

Lauren M. Baker
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APPOINTMENT

University of Nebraska Omaha
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science 2025

EDUCATION

Northwestern University
PhD in Political Science 2025

Dissertation: *No Time to Waste: Sanitizing the politics of garbage at sites of global environmental governance in the Middle East and North Africa*

Committee: Wendy Pearlman (co-chair), Kimberly Marion Sui-seeya (co-chair), Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Kate O'Neill (University of California, Berkeley)

M.A. in Political Science 2020

The University of Texas at Austin
M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies 2012

Allegheny College,
B.A. in International Studies 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Baker, Lauren M., Elhard, Diana K, O'Connell, Margaret, Anderson, Alexandra, Marion Sui-seeya, Kimberly R, Zanotti, Laura "Theorizing Access in Global Environmental Governance: A critical analysis of COP26 and the COVID-19 pandemic."
(invited to revise and resubmit)

Baker, Lauren M. "[The Sanitization of Garbage Politics: A case for studying waste at the local, state, and international politics in the MENA.](#)" POMEPS Studies 46: Environmental Politics in the Middle East and North Africa. Project on Middle East Political Science, May 2022.

Baker, Lauren M. "[Waste Siege: The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine.](#)" The Journal of Development Studies, January 18, 2023, 1–2. (Book Review)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

APSA Interpretive Methodologies and Methods (IMM) Spotlight Scholar, AY 2024-25

Buffett Global Impacts Fellow, AY 2021-2022

Project on Middle East Politics, Travel Research Engagement Grant, 2021 (\$3,000)

Environment, Culture, and Society Cluster Research Award, 2023 (\$500)

MENA Interdisciplinary Cluster Award, 2023 (\$1,000)

Minar Memorial Summer Award, Department of Political Science, 2019; 2023 (\$1,000)

Northwestern Buffett Dissertation Research Travel Award, 2021 (\$5,000)

Morris Goodman Award, Northwestern Program on African Studies, 2019 (\$2,172)

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Clean and Green: The Politics of Spectacle at Dubai’s COP28,”

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, September 2024

“Ethnography of the invisible: How to pay attention to waste that is not there,”

Northwestern University, Environment, Culture, and Society Cluster, Lime 2024

Symposium, (At)tension, May 2024

“Ethnographic noticing and the entanglements of global environmental governance: The politics of waste at COP27,”

International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2024

“Sanitized spectacle: The politics of waste at the UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt,”

Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, March 2024

“Sanitizing Spectacle: The politics of waste at ‘Africa’s COP,’”

International Studies Association International Conference: Ifrane, Morocco, June 2023

“Ethnography of Spectacle: Studying Garbage at Sites of Global Environmental Governance.”

“Regime Greenwashing: Competing environmentalisms and the legacies of COP22 in Morocco.”

International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2023

Invited Guest Lecture: “Environmental Politics in the Middle East,”

Dr. Scott Weiner, Comparative Politics of the MENA, George Washington University

“How Accessibility Shapes Global Environmental Governance.” (Coauthored with Diana Elhard, Alex Anderson, Margaret O'Connell, Kim Marion Suiseeya)

Earth Systems Governance Conference, October 2022.

“A Case for Studying Waste at the Local, State, and International Politics in the MENA.”

POMEPS Workshop: Environmental Politics in the MENA, February 2022.

“International Negotiations and Research in the Age of COVID.” (Coauthored with Diana Elhard, Alex Anderson, Margaret O'Connell, Kim Marion Suiseeya)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, April 2022

“Sanitizing the politics of garbage at sites of global environmental governance.”

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Conference, November 2021

“Regime Greenwashing: Morocco’s (selective) environmentalism for authoritarian legitimation.”
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference, September 2021

“Trash Talk: How rhetoric of development sanitizes the politics of garbage.”
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2021

“What Counts as ‘Green’: The Politics of Contrasting Environmentalism(s) in Morocco.”
Michigan State Muslim Studies Program Annual Conference: Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation, October 2020

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, Northwestern University

MENA 301/ POLISCI 390/ ENVRPOL 390 Environmental Issues in MENA (Spring 2024)
CFS 387 Field Studies in Environment and Sustainability (Summer 2023; Summer 2024)
CFS 388 Field Studies in Business Culture (Winter 2023; Summer 2024)
CFS 393 Field Studies in the Modern Workplace (Winter 2021, Spring 2021)

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University

POLISCI 342 International Organizations (Winter 2025)
POLISCI 351 Middle East Politics (Spring 2020)
POLISCI 341 International Political Economy (Winter 2020; Spring 2025)
POLISCI 250 Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2019)

Searle Center for Advanced Teaching and Learning
Graduate Teaching Fellow (AY 2021-2022)

Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin (2010-2012)

ISL 310 / HIS 306 Introduction to Islam
MES 343/ HIS 331 Modern Iranian History
ISL 340 / COMPLIT 323 The Qur’an

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Climate Change Initiatives Graduate Intern, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, 2022/ 2023
Prepared training materials for Northwestern UNFCCC COP delegates

Research Team Member, Presence2Influence, November 2021
Collaborative ethnography at two-week UNFCCC COP26, Glasgow, Scotland

Reader, *At Home and Abroad: The Politics of American Religion*, Fall 2020
Copy edits for book edited by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

Research Assistant, Dr. Hina Azam, *The University of Texas at Austin*, Summer 2012
Bibliographic essay on marriage across Muslim world for the Oxford University Press

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Northwestern Middle East and North African Studies
Graduate Assistant: AY 2023-2024

Northwestern Political Science Teaching Committee
Chair: AY 2021-2022
Member: AY 2020-2021

The Commune (Northwestern Political Science Graduate Student Body)
Co-chair: AY 2020-2021
Communications Coordinator: AY 2019-2020

Northwestern University Graduate Workers (NUGW) – UE Local 1122
Department Organizer: 2019 - 2022
Contract Action Team: 2022 - 2023

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Environmental Studies Section (ESS) of International Studies Association
Executive Committee 2025 – 2026

International Studies Association
2024 Annual Convention Volunteer

Middle East Law and Governance
Reviewer

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Studies Association (2015 - present)
Middle East Studies Association (2015 - present)
American Political Science Association (2015 - present)
Earth Systems Governance Project (2022 - present)
Western Political Science Association (2024 - present)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), George Washington University
Assistant Director, September 2017 – August 2018
Project Coordinator, May 2015 – September 2017

The Monkey Cage, Washington Post
Associate Editor, January 2017 – December 2018
Assistant Editor, May 2015 – Jan. 2017

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Washington, DC
Academic Advisor, November 2013 – May 2015

Texas Legislative Council, Austin, TX
Writing Specialist, September 2012 – May 2013

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Arabic (Modern Standard): Intermediate high
French: Intermediate
Spanish: Intermediate high

REFERENCES

Wendy Pearlman

Professor, Northwestern University Department of Political Science
pearlman@northwestern.edu
847-491-2259

Kimberly Marion Suiseeya

Associate Professor of Environmental Justice & Policy, Nicholas School of the
Environment, Duke University
k.suiseeya@duke.edu

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

Professor, Northwestern University Departments of Political Science and Religious
Studies
eshurd@northwestern.edu
847-467-5412

Kate O'Neill

Professor, University of California Berkeley Department of Environmental Science,
Policy and Management
kmoneill@berkeley.edu