

Dana Abu-Haltam

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Education

- PhD, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Political Science, Expected 2026
 - Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics & Methods
 - 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 (Wake Forest University)
- 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.** “Navigating Great Power Competition: Jordan’s Response to US-China 5G Rivalry” Forthcoming at *Asian Perspective*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2025 “How to Politely Say No: Jordan’s Indirect Bandwagoning Behavior toward US–China Competition” *Foreign Policy Analysis*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2025. “Where to Throw the Hook? Chinese Strategic Partnership Selection and Its Effectiveness.” *Chinese Political Science Review*.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2020. “The Chinese and United States Interests in Taiwan” *Journal of Strategic and Military Studies* 2(8): 139-153.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2020. “One Belt One Road Initiative: A Win-Win Partnership.” *Journal of Afro-Asian Studies* 2(7): 147-161.

Working Papers

- “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
- “Tri-Alignment: Bahrain’s Survival Strategy Amid an Era of Global Power Shifts.” In edited volume, eds. Steven Wright and Rory Miller, for *Gulf Studies series*. *Under Review*
- “Does Health Aid Reduce Interstate Hostility? In the cases of the U.S. and China.” with Wonjae Hwang, Jeeseon Hwang, and Tianjing Liao. *Under Review*
- “Bridging Divides: Insights from US Mediation in the Lebanese-Israeli Delimitation Crisis for Future Engagements Between Greece and Turkey” with Krista Wiegand
- “How Do Middle Powers Navigate Great Power AI and Technological Rivalries?” with Lawrence Rubin.

- “Mediation as Strategy: Comparing Saudi and Qatari Roles in Regional Conflict Resolution” With Tingyi Wang.
- “Stability or Chaos: Chinese Arms Sales to the Middle East” with Mark Berlin.
- “The Impact of U.S. Administrative Shifts on Middle Eastern Foreign Policy Amid U.S.-China Competition” with Ahmet Ergurum.

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”, Harvard Dataverse, V1
 - Original dataset collected from Chinese-language sources of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2025. “Arab Views on the United Nations: Navigating Conflict, Corruption, and Credibility”, Blog at Arab Barometer.

Teaching Experience

- Introduction to Comparative Politics, Instructor of Record, University of Tennessee, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, & Spring 2025, Fall 2026.
- Introduction to Political Science, Teaching Assistant, University of Tennessee, Fall 2022, Spring 2023.
- Introduction to Research Methodology Workshop (NVivo, MAXQDA, and Qualtrics XM), Graduate Level, University of Tennessee, Fall 2024.
- Regional Comparative Government & Politics (Asia), Guest lecture, Maryville College, Fall 2023.
- Middle East & North Africa, Guest lecture, Maryville College, Spring 2023.

Research Experience

- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Matthew Brauer. 2024.
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Krista Wiegand. 2021-2022.
- Research assistant to Prof. Matt Buehler. 2022.

Research and Language Skills

- **Languages:** Arabic (Native), English (Advanced) and Chinese (Advanced).
- **Software:** Stata, Mplus, SPSS, LATEX, NVivo, MAXQDA and Qualtrics XM.
- **Qualitative Methods:** Fieldwork, Semi-structured Interviews, Process Tracing, Case Studies; MSSD, MDSD, Text Analysis, Survey Design.
- **Quantitative Methods:** Linear regression, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, and Time Series Methods.

Scholarships & Awards

- William G. McCall Award for Dissertation Research (\$1500), 2025
- David W. Mock Memorial Award for Outstanding Performance as a Graduate Teaching Associate (\$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 \$15,000), 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[†]
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2023^{*†}, 2025^{*†}
- 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[†]

* also discussant, † also chair

Services and Professional Experience

- Reviewer: *Journal of International Affairs*, *Potentia Graduate Journal*, and *American Journal of Qualitative Research*,^b 2024-
- Student Representative for Middle East Studies at the University of Tennessee, 2022-
- International Relations Subfield Representative, Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2021-2022; 2025-2026
- 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
- 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
- American Political Science Association, 2021-2025
- Midwest Political Science Association, 2021-2025
- Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2021-2025
- Online TLC certificate, 2023
- Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning (FUEL) certificate, 2023
- Chinese Proficiency Test certificate (HSK): Level 6 (Highest Level), 2017