

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

ORGANIZERS: New York University, Abu Dhabi and Women's Rights in the Middle East Program, Rice University, March 6-7, 2016

Throughout the developing world, women have made remarkable strides in the educational and health domains, yet they still face numerous constraints when it comes to equal access to the decision-making process, despite increasing attention on women's empowerment by development organizations and the spread of gender quotas across the Arab region in the last decade. Important gender gaps persist from the highest levels of office and internal decision-making of political parties, to the participation of ordinary women in the formal political sphere. These gaps are seemingly intransigent, despite ample research showing that increasing political participation by women improves governance and policy outcomes.

Although research on this important topic has accelerated in recent years, very little is still known about the mechanisms that explain why women have not achieved equal participation at all levels and how their participation impacts important policy outcomes. To bridge this gap, the proposed conference will bring together cross-disciplinary, regional, and international scholars with a wide range of expertise to investigate the dynamics of women's political participation at the local, national and regional levels. The conference offers a unique opportunity for scholars to present cutting-edge research on women and politics using diverse research methodologies and original data analysis. This conference aims to provide a forum to assess the state of the field, an opportunity for networking and feedback, and explore innovative ways to increase the policy impact of our work.

We invite researchers on women and politics in the Middle East to submit abstracts to be considered for participation in the conference. Abstracts should be 400-600 words providing a clear outline of the theoretical framework, research methodology and the geographic focus of the study. Scholars are encouraged to submit original research across a range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and levels of analysis to better understand the factors shaping women's access to political power and its impact on substantive, symbolic, or service dimensions of representation of women at the national, regional or local levels of government. The program will be structured around the following themes, however this list is not exhaustive.

Explaining the dynamics of women's representation:

- A comparative framework for understanding how, and under what conditions, electoral laws, institutional mechanisms, and other factors impact women's access to political decision making at the national and/or sub-national levels
- Candidate selection in nondemocratic settings, the absence of strong political parties, and the role of clientelistic politics and tribes
- Political recruitment of female candidates in Islamist parties and other movements across the region; party priorities strategy related to women candidates and voters and women's participation in the internal decision-making of parties

- Quota debates and implementation and their effects
- Stereotypes, voter attitudes and behavior, and candidate electability
- Female candidates' campaigns and political communication

Explaining the impact of women's representation:

- The impact of women's presence on the sub-national/local elections on promoting women's prospects to access higher levels of leadership.
- The impact of women's presence on public goods provision and individualized service provision (service representation)
- The symbolic effect of women's presence on the political attitudes and behavior of female citizens (symbolic representation).
- The impact of women's presence on substantive representation of women's issues in legislation and policy; Policy outcomes and priorities of female legislators and how their policy preferences vary from their male counterparts (substantive representation)
- Electing women as an anti-corruption strategy and means of boosting public goods provision and promote the legitimacy of non-democratic regimes.
- The impact of the gender gap on women's political participation

The conference organizers will provide transportation and accommodation for all invited participants. Scholars interested in participating in the conference are requested to email their abstracts to mms@rice.edu

List of Possible Participants

Name	Areas	Case Studies	Email
Drude Dahlerup (Morning Keynote)	Comparative framework for gender quotas	Global	drude.dahlerup@statsvet.su.se
Ellen Lust (Keynote or panelist)	Governance and service provision	Tunisia, Libya, Algeria	ellen.lust@yale.edu
Lindsay J. Benstead (with Ellen Lust)	Survey experiment on candidate electability (Alternatively, local service provision in Tunisia)	Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan	benstead@pdx.edu
Marwa Shalaby	Substantive representation and variations in policy outcomes	Kuwait, Jordan	mms5@rice.edu
Melissa Marschall and Marwa Shalaby	Dynamics of National versus local representation in Turkey (2009-2015)	Turkey	marschal@rice.edu

Bozena Welborne	Qualitative analysis of candidate selection, variations on national level	Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain	bwelborne@smith.edu
May Al-Dabbagh	Candidate selection and access to leadership positions	UAE and KSA	may.aldabbagh@nyu.edu
Janine Clark	Women and politics (No recent information)	Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen	yclark@uoguelph.ca
Lisa Blaydes	Women and local elections, impact of Islamist politics on women	Egypt	kblaydes@stanford.edu
Sarah Bush	Impact of international factors on promoting women in politics, strategic use of quota	Jordan, Tunisia	sarah.bush@temple.edu
Lihi Ben Shitrit	Women's quotas and Islamist parties	Egypt, Palestine, Israel	lben@uga.edu
Philbrick Yadav	Women and Islamist parties (qualitative)	Yemen, Lebanon	philbrickyardav@hws.edu
Stefanie Nanes	Women on the municipal level, impact of quota on local elections	Jordan	stefanie.e.nanes@hofstra.edu
Hanane Darhour	Gender quotas	Morocco	hanane.darhour@gmail.com
Muhamad Olimat (University of South Florida and Kuwait University)	Women's political representation on the national level	Kuwait	??
James Sater	Women on the national level in Morocco	Morocco	jsater@aus.edu
Fatima Sbaity Kassem	Women in municipal politics	Lebanon	??

Others:

Ella Gao (coauthor with Bush)

Lauren Prather (Also works a lot with Bush)—I see she was doing a paper with Sarah on women's political communication

Kristen Kao (coauthors with me and Ellen on Jordan, tribe)

My RA is looking through the MESA online program for more ideas

Other non area specialists (India): [Was thinking not to invite, but also could be a networking opp]

Lori Beaman

Lakshmi Iyer

Ronhini Pande