participation on panel, "What's Next for Saudi Arabia and US-Saudi Relations?" October 29, 2018

Annual Review Committee, 2015-2016

Fulbright presentation for Bush School students, September 2015

Graduate Admissions Committee, 2014, 2015

International Development Junior Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2014

Co-convener, Department of International Affairs Faculty Research Seminar Series, 2015-2016

Panelist, "The Ongoing Crisis in the Middle East," Scowcroft Institute Middle East Roundtable. October 15, 2014.

Panelist, Panel on Professionalism, Ethics, and Integrity in Public Service, Bush School New Student Orientation, August 25, 2014.

Skills

Languages: Modern Standard and Egyptian Arabic (proficient), French (Proficient)

Technology: R, Stata, Qualtrics

Fieldwork
Experience

Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Djibouti, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

Selected Media
and Research Interviews

New Books in Political Science Podcast. September 30, 2022.
Interview with Lamis Abdelaty.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/marketing-democracy>

Between the Lines Podcast: Erin Snider on Democracy Aid in the Middle East. Project on Middle East Democracy. July 29, 2022
<https://pomed.org/between-the-lines-erin-snider-on-democracy-aid-not-working-the-way-the-u-s-intended/>

“Marketing Democracy: The Political Economy of Democracy Aid in the Middle East.” Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Podcast, George Washington University. April 21, 2022. <https://pomeps.org/s-11-ep-27>

“Myanmar and Russia show the limits of Biden’s pro-democracy agenda.” *Vox* February 4, 2021, <https://www.vox.com/22263008/myanmar-russia-biden-foreign-policy-democracy>

The Politics of Reform in the Middle East: A Conversation with Erin Snider. *Duck of Minerva*. February 25, 2019 <http://duckofminerva.com/2019/02/the-politics-of-reform-in-the-middle-east-a-conversation-with-erin-snider.html>

Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Conversations Series: Erin Snider on the Political Economy of Foreign Aid in the Middle East. April 2016. <https://pomeps.org/pomeps-conversation-62-erin-snider>

“After 40 years, U.S. rights report wins respect, but doesn’t change policy,” *McClatchy DC*, April 14, 2016.

Guest Appearance from Cairo on “Connect the World with Becky Anderson,” *CNN International*. July 4, 2013

“Salafist party asserts role in Egypt as Brotherhood Teeters.” *Bloomberg News*. July 8, 2013.

“Bread riots or bankruptcy: Egypt faces stark economic choices.” *Christian Science Monitor*. April 3, 2013

“Foreign funding of Egyptian rights groups causes stir in political discourse.” *Egypt Independent*. Friday, July 22, 2011

Advanced Language Training

American University in Cairo, Arabic Language Institute
Fall 2007-Summer 2008: Certificate in Advanced Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic

American University in Cairo, Arabic Language Institute
Summer 2006: Intermediate Egyptian and Modern Standard Arabic

American University in Beirut, Center for Arab and Middle East Studies. *Summer 2005: Intermediate Modern Standard and Lebanese Arabic*

American University in Cairo, Arabic Language Institute,
Summer 2004: Beginning Modern Standard and Egyptian Arabic

Arabic Language Institute in Fès, Morocco *Summer 2002*
Beginning courses in Modern Standard Arabic and Moroccan Darija

Other Professional
Experience

United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)

Program Manager, Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign, June 2000-2002

- Managed landmine removal programs in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique, and Vietnam.
- Conducted field evaluation missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia.
- Monitored and managed the Campaign's grants with the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations Foundation.

US Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs

Fellow, Frasure, Drew, Kruzel Memorial Fellowship, Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs. June 1999-2000

- Accompanied a policy assessment team to Djibouti for the country's evaluation of entry into the U.S. demining program.
- Compiled financial data for entry into the United Nations' Mine Action Investment database.

Travel

Algeria, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Professional
Memberships

American Political Science Association, Middle East Studies Association of North America, International Studies Association

Reviewer

American Political Science Review, Political Science Quarterly, International Studies Quarterly, World Development, International Studies Review, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Economy and Society, Middle East Journal, Democratization, International Organization, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Edinburgh Press.

References

Available on Request