



Hello from APSA's International Programs. We hope you and your loved ones continue to stay safe and healthy wherever you are.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the way scholars teach, collaborate, and conduct research (see APSA's <u>COVID-19 resources page</u>), we are pleased that the 2021 Annual Meeting will be held in a hybrid format combining both an in-person as well as a virtual option. The meeting is scheduled to take place September 30-October 3 in Seattle, Washington. APSA is determined to create a meeting that is safe, inclusive, and accessible for the entire discipline during this challenging time, while allowing all attendees to pick a format that works best for their circumstances. More details can be found <u>here</u>.

Additionally, our membership team at APSA <u>launched</u> a new program offering a complimentary 90-day trial membership. This one-time program provides prospective members access to APSA's journals, announcements, and career resources. We encourage you to invite your colleagues, especially those in the MENA region, to sign up and benefit from this free opportunity.

As for our MENA programs, we have been busy over the past couple of months developing new opportunities and fine-tuning old ones for the virtual world. We are finalizing plans with the <u>2020</u> <u>MENA Workshop</u> co-leaders for a follow-up virtual program with the 14 fellows who work on security issues in MENA. In the coming weeks, we look forward to announcing a Call for Applications from early-career scholars interested in joining the 2021 MENA Virtual Workshop. In addition, APSA is sponsoring 14 scholars to participate in the 2021 summer virtual programs of both IQMR and ICPSR. We are also glad to support this year's MENA Research Development Group (RDG) in collaboration with the MENA Politics Section and POMEPS. This year's program will take place virtually on September 28, in conjunction with the APSA Annual Meeting, and will support 5 early-career scholars from MENA to receive research feedback and discuss professional development opportunities.

The <u>departmental collaboration initiative</u> continues to attract interest from faculty members and departments at Arab Universities. APSA recently awarded grants to the University of Tunis El-Manar and to Alexandria University to run STATA training workshops and research design seminars, respectively. The tailored programs will support graduate students and faculty members at these institutions and hopefully expand into other trainings and collaborations.

Finally, check out the Arab Political Science Network (<u>APSN</u>)'s new website for information on their many virtual events and <u>public webinars</u>. In December 2020, APSN organized a virtual Teaching Workshop focusing on Teaching <u>Gender Politics</u> in the Middle East. This event brought together over 15 multi and interdisciplinary faculty members teaching women and gender politics inside and outside the Middle East. Research from APSN's December 2019 workshop on <u>Teaching</u> <u>International Relations</u>, led to a <u>special forum</u> recently published in *International Studies Perspectives*. If you are interested in a conversation on experiences of local governance and

decentralization in the Arab world, please register to attend this <u>webinar</u> in collaboration with the GLD program at Gothenburg University on May 26.

Additional digital resources can be found in the APSN <u>resource page</u> which features subtitled research methods videos and syllabi from undergraduate and graduate courses in political science. APSN encourages all scholars, especially those based in the region, who teach courses in political science and relevant interdisciplinary topics to contribute their syllabi in Arabic, English and/or French. For more information on APSN and their latest projects and events, visit the website at www.arabpsn.org or follow APSN on Twitter or Facebook.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with the APSA MENA Project, please contact us at <u>menaworkshops@apsanet.org</u>.

Best to all in the coming months and stay well!

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