

# A Decade of Public Opinion Research in MENA

## The Arab Barometer Project

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# The Arab Barometer

- 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**  
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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](http://arabbarometer.org)

## Surveys by Wave

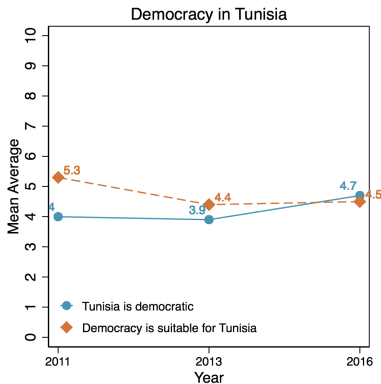
Country	2006-9	2010-1	2012-4	2016-7
Algeria	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bahrain	✓			
Egypt		✓	✓	✓
Iraq		✓	✓	✓
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kuwait			✓	
Lebanon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Libya			✓	
Morocco	✓		✓	✓
Palestine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saudi Arabia		✓		
Sudan		✓	✓	
Tunisia		✓	✓	✓
Yemen	✓	✓	✓	

# The Arab Barometer: Question Areas

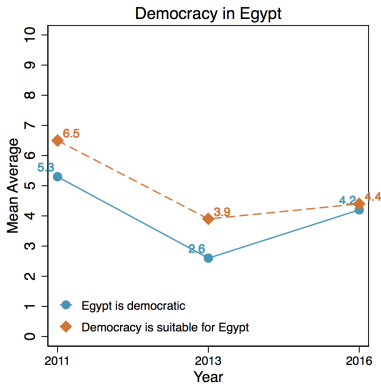
- Economic issues & personal well-being
- Evaluation of political institutions & political attitudes
- Engagement in politics
- Traditional & new media
- Governance
- Culture & religion
- International relations
- Current affairs
- Special batteries
- Demographics

# Tracking Public Opinion

# Democracy Ratings



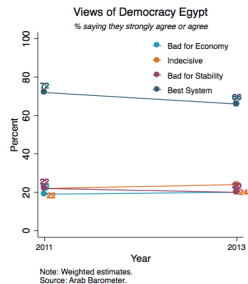
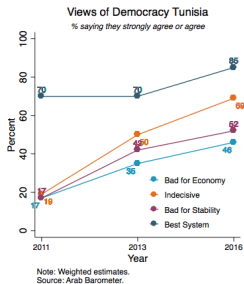
Note: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer.



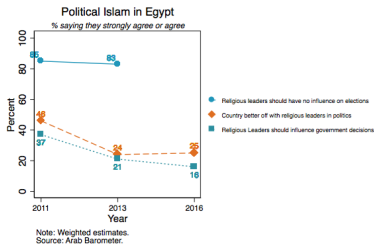
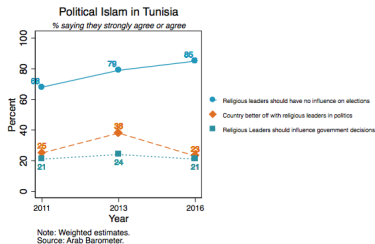
Note: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer.



# Evaluations of Democracy



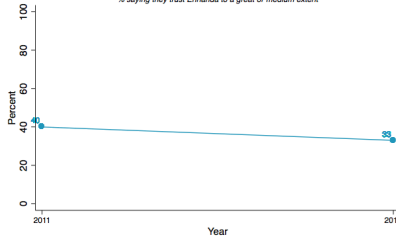
# Support for Political Islam



# Trust in Islamist Parties

Trust in Ennahda in Tunisia

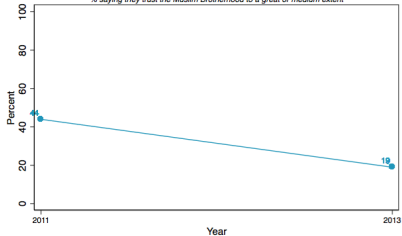
% saying they trust Ennahda to a great or medium extent



Note: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer.

Trust in Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt

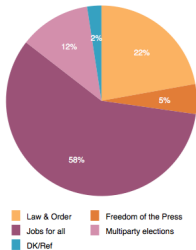
% saying they trust the Muslim Brotherhood to a great or medium extent



Note: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer.

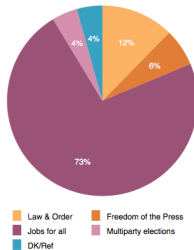
# Definition of Democracy

Definition of Democracy in Tunisia



Note: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer IV.

Definition of Democracy in Egypt



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

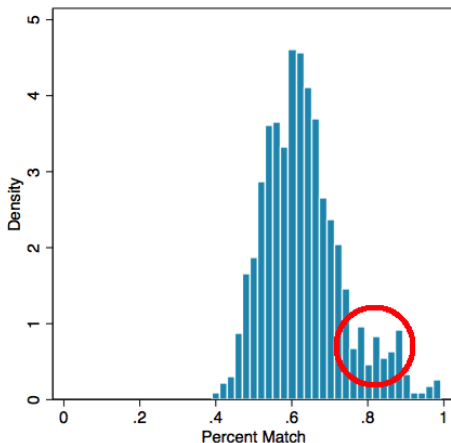


# Increasing Data Quality

- 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

Number of Respondents by Interviewer & Percent Match		
<i>Interviewer</i>	<i>% Match &lt; 80%</i>	<i>% Match <math>\geq</math> 80%</i>
1	41	9
2	31	3
3	28	2
4	39	11
5	45	5
6	91	4
7	52	31
8	21	19
9	23	17
10	44	6

## Source of Falsification

### Support for Islamist Party by Interviewer

<i>Interviewer</i>	<i>Mean Islamist Support</i>	<i>Max Islamist Support</i>
8 & 9	66.3%	77.5%
All others	10.1%	24.1%

# Suspected Instances of Data Fabrication by Wave

Flagged Observations in AB III and AB IV		
	AB III	AB IV
100 percent match	4	0
95 percent match	161	0
90 percent match	336	4
85 percent match	565	18
Total no. of suspicious cases	1,066	22
Total no. of observations in survey	14,809	9,000

# Increasing Knowledge

# Online Data Analysis Portal

## ONLINE DATA ANALYSIS (AB Wave 4)

AB1

AB2

AB3

AB4



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

Remove

Change

Filter by Country

Add filter

Options

Select countries

Show NA

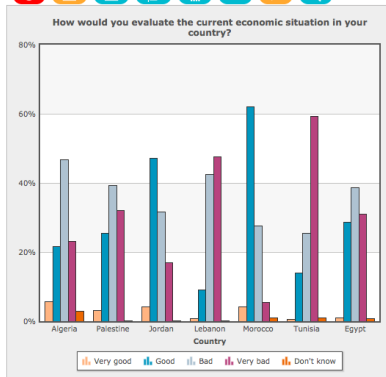
Time series

Maps



Category	Total	Country				
		Algeria	Palestine	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco
Very good	2.7%	5.6%	3.1%	4.2%	0.7%	4.1%
Good	29.6%	21.7%	25.5%	47.0%	9.1%	62.0%
Bad	36.0%	46.6%	39.3%	31.7%	42.4%	27.6%
Very bad	30.9%	23.1%	32.0%	16.9%	47.6%	5.3%
Don't know	0.8%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%
(N)	9,000 (100%)	1,200 (100%)	1,199 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,200 (100%)

AB Wave 4 (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)  
Correlation  $r = -0.03$



# Online Data Analysis Portal

## الباروميتر العربي - الدورة ٤

الدورة ١

الدورة ٢

الدورة ٣

الدورة ٤



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

نوع

تغيير

تصنيف حسب البلد

إضافة قيمة متغيرة ثانية

خيارات

اختيار البلدان

إظهار كافة الاجابات

السلاسل الزمنية

خرائط

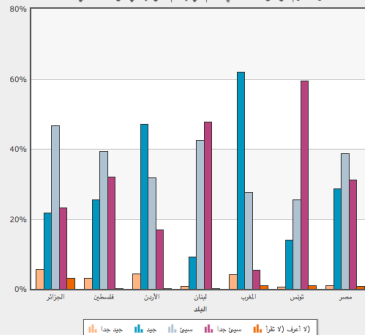


الغة	المجموع	البلد				
		البحرين	فلسطين	الأردن	لبنان	المغرب
جيد جدا	2.7%	5.6%	3.1%	4.2%	0.7%	4.1%
جيد	29.6%	21.7%	25.5%	47.0%	9.1%	62.0%
سيئ	36.0%	46.6%	39.3%	31.7%	42.4%	27.6%
سيئ جدا	30.9%	23.1%	32.0%	16.9%	47.6%	5.3%
(لا أعرف / لا تقراً)	0.8%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%
(القاعدة)	9,000 (100%)	1200 (100%)	1,199 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,200 (100%)

الباروميتر العربي - الدورة ٤ الجزائر، مصر، الأردن، لبنان، المغرب، فلسطين، تونس  
تلازم  $p=0.03$



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





# 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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