

Mohamed Sabry Amer

Cairo, Egypt

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[LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#)

EDUCATION

Washington University in St Louis

Ph.D. in Political Science

Aug 2026 – May 2031

The Philipp University of Marburg

Virtual Exchange Program: Machine Learning for Remote Sensing & Climatology
Grade: 14/15 “Outstanding Achievement”

April 2025 – Aug 2025

Cairo University – Faculty of Economics and Political Science

B.Sc. in Political Science & Minor in Statistics

Cumulative GPA: 3.55/4 (Ranked 7th in the Political Science major)

Oct 2021 – July 2025

The University of Chicago

Sawiris Scholars Scholarship Program: Data Science & Quantitative Social Science
Cumulative GPA: 3.87/4

Sep 2023 – May 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

J-PAL MENA

Research Associate

Cairo, EG

September 2025 – April 2026

- Contributed to an RCT that evaluates interventions to improve Palestinian refugees’ mental well-being and social integration
- Developed LLM solutions to automate survey data cleaning tasks and conduct text analysis
- Cleaned, managed, and analyzed large datasets using Stata and Python
- Coordinated with field operations teams to streamline workflows and uphold rigorous data quality standards

Elizabeth (Biff) Parker-Magyar

Research Assistant | Yale University

Remote

July 2025 – Present

- Developed a machine learning model to classify contentious events in a Jordanian events dataset
- Scraped 1M+ news articles from major media outlets in Jordan to construct a reliable textual corpus
- Contributed to data cleaning and validation processes to ensure high-quality model training

Soyoung Lee

Research Assistant | Yale University

Remote

September 2025 – October 2025

- Conducted a meta-analysis of how territorial (economic) value affects support for territorial disputes
- Identified research papers in top journals that match the selection criteria
- Replicated research papers using R to identify the marginal effect of the variable of interest

Elizabeth (Biff) Parker-Magyar

Research Assistant | Harvard University

Remote

October 2024 – July 2025

- Digitized electoral returns data in Jordan at various levels of aggregation across years using Python
- Developed Python web-scraping scripts using Selenium to automate data collection
- Cleaned and validated datasets to ensure accuracy and reliability
- Managed project data and maintained detailed documentation for workflows and processes

Molly Offer-Westort

Research Assistant | The University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

February 2024 – May 2024

- Analyzed data to uncover trends in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention practices
- Produced a comprehensive report with clear visualizations to effectively communicate key findings
- Engaged with stakeholders at The Legal Aid Society to refine and tailor the analysis to their needs

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Central Bank of Egypt

Data Science Intern

Cairo, EG

August 2024 – September 2024

- Developed a predictive time-series model to estimate Egypt's GDP using Google Trends as alternative data
- Researched GDP nowcasting case studies from central banks to identify relevant models and data sources
- Executed feature selection and hyperparameter tuning using backtesting to optimize model performance
- Presented research findings and model results to the data science team

WORKING PAPERS

Can Individuals Be Inoculated against Fake News: An Experimental Study on a Sample of Egyptian Trend Engagers on X

Mazen Hassan, Mohamed Sabry Amer, Asmaa Abdelkhalik, Sarah Mansour & Zeyad Kelani

Abstract: The spread of fake news has been shown to have alarming political and social consequences. In this paper, we examine whether providing a short training to social media users can help them resist fake news, measured by how far they believe them and their tendency to share them. Our design tests a hypothesis which assumes that individuals can be inoculated with mental antibodies against fake news – just as individuals get vaccinated against viruses. We test this hypothesis via a pre-registered online experiment, conducted on Egyptian X users (formerly Twitter). We recruited our subjects from a sample of trend engagers who interacted with the top trending keywords/hashtags over two months, in addition to a booster sample of university students. The experiment entailed randomly assigning subjects into a control group, a treatment that trained them on scientific reasoning, and another that briefed them on the possibility of inflicting social harm when sharing fake news. The findings show that both treatments were effective in reducing the belief in fake news, whereas only the scientific treatment was effective in curbing the tendency to share such news. The paper contributes to the literature on resisting misinformation by testing the inoculation theory on actual X users - a traditionally under-researched sample.

- Presented at the 10th Social Science and Humanities Conference at the Arab Center for Research & Policy
- Presented at the FEPS-AUC Joint Seminar in Political Science
- Abstract Accepted at the Economic Research Forum (ERF)

Doing Online Fieldwork on Social Media Platforms in the Arab World: Challenges and Mitigating Strategies (R&R at Middle East Law & Governance)

Asmaa Abdelkhalik, Mohamed Sabry Amer, Mazen Hassan, Sarah Mansour & Zeyad Kelani

Abstract: Much of political behavior is now taking place online, making it imperative for researchers to adapt data collection tools to the online sphere. In this paper, we identify and discuss twelve challenges of such research and propose techniques to address them. We generated and applied these techniques while running an online survey experiment on resisting fake news amongst users of Arabic-speaking X (formerly Twitter). First, we show how we used trending hashtags/keywords as the cursor to identify subjects and raise the concerns associated with such a technique. Second, we elaborate how we contacted users while navigating the different accounts' settings on X and the restrictions imposed by social media platforms on messaging potential subjects. Third, we show how we paid subjects while preserving their anonymity. We contribute to the literature on social media analysis in the Arab world by addressing the technical and practical challenges when running experiments on actual social media leaders – whose inclusion as experimental subjects substantially increases external and ecological validity.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BRICS Summer School

Participant

Johannesburg, South Africa

Summer 2024

UChicago Climate & Energy Policy Trek

Participant

Washington, D.C.

Winter 2023

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **MO:VE Virtual Exchange Scholarship**, The Philipp University of Marburg — Summer 2025
- **Sawiris Scholar Scholarship**, The University of Chicago — 2023–2024
Merit-based scholarship for academic excellence and leadership
- **Class Valedictorian**, Misr Language Schools (National Division) — 2020–2021

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Arab Student Association UChicago

Oct 2023 – May 2024

Board Member

- Organized and coordinated a variety of engaging events for the Arab community at UChicago
- Collaborated with other universities in Chicago to hold a mixer for Arab students in Chicago

Burton-Judson Residential Commons Council

Oct 2023 – May 2024

Member

- Planned and executed quarterly events for residential houses within the dorm
- Managed logistics for various events, ensuring smooth coordination and execution

ALMUN – Arab League & Model United Nations

Jan 2023 – May 2023

Student Fundraiser

- Located and contacted potential donors and sponsors to provide funds to ALMUN's sessions and annual conference of 700 students
- Garnered support from local snack and refreshments companies totalling 1900 different product donations
- Collaborated with a team of fellow student fundraisers to plan and execute events and activities

CISV Egypt – International Summer Camp

Mar 2022 – Mar 2023

Leader in Village Program

- Designed activities to select participants to international summer program for middle schoolers
- Led the preparatory program planning for 30 participants to engage in day-long simulations of the camp
- Coordinated logistics and care for participants throughout program

Men Ha'ak NGO – Community Outreach

Sep 2020 – Jan 2021

English Language Tutor

- Taught English language to underprivileged children of different ages in collaboration with other tutors
- Designed and implemented curriculum to introduce 50 children to the English language

LANGUAGES, SOFTWARE & TOOLS

- **Programming Languages & Statistical Software:** Python, R & Stata
- **Survey Tools:** SurveyCTO, SurveyMonkey & Qualtrics
- **Others:** GitHub, LaTeX, SQL

REFERENCES

Elizabeth (Biff) Parker-Magyar

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Mazen Hassan

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Molly Offer-Westort

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