

Nate Grubman

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POSTDOCTORAL EMPLOYMENT

2025–2026 Program Director, Democracy Innovation Lab, National Democratic Institute (Washington, DC)

2023–2025 Research Consultant, Deliberative Democracy Lab, Stanford University (Stanford, CA)

2023–2025 Program Director, Middle East and North Africa, National Democratic Institute (Washington, DC)

2021–2023 Teaching Fellow in Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University (Stanford, CA)

2020–2021 Postdoctoral Scholar, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University (Stanford, CA)

EDUCATION

2020 **Ph.D., Political Science**, Yale University (New Haven, CT)
Dissertation: “Party Systems and Social Cleavages in New Democracies: Skipping Class in Postuprising Tunisia”
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Economy, and Quantitative Methods

2017 **M.S., Applied Economics**, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)

2016 **M.A., Political Science**, Yale University (New Haven, CT)

2016 **M.Phil., Political Science**, Yale University (New Haven, CT)

2008 **B.A., International Relations**, Tufts University (Medford, MA)

PUBLICATIONS

Public Scholarship:

2024 Fernanda Buril, Nate Grubman, and Patrick Quirk, “[Finding Success in Hard Places: How Assistance to Democracy Champions Can Turn the Tide Even in Backsliding and Authoritarian Countries](#),” Atlantic Council (December 2024).

2024 Nate Grubman, “[Tunisia’s Insecure Strongman](#),” Journal of Democracy online (October 2024).

2024 Nate Grubman, “[The July 25th Path, Democracy, and Dictatorship in Tunisia](#),” Nawaat (8 August 2024).

2023 Nate Grubman, “[Tunisian Frankenstein’s Revenge: How Saïed Created a Monster out of a Book Banning Controversy](#),” Project on Middle East Democracy Commentary (10 May).

2022 Nate Grubman, “[Yea or Stay Away: Kais Saïd’s Autocratic Referendum](#),” Project on Middle East Democracy Snapshot (15 July).

2022 Nate Grubman, “[A Dictator’s Day in Court](#),” *Journal of Democracy* online (February 10).

2022 Nate Grubman, “[Coup in Tunisia: Transition Arrested](#),” *Journal of Democracy* 33 (January): 12–26.

2021 Nate Grubman, “[Electoral Democracy and Its Discontents](#),” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter* 4 (Fall): 48–52.

2021 Nate Grubman, “[Do Tunisians Still Want Democracy?](#)” *Washington Post Monkey Cage* (September 1).

2021 Nate Grubman and Aytuğ Şaşmaz, “[The Collapse of Tunisia’s Party System and the Rise of Kais Saïd](#),” *Middle East Report Online* (August 17).

2019 Nate Grubman, “[Ideological Scaling in a Post-Islamist Age](#),” *APSA MENA Politics Newsletter* 2 (Fall): 41–45.

Book Chapters:

2014 Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Nate Grubman, “[Introduction](#),” in Diamond and Plattner, eds., *Democratization and Authoritarianism in the Arab World* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).

Book Reviews:

2022 Nate Grubman, [Managing Transition: The First Post-Uprising Phase in Tunisia and Libya by Sabina Henneberg](#), *Political Science Quarterly* 137 (Summer): 429–431.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript:

Skipping Class: Tunisia’s Party System After the Revolution

Working Papers:

“[Corruption Dynamics in International Trade: Evidence on Bribery and Tax Evasion from Tunisian Customs Transactions](#)” (with Samuel Leone and Jaweher Mbarek) (under review)

“Disenchanted with Democracy?” (with Milan Svolik)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022 “Tunisia in One Room”
Project Director and Co-Investigator with James Fishkin (PI) and Alice Siu (Co-Investigator)
Rockefeller Foundation, \$262,748

2019 George Walter Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Grant
Yale University, \$4,000

2019	Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship George Mason University, \$3,000
2019	“Skipping Class: Economic Platform Convergence in Tunisia” Project on Middle East Political Science TRE Grant George Washington University, \$3,000
2018	“Skipping Class? Partisan Competition in New Democracies” MacMillan Center International Dissertation Fellowship Yale University, \$15,450
2016	“The Authoritarian Roots of Tunisia’s Democratic Competition” MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant Yale University, \$5,000
2015	Critical Language Scholarship—Arabic, Meknes, Morocco U.S. State Department
2015	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (declined) Yale University, \$3,950

AWARDS AND HONORS

2021-2022	COLLEGE Teaching Fellow of the Year
2014-2020	Alma Fuhrman Corlett Gainfort Fellowship
2008	Peter Belfer Award, Tufts University, awarded for most outstanding piece of undergraduate writing in political science
2007-08	Captain Charles C. Hersey Scholarship
2004-05	Keith Lundstrom Memorial Scholarship

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Book Conferences:

2021 *Skipping Class: Tunisia's Party System After the Revolution*

Project on Middle East Political Science Junior Scholars Book
Workshop, Virtual, November 12–13

Panels Organized:

2019 “Navigating Transition: Responses to Tunisia’s Changing Political Landscape,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 14–17

Papers Presented:

2023 “Disillusioned with Democracy?” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 13–16

2021 “The Party System in Tunisia’s Marginalized Regions,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, November 29–December 3

2021 “The Dynamics of Bribery: Evidence from Tunisian Customs Transactions,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, September 30–October 3

2021 “Perceptions of Deterioration and Support for Anti-System Politicians in Tunisia,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, April 14–18

2021 “Perceptions of Deterioration and Support for Anti-System Politicians in Tunisia,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, April 1–3

2020 “Perceptions of Deterioration and Support for Anti-System Politicians in Tunisia,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, October 5–17

2019 “What’s the Difference? Party Platforms in Postuprising Tunisia,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 14–17

2019 “Skipping Class: Party Systems and Social Cleavages in New Democracies,” Institute for Humane Studies Graduate Research Seminar, Washington, DC, November 1–3

2019 “Party System Cleavages in New Democracies: Skipping Class in Tunisia,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 4–7

2017 “Class and Party Formation in New Democracies: The Case of Tunisia,” American Institute for Maghrib Studies Dissertation Workshop, Boston, MA, September 29–30

2017 “Transitions from Cooptation: Tunisia’s Labor Federation and the End of Ben Ali,” Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse, NY, June 19–30

2017 “Defectors versus Dissidents: The Authoritarian Roots of Loyal Opposition,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 6–9

Discussant:

2023 “Parties and Polarization Across Different Types of Regimes,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 13–16

2023 “The MENA After Revolution: Prospects and Challenges,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 13–16

2023 “Annexation, Colonialism, and American Exceptionalism,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 13–16

2022 “Using Games and Simulations in the Classroom,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Virtual, April 6–10

2016 “New Approaches to Ethnography,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 1–4

PUBLIC TALKS

2020 [“Nostalgia and Populisms in Contemporary Tunisia,”](#) Stanford University Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law Research Seminar, Stanford, CA, October 22

2019 “Skipping Class: Party Systems in New Democracies,” Yale University MacMillan Comparative Politics Workshop, New Haven, CT, October 1

COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

Citizenship in the 21st Century, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University (Winter 2022)

Introduction to Macroeconomics, Business Department, Gateway Community College (Fall 2017, with Lorraine Li)

The Politics of Development, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University (Spring 2022)

The Spirit of Democracy, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University (Fall 2021, Spring 2023)

Why College? Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University (Fall 2022)

Teaching Assistant:

Comparative Politics: States, Regimes, and Conflict, Political Science Department, Yale University (Fall 2016)

Introduction to International Relations, Political Science Department, Yale University (Spring 2017)

Other:

Senior Essay Advisor, Program on Ethics, Politics & Economics,
Yale University (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

Grader, Strategic Models of Politics, Political Science Department,
Yale University (Fall 2018)

OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee

2024	<i>Policy Studies Journal</i>
2023	<i>International Journal of Public Opinion Research</i>
2021	<i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i>

Course coordination

2023	Course coordinator and technology coordinator, “The Spirit of Democracy,” Stanford Civic, Liberal, and Global Education
2022	Course coordinator, “The Politics of Development,” Stanford Civic, Liberal, and Global Education
2021	Technology coordinator, “The Spirit of Democracy,” Stanford Civic, Liberal, and Global Education

Panel participant

2021	“How to Survive Graduate School,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, virtual, April 14–18
2021	“How to Finish Your Dissertation,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, virtual, April 14–18
2018	“Community College Teaching Workshop,” Yale Center for Teaching and Learning, April 23

Writing partner

2015–2016 Yale College Writing Center, Yale University, 3 semesters

EXTRA TRAINING

Research Methods:

2017 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)
Summer Institute

Teaching:

2018 Yale Certificate of College Teaching Preparation

Language:

2018-19 Yale MacMillan Center Directed Independent Language Study
Fellowship in Tunisian Arabic, 3 semesters

2016 Yale French for Reading summer course and certificate

2015 Yale MacMillan Center Directed Independent Language Study
Fellowship in Egyptian Arabic, 1 semester

2015 Arab American Language Institute in Morocco, Meknes, Morocco,
June–August

2014 Moroccan Center for Arabic Studies, Rabat, Morocco, July

2007 International Language Institute, Cairo, Egypt, June

2007 American University – Cairo, Egypt, Jan–June

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2019 Short-Term International Election Observer
International Republican Institute-National Democratic Institute
International Election Observation Mission (Tunisia)

2012–14	Assistant Editor, Journal of Democracy National Endowment for Democracy (Washington, DC)
2011–12	Program Assistant, Middle East and North Africa Center for International Private Enterprise (Washington, DC)
2011	Project Assistant, Middle East and North Africa National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (Washington, DC)
2008–10	AP US History and 5 th –8 th Grade Humanities Teacher The International Schools of Choueifat (Cairo, Egypt)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Arabic (MSA)	Proficient, Advanced-Mid ACTFL Oral Proficiency, Aug 2016
Tunisian Arabic	Proficient, Advanced-Mid ACTFL Oral Proficiency, Sep 2018
Egyptian Arabic	Proficient but rusty
Moroccan Arabic	Intermediate and rusty
French	Proficient in reading only