

Ahmed Khanani

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APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow & Visiting Assistant Professor Department of International Studies Indiana University, Bloomington	2014-2015
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EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington Ph.D. in Political Science Dissertation title: <i>Islamism and the Language of Democracy in Morocco</i> . Qualifying exams: Comparative Politics & International Relations	2014
Center for Cross Cultural Learning (Rabat, Morocco) Six-month course in Moroccan Colloquial Arabic	2010
Arabic Language Institute in Fes (ALIF, Morocco) Yearlong course in Moroccan Colloquial Arabic	2009
QASID Institute (Amman, Jordan) Three-month intensive Arabic program	2004
Florida State University M.S. in Political Science	2004
University of Colorado, Boulder B.A. in International Affairs, <i>cum laude</i>	2002

PUBLICATIONS

2010	Ahmed Khanani and Jean C. Robinson. "Democracy, Discursive Frames, and Same-Sex Unions: A Cross-National Analysis." In <i>Same-Sex Marriage in the Americas</i> , ed. Jason A. Pierceson, pp. 15-36. Lexington Books: Lanham, MD.
2009	Abdulkader Sinno and Ahmed Khanani. "Of opportunities and organization: When do Islamist parties choose to compete electorally?" In <i>Interpreting Islamic Political Parties</i> , ed. Mohamed Salih, pp. 29-51. Palgrave Macmillan: New York, NY.
2009	Paul R. Hensel, Michael Allison, and Ahmed Khanani. "Territorial Integrity Treaties and Armed Conflict over Territory." <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i> 26 (2): 120-143.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

- 2015 *I-304: Human Rights in the Muslim World*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of International Studies (Spring).
- 2015 *I-210: Diplomacy, Security, Governance*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of International Studies (Spring).
- 2014 *I-210: Diplomacy, Security, Governance*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of International Studies (Fall).
- 2012 *Y200: Democracy in the Muslim Middle East and North Africa*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Spring).
- 2008 *Y311: Democracy and National Security*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Spring).
- 2007 *Y311: Democracy and National Security*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Summer).
- 2006 *Y311: Democracy and National Security*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Fall).

I was fully responsible for each of the above courses: I created my own syllabus, assigned readings, screened useful in-class video clips and films, facilitated discussions, presented lectures, and developed assignments. I also met with students outside of the classroom, and graded students' work.

Associate Instructor:

- 2007 *Y105: Introduction to Political Theory*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Fall).
- 2007 *Y353: The Politics of Gender and Sexuality*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Spring).
- 2006 *Y200: World Systems Theory*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Spring).
- 2005 *Y103: Introduction to American Politics*. Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science (Fall).

As an Associate Instructor my responsibilities included attending lectures, taking attendance, grading, and helping students during office hours.

DISSERTATION

Title: *Islamism and the Language of Democracy in Morocco*.

Committee: Professors Jean C. Robinson (Chair), Jack Bielasiak, Jeffrey C. Isaac, Lauren M. MacLean, Lisa Wedeen (University of Chicago)

In this project I examine how socially conservative, politically active Muslims (who I refer to as *islamiyun*) in Morocco articulate and enact democracy. Based on nearly two years of fieldwork and conversations with over 100 interlocutors, I argue that there are two modes of invoking and enacting "democracy" amongst Moroccan *islamiyun*, both of which are ultimately grounded in the Islamic tradition. On the one hand, Moroccan *islamiyun* are invested in and committed to a series of institutions that they identify with democracy, including free and fair elections, investing legislative

power in elected officials, freedoms of speech, expression, the press, and so on (chapter 3). On the other hand, *islamiyun* talk about democracy in decidedly substantive terms: in addition to the institutions, democracy is, for example, fighting unemployment and illiteracy—bread, in a word (chapter 4). I argue that these two articulations of democracy come together because Moroccan *islamiyun* invariably connect democracy to the Islamic tradition, often under the rubric of *shura* [consultation], but also employing the concepts of *karamah* [dignity/honor], sovereignty, and *hurriyah* [freedom] (chapter 5). The final chapter explores how my interlocutors enact *dimuqratiyyah*: first I outline how “democracy” informs the internal structures of both the PJD and JSM. I then turn to how *islamiyun* embodied and thought about democracy with regards to three salient issues in contemporary Moroccan politics—women’s rights reform in 2004, a 2009 protest that featured liberal Moroccans eating in public during Ramadan, and the banning of a newspaper and imprisonment of a reporter for “insulting” the King in 2011-12 (chapter 6). I am currently in the process of turning my dissertation into a book manuscript.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Protecting in God’s Name: Moroccan Islamism and Human Rights.
 - This article-length manuscript features an analysis of the ideas, language, and practices of Moroccan *islamiyun* with regards to human rights. Specifically, I contend that Moroccan *islamiyun* pose intellectual and practical challenges to global discourses of human rights through the former’s essentially religious articulation of rights. In other words, whereas “rights” seemingly emerge from the body in secular arguments for human rights, for *islamiyun* “rights” are guaranteed and circumscribed by God’s Will, as delineated in the Qur’an and *hadith*—and interpreted by *islamiyun*. I substantiate these claims through analysis of interviews with over 100 Moroccan *islamiyun*.
- Where in the World is... Democratic Theory? A Tale of an Authorizing Discourse.
 - In this article-length manuscript, I argue that that three strands of democratic theory in contemporary political science are Western-centric. Specifically, through a close reading of the works of Robert Dahl, Laurence Whitehead, and David Beetham, I identify several instances of locating the empirical models for the idea of democracy exclusively in the West. The net result of this Western-centrism is that the concept of democracy fragments and, as such, loses analytic value.

SELECTED HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2014	<i>Muslims Negotiating Modernities</i> Workshop hosted by Vanderbilt University, funded participant.
2014	<i>American Institute of Maghrebi Studies</i> Dissertation Writing Workshop, funded participant.
2013-14	<i>Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Dissertation Year Fellowship</i> , Islamic Studies Program at Indiana University, Bloomington.
2012	<i>Greenough Memorial Travel Grant</i> , Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.
2012	<i>Project on Middle East Political Science</i> Travel-Research-Engagement grantee for continued research in Morocco.
2012	<i>American Institute of Maghrebi Studies</i> Dissertation Writing Workshop, funded

- participant.
- 2011 *Greenough Memorial Travel Grant*, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2010-11 *Fulbright Fellow, Morocco*, Institute of International Education.
- 2010-11 *Critical Language Enhancement Award* (I.I.E.) for the study of Arabic (Moroccan Colloquial and Modern Standard).
- 2009-10 *Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship*, Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2009 *Greenough Memorial Travel Grant*, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2009 *National Science Foundation Workshop on Interpretivist Methods in Political Science*, (Toronto), funded participant.
- 2009 *Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research*, Syracuse University, funded participant.

LANGUAGES & RESEARCH SKILLS

- Colloquial Moroccan Arabic (*darija*) Advanced Proficiency
- French Advanced Proficiency
- Modern Standard Arabic Intermediate Proficiency
- Urdu Intermediate Proficiency
- Proficiency with the following statistical methods: Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE), and Hazard models.
- Proficiency with STATA statistical software

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2014 “Enacting *dimuqratiyyah*? The Democratic Practices of Moroccan *islamiyun*.” Presented at the 110th *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC.
- 2013 “Democracy, *dimuqratiyyah*, and *shura* in the Moroccan Historical Context.” Presented at the 71st *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)*, Chicago, IL.
- 2013 “Procedures as Bridges? Moroccan *islamiyun* and the Institutions of Democracy.” Presented at *Ready for Democracy? Religion and Political Culture in the Orthodox and Islamic Worlds* Conference hosted by Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2012 “The Many Meanings of *dimuqratiyyah*: Moroccan *Islamiyun* and the Recoding of Democracy.” 70th *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)*, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Islamists and Democracy in Morocco.” Presented at *Islam in the New Middle East: Traditions, Transitions, and Trajectories* Conference hosted by the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and the University of Toledo.
- 2011 “Democracy and *dimuqratiyyah*: Moroccan Revivalists and the Language of Governance.” 18th *Annual Maghrebi Area Studies Symposium*, Rabat, Morocco.
- 2009 “Formations of Democracy: An Analysis of two Authoritative Discourses.” Presented at the 67th *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)*, Chicago, IL.
- 2009 “Democracy, Discursive Frames, and Same-Sex Unions: A Cross-National Analysis.”

- Co-authored with Jean C. Robinson. Presented at the 67th *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)*, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 “Colonial Legacies and Territorial Claims: A Preliminary Investigation.” Co-authored with Paul R. Hensel and Michael Allison. Presented at the *National Territory and Sovereignty: Sixty Years Since the Founding of the Nation*, Seoul, Korea.
- 2007 “Full Citizens? The underpinnings of Muslim Representation in Western Liberal Democracies.” Co-authored with Abdulkader Sinno and Eren Tatari. Presented at the 103rd *American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL.
- 2003 “The Colonial Legacy and Colonial Claims.” Co-authored with Paul Hensel and Michael Allison. Presented at the 45th *Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association*, Montreal, Canada (March 2004) and *Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society*, Ann Arbor, MI.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2012 “The Many Meanings of *dimuqratiyyah*: Moroccan Islamiyun and the Recoding of Democracy.” Governance in Muslim Societies, at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2011 “Democracy in North Africa?” *Y338: African Politics*. Indiana University, Bloomington.
- 2009 “Islam and Democracy.” *POLI 320: Global Islamic Politics*. Xavier University.
- 2009 “Muslims in Western Politics.” *POLI 320: Global Islamic Politics*. Xavier University.
- 2007 “Islam in Europe.” *Workshop for Language Teachers*, Department of West European Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2013-14 Voting Member, Patten Lecture Committee
Served, on behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Organization at Indiana University, as a voting member of the Patten Lecture committee, which is responsible for selecting three internationally recognized scholars to present the subsequent year’s Patten lectures.
- 2012-13 Voting Member, School for Global & International Studies Dean’s Search
Attended and contributed to all committee meetings, including candidates’ airport and campus interviews. Moreover, although I was the only graduate student on the committee, I was invited to introduce each of our three candidates who had on-campus interviews at an open forum for all faculty, students and staff.
- 2012-13 Research Assistant, Professor Jean C. Robinson (Political Science, Indiana
2008-09 University).
Developed a research plan surveying literatures and legislation regarding same-sex unions around the world. Resulted in a paper for presentation at the 67th Midwest Political Science Association (2009); a modified version of this was published as a book chapter (2010).
- 2011-12 Voting Member, Patten Lecture Committee, September 2011-May 2012
See above.

- 2011-12 Emissary for Graduate Student Diversity (Indiana University, Bloomington)
Regularly blogged about my experiences as a graduate student at Indiana University, participated in live, online question and answer sessions with potential graduate students, and attended several diversity-oriented university-wide meetings.
- 2006-09 Research Assistant, Professor Abdulkader Sinno (Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington)
Collaborated on several projects, including editing *Muslims in Western Politics* (2009; Indiana University Press), did research for a co-authored conference paper with Dr. Sinno and Dr. Eren Tatari (2007), and synthesized extant literature and helped develop arguments for our co-authored chapter (2009).
- 2006-08 Student Advisor, Muslim Student Union (Indiana University, Bloomington)
Helped the MSU board complete its projects and, as the only graduate student, facilitated conflict-resolution. In addition to helping board members navigate the complexities of being student leaders, I also served as a liaison between the MSU and Bloomington's broader Muslim community.
- 2004 Research Assistant, Professor Will H. Moore, (Political Science, Florida State University)
Conducted research for the paper eventually published in the *International Studies Quarterly* (December, 2007) as "Whither Will They Go? A Global Study of Refugees' Destinations, 1965-1995."
- 2002-03 Research Assistant, Issues Correlates of War Project (ICOW), dir. Paul Hensel (Political Science, Florida State University).
Conducted research for the ICOW dataset; I focused primarily on maritime claims through compiling and coding information from several media sources. Through my assistance on this grant I was also able to co-author several conference papers and ultimately a journal publication (2009).

REFERENCES

Jean C. Robinson
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Jack Bielasia
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James H. Rudy Professor of Political Science & Editor in Chief *Perspectives on Politics*
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