

# Danielle M. Higgins

PhD Candidate & Adjunct Instructor  
American University School of Public Affairs, Government Department  
Senior Researcher for [Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative](#)  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
[dh6087a@student.american.edu](mailto:dh6087a@student.american.edu) • (240) 675-1877

## EDUCATION

### American University, Washington, DC

PhD in Political Science

Expected: Spring 2020

- Dissertation: "Achieving Meaningful Women's Representation: The Construction of Gender and Opportunities for Change."
- Advisor: Professor Diane Singerman
- Research areas: Women and Politics, Gender Quotas, Representation (Descriptive, Substantive, & Symbolic), Public Opinion, Middle Eastern Politics and Subnational Politics
- Fields: Comparative Politics, American Politics

### Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

M.A. in Politics

Aug 2014

- Thesis: "Accounting for Variation in Female Parliamentary Representation in Muslim-Majority Countries: The Role of Institutions in Perpetuating Patriarchy or Establishing Equality."

### New York University, New York, NY

B.A. in Political Science/Spanish Language & Literature, *Magna cum laude*

May 2012

- Minor: Arabic Language
- Thesis: "Why Do People Support Political Islam? Evidence from the Arab Barometer of the Social and Economic Drivers of Support for Islamist Parties." *Winner of the Dean's Award for Political Science.*

## PUBLICATIONS

Singerman, D. & Higgins, D. "Gender and Politics." In *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East, 3rd Edition*, edited by Michele Penner Angrist, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2019.

## IN PROGRESS

Higgins, D., Singerman, D., & Dorland, C., "The Gendered Nature of Precarious Employment in Cairo: What Neighborhoods Tell Us About Inequality." (Revise and Resubmit)

## TEACHING

### EXPERIENCE

#### American University

Adjunct Instructor

Jul 2018 – Present

Politics in the US, Spring 2019 & Fall 2019

Individual Freedom Versus Authority, Spring 2019 & Spring 2020

Comparative Politics, Fall 2018 & Spring 2020

Political Action and Public Policy, Summer 2018

#### American University

Teaching Assistant

Aug 2014 – Jul 2018

The Middle East in Comparative Perspective, Professor Singerman, Fall 2016 & Spring 2018

Political Conflict, Professor Singerman, Spring 2016 & Spring 2017

Gender and the Middle East, Professor Singerman, Spring 2015

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Professor Singerman, Fall 2014

Politics in the US, Professor Hidaka, Summer 2015, Summer 2016 & Summer 2018

Politics and the Internet, Professor Hidaka, Summer 2016

Terrorism in the 21st Century, Professor Kearns, Summer 2016

**RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE**

**TADAMUN: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative**

**Senior Researcher**

Jun 2018 – Present

Investigate urban governance and spatial inequality in the Greater Cairo Region, with an emphasis on the analysis of spatial data. Research and write policy briefs including:

- “Decentralization and Women’s Representation in Tunisia: The First Female Mayor of Tunis.” June 24, 2019, Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative.
- “Women and Precarious Employment: A Spatial Analysis of Economic Insecurity in Cairo’s Neighborhoods.” January 10, 2019, Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative.
- “Visible Inequality in the Greater Cairo Region: Where the Rich and Poor Live Side-by-Side.” August 5, 2018, Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative.

Supervise and edit the work of research assistants and interns as part of a book project on local government in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Assist with editing a book on the built environment of Cairo’s neighborhoods, based on Tadamun’s research for *Know Your Cities*, as well as dossier based on Tadamun’s work on the *Egyptian Constitution Campaign*.

**Research Assistant to Professor Diane Singerman**

Aug 2014 – May 2018

Contributed research and edits to a report on spatial inequality in the Greater Cairo Region, “Planning[in]Justice: A Spatial Analysis for Urban Cairo.”

Conducted research and co-wrote policy briefs, including:

- “Inequality of Opportunity in Cairo: Space, Higher Education, and Unemployment.” March 31, 2018, Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative.
- “Investigating Spatial Inequality in Cairo.” December 15, 2015, Tadamun: The Cairo Urban Solidarity Initiative.

Invited to present data analysis and mapping at the First Annual conference of the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD) at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

**ACADEMIC  
AWARDS/GRANTS**

Recipient of the Kerwin Doctoral Fellowship	2019-2020
Recipient of the Gill Family Foundation Scholarship	2017-2018
Alternate for Boren Fellowship	2017
Graduate Assistantship, American University	2014-2018
Merit Scholarship, Brandeis University	2013-2014
Dean’s Award for Political Science, New York University. For outstanding scholarship (awarded for honors thesis).	2012

**CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS**

“Women-friendly Policies and Attitudes Towards Female Politicians: The Case of Maternity, Paternity, and Parental Leave,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, Aug 2019.

“Abortion Liberalization, Maternity Policies and Attitudes Toward Female Politicians,” *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, Apr 2019.

“State Feminism, Religious Institutions and Support for Female Politicians,” *Second annual conference of the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD)*, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2018.

“The Construction of Gender and Attitudes Toward Women in Public Life,” *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portsmouth, NH Apr 2018

“Neighborhoods and Inequality in Cairo: A Call for Subnational Spatial Analysis,” with Diane Singerman. *First annual conference of the Program on Governance and Local Development (GLD)*, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2017.

“Cracking the Glass Ceiling of Public Opinion: Evaluating the Impact of Gender Quotas on Attitudes Towards Female Politicians,” *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, Apr 2017.

“Evaluating the Impact of Gender Quotas on Attitudes Towards Female Politicians,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, Sep 2016.

“Accounting for Variation in Female Representation in the Muslim World,” *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, Sep 2015.

“Accounting for Variation in Female Representation in the Muslim World,” *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, New Haven, CT, Apr 2015.

**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

“Women in U.S. Politics: Perspectives Through Time.” Westover Speaker Series, Arlington Public Library. Arlington, VA. Jan 2020.

**CERTIFICATIONS  
AND TRAINING**

Certificate of completion for training course in online learning, American University Center for Teaching, Research, and Learning. Spring 2018.

“The Art of Teaching,” graduate-level course at American University’s School of Education focused on learning styles, philosophies of education, the pedagogy of inclusion, working with diverse learners, and effective teaching. Spring 2018.

**SKILLS**

R, Stata, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**REFERENCES**

Diane Singerman, Associate Professor, Government, American University, [dsinger@american.edu](mailto:dsinger@american.edu)

Todd Eisenstadt, Professor, Government, American University, [eisensta@american.edu](mailto:eisensta@american.edu)

Masaki Hidaka, Professorial Lecturer, Government, American University, [hidaka@american.edu](mailto:hidaka@american.edu)

[CV compiled on 2019-11-24]