INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

APSA Launches MENA Methods Training Program at Doha Institute of Graduate Studies

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In December 2023, APSA's Middle East and North Africa Program launched a research methods training initiative for early-career scholars from the Arab MENA region. Unlike short-term trainings that concludes after a few days of instruction, APSA's program combines intensive in-person instruction with a range of extended engagements, and features skill-building activities closely linked to research outputs.

The inaugural program, titled "Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences: Regression Analysis," was held at the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies, in partnership with the Arab Political Science Network (APSN). Led by Drs. Abdelkarim Amengay (Doha Institute), Sarah Mansour (Cairo University), and Ammar Shamaileh (Doha Institute), the program provided intermediate-level training on understanding and applying quantitative methods in social science research. 22 graduate students and early-career Arab scholars partook in the program, which commenced with three virtual sessions held over Zoom in November 2023. The virtual component served as a refresher-course to regression analysis, with sessions on statistical inference, hypothesis testing, and difference-in-differences.

Dr. Sarah Mansour (Cairo University) guides fellows through programming exercises during an SPSS lab session

"Learning a wide range of concepts and balancing between theory and practice was the most beneficial aspect of the workshop." — Workshop Fellow

Participants received a one-year membership to APSA upon completion and were encouraged to apply for the 2024 MENA Mentoring Initiative.

APSA's MENA Methods Trainings are hosted by universities or research institutions in countries across the MENA region. Each program focuses on a different methodological approach, leveraging the varied interests and expertise of local scholars. Up to 20 graduate students and early-career scholars are invited to attend each program. Scholars are encouraged to apply with a research project in progress that they will discuss at the workshop. Guided by a syllabus of core readings and data tools, fellows engage in small group and full group sessions to explore nuances in research design, data availability and collection, and methodological best practices, including techniques to address the practical challenges facing researchers on the ground. Following their participation, fellows will be prioritized through the MENA Mentoring Initiative to be paired with senior scholar mentors for a period of three to six months,

Workshop participants engage in a session on probability and statistical inference led by Dr. Ammar Shamaileh at the Doha Institute

"The program offers simplified and much needed understanding of quantitative methods. Networking was also very important." — Workshop Fellow

The three-day in-person workshop in December 2023 delved deeper into regression analysis, covering topics ranging from linear regression, OLS and its Assumptions to, among others, causality and difference-in-differences. Morning lectures were followed by practical, hands-on assignments in the lab, which included instruction on statistical programming in both R and SPSS. Additionally, the program offered designated office hours for fellows to seek feedback and guidance on their research.

Dr. Ammar Shamaileh and Abdelkarim Amengay lead a statistical programming session on R

with the goal of advancing a specific scholarly output such as a journal article, book chapter, book project, or dataset.

In May 2024, the next MENA Methods Training, titled "Qualitative Methods for the Social Sciences: Causal Analysis," will be held in Tangier from May 15-17 in partnership with the Tangier American Legation Museum (TALIM) and the Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis (MIPA).

Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, APSA's MENA Program is a multi-year effort to support political science research and networking among early-career scholars across the Arab MENA region. For program news, updates, and additional information, contact menaworkshops@apsanet.org or visit the project website: http://web.apsanet.org/mena/. ■

APSA's Research Department: Datasets

The Research Department at APSA gathers, analyzes, and archives information to create a knowledge base on and identify trends in the political science discipline and the profession. Using administrative data and through surveys, we create datasets on **enrollments, curriculums, faculty, hiring trends, graduate placements, incoming graduate classes, job advertisements, and membership demographics over time**. Public, anonymized versions of these datasets, shown as icons below, are available for our members to download. Please see https://bit.ly/3MG5IUN for more information on how to access these datasets. Please note that, by downloading our datasets, you are agreeing to our Terms of Use, available here: https://bit.ly/3ML03fX. For any inquiries or questions, contact us at surveys@apsanet.org.

Datasets on the profession available for download include:

Departmental Survey

Graduate Placement Survey

Ejobs Data

P-Wam

To see the available datasets, you can go to **Data on the Profession** and select **"Tools & Datasets"** in our website, which provides links to all the available datasets in chronological order. To download the datasets, you will need to use your account with APSA, and agree to our **Terms and Conditions** for using our data. Once you have logged in, your account will allow you to download the data, as well as the pertaining codebook and questionnaire.

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