Erin A. Snider

Contact Information

Email: erinsnider@cantab.net
www.erinsnider.com

Academic and Professional Appointments

Senior Advisor, Democracy Action Research Platform, Cornell University, Cornell Center on Democracy. May 2026-Present.

Visting Scholar, Institute for Middle East Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. October 2025-Present.

Senior Advisor and Academic Researcher, Democracy Openings and Democratic Backsliding Project. US Agency for International Development (with Social Impact). September 2024-July 2025.

Senior Researcher, Democracy Assistance in Transition (DAT) Academic Working Group, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. November 2023-May 2024.

Carnegie Fellow, New America, Washington, DC
September 2017-2019

Assistant Professor of International Affairs
The Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University 2013-2023
College Station, Texas

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, Trinity College
Gates Scholar, Department of Politics and International Studies, 2011
PhD in Politics

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. 1999
B.A., *summa cum laude*, International Relations (Concentration: Middle East) and English
Minor in French

Research Interests

Political Economy of Development in the Middle East, Foreign Aid, International Relations of the Middle East, Democratization and Development, Political Economy of Climate Change and Conflict in the MENA

Books

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

"*Financing Transition: Aid and the Challenge of Inclusive Economic Recovery in Syria*." In *Syria After Assad*. Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). 2025 https://pomeps.org/financing-transition-aid-and-the-challenge-of-inclusive-economic-recovery-in-syria

"Containing Change: The Politics of Transitional Aid in Egypt after the Arab Uprisings," *Globalizations. Special Issue on International Political Economy and the Middle East. 1–18. 2023*

"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

H-Diplo Review Essay of Eric Helleiner's, *The Contested World Economy: The Deep and Global Roots of International Political Economy*. New York: Cambridge, 2023. May 17, 2024. https://networks.h-net.org/group/discussions/20033460/h-diplorjissf-roundtable-review-15-41-helleiner-contested-world-economy

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

Responding to Democratic Openings: A Practitioner's Guide. (with Rachel Beatty Riedl and Luis Camacho) 2025. USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. https://www.drghub.org/technical-resources/openingguide

Responding to Democratic Backsliding: A Practitioner's Guide. (with Rachel Beatty Riedl and Luis Camacho) 2025. USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. https://www.drghub.org/technical-resources/backslidingguide

"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*

Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid *Under Review*

The Politics of Economic Reform in El Sisi's Egypt

Authoritarian Currents: Energy Democracy and the Political Economy of Renewable Energy in Egypt

Ideational Capture and American Foreign Policy in the Middle East (with David Faris) *data collection in progress*

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)

Select Presentations and Invited Talks

"Authoritarian Currents: Energy Democracy and the Political Economy of Renewable Energy in Egypt," panel on the contested politics of climate change, renewable energy, and the environment. Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 25, 2025.

Discussant, The Monarchic Advantage: Regime Type, Oil, and Bilateral Investment Treaties in the Middle East and North Africa. Virtual Research Workshop. Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). April 10, 2025.

"Challenges to Global Democracy and Economic Prosperity." Invited talk, The Center on Global Democracy at Cornell University's Brooks School of Public Policy. April 7, 2025.

"Authoritarian Currents: Energy Democracy and the Political Economy of Renewable Energy in Egypt," Invited talk, Tulane University, Department of Political Science, March 17, 2025.

"Marketing Democracy," Invited book talk, UCLA, Burkle Center for International Relations, February 5, 2025

Invited to join expert workshop organized by the Crisis Response Council and the Middle East Peace and Security Forum to examine regional prospects for peace and stability in Dohuk, Kurdistan, November 17-24, 2024.

"Ethical Challenges in Democracy Aid," presentation, Annual Meeting of the Democratic Erosion Consortium (DEC), American University, Washington, DC, June 6-7, 2024.

"The Unintended Consequences of Democracy Promotion," Invited briefing to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Washington, D.C., March 21, 2024

"Ideational Capture and American Foreign Policy in the Middle East," Invited talk at Tulane University's Department of Political Science speaker series. February 19, 2024

"The Political Economy of Renewable Energy in Egypt," presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 2, 2023. Montreal.

"Diversifying Conversations in International Political Economy: Insights from the Global South, Annual meeting of the International Studies Association, March 18, 2023, Montreal.

"Ideas, Interests, and Institutions in Democracy Aid," 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."

"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

Courses Taught

The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East
The Politics and Practice of Democracy Aid
The Politics and History of the Arab Uprisings

The Politics of Development in Egypt
Issues in Modern Egyptian Politics *[Graduate Study Abroad in Cairo, in partnership with the American University in Cairo, School of Global and Public Policy, 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 (2022-23)

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, 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 University Service

Bylaws Committee Member, 2022-23

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 the politics of 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.

Select Media and Research Interviews

Interview, *Alternatives Économiques*, "Trump peut-il contraindre l'Egypte à accepter son plan pour Gaza? March 5, 2025

Interview with Al Jazeera: "Why Egypt backed South Africa's genocide case against Israel in the ICJ," May 16, 2024. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/16/why-egypt-backed-south-africas-genocide-case-against-israel-in-the-icj

Interview with Texas Standard Radio (NPR)-Understanding the Extended Israel-Hamas Truce. November 28, 2023 https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/news-israel-hamas-ceasefire/

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

- Supervised program personnel and managed the implementation of international humanitarian demining initiatives supported by multimillion-dollar grants funded by the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations Foundation.
- Managed post-conflict demining programs and evaluated field missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Mozambique, and Vietnam with the UN Mine Action Service.
- Collaborated with senior UN officials and traveled to Afghanistan to design an innovative strategy to deliver rapid demining assistance throughout the country after 9/11.

US Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
Fellow, Frasure, Drew, Kruzel Memorial Fellowship, Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs. June 1999-2000

- Supported humanitarian demining initiatives and managed international partnerships.

- Accompanied a policy assessment team to Djibouti for the country's evaluation of entry into the U.S. demining program.
- Updated and edited the US government publication, "To Walk the Earth in Safety," documenting the government's annual worldwide efforts to remove anti-personnel landmines.
- Monitored and compiled financial data for entry into the United Nations' Mine Action Investment database.

Professional Memberships — American Political Science Association, Middle East Studies Association of North America, International Studies Association, Middle East Economic Association

Service to the Profession

Reviewer — *Review of International Political Economy, 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, Mediterranean Politics, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Edinburgh Press, Cornell University Press.*

Chair — APSA Political Economy Section, William H. Riker Award for the Best Book on Political Economy, 2025.

References — Available on request