NAELA ELMORE

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy - Political Science   Spring 2026 (Expected)
University of Texas at Dallas, 3.9/4.0 GPA

- ***Dissertation title:*** Resistance Reimagined: Digital Tools, Physical Spaces, and the Evolution of State Repression in MENA
  My dissertation examines the strategic interplay between civil resistance movements and state repression in the Middle East and North Africa, with particular attention to the evolving digital dimension of this contestation. Through a mixed-methods approach combining spatial analysis of protest events, comparative case studies, and digital trace data, I develop a comprehensive framework for understanding how authoritarian regimes calibrate their repressive responses across physical and digital domains. The project makes three key contributions: (1) it demonstrates how proximity to strategic locations influences protest-repression dynamics; (2) it documents the varied digital repression strategies employed by MENA regimes and explains cross-national variation in their implementation; and (3) it introduces a decision-making model that accounts for when and how regimes deploy different repressive tactics. By bridging traditional protest politics literature with emerging scholarship on digital authoritarianism, this research advances our understanding of contentious politics in hybrid media environments and offers insights into the resilience of both resistance movements and authoritarian regimes in the post-Arab Spring era.

Master of Science - Social Data Analytics   Spring 2025
University of Texas at Dallas, 3.9/4.0 GPA

Master of Arts - Political Science   December 2020
University of Texas at Dallas, 3.9/4.0 GPA

Bachelor of Arts - Political Science   May 2019
University of Texas at Dallas, 3.6/4.0 GPA
Oxford Study Abroad Program, 3.9/4.0 GPA   Spring 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Authoritarianism & State Repression – Patterns of political control, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with attention to digital and spatial dynamics.

- Digital Authoritarianism & Repression – The role of digital technologies in state control, censorship, and resistance strategies.

- Protest and Social Movements – Nonviolent resistance, movement strategies, and state responses across MENA and beyond.

- Spatial Dynamics of Protest & Repression – The influence of physical spaces and geographic proximity on political mobilization and state retaliation.

- Comparative Politics & Governance – Political regimes, governance strategies, and policy implementation across authoritarian states.

- Middle East & North African Politics – Regional political trends, civil resistance, and governance structures.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

Watch Your Back: Overturning Attempts in Nonviolent Revolutions *Revise & Resubmit, S25*
Elmore, N., Medhi, K., Peressotti, G., & Pinckney, J.
Journal of Peace Research.

From Bytes to Barriers: Analyzing Digital Repression Strategies in SWANA *Under Review, S25*
Elmore, N.
Middle East Law and Governance (BRILL).

Dyadic Analysis of Fragile Middle Eastern States and Humanitarian Implications of Restrictive COVID-19 Policies 2022
Habib, D., Elmore, N., Gulas, S., Ruhde, N., Mathew, D., & Parente, N. *Middle East Law and Governance (BRILL),* 14(1), 26-61. DOI

Opinion Pieces and Essays

Civil Resistance *Forthcoming*
Bartkowski, M., Merriman, H., Elmore, N.
Oxford Bibliographies.

Digital Repression in the MENA Region *Forthcoming*
Elmore, N.
Oxford Bibliographies.

From the Streets to the Screen: The Intersection of Digital Governance and Dissent in the Middle East and North Africa 2024
Elmore, N.
Oxford Middle East Review. Link

Solidarity Across Borders: Transnational Implications from Iran's Mahsa Amini Protests 2024
Elmore, N.
Social Movement Studies, 1–7. DOI.

Researching the COVID-19 Pandemic: New Vistas and Data Limitations 2022
Habib, D., & Elmore, N.
Middle East Law and Governance (Brill). Link.

Middle East and North Africa's COVID-19 Response 2020
Elmore, N.
CoronaNet Research Project. Link.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

1. Dressing the Resistance: Costume Symbolism as Strategic Communication in Social Movements

2. Digital Barricades: Mapping State-Sponsored Digital Repression Tools in Post-Arab Spring MENA (**Book Project**)

3. Codified Control: How Governments Use Law to Legitimize Digital Repression

4. Spatial Dynamics of Protest and Repression: Strategic Locations in Urban Mobilizations

5. Indigenous Resistance Strategies and State Response: Comparative Perspectives from MENA and Latin America

6. Women's Leadership in Civil Resistance Movements: Strategic Advantages and Regime Responses

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Course Instructor:

- *Politics of the Middle East, UT Dallas* *Fall 2025*
    - Developed a new syllabus for a class of 20+ students
    - Developed and conducted lesson plans, discussions, and study tutorials.
    - Integrated regional case studies to explore historical and contemporary political developments.
    - Facilitated debates and role-playing exercises to encourage critical thinking on Middle Eastern governance, conflict, and diplomacy.
    - Incorporated comparative perspectives by linking Middle Eastern politics with global trends and international relations.
    - Designed assessments that blend analytical essays, policy briefs, and simulated decision-making exercises.

- *Protest and Social Movements, UT Dallas* *Summer 2023, 2024*
    - Developed a new syllabus for a class of 20+ students
    - Developed and conducted lesson plans, discussions, and study tutorials.
    - Implemented active learning strategies such as problem-based learning and case studies.
    - Employed differentiated instructional strategies by way of continuous and thematically-based guest lectureships and discussions.
    - Promoted collaborative learning environments by organizing group projects, team-based activities, and peer teaching sessions.

- *Comparative Politics, UT Dallas* *Spring 2023*
    - Developed a new syllabus for a class of 70+ students.
    - Developed and conducted lesson plans, discussions, and study tutorials.
    - Implemented active learning strategies such as problem-based learning and case studies.
    - Employed differentiated instructional strategies by way of continuous and thematically-based guest lectureships and discussions.

Stand-in Instructor:

- American State and Local Government, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant:

- Political Behavior, Spring 2025
- Civil Liberties, Fall 2022, 2023, 2024
- State and Local Government, Spring 2024, Fall 2024
- American Political Institutions, Spring 2024
- Comparative Politics, Spring 2022
- Protest and Social Movements, Fall 2021
- Institutions and Development, Fall 2021

Guest Lecturer:

- Civil, Indigenous Resistance, and Informal Institutions: *Latin American Political Economy, Fall 2024*
- Qualitative Analysis - Case Studies: *Research Methods and Design, Spring 2022*
- The Arab Spring and Protest Waves: *Protest and Social Movements, Fall 2021*

Teaching-Related Professional Development:

- ***[Advanced] Graduate Teaching Certificate, UT Dallas.*** 2022-2024
  Program allows graduate student teaching assistants (TAs) to carry-out a series of requirements attesting to their training and experience in pedagogy. Program encourages the use of evidence-based best practices in instruction, improves instructional performance for those pursuing a teaching career in higher education, encourages reflection and innovation in pedagogy for those new to teaching, and enhances employment prospects by developing professional skills and strategies related to teaching.

  Completion of both the Graduate and Advanced Graduate Teaching Certificates required four important components: (1) passing courses in pedagogy (2) attending teaching development events and enrolling in teaching seminar, (3) submit to teaching observation and feedback, (4) incurring teaching Experience.

- **Teaching Development Courses, Events and Workshops, UT Dallas** 2022-2024
  - Graduate Reflective Teaching Semester Seminar
  - Avoiding Plagiarism and Citing Sources
  - Lecturing
  - Making the Most of Discussion
  - Marking and Giving Feedback.
  - Exploring the use of Generative AI in Education
  - Improving Student Performance
  - Promoting Active Learning
  - Strategies for Navigating Challenging Discussions

- **CONNECT Program, UT Dallas** 2022 - 2023
  Graduate Fellow
  - Developed interview protocol for focus groups of students in 9th to 12th grade
  - Conducted focus groups of students using the protocol to provide a baseline of student information that can be built upon as students continue their high school career
  - Provided insights on the goals, obstacles, and needs of students who are demographically under-represented in advanced academic classes by providing a baseline of student preferences and aptitudes during the critical middle school years

SELECTED DATASETS

1. Digital Censorship and State Control Database – A dataset tracking URLs censored or blocked by authoritarian regimes across the MENA region, illustrating patterns of online suppression and information control.

2. Geospatial Political and Economic Nexus Dataset – Mapping sites of economic and political significance and their proximity to protest events, offering insights into strategic mobilization and state repression dynamics.

3. Self-Immolation Across Eras Database – A historical and contemporary compilation examining cases of self-immolation as a political act, tracing socio-political contexts, regional trends, and state responses.

4. MENA Cyber Legislation and Digital Governance Dataset – A structured repository documenting cyber laws, digital surveillance policies, and regulatory frameworks employed across the MENA region to legitimize digital repression.

5. ROAD to Democracy - A Global Dataset of Overturning Attempts and Organizations in Civil Resistance Transitions, identifying key actors in successful regime challenges. *Co-authored with Medhi, Peressotti, and Pinckney.*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Preliminary References and Public Support for European Law Research Project, UT Dallas
Research Assistant 2022

- Responsible for compiling and authoring a literature review on international courts and democratic backsliding.

- Gathered academic articles regarding the Rule of Law and Democratic Backsliding in Poland.

- Gathered academic articles on Germany and the Alternative for Germany party.

- Collected data on the European Council of Justice (ECJ) Presidency.

- Organized collected ECJ data on the presidency-case level.

Ministers in the Middle East, University of Southern California
Research Assistant 2020 - 2022

- Responsible for the collection of the names and portfolios of all Egyptian ministers during the colonial and post-colonial periods.

- Gathering biographical information related to Egyptian Ministers' place and date of birth, social class, and educational background.

- Sourced and managed in-field research assistance in Egypt.

- Online Arabic-language archival research in the Alexandria Library.

MENA Land Reform Database, Toulouse School of Economics & University of Southern California
Research Assistant 2020 - 2022

- Responsible for the translation of primary-sourced government material during colonial periods in Egypt.

- Undertook discourse analysis of primary-sources government material during colonial and postcolonial periods in Egypt.

- Sourced material for text analysis of primary-sources government material.

CoronaNet Research Project, Technical University of Munich
Working Paper Series Co-Managing Editor and Co-Initiator 2020 - 2022

- Co-conceptualized and initiated the CoronaNet Project's Working Paper Series, a program that aims to support independent RA and/or student research. The program includes internal seminars as well as writing and research supervision.

- Assists Principal Investigators in reviewing internal research paper submissions.

- Assists Principal Investigators in supervising internal research paper submissions.

- Plan and manage internal writing and research workshops.

Regional Manager 2020 - 2021

- Oversight and support of RAs who conduct research on the North African region. Requires expert knowledge of the region and high levels of administrative organization to conduct regular RA performance reviews. Delegate tasks within the regional group.

- Check for completeness and/or accuracy of coded policy records.

Senior RA Manager 2020 - 2021

- Responsible for the integration and on boarding of new RAs into the Project.

- Allocated approved applicants.

- Managed communication within the RA groups.

- Management and support of more than 100 RAs through performance evaluation to ensure the development of a consistent and up-to-date data set.

- Expert knowledge of the CoronaNet research procedures and data set.

Research Assistant and Data Validation 2020

- Conducted internet-based research on Tunisian and Chadian national and sub-national policies in response to COVID-19.

- Documented a combined 116 policies using Qualtrics software.

- Applied expert knowledge of coding practices and procedures to re-coding existing dataset entries.

- Contributed to the compilation and validation of data used in Kubinec, R., Barcelo, J., Goldszmidt R., Grujic, V., Model T., Schenk, C., Cheng, C., et al. 2021. "Statistically Validated Indices for Covid-19 Public Health Policies." SocArXiv. May 1. https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/rn9xk

- Contributed to the compilation of data used in Cheng, C., Barcelo, J., Hartnett, A. S., Kubinec, R., Messerschmidt, L. 2020. "COVID-19 Government Response Event Data set (CoronaNet v.1.0)." Nature Human Behavior. 4. pp. 756-768. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0909-7

Refugee Opinions on Social and Economic Integration, Collin College
Translator 2020

- Translated survey from English to Modern Standard Arabic

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Proximity Matters: The Impact of Key Spaces on Protest Dynamics and State Repression" Elmore, N.,

- Mobilization-SDSU 2025

"Non-violent Resistance Campaigns in Comparative Perspective" Elmore, N.,

- American Political Science Association (APSA) 2024

- The International Studies Association (ISA) 2024

"Analyzing Digital Repression Strategies in SWANA" Elmore, N.,

- Texas Cirlce 2025

- Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) 2025

- Mobilization-SDSU 2024

"Non-violent Resistance Campaigns – A Temporal Examination" Elmore, N.,

- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)   2023, 2022
- Western Political Science Association (WPSA)   2023
- Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) - Graduate Student Conference   2022
- Global Crisisonomy Symposium (GCS)   2021

**"Dyadic Analysis of Fragile Middle Eastern States and
Humanitarian Implications of Restrictive COVID-19 Policies"** Habib, D. Elmore, N., et al.,

- Mid-Atlantic Undergraduate Social Research Conference (MAUSRC)   2020

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center   2025 - 2026
- Graduate Studies Scholarship, UT Dallas   2021 - 2026
- The Government and Political Science Fellowship, UT Dallas   2025, 2024, 2023
- Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Travel Grant, GM University   2025, 2024
- CONNECT Fellowship, UT Dallas   2022

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

1. **UTD Working Paper Series Graduate Student Coordinator (2021-2025)**
   - Led the graduate student coordination and management of the department's Working Paper Series, facilitating research development and peer engagement for graduate students.
   - Organized workshops and review sessions, providing structured guidance for manuscript revisions and submission strategies for graduate students.
   - Arranged discussant roles and organized preparation for discussant presentations and facilitated student-faculty discussions.

2. **President, Graduate Student Association – Political Science, Public Policy & Political Economy 2024-2025)**
   - Represented graduate students and worked to enhance academic and professional development initiatives within the department.
   - Directed association-wide events, networking opportunities, workshops, and advocacy efforts, fostering a collaborative and supportive scholarly community.
   - Worked closely with faculty and administration to address student concerns and improve departmental policies.

3. **Officer, Graduate Student Association – Political Science, Public Policy & Political Economy (2021-2024)**
   - Provided leadership and organizational support for student-led initiatives, workshops, and departmental engagement activities.
   - Assisted in coordinating academic conferences, career panels, and professional development programming.

- Engaged in student advocacy, ensuring graduate concerns were effectively communicated and addressed.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas   DEC 2015 - JAN 2016
Arabic Interpreter

- Providing written translations of official documents for clients.

- Researching legal, technical, and scientific phraseology to find accurate translations.

- Following various translation-quality standards to ensure legal and ethical obligations to the client.

LANGUAGES AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Languages	Arabic: Native Language English: Professional Fluency Korean: Intermediate French: Beginner
Qualitative Software	Qualtrics, QDA Miner, and NVivo
Quantitative Software	R, Python, SQL, QGIS, and STATA
Typesetting Software	LaTeX, MS Office, and MacOS
Programming Languages	Python, HTML, and CSS