

Working Group in African Political Economy
2015 WGAPE@NYUAD Special Meeting
New York University – Abu Dhabi
January 6-9, 2016



Introduction

The [Working Group in African Political Economy \(WGAPE\)](#) brings together faculty and advanced graduate students in Economics, Political Science, and other Social Science disciplines who combine field research experience in Africa with training in political economy methods. It is co-led by Daniel Posner (Political Science, UCLA), Edward Miguel (Economics, UC Berkeley), and Brian Dillon (Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington). We are collaborating with partners at NYU - Abu Dhabi, J. Andrew Harris (Political Science, NYU, Abu Dhabi) and Peter van der Windt (Political Science, NYU, Abu Dhabi) to host a special WGAPE meeting with a research discussions component and training module.

The short **training module** will provide scholars a chance to advance their knowledge of experimental methods in studying topics relevant to political economy of Africa, best research practices, and the resources for relevant data sources, training materials, and networking opportunities.

The **research discussion sessions** are built around in-depth discussions of papers that are circulated and read in advanced. Presenters provide little more than a few brief, orienting comments before the floor is opened for discussion. WGAPE is more a forum for presenting work in progress than polished, finished projects and provides an unparalleled opportunity for useful feedback.

Date: January 6-9, 2016

Host: New York University, Abu Dhabi

Location:

- **January 6, 2016:** Training Day will take place in building A5, room 101.
- **January 7-9, 2016:** Research Discussion Sessions will take place in building A6, Room 005.

Instructions:

- Papers will be circulated and are expected to be read in advance.
- Each presenter has one hour during discussion sessions. The presenter may provide a 5 minute introduction at the beginning of that hour.

WGAPE@NYUAD Details

Training Module: One goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to make researchers – especially from Africa – aware of the latest research tools. To do so, on January 6, there will be a training day where the newest methods in the field of political economy are discussed. Moreover, it will make sure we are all at the same methodological level before the start of WGAPE on January 7. It is a good way to get to know each other.

- The trainers will be: Andrew Harris (NYU, Abu Dhabi), Peter van der Windt (NYU, Abu Dhabi), Daniel Posner (UCLA), Macartan Humphreys (Columbia University), and Kim Dionne (Smith College).
- Participation in the training is optional.

Research Discussion Sessions: The core goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to provide a forum for scholars to present and receive feedback on their works in progress on research studying the political economy of Africa. We have 10 papers

and 3 research designs to be discussed. Research designs are often in the style of pre-analysis plans, a useful tool to describe the study design, outline hypotheses, specify variable construction, and pre-specify the analysis of data.

Networking: Another goal of WGAPE@NYUAD is to connect scholars working on the political economy of Africa, and to build a network among them. To do so we would like to connect researchers with each other, and particularly senior researchers with more junior researchers. In addition to a lot of informal “meeting-up”, we have built in several network opportunities into the agenda. Moreover, there are “Advice” and “Coffee” possibilities:

- **“Advice”:** Those interested may send a document that they are working on and on which they would like to receive specific comments. They should also indicate, from the list of participants (provided at the back of the document), which scholar(s) they would like to connect with. The meeting organizers will make these connections before everyone arrives in Abu Dhabi. Those scholars asked to provide comments will read the document and then during the days in Abu Dhabi will meet with you several times to discuss the research project in detail.
- **“Coffee”:** The idea is that you select from the list of participants with whom you want to have a cup of coffee. For thirty minutes you will have coffee with this person. Again, this will be organized before the arrival in Abu Dhabi.

Tues, January 05: Welcome and Arrivals

- Arrival at NYU, Abu Dhabi Welcome Center
- Please leave an ID at the welcome center to obtain a visitor pass
- You will be guided to your accommodation in the complex. For late arrivals, there will be a welcome basket in your room with some refreshments.

8:00-10:00 PM: Informal Welcome Drink

For those interested, an informal drink will be hosted at Peter van der Windt's apartment

Location: Building B1, Apartment 907.

Wed, January 06: Training Modules

Participation in Parallel Sessions are optional

<i>Parallel A: Training Modules (Optional)</i>	<i>Parallel B: Campus Tour (Optional)</i>
<p>8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast <i>Location:</i> Social Science Building, Building A5, Room 101</p> <p>9:00-9:30 AM: Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>9:30-11:00 AM: Topic 1: Causal Inference (optional) <i>Presenter: Andrew Harris, NYU Abu Dhabi</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is causality? • Why randomize • Rubin causal model • How to randomize <p>11:00-11:30 AM: Coffee break</p> <p>11:30-1:00 PM: Topic 2: Research Design (optional) <i>Presenter: Peter van der Windt, NYU Abu Dhabi</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stages of your research design • Threats to your design • Unpack a great pre-analysis 	<p>10:30-11:30 AM: Campus Tour <i>Location:</i> Meet outside of Building A5 in the courtyard <i>Cole Tanigawa-Lau and Clara Bicalho, NYU Abu Dhabi will lead.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a tour around NYU Abu Dhabi campus to see the library, department spaces, recreation and living areas
<p>1:00-2:00 PM: Lunch</p> <p>2:00-3:30 PM: Topic 3: Bringing Research to a Public Audience <i>Presenter: Kim Dionne, Smith College</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in conveying research to general audiences, what to avoid, and communicating research online and through op-eds. <p>3:30-4:00 PM: Coffee & Refreshments</p> <p>4:00-5:00 PM: Topic 4: The State of the Field <i>Presenters: Daniel Posner, UCLA and Macartan Humphreys, Columbia University</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of experimental research in studying the political economy of Africa and research agenda trajectories 	

5:15-6:15 PM: Campus Tour (Optional)

Location: Meet outside of Building A5 in the courtyard

Cole Tanigawa-Lau and Clara Bicalho, NYU Abu Dhabi, will lead.

7:00 PM: Welcome Dinner

Location: Torch Club, 1st Floor, Building D2

Thu, January 07, 2016: WGAPE Research Discussion Sessions

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

9:00-9:30 AM: Welcome & Introductions

- NYUAD: Andy Harris and Peter van der Windt
- WGAPE: Elisa Cascardi, Brian Dillon, and Dan Posner

9:30-10:30 AM: Paper 1

"Monitoring Conflict to Reduce Violence: Evidence from a Satellite Intervention in Darfur"
Grant Gordon, Columbia University

10:30-11:30 AM: Paper 2

"Conditional Cash Transfer and Child Labour: The Case of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme in Ghana"
Rebecca Ayifah, University of Cape Town

11:30-12:00 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

12:00-1:00 PM: Paper 3

"Prenatal Trauma and Cooperation: Evidence from a Public Goods Game in Post-Conflict Uganda"
Francesco Cecchi, Wageningen University

1:00-2:00 PM: Lunch

Location: Conference Center Lobby, Building A6

2:00-3:00 PM: Paper 4

"The Psychology of Political Risk: The Effect of Fear on Participation in Collective Dissent"
Lauren Young, Columbia University

3:00-3:15 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

3:15-4:15 PM: Paper 5

"Mobilizing the Masses for Genocide"
Thorsten Rogall, University of British Columbia

4:30-6:00 PM: Advice and Coffee Moments

30 minute discussions with matched participants

7:00 PM: Dinner

Location: Al Mayas Restaurant, Sheraton Corniche

Departure for dinner at 7pm from Lobby of Conference Center, Building A6

Fri, January 08, 2016: WGAPE Papers and Design

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

9:00-10:00 AM: Research Design 1

"Can a "Confidence Boost" Improve Parental Efficacy and Children's Educational Outcomes?

Research Design for a Pilot in Tanzania with Twaweza"

Yang-Yang Zhou, Princeton University

10:00-11:00 AM: Research Design 2

"Women's Participation and Party Capacity: Preliminary Design for a Field Experiment in Ghana"

Noah Nathan, University of Michigan

11:00-11:30 AM: Coffee break

11:30-12:30 PM: Research Design 3

"Are the Harms of Artificial Statehood Reversible? Development Outcomes Along the Shifting Niger-Burkina Faso Border"

Abhit Bhandari, Columbia University and Lisa Mueller, Macalester College

12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch

Location: Conference Center Atrium

3:30 – 8:30PM: Desert Tour

Meet at 3pm at the NYU Abu Dhabi Welcome Center for an evening desert safari. Watch the sun set at a desert camp outside of Abu Dhabi while enjoying 'hubbly-bubbly' and Tanoura show with traditional Arabic barbecue dinner.

Sat, January 9, 2016: WGAPE Research Discussion Sessions

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Breakfast

Location: Conference Center, Building A6, Room 005

9:30-10:30 AM: Paper 6

"Domestic election observers and election day fraud in Malawi's 2014 elections"

Dan Posner, UC Los Angeles and George Ofosu, UC Los Angeles

10:30-11:30 AM: Paper 7

"How Quotas Affect Future Elections: A Policy Experiment on Gender Bias and Women's Electoral Success"

Amanda Clayton, Vanderbilt University

11:30 AM-12:00 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

12:00-1:00 PM: Paper 8

"Political Party Campaign Strategies and Incumbency Advantages in an African Election"

Sarah Brierley, UC Los Angeles

1:00-2:00 PM: Lunch

Location: Conference Center Atrium

2:00-3:00 PM: Paper 9

"Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology"

Abdulaziz Shifa, Syracuse University

3:00-3:15 PM: Coffee & Refreshments

3:15-4:15 PM: Paper 10

"Ethnic Politics and Job Performance in the Kenyan Police 1957-1970"

Oliver Vanden Eynde, Paris School of Economics

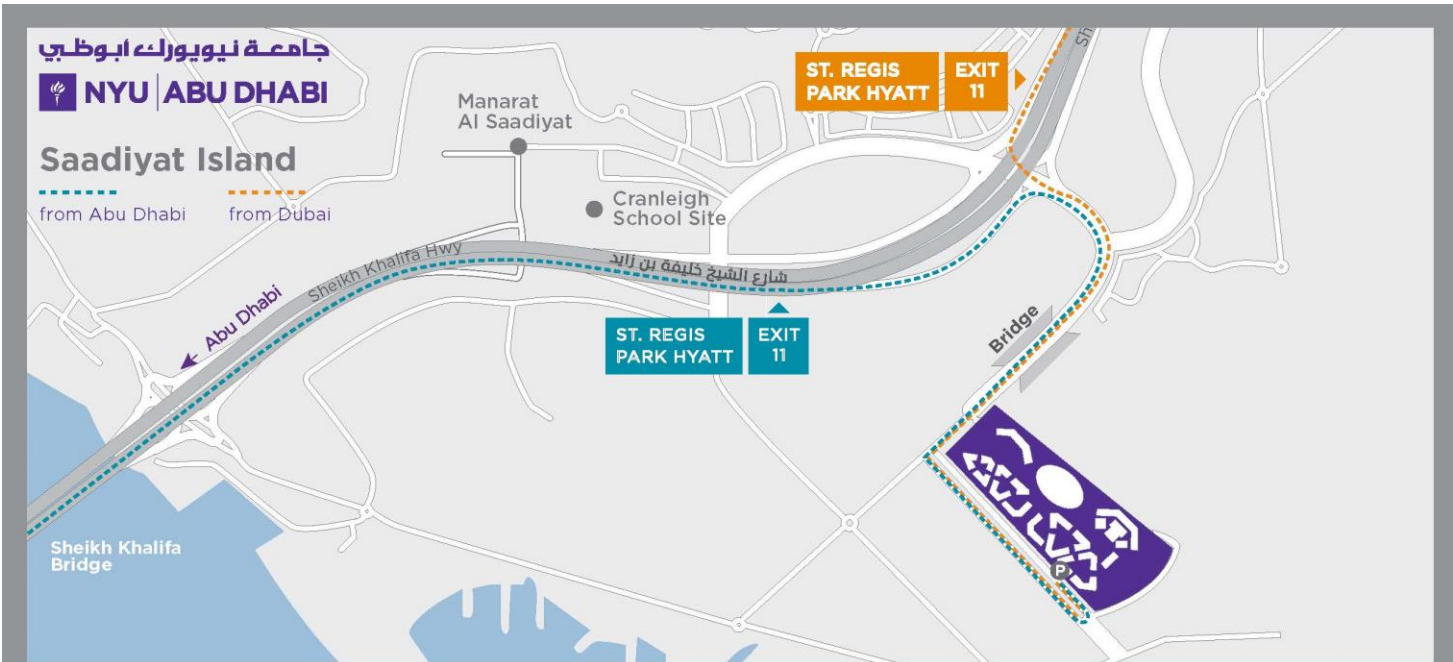
4:30-6:00 PM: Advice and Coffee Moments

30 minute discussions with matched participants

7:00 PM: Dinner

Location: Torch Club, 1st Floor, Building D2

NYU Abu Dhabi Campus Map



WGAPE @ NYU Abu Dhabi – Participant List

No.	Name	Email	Institution/Location
1	Daniel Posner	dposner@polisci.ucla.edu	UC Los Angeles
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