

# Dana Abu-Haltam

Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
1009 McClung Tower; 1115 Volunteer Boulevard; Knoxville, TN 37996  
📧 [danaabuhaltam.com](mailto:danaabuhaltam.com) | | ✉ [dabuhalt@vols.utk.edu](mailto:dabuhalt@vols.utk.edu) | | 📞 +1(423)427-1797

## Education

- PhD, University of Tennessee, Political Science, Expected Spring 2026
  - Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics & Research 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

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

- “Mediation as Strategy: Comparing Saudi and Chinese Roles in Regional Conflict Resolution” With Tingyi Wang.
- “Punish, help, or dominate? Why do Countries Sanction but Simultaneously Provide Foreign Aid?” with Wonjae Hwang and Tianjing Liao.

## 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 (UT), Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, & Spring 2025, Fall 2026.
- Introduction to Political Science, Teaching Assistant, UT, Fall 2022, Spring 2023.
- Introduction to Research Methodology Workshop (NVivo, MAXQDA, and Qualtrics XM), **Graduate Level**, UT, 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, Certificates, and Professional Training

- Global Security Studies Graduate Certificate, University of Tennessee, 2026
- Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), 2025
- Research Mentor Training, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning, 2025
- Statistical Training and Research Techniques workshop (STaRT) scholarship, Rice University, 2024
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Matthew Brauer, 2024.
- Student-Centered Approach for Reducing Plagiarism Workshop, UT, 2024
- Online Teaching and Learning certificate, UT, 2023
- Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning (FUEL) certificate, UT, 2023
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Krista Wiegand, 2021-2022
- Research assistant to Prof. Matt Buehler, 2022
- Chinese Proficiency Test certificate (HSK): Level 6 (Highest Level), 2017

## Scholarships & Awards

### External

- International Studies Association (ISA) Student Travel Grant (\$600), 2026
- Middle East Studies Association's (MESA) Student Travel Grant (\$500), 2025
- Gulf Studies Graduate Paper Award, Gulf International Forum, Gulf Studies Symposium, Georgetown University, 2025
- Gulf Studies Symposium Travel Grant (\$450), 2025
- Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC-AAS) Travel Award (\$200), 2023
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2022-2023
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2021-2022
- Confucius Institute Scholarship, Shengyang, China, 2015-2016

### Internal

- Political Science Graduate Fellowship, University of Tennessee (total of \$15,000), 2021-2026
- William G. McCall Award for Dissertation Research (\$1500), 2025
- David W. Mock Memorial Award for Outstanding Performance as a Graduate Teaching Associate (\$1500), 2025
- Graduate Teaching Associate, 2023-2026
- McClure Scholarships, Center for Global Engagement, the Study of World Affairs (\$5000), 2024
- UT, Political Science Department Travel Fund (\$6000), 2022-2026
- Graduate Student Senate Award for Excellence in Service, 2024
- Graduate Student Senate Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, 2024
- Graduate Student Senate Travel Awards (\$4000), University of Tennessee, 2022-2026
- The William G. McCall Dissertation Research Award (\$500), 2023
- Best Conference Paper Award (\$500), University of Tennessee, 2023

## Conference & Workshop Presentations

- American Political Science Association (APSA), 2025
- MESA Annual Conference, 2025
- IS-ISSS Annual Conference, 2025
- ISA Annual Conference, 2024, 2025<sup>†</sup>
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, 2023<sup>\*†</sup>, 2025<sup>\*†</sup>
- Political Science Graduate Student Associate Research Workshop, University of Tennessee, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- International Relations Workshop, University of Tennessee, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- SEC-AAS Annual Conference, 2023<sup>†</sup>

\* also discussant, † also chair

## Services and Professional Experience

- Reviewer for: *Journal of International Affairs*, *Potentia Graduate Journal*, and *American Journal of Qualitative Research*, 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

## Research and Language Skills

- **Languages:** Arabic (Native), English (Advanced), Chinese (Advanced), Spanish (Beginner).
- **Software:** Stata, Mplus, SPSS, LATEX, NVivo, MAXQDA, SurveyCTO, and Qualtrics XM.
- **Qualitative Methods:** Semi-structured interviews, process tracing, survey design, text analysis, case studies; MSSD, MDSD.
- **Quantitative Methods:** Hypothesis testing, Linear regression, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Causal Inference, and Time Series Methods.