

Middle East Scholar Barometer

Co-directed by Shibley Telhami and Marc Lynch

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**A Joint Initiative of the University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll
and the Project on Middle East Political Science
at George Washington University**

Survey Methodology

This survey was carried out October 25 – November 8, 2022, online using the University of Maryland's Qualtrics platform. The poll was distributed to 1584 recipients resulting in 513 responses. Recipients included those who are members of the Middle East and North Africa section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), as well as members of the American Historical Association (AHA) who specialized in the Middle East, and other relevant contacts of the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) at George Washington University.

The poll was conducted using an anonymous link sent out via email, which did not collect any identifiable information about the respondents. The poll was designed using the University of Maryland's Qualtrics platform, which generated the anonymous link that was sent out, and the data from the responses were also collected on this platform. The questions, some of which were repeat questions from previous polls, were prepared by the two principal investigators in consultation with the academic advisory committee of the Middle East Scholar Barometer.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one-hundred due to rounding

Middle East Scholars Poll

Dear Colleague,

We would like to invite you to take this brief scholars' survey on Middle East politics (Middle East Scholar Barometer). As you may recall, we conducted the first round of these surveys in February 2021, a second survey in September 2021, and a third round in March 2022. In this fourth survey, we are probing a different set of issues related to conducting research on the Middle East, limitations and opportunities, career-related issues, and ethical questions related to conducting research. We kept it short so that the survey should take around 5-7 minutes to complete. Please note that we will make no effort to sell anything to you, your answers will remain confidential, and you will remain anonymous. We will also share the final aggregate results with you. If at any time you find that you do not want to answer a question, feel free to skip it and move on to the next one. We value all feedback on this project, and due to feedback from previous surveys, we have now added a “do not know” option to all questions. Thank you in advance!

Best,

Marc Lynch

Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
Director, Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS)

Shibley Telhami

Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development
Director, University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll

Questions:

1A. This research is being conducted by Dr. Shibley Telhami at the University of Maryland, College Park and Dr. Marc Lynch at George Washington University. We are inviting you to participate in this research project because you are a scholar focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. The purpose of this research project is to gauge expert opinions on Middle East politics.

Below you will find a series of questions about Middle East scholarship, research, and teaching, followed by demographic questions, that should only take you five minutes to complete. As this survey is being conducted using an anonymous link, no identifiable information about you will be collected.

Any potential loss of confidentiality will be minimized by not collecting your email address (through the use of anonymous links) or any other information that can allow you to be identified. The data from this survey will be securely stored in the principal investigator's password protected accounts.

If we write a report or article about this research project, your identity will be protected to the maximum extent possible. Should you need to reach us for any reason regarding this survey, please contact us at sadatoffice@umd.edu

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board at irb@umd.edu.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in this research, you may stop participating at any time. By consenting below, you indicate that you are at least 18 years of age.

I acknowledge that I have read the information about the survey above and I give my consent in order to participate: If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the University of Maryland Institutional Review Board at irb@umd.edu.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in this research, you may stop participating at any time. By consenting below, you indicate that you are at least 18 years of age.

I acknowledge that I have read the information about the survey above and I give my consent in order to participate: **[FORCE RESPONSE]**

	Total
a) I consent	99.6%
b) I do not consent (if you selected this option, please exit the survey now)	<1%

Q1. Which of the following have constituted limitations on your ability to conduct field research in the MENA region over the past three years: (Select all that apply)	Total
COVID-related restrictions on travel to country or countries of research	68%
Unable to secure IRB or travel approval from your institution	9%
Ongoing armed conflict in country or countries of research	26%
Government restrictions, visa denials, and/or surveillance in country or countries of research	31%
Unable to secure adequate funding	32%
Personal, familial, and/or health limitations	39%
Principled or ethical objections to visiting country or countries of research	13%
Other [please indicate]	8%
None	8%

Q2. Have barriers to field research over the last three years caused you to change your research project, or its design?	Total
Yes	54%
No	46%

Q3. Which of the following research practices have you adopted in direct response to barriers to field research access: (Select all that apply)	Total
Online survey	14%
Digital interviewing	23%
Digital ethnography	8%
Social media analysis	18%
Collaborative research with in-country partners	18%
Hiring in-country research assistants to conduct surveys	7%
Hiring in-country research assistants to conduct interviews or focus groups	4%
Archival or other non-field methods	47%
Other [please indicate]	12%
None	21%

Q4. Which of these steps has your university taken in response to the limitations on your research imposed by COVID? (Select all that apply)	Total
Allowing extra time on tenure clock	34%
Providing extra funds for research, research assistants, or purchasing technology	12%
Accommodations for family care (COVID/health related)	14%
Accommodations for childcare during school closures	3%
None	47%
I do not currently have an affiliation with a university	11%

Q5. Which of these forms of support for junior scholars do you consider to be the most useful for advancing their professional development and career prospects? (Select all that apply)	Total
Workshops for book and article manuscripts	70%
Networking and mentoring opportunities	67%
Inclusion in edited volumes	41%
Small research grants	73%
Methodological training workshops	38%

Q6. Which, if any, of these collaborations with researchers outside your region have you participated in in the last three years? (Select all that apply)	Total
My research partner is based in a university and is of equivalent academic rank as myself	26%
My research partner is based in a university and is junior to my academic rank	15%
My research partner does not work in a university setting and received financial compensation	8%
My research partner does not work in a university setting and did not receive financial compensation	7%
I do not have a research partner outside my region	60%

Q7. How would you characterize the level of involvement of your research partner(s) from the MENA region, if any: (Select all that apply)	Total
Funding for our research was awarded jointly	5%
My research partner(s) and I planned the research together	20%
I designed the research and trained my research partner(s) to implement it	7%
My research partner(s) and I analyzed the data together	14%
My research partner(s) collected the data and I analyzed it	8%
My research partner(s) is acknowledged by name in the papers or articles resulting from the research	12%
My research partner(s) and I are listed as co-authors on publication(s) resulting from the research	19%
I have not participated in a research collaboration	65%

Q8. Have you discussed ethical considerations raised by your research (beyond required IRB approvals) with any of the following? (Select all that apply)	Total
University Administrators	8%
Academic Colleagues	43%
Students/Advisees	19%

Faculty/ Advisors	21%
Colleagues in the country or countries where the research is conducted	26%
All of the above	4%
None of the above	40%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: Egypt	Total
Yes	63%
No	38%

Q9A. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in Egypt? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	46%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	75%
Principled or ethical concerns	65%
Other [please specify]	3%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: Israel	Total
Yes	48%
No	53%

Q9B. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in Israel? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	14%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	38%
Principled or ethical concerns	94%
Other [please specify]	11%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: United Arab Emirates	Total
Yes	65%
No	35%

Q9C. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in the United Arab Emirates? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	19%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	48%
Principled or ethical concerns	87%
Other [please specify]	7%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: Qatar	Total
Yes	80%

No	20%
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Q9D. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in Qatar? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	10%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	36%
Principled or ethical concerns	87%
Other [please specify]	7%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: Saudi Arabia	Total
Yes	31%
No	69%

Q9E. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in Saudi Arabia? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	19%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	57%
Principled or ethical concerns	86%
Other [please specify]	5%

Q9. Is it appropriate to hold academic workshops in the following countries: Turkey	Total
Yes	80%
No	20%

Q9F. Why is it not appropriate to hold workshops in Turkey? – (Select all that apply) [Among those who said no to Q9]	Total
Personal safety	25%
Concerns about access and/or safety of workshop participants	56%
Principled or ethical concerns	84%
Other [please specify]	4%

Q10. Who do you see as the audiences for your research and writing? (Select all that apply)	Total
Your academic discipline (Political Science, Anthropology, History, etc.)	93%
The Middle East Studies academic community	84%
Governments	27%
The broader policy community	43%
The general public	55%
Activists, NGOs and civil society organizations	46%
Other [please specify]	6%

Q11. In the past three years, which of these have you used to disseminate your research findings? (Select all that apply)	Total
University press book	44%
Trade book	16%
Peer reviewed journal article	74%
Non-peer reviewed journal article	42%
Op-ed in a print newspaper	21%
Post in an online publication	41%
Guest on a podcast	38%
Appearance on television or radio	25%
In-person talk or panel discussion	65%
Virtual talk or panel discussion	75%

Q12. Have you consulted either formally or informally with any government agencies regarding policies in the Middle East?	Total
Yes, and I was financially compensated	12%
Yes, and I was not financially compensated	12%
No, I was asked but I did not engage due to ethical concerns	5%
No, I was asked but I did not engage due to other reasons	2%
No, I tried but was unable to gain access	2%
No, I have not tried and have not been asked	67%

Q13. Do you feel the need to self-censor when speaking about the Middle East in an academic or professional capacity?	Total
Yes	57%
No	43%

Q14. What are the primary reasons for limiting your speech about the Middle East in an academic or professional capacity? (Select all that apply) [Among those who said they feel a need to self-censor]	Total
Government legal restrictions on permissible speech	30%
Concerns about discipline from academic administrators at your institution	31%
Concerns about affecting institutional fundraising	13%
Concerns about the campus culture or offending students	51%
Concerns about pressure from external advocacy groups	58%

Q15. Last year, the Middle East Studies Association voted to adopt a non-binding resolution in support of academic boycott on Israeli universities. Do you support the MESA resolution?	Total
Yes	54%
No, I oppose all boycotts of Israel	9%
No, I support some boycotts of Israel, but not their academic institutions	36%
No, the MESA resolution did not go far enough	1%

Q16. Regardless of whether you personally support or oppose the boycott of Israel, which of the following is closer to your view?	Total
We should SUPPORT laws that penalize people who boycott Israel	4%
We should OPPOSE laws that penalize people who boycott Israel	97%

Q17. What is your profession (Please select one)	Total
Non-tenure-track professor	10%
Assistant professor, tenure-track	13%
Associate professor, tenure-track	22%
Professor, tenure-track	23%
Graduate student	9%
Professor Emeritus	7%
Independent scholar	5%
Retired scholar	6%
Other	5%

Q18. Are you a member of one of the following? (Select all that apply)	Total
Middle East Studies Association	87%
American Politics Science Association	35%
American Historical Association	19%

Q19. What is your discipline? (Please select one)	Total
Political Science	43%
Not political science	58%

Q20. What is your gender identity (Please select one)	Total
Male	59%
Female	37%
Transgender male	0%
Transgender female	0%
Gender variant/non-conforming	<1%
Other	0%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Q21. What is your race/ethnicity (Select all that apply)	Total
White	70%
Black or African-American	2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%
Asian	3%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander	<1%
Hispanic or Latino origin	3%
Middle East origin	31%

Q22. Are you currently located outside or inside of the United States? (Please select one)	Total
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Outside of the United States	24%
Inside the United States	76%

Q23. Which Middle East Scholar Barometer surveys have you participated in? (Select all that apply)	Total
February 2021	65%
September 2021	71%
March 2022	69%
None/ this is the first survey I have participated in	16%