A Decade of Public Opinion Research in MENA
The Arab Barometer Project

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The Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insight into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab world.

Arab Barometer goals:
1. Track attitudes & behavior
2. Build institutional capacity
3. Disseminate knowledge about ordinary citizens living in MENA
Steering Committee

- Dr. Amaney Jamal
  Princeton University

- Dr. Mark Tessler
  University of Michigan

- Dr. Khalil Shikaki
  Palestinian Center for Policy & Survey Research

- Dr. Musa Shteiwi
  University of Jordan

- Dr. Darwish al-Emadi
  Qatar University

- Mr. Youssef Meddeb
  One to One for Research & Polling (Tunisia)

- Dr. Michael Robbins
  (ex-officio)
About the Surveys

- More than 45,000 face-to-face interviews to date
- 37 nationally representative surveys to date (area probability sampling)
- Four waves across 15 countries
  - Wave 1 (2006-7) in 7 countries
  - Wave 2 (2010-11) in 10 countries
  - Wave 3 (2012-14) in 12 countries
  - Wave 4 (2016-17) in 8 countries
- Data are publicly available for download and analysis at arabbarometer.org
### Surveys by Wave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2006-9</th>
<th>2010-1</th>
<th>2012-4</th>
<th>2016-7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Arab Barometer: Question Areas

- Economic issues & personal well-being
- Evaluation of political institutions & political attitudes
- Engagement in politics
- Traditional & new media
- Governance
- Culture & religion
- International relations
- Current affairs
- Special batteries
- Demographics
Tracking Public Opinion
Democracy Ratings

Democracy in Tunisia

Democracy in Egypt

Note: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer.
Evaluations of Democracy

Views of Democracy Tunisia

Views of Democracy Egypt

Note: Weighted estimates. Source: Arab Barometer.
Support for Political Islam

Political Islam in Tunisia

Political Islam in Egypt

Note: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer.
Trust in Islamist Parties

Trust in Ennahda in Tunisia
% saying they trust Ennahda to a great or medium extent

Trust in Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt
% saying they trust the Muslim Brotherhood to a great or medium extent

Note: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer.
Definition of Democracy

Definition of Democracy in Tunisia

- Law & Order: 58%
- Freedom of the Press: 22%
- Jobs for all: 12%
- Multiparty elections: 5%
- DK/Ref: 2%

Note: Weighted estimates. Source: Arab Barometer IV.

Definition of Democracy in Egypt

- Law & Order: 73%
- Freedom of the Press: 12%
- Jobs for all: 4%
- Multiparty elections: 4%
- DK/Ref: 6%

Note: Weighted estimates. Source: Arab Barometer IV.
Implications

- Tunisians blame the political system while Egyptians blame the political actors
  - Tunisians understand the problems with democracy and support it anyway
  - Egyptians updated views about the Muslim Brotherhood but not democracy

- The political transition in Tunisia is ongoing, but public attitudes may be consolidating

- Egyptian attitudes about democracy have changed little from before the uprisings and are remain similar to those in other authoritarian countries in MENA

- Neither Egyptians nor Tunisians understand democracy primarily in a procedural manner
Building Institutional Capacity
Developing Capacity

- In 5 countries we have worked with a local partner in one of their first surveys
- Assist partners with all aspects of the process
  1. Sample design
  2. Interviewer training
  3. Oversight techniques
  4. Data cleaning
  5. Data processing
- Share best practices and work to overcome challenges encountered in the field
- Build relationship as co-investigators in the project
Organizational Structure

- Hub structure for cooperation and oversight
  1. Maghreb
  2. Mashreq
  3. Khaleej

- Strategic partner in each region can share best practices to address challenges specific to each sub-region

- Norm is to have leaders from the strategic partner take active role in survey within the sub-region
Increasing Data Quality

- Extensive training of interviewers and fieldwork team
- Increased oversight by an independent third party
- Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) allows for near real-time monitoring
- Specially developed software flags any suspicious interviews automatically
- Extensive examination of the data to ensure high quality
Observations Flagged for Data Quality

Source: Arab Barometer Wave III
Flagged Observations by Interviewer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer</th>
<th>% Match &lt; 80%</th>
<th>% Match ≥ 80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Source of Falsification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer</th>
<th>Mean Islamist Support</th>
<th>Max Islamist Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Suspected Instances of Data Fabrication by Wave

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flagged Observations in AB III and AB IV</th>
<th>AB III</th>
<th>AB IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 percent match</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95 percent match</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 percent match</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 percent match</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of suspicious cases</td>
<td>1,066</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of observations in survey</td>
<td>14,809</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increasing Knowledge
Online Data Analysis Portal

ONLINE DATA ANALYSIS (AB Wave 4)

How would you evaluate the current economic situation in your country?

Filter by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very bad</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N)</td>
<td>9,000 (100%)</td>
<td>12,000 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Correlation r=-0.03

AB Wave 4 (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)
الباروميتر العربي - الدورة 4

كيف تقيم الوضع الاقتصادي العام في (اسم الدولة) في الوقت الحالي؟

ilihchmarj 3.6% 8.2% 3.5% 4.7% 0.4% 0.9%
مهم جدا 4.6% 5.5% 3.8% 5.1% 0.8% 0.9%
مهم 3.4% 17.2% 4.3% 3.3% 0.8% 0.9%
لا يجب أن يقرأ 0.6% 1.0% 0.6% 0.6% 0.6% 0.6%
(الإجمالي) 9,000 (100%) 12,000 (100%) 1,199 (100%) 1,500 (100%) 1,500 (100%) 1,200 (100%)

الباروميتر العربي - الدورة 4: الجزائر، فلسطين، الأردن، لبنان، المغرب، تونس

indexes: 0.03
Academic Journals

- Journal of Politics
- Comparative Political Studies
- Comparative Politics
- PS: Political Science & Politics
- Perspectives on Politics
- Journal of Conflict Resolution
- Political Research Quarterly
- International Political Science Review
- Journal of Democracy
- The Lancet
- Democratization
- Social Science Quarterly
- Journal of International Development
- International Studies Quarterly
- Democracy & Security
- Comparative Sociology
- Politics, Groups & Identities
- Mediterranean Politics
- Politics & Governance
- Middle East Policy
- Middle East Law & Governance
- Review of Income & Wealth
In the Recent News

**Media Coverage**
- The Economist
- The Washington Post
- Christian Science Monitor
- Der Spiegel
- Deutsche Welle
- The Conversation
- Knack.be
- Qantara.de
- al-Ghad
- ash-Shorouk
- Telquel
- al-Araby

**Policy Publications**
- International Monetary Fund
- World Bank
- Munich Security Conference
- Transparency International
- UN Development Programme
- Carnegie Endowment
- Brookings Institute
- Economic Research Forum
- Arab Human Development Report
- Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Policy
The Road Ahead
The Fifth Wave

- Supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)
- Largest publicly available survey ever conducted in MENA
- Face-to-face surveys using area probability samples
- Approximately 30,000 respondents
- Planned to cover 90% of MENA’s population
- Data publicly available in mid-2019
Outreach

- Training sessions targeting journalists, civil society, & government officials
- Conferences in MENA to share findings
- Increased dissemination in Arabic-language media
Contact Information

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