

Hani Fernandes Abdel-Warith

Ph.D. Candidate, ABD (G6) | Department of Politics | Princeton University

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Academic Positions

Research Fellow (Incoming), Institute for Advanced Study.

Commencing Fall 2026

Institution: The Toulouse School of Economics (TSE)

Education

PhD Candidate, Department of Politics, **Princeton University**

Final Public Oral: August 2026

Dissertation: *Fellabin into Frenchmen: Civic Licensing and Social Control in the Postcolonial Maghreb.*

Junior Fellow at AALIMS

Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (2025-2026).

Exam Fields: Comparative Politics, Middle East, Quantitative & Formal Methods. Incidental Master of Arts upon qualification.

Incidental MA Conferred Spring 2022

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Master of Arts, Committee on International Relations (with Honors). Thesis Advisor: Susan Stokes.

MA Conferred Summer 2020

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

BA Conferred May 2018

Bachelor of Arts, Summa cum Laude; Political Science Major (Honors); Minor in Philosophy; Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's List (2014-2018); Benjamin Franklin Scholar, Robert Holtz Prize Winner (to best political science student in major). Thesis advisor: Nicholas Sambanis.

Book Project & Dissertation

Fellabin into Frenchmen: Civic Licensing and Social Control in the Postcolonial Maghreb.

The dissertation is a draft of a book project on the links between political control, autocratic investment, and subsequent political cleavage formation in the Middle East and North Africa. The dissertation argues that at the critical juncture of independence, autocratic provisions of education transformed the nature of status in postcolonial society. The geography of (unevenly supplied) secondary education became the basis of status inequalities, which I trace at both the macro-level (using historical and district-level data), and at the micro-level (interviews from fieldwork and a survey). The project draws on

extensive fieldwork in rural Tunisia and a rich array of archival records systematically aggregated into unique quantitative and spatial datasets, including new temporal data spanning thousands of geolocated protest events in the late colonial period in Morocco and Tunisia. Drawing on newly introduced data, geolocating the universe of primary and secondary schools built in Tunisia since the beginning of colonial rule (1881-2024, N=6027). The dissertation reveals that regimes selectively withheld education from spatial hubs of anti-regime revolt while concentrating resources in regime loyalist and compliant areas. Having established these relationships, the dissertation goes on to show that status cleavages were allayed by these provisions. A study of attitudinal effects, including a nationally representative survey study fielded in Tunisia (Winter 2025),

Committee: Amaney Jamal (Chair), Elizabeth Nugent and Mark Beissinger.

Awards, Grants & Fellowships

Princeton Center for Data-Driven

Princeton Multicenter Grant (2025): Awarded \$15,000 for field research and nationally representative (1,000 respondent) survey experiment in Tunisia.

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (2024): Awarded \$2,450 for field research in Tunisia and Morocco.

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (2023): Awarded \$2,700 for archival and field research in France. Supplementary Grant \$500 from Princeton Program in African Studies.

Mamdouha S. Bobst Center, Graduate Dissertation Grant (2023, 2024): Awarded \$10,000 to support research assistance building a spatial database of late colonial contention (1948-1956) in Morocco and Tunisia.

Mamdouha S. Bobst Center Discretionary Research Grant (2022): Awarded \$2,000 for archival and field research in France and Tunisia.

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (2022): Awarded \$2,500 for archival and field research in France and Tunisia.

The University of Pennsylvania, the Robert Holtz Memorial Prize (2018): Awarded by the political science department to the best overall major in the graduating class.

Penn Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism Fellow (2015-2016): Awarded \$4,000 for research project, *The Development of Egypt's Irreligious Community After the 25th of January Revolt*.

Publications

Secularization in the Minaret's Shadow: Group Identity and Religious Identity in the Contemporary MENA region (With Hüseyin E. Ceyhan). Mediterranean Politics, 2025.

Working Papers

Rebellion and Educational Supply after Colonial Rule: Secondary Education and Civic Licensing in Postcolonial Tunisia.

Anatomy of Religious Infrastructure in Authoritarian Regimes (With Gordon Arsenoff, Amaney Jamal, Elizabeth Nugent, Hüseyin E. Ceyhun)

Selected Works in Preparation

Military Recruitment and Subsequent Mobilization: Evidence from Algeria and the Raj (With Shourya Sen)

Ideology and Shifts in State Territory: The Case of High Nasserism and the United Arab Republic

Internationalization and Contentious Politics: Late Colonial Mobilization and International Diplomacy

Teaching

Pol 366: African Politics (3 Sections). Associate Instructor for Professor Jennifer Widner. Fall 2022.

Pol 230: Introduction to Comparative Politics. Head Preceptor for Professor Andreas Wiedemann. Spring 2023.

Pol 379: Politics of Southeast Asia. Associate Instructor for Professor Nicholas Kuipers. Spring 2025.

Average instructor rating across sections taught: 4.54/5

Workshops & Conference Presentations

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (Chicago). March 2018 & 2019.

Comparative Politics Colloquium (Invited Talk). Bogazici University, Istanbul. November 2021.

Princeton Comparative Politics Workshop. Annually 2021-2025.

Princeton Workshop on Arab Political Development. Spring 2023 & 2024.

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference (Virtual). Fall 2024.

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting. September 2022 (Montreal), 2024 (Philadelphia) & 2025 (Vancouver)

Association for Analytical Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies. April 2025 (MIT) & April 2026 (Boston).

USC Annual Historical Political Economy Conference. October 2025.

SPSA Mini Conference on Authoritarianism (New Orleans). January 2026.

Skills & Research Experience

Teaching Certification:

McGraw Center Teaching Transcript Program. (Spring 2026).

Languages:

Professional fluency in French (Reading proficiency, working proficiency for interviews), Egyptian Arabic (Native dialect), Tunisian Dialect, and Modern Standard Arabic (Working proficiency).

Technical Skills: R & LaTeX, GitHub (Basic HTML, Web Design), ArcGIS, ArcMap, STATA, and Tableau.

Professional Affiliations:

Junior Fellow, AALIMS; Member, the American Political Science Association.

Archival Experience:

Archives Nationales D’Outre-Mer. Aix-en-Provence, France. (Summer 2022 and 2025).

National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland (Summer 2022).

Archives Diplomatiques – Centre de Nantes, France (Summer 2023, Fall 2025).

National Archives of Tunisia & Institut Supérieur de l’Histoire de la Tunisie Contemporaine, Tunis (Winter 2024).

Service Historique de la Défense, Chateau de Vincennes, Paris, France (Summer & Fall 2025).

Field Experience:

Kairouan, Tunisia (Summer 2022), Tunisia-Morocco (Winter-Spring 2024). Cairo (Summer 2015). Resident of Cairo (2009-2014).

Other Professional Experience

Professor Devesh Kapur, Research Assistant, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2016–2017)

Professor Beth Simmons, Research Assistant, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2017–2018)

Professor Monika Nalepa, Research Assistant, Chicago, Illinois (2019–2020)

Professor Susan Stokes, Research Assistant, Chicago, Illinois (2020)

Human Rights Watch, MENA Division Research Intern, New York, New York (2017)

References

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Elizabeth Nugent

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