

Dana Abu-Haltam

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Appointments

- **Princeton University**

- Postdoctoral Research Associate, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), 2026-

- **University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

- Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of Political Science, 2023-2026
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, 2022-2023
- Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, 2021-2022

Education

- PhD, Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2026
 - Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics & Research Methods
 - Dissertation: *Abandoning a Friend? Middle Eastern Countries' Behavior Amid U.S.–China Competition*
 - Committee: Krista Wiegand (Chair & Advisor), Wonjae Hwang, Matt Buehler, Lina Benabdallah (Wake Forest University)
- MA, Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2026
- 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.** 2026. “Navigating Great Power Competition: Jordan’s Response to US-China 5G Rivalry.” *Asian Perspective*.
- Wonjae Hwang, Jeeseon Hwang, Tianjing Liao, and **Dana Abu-Haltam.** 2026. “Does Health Aid Mitigate Interstate Hostility? Evidence from the US and China.” *Asian Survey*
- **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.

Under Review and Working Papers

- “Why Sanction and Simultaneously Provide Foreign Aid?” With Wonjae Hwang and Tianjing Liao. **R&R**, *International Political Science Review*.
- “Bridging Divides: Insights from U.S. Mediation in the Lebanese–Israeli Delimitation Crisis for Future Engagements between Greece and Turkey.” With Krista Wiegand. **R&R**, *Mediterranean Politics*.
- “Tri-Alignment: Bahrain’s Survival Strategy amid an Era of Global Power Shifts.” **Under Review**.
- “The UAE’s AI Strategy amid Intensifying U.S.–China Technological Competition.” Chapter in *Middle Power Strategy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. Routledge. **Under Review**.
- “How Do Middle Powers Navigate Great Power AI and Technological Rivalries?” With Lawrence Rubin and Ahmet Ergurum. **Under Review**.
- “North Africa and the BRICS Countries.” With Ahmet Ergurum. **Under Review**.
- “Beyond Survival: Saudi Arabia’s Geopolitical Strategy amid U.S.–China Competition.”
 - Winner, Gulf Studies Graduate Paper Award, Gulf International Forum, 2025.

Work in Progress

- “Mediation as Strategy: Chinese and Saudi Arabia’s Mediation Roles in International Conflict Resolution” With Tingyi Wang and Rufe Li.
- “Sticks for Allies, Carrots for Others: How the United States Responds to China’s Strategic Partnerships.” With YanChuan Liu.
- “Stabilizing or Destabilizing? The Effects of Chinese Arms Sales on Recipient States”
- “Copying China: When and Why States Adopt Chinese Domestic Policies”

Dataset, Public Analysis, and Media

- Interview with the China Institute, University of Alberta. 2026. “[Caught in the Middle: A Glimpse from Jordan into U.S.–China Competition in the Middle East](#).”
- **Dana Abu-Haltam**. 2026. “[Foreign Policy and Economics: How Arab Public Opinion Correlates with Global Leaders’ Actions](#)”, Blog at Arab Barometer.
- **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

- Global Conflicts, **Guest Lecture**, University of Kentucky, Fall 2026
- Introduction to Comparative Politics, **Instructor of Record**, University of Tennessee, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring 2026.
- Introduction to Political Science, **Teaching Assistant**, University of Tennessee, 2022–2023.

- Introduction to Research Methodology Workshop (NVivo, MAXQDA, and Qualtrics XM), **Graduate Level**, UT, Fall 2024.
- Regional Comparative Government & Politics (Asia), **Guest Lecturer**, Maryville College, Fall 2023.
- Middle East & North Africa, **Guest Lecturer**, Maryville College, Spring 2023.

Research Positions and Certificates

- Global Security Studies Graduate Certificate, University of Tennessee (UT), 2026
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Matthew Brauer, 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
- Graduate Research Assistant to Prof. Matt Buehler, 2022
- Chinese Proficiency Test Certificate (HSK): Level 6 (Highest Level), 2017

Related Professional Training

- Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), 2025
- Statistical Training and Research Techniques workshop (STaRT), Rice University, 2024
- Political Science Graduate Student Association Research Workshop, UT, 2021-2026
- International Relations Workshop, University of Tennessee, 2021-2026
- Research Mentor Training, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning, 2025
- Student-Centered Approach for Reducing Plagiarism Workshop, UT, 2024
- Overseas Chinese Teachers' Training Program by Hanban, Shenyang, China, 2016

Scholarships & Awards

External

- Winner of Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society (SERMEISS) Article Award. 2026
- International Studies Association (ISA) Student Travel Grant (\$600), 2026
- Middle East Studies Association's (MESA) Student Travel Grant (\$500), 2025
- 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 Travel Award (\$200), 2023
- Confucius Institute Scholarship, Shenyang, China, 2015-2016

Internal – University of Tennessee

- 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

- 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), UT, 2022-2026
- The William G. McCall Dissertation Research Award (\$500), 2023
- Best Conference Paper Award (\$500), UT, 2023

Conferences

- American Political Science Association (APSA) conference, 2025
- MESA Annual Conference, 2025
- Gulf Studies Symposium, 2025
- IS-ISSS Annual Conference, 2025
- ISA Annual Conference, 2024, 2025[†]
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, 2023^{*†}, 2025^{*†}
- Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC-AAS) Annual Conference, 2023[†]

* also discussant, † also chair

Services and Professional Experience

- Reviewer for: *Security Studies*, *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, 2022-2026
- 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, 2016-2020

Research and Language Skills

- **Languages:** Arabic (Native), English (Fluent), 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.