

# Dana Abu-Haltam

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## Education

- PhD, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Political Science, Expected 2026
  - Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics & Methods
  - Research Interests: MENA Region, Foreign Policy, Alignment, US-China Rivalry
  - Dissertation: *Abandoning A Friend? Middle Eastern North African Countries' Behavior Towards China's Rise Amid U.S. Dominance*
  - Committee: Krista Wiegand (Chair & Advisor), Wonjae Hwang, Matt Buehler, Lina Benabdallah (WFU)
- MA, Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2023
- MA, Diplomatic Studies, University of Jordan, 2019
- BA, Chinese and English Languages, University of Jordan, 2016
- Chinese Language Program, Shenyang Normal University, Shenyang, China, 2015-2016

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** “*Where to Throw the Hook? Chinese Strategic Partnership Selection and Its Effectiveness.*” 2025. *Chinese Political Science Review*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** “*How to Politely Say No: Jordan's Foreign Policy Towards US-Chinese Competition*” Forthcoming at *Foreign Policy Analysis*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** “*Navigating Great Power Competition: Jordan's Response to US-China 5G Rivalry*” Forthcoming at *Asian Perspective*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2020. “*The Chinese and United States Interests in Taiwan*” *Journal of Strategic and Military Studies*, Eighth Issue, September 2020, ISSN 2626-093X.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2020. “*One Belt One Road Initiative: A Win-Win Partnership .*” *Journal of Afro-Asian Studies*, Seventh Issue, November 2020, ISSN 2628-6475.

## Other Publications

- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2025. “Chinese Strategic Partnerships – Dataset for “Where to Throw the Hook? Chinese Strategic Partnership Selection and Its Effectiveness in Achieving Influence”, <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/RPT4ND>, Harvard Dataverse, V1
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2025. “*Arab Views on the United Nations: Navigating Conflict, Corruption, and Credibility*”, Blog at Arab Barometer.

## Working Papers

- **Dana Abu-Haltam,** “*Beyond Survival: Saudi Arabia's Geopolitical Strategy Amid U.S.-China Competition.*”
  - **Winner**, 2025 Gulf Studies Graduate Paper Award, Gulf Studies Symposium, Gulf International Forum, Georgetown University, 2025

- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “How Do Middle Powers Navigate Great Power Rivalries?,” with Lawrence Rubin.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “*Does Health Aid Reduce Interstate Hostility? In the cases of the U.S. and China.*” **Under Review**”, with Wonjae Hwang, Jeeseon Hwang, and Tianjing Liao.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “*Great Power Competition and the Dynamics of Warfare*” with Krista Wiegand.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “*Punish, help, or dominate? Why do Countries Sanction but Simultaneously Provide Foreign Aid?*” with Wonjae Hwang and TianJing Liao.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “*Stability or Chaos: Chinese Arms Sales to the Middle East*” with Mark Berlin.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**, “*Great Powers’ UN Voting Alignment with Smaller Countries: Assessing Effectiveness in Jordan.*” with Desmond Shmavonian, and Leena Malik.

## Research and Teaching Experience

- Teaching, Introduction to Comparative Politics, University of Tennessee, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, & Spring 2025
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Matthew Brauer. 2024
- Teaching, Introduction to Political Science, University of Tennessee, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- Guest lecture, Regional Comparative Government & Politics, Maryville College, Fall 2023
- Guest lecture, Middle East & North Africa course, Maryville College, Spring 2023
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Krista Wiegand. 2021-2022
- Research assistant to Prof. Matt Buehler. 2022

## Scholarships & Awards

- William G. McCall Dissertation Research Award (\$1500), 2025
- David Mock Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching Associate Performance (\$1500), 2025
- Gulf Studies Graduate Paper Award, Gulf International Forum, Georgetown University, 2025
- Graduate Teaching Associate, 2023-2025
- Political Science Graduate Fellowship, UT Knoxville (total of \$11,750), 2021-2025
- McClure Scholarships, Center for Global Engagement, the Study of World Affairs (\$5000), 2024
- STaRT workshop scholarship by Rice University, 2024
- UT Knoxville, Political Science Department Travel Fund (\$3000), 2022-2024
- Graduate Student Senate Award for Excellence in Service, 2024
- Graduate Student Senate Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, 2024
- Graduate Student Senate Travel Awards (\$1000), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2022-2024
- The William G. McCall Dissertation Research Award (\$500), 2023
- Best Conference Paper Award (\$500), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2023
- SEC-AAS Travel Award (\$200), 2023
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2022-2023
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2021-2022
- Confucius Institute Scholarship, Shengyang, China, 2015-2016

## Conference & Workshop Presentations

- Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), 2025
- International Studies Association: 2024, 2025<sup>†</sup>
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2023<sup>\*†</sup>, 2025<sup>\*†</sup>
- Statistical Training and Research Techniques, (STaRT), Rice University, 2024
- A Student-Centered Approach for Reducing Plagiarism Workshop, UT Knoxville, 2024
- UTK Political Science Graduate Student Associate Research Workshop: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- UTK IR Workshop: 2021, 2022 2023, 2024
- Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies: 2023<sup>†</sup>

\* also discussant, † also chair

## Services and Professional Experience

- Reviewer: Journal of International Affairs, and Potentia Graduate Journal, 2024-
- Student Representative for Middle East Studies at the University of Tennessee, 2022-
- Instructor, Graduate Student NVivo and MAXQDA Workshop, UT Knoxville, 2024
- Instructor, Graduate Student Qualtrics XM Workshop, UT Knoxville, 2024
- International Student Liaison, 2024-2025
- President of Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2023-2024
- Vice President of Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2022-2023
- Representative and Speaker for the Graduate Student Senate at the University of Tennessee Graduate Student Orientation, 2023
- International Relations Graduate Students Representative, 2021-2022
- Consular Assistant at the Chinese Embassy in Jordan, 2016-2019

## Certificates and Professional Membership

- Global Security Studies Graduate Certificate, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2025
- Research Mentor Training, CIRTL, 2025
- International Studies Association, 2021-2025
- Midwest Political Science Association, 2021-2025
- International Studies Association, 2021-2025
- Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2021-2025
- Online TLC certificate, 2023
- Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning (FUEL) certificate, 2023
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE), 2020
- Chinese Proficiency Test certificate (HSK): Level 6 (Highest Level), 2017

## Skills

Software: Stata, Mplus, SPSS, NVivo, MAXQDA and Qualtrics XM.

Languages: Arabic (Native), English (Advanced) and Chinese (Advanced).