

MaryClare Roche

POLITICAL SCIENTIST · DATA SCIENTIST

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Education

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

PH.D., M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

2013 - 2020

- *Three Essays in Elections and Policy*, Doctoral Dissertation, 2020
- *Non-Consecutive Executives: Changing Preferences in a Changing World*, Master's Thesis, 2017

University of Maryland, College Park

College Park, MD

B.S. IN PHYSICS (PRIMARY) AND GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (SECONDARY)

2009 - 2013

Skills

Programming

R: tidyverse, topicmodels, stm, quanteda, TensorFlow, zoo, arabicStemR, ggplot2;

python: numpy, pandas, TensorFlow, scipy, spaCy, gensim, matplotlib, multithreading, multiprocessing, selenium

Software

Matlab, Mathematica, ArcGIS, Docker, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX, Excel

Technical

Econometrics (Advanced), Time Series Analysis, Structural Estimation, Causal Inference, Machine Learning, Imputation, Web Scraping, Natural Language Processing (NLP) in English and Arabic

Experience

Arab Barometer, Princeton University

Washington, D.C.

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

September 2022 - present

- Decides the direction of Arab Barometer's technological advances and evaluates any & all new technology & software Arab Barometer adopts
- Responsible for managing, training, hiring & mentoring internal data team members
- Coordinates with field partner's data team to assist with quality control
- Creates & maintains data base of 16 years of Arab Barometer data
- Oversaw hiring of Data Analyst position

Washington, D.C.

SENIOR RESEARCH SPECIALIST

August 2020 - September 2022

- Oversaw and aided in the development of custom data verification software used in real time to evaluate the quality of incoming survey data
- Built custom graphing and statistical analysis R packages exclusively for Arab Barometer for both English and Arabic
- Created data processing pipeline that decreased time-to-publication by over six months
- Developed novel SMS messaging program in python to routinely deliver surveys across the Middle East and North Africa & evaluated setting to ensure optimal response rate
- Researched and evaluated effectiveness of various SMS survey settings to ensure the optimal response rate
- Built topic models and preformed sentiment analysis with machine learning for Arabic survey responses
- Designed and oversaw data processing pipeline for incoming data from 12 countries across three platforms with the use of Stata, R, and SPSS
- Created econometric models and data visualization to be presented at the US State Department, several US Embassies, the United Nations, & various international non-profits.
- Trained colleagues on the use of R, git/GitHub, ODK
- Oversaw the adaptation of any and all new technologies used by Arab Barometer

University of Rochester

Rochester, New York

DOCTORAL THESIS WORK

2013-2020

- Scraped original text data via multi-threading over a generated cluster of temporary, localized IP addresses with Microsoft Azure and Docker
- Created topic models using both LDA and GloVe on Arabic text in both R and python
- Utilized Optical Character Recognition (OCR) API on official government documents in Arabic to supplement missing information
- Built an Arabic-to-English dictionary using Google and Bing translator APIs
- Analyzed Irregular Time Series data to uncover temporal speaking patterns
- Uncovered unexpected gender dynamics in Middle Eastern semi-democratic parliaments
- Created game theoretic models to explain the conditions that allow democratic institutions in authoritarian regimes to simultaneously create coordination problems for regime opposition and solve them for regime allies

RESEARCH ASSISTANT - ACCRA, GHANA

- Collected primary source data from the Department of Education, Department of Roads and Bridges, Ghanaian National Archives, and Electoral Commission
- Mapped census data collected using OCR in ArcGIS
- Developed and solved formal theoretical models, reviewed calculations, edited manuscripts

TEACHING ASSISTANT

- Taught R for statistical analysis and data presentation
- Lead recitations and mentored students at both the undergraduate and graduate level; classes included Data Analysis, Game Theory, Introduction to Comparative Politics, and Political Philosophy

International Monetary Fund

Washington, D.C.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Fall 2015

- Created and solved a game theoretic model describing the relation between government regulation and banks' investment portfolios
- Taught advanced game theoretic concepts

Center for European Nuclear Research (CERN)/University of Maryland High Energy

Geneva, Switzerland

Physics Group

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Summer 2011, Summer 2012

- Collected and presented data from new detectors to be installed in the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at CERN. Based on the calibrations conducted, the new detectors were installed in CMS, which ultimately discovered the Higgs boson
- Taught new research assistants basic java programming

Selected Presentations

World Association for Public Opinion Research

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING FOR SHORT, ANONYMIZED SURVEY RESPONSES

November 2022

- Served as Panel Chair for Big Data, Sentiment Analysis, and Machine Learning

Middle East Institute

Washington, D.C. - Remote

GENDER ATTITUDES AND TRENDS IN MENA

October 2022

- Reviews findings on gender attitudes from Arab Barometer Wave VII

US Arab Radio

Michigan - Remote

WOMEN IN A CHANGING MENA REGION: THE GENDER FINDINGS OF ARAB BAROMETER 2022

October 2022

- Reviews findings on gender attitudes from Arab Barometer Wave VII

United Nations

New York, NY - Remote

WOMEN AND COVID-19 IN MENA: FINDINGS FROM THE SIXTH WAVE OF ARAB BAROMETER

September 2021

- Co-presented with Dr. Amaney Jamal, Dean of
- Served as data analyst, presentation creator

Writing

Lebanon Country Report

Arab Barometer

AUTHOR

December 2022

Gender Attitudes and Trends in the Middle East and North Africa 2021-2022

Arab Barometer

REPORT

September 2022

Citizens Lukewarm on Leaders' Cold War

Arab Pulse

BLOG

September 2022