

# Robert Kubinec

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## Current position

2024- *Assistant Professor of Political Science*, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina

## Previous positions

2019-2024 *Assistant Professor of Political Science*, Social Sciences Division, New York University Abu Dhabi  
2018-2019 *Postdoctoral Research Scholar*, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University

## Education

2018 PhD in Foreign Affairs (Major field: Comparative Political Science), University of Virginia  
2010 MA in Middle East Studies, George Washington University  
2008 BA in International Relations, Wheaton College

## Languages

English (native), French, Arabic, Slovak

## Publications

### Books

2023 Kubinec, Robert. *Making Democracy Safe for Business: Corporate Politics During the Arab Uprisings*. Cambridge University Press.

- Podcast with Marc Lynch, Project on Middle East Political Science

## Journal Articles

- 2025 Francis, David and Kubinec, Robert.“Beyond Political Connections : A Measurement Model Approach to Estimating Firm-level Political Influence in 41 Economies.” Forthcoming at *Political Science Research and Methods*. doi:10.1017/psrm.2025.10046
- 2025 Dolan, Lindsay; Kubinec, Robert; Nielson, Daniel, and Zhang, Jack. “The Impact of Information on Corporate Political Activity: A Survey Experiment on U.S. Businesses.” Forthcoming at *Business and Politics*. doi:10.1017/bap.2024.41
- 2025 Kubinec, Robert; Carvalho, Luiz Max; Barcelo, Joan; Cheng, Cindy; Messerschmidt, Luca; Cottrell, Matthew Sean and Duba, Derek. “A Bayesian Latent Variable Model for the Optimal Identification of Disease Incidence Rates Given Information Constraints.” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A*. doi:10.1093/jrsssa/qnae040
- 2024 Kubinec, Robert; Barcelo, Joan; Goldszmidt, Rafael; Grujic, Vanja; Model, Timothy; Schenck, Caress; Cheng, Cindy; Hale, Thomas; Spencer Hartnett; Allison, Messerschmidt, Luca; Pethrick, Anna, and Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur. “Cross-National Measures of the Intensity of COVID-19 Public Health Policies.” Forthcoming at the *Journal of Politics*. doi:10.1086/734241.
- 2024 Cheng, Cindy; Messerschmidt, Luca; Bravo, Isaac; Waldbauer, Marco; Bhavikatti, Rohan; Schenck, Caress; Grujic, Vanja; Model, Tim, and Kubinec, Robert. “Harmonizing Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Scientific Data*. doi:10.1038/s41597-023-02881-x.
- 2023 Cheng, Cindy; Messerschmidt, Luca; Bravo, Isaac; Waldbauer, Marco; Bhavikatti, Rohan; Schenck, Caress; Grujic, Vanja; Model, Tim, and Kubinec, Robert. “A General Primer for Harmonizing Data.” *Scientific Data*. doi:10.1038/s41597-024-02956-3.
- 2023 Kubinec, Robert and Milner, Helen. “Taxes in the Time of Revolution: An Experimental Test of the Rentier State during Algeria’s Hirak.” *World Politics*. doi:10.1353/wp.2024.a924508.
- 2023 Kubinec, Robert; Lee, Haillie and Tomashevskiy, Andrey. “Why Corporate Political Connections Can Impede Investment.” *Comparative Political Studies* doi:10.1177/00104140231204227.
- 2022 Kilavuz, Tahir; Grewal, Sharan and Kubinec, Robert. “Ghosts of the Black Decade: How Legacies of Violence Shaped Algeria’s Hirak Protests.” *Journal of Peace Research* doi:10.1177/00223433221137613.
- 2022 Kubinec, Robert.“Ordered Beta Regression: A Parsimonious, Well-Fitting Model for Continuous Data with Lower and Upper Bounds.” *Political Analysis* doi:10.1017/pan.2022.20.
- 2022 Barcelo, Joan; Kubinec, Robert; Cheng, Cindy; Hoye Rahn, Tiril; and Messerschmidt, Luca. “Windows of Repression: Using COVID-19 Policies against Political Dissidents?” *Journal of Peace Research* doi:10.1177/00223433211062389.

- 2021 Kubinec, Robert; Lee, Haillie and Tomashevskiy, Andrey. "Politically-Connected Companies Are Less Likely to Shutdown Due to COVID-19 Restrictions." *Social Science Quarterly*. doi:10.1111/ssqu.13040.
- 2020 Kubinec, Robert and Owen, John. "When Groups Fall Apart: Identifying Transnational Polarization with Twitter from the Arab Uprisings." *Political Analysis* doi:10.1017/pan.2020.46.
- 2020 Cheng, Cindy; Barcelo, Joan; Hartnett, Allison; Kubinec, Robert and Messerschmidt, Luca. "COVID-19 Government Response Event Dataset (CoronaNet v.1.0)." *Nature Human Behavior*. doi:10.1038/s41562-020-0909-7.
- 2020 Kropko, Jonathan and Kubinec, Robert. "Why the Two-way Fixed Effects Model is Difficult to Interpret, and What to Do About It." *PLOS One*. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0231349

### **Working Papers**

- 2025 Geller, Jason; Kubinec, Robert; Pelleriti, Chelsea; and Vuorre, Matti. "A Beta Way: A Tutorial For Using Beta Regression in Psychological Research." *PsyArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31234/osf.io/d6v5t\_v1.
- *Under review*
- 2025 Kubinec, Robert and Yakout, Amr. "Measuring the Emperor's Clothes: Estimating Latent Opposition to Authoritarian Regimes with Randomized Response Questions." *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31235/osf.io/ejbnsv2
- *Under review* as a part of the upcoming Special Issue, "Quantitative Methods in the Political Science of the Arab Region," for *Middle East Law and Governance*
- 2025 Kubinec, Robert; Bhandari, Abhit; Jabateh, Sekou, and Mighri, Hamza. "The Political Nature of Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries: Experimental Evidence from Tunisia and Senegal." *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31219/osf.io/unby5
- *Under review*
- 2024 Kubinec, Robert. "Holistic Causal Learning with Causal Graphs: A Credible Method for Study Design and Preregistration in the Social Sciences." *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31235/osf.io/a492b
- *Under review*
- 2024 Kubinec, Robert; Morse, Anna and Pandya, Sonal. "Offshore Capital and Onshore Discrimination: The Biased Effects of India's Anti-corruption Campaigns on Muslim Businesses." *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31235/osf.io/aqtxs

- *Under review*

2025 Kubinec, Robert. “Generalized Ideal Point Models for Robust Measurement with Dirty Data in the Social Sciences.” *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31219/osf.io/8j2bt

- *Under review*

2019 Kubinec, Robert and Grewal, Sharan. “When National Unity Governments are neither National, United, nor Governments: The Case of Tunisia.” *SocArchiv Preprint*. doi:10.31235/osf.io/6z74r

2018 Kubinec, Robert. “Patrons or Clients? Measuring and Experimentally Evaluating Political Connections of Firms in Morocco and Jordan.” *Economic Research Forum Working Paper Series*. No. 1280. <https://erf.org.eg/publications/patrons-or-clients-measuring-and-experimentally-evaluating-political-connections-of-firms-in-morocco-and-jordan>

## Reports and Op-eds

2025 Kubinec, Robert, “As Syria ponders a democratic future: 5 lessons from the Arab Spring.”, *The Conversation*

2024 Kubinec, Robert, “Aleppo Fell. The Rest of the Middle East Is Wobbling.”, *The Bulwark*

2023 Kubinec, Robert, and Amr, Yakout, “Kais Saied: How the fear bias affects the opinions of Tunisians”, *Inkyfada Data Stories*

2023 Kubinec, Robert, “Arabs Want Democracy–But Not With Corruption”, *Cambridge University Press 518 Blog*

2022 Kubinec, Robert and Mighri, Hamza, ”Tunisia Faces the Specter of Government Failure”, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

2022 Kubinec, Robert, ”COVID-19 Responses in the Middle East and North Africa in Global Perspective”, *Project on Middle East Political Science*

2022 Dolan, Lindsay; Kubinec, Robert; Nielson, Daniel; and Zhang, Jack. ”Trump’s Trade War with China Failed. Why Didn’t US Companies Push Back More?”, *Washington Post*

2021 Kubinec, Robert, (Spring 2021), “Pandemic Safe Research with Online Surveys”, *American Political Science Association MENA Politics Newsletter*

2020 Kubinec, Robert, (April 2020), “The CoronaNet Database”, *Project on Middle East Political Science Studies* No. 39

2019 Grewal, Sharan; Kilavuz, Tahir M.; and Kubinec, Robert, (July 2019), “Algeria’s Uprising: A Survey of Protesters and the Military”, *The Brookings Institution*

2016 Kubinec, Robert, (Dec. 19, 2016), “How Foreign Aid Could Hurt Tunisia’s Transition to Democracy”, *Washington Post*

## Software

2022 Kubinec, Robert. `ordbetareg`: Ordered Beta Regression Models with Brms. CRAN link

2022 Kubinec, Robert. `idealstan`: An R Package for Bayesian Ideal Point Modeling. Github link

2022 Model, Timothy and Kubinec, Robert. `CoronaNetR`: Access CoronaNet COVID-19 Policy Data. CRAN link

## Grants and fellowships

### External

2020 European Unions Horizon 2020 for “CoronaNet Government Response Event Datasets” (€835k)

2019 Koch Foundation Grant for “Online Survey Research on the U.S. - China Trade War” (\$10k)

2017-2018 Economic Research Forum, “A Survey of Firm-Level Political Participation” (\$6k)

2017 Koch Foundation Dissertation Grant (\$5k)

2016 Project on Middle East Political Science Travel, Research & Engagement Grant (\$3k)

### Internal

2024 Faculty Research Grant (\$10k)

2020 COVID-19 Facilitator Research Fund (\$30k)

2017 Quantitative Collaborative Bynum Grant

2015 - 2016 Quandt International Research Fund travel grant, University of Virginia

2015 Summer Research Grant, Graduate School for Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia

2014-2015 Developing Students for Leadership in Data-intensive Research and Innovation fellowship, Data Science Institute, University of Virginia

2014 Summer Foreign Language Fellowship, University of Virginia

2008-2010 Elliott School High Achievement Fellowship, George Washington University

2009 Banville Tuition Fellowship, George Washington University

## Invited Talks

- 2024 Design and Data Analysis Lecture Series, University of Virginia  
2023 Department of Political Science, Universite de Montreal  
2023 Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg  
2022 Connected Politics Lab, University College Dublin  
2022 Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, Rutgers University  
2022 Department of Political Science, Seoul National University  
2021 European Union Periscope Project  
2017 Tunisia Country Team, Millennial Challenge Corporation, Washington DC

## Service to the Profession

### Meetings

- 2023 Formateur for Pandemic Politics Conference at New York University Abu Dhabi  
2024 Formateur for Polmeth MENA/Asia Conference at New York University Abu Dhabi

### Journals & Reviewing

I have been a reviewer for *Political Analysis*, *The American Political Science Review*, *The American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Political Analysis*, *World Politics*, *Mediterranean Politics*, *Middle East Law and Governance*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *PLOS One*, *PLOS Global Public Health*, *The Japanese Journal of Political Science*, *SAGE Open*, *Global Environmental Politics*, *The Journal of Public Policy*, *The European Journal of Political Economy*, *The British Journal of Political Science*, *Network Science*, *Scientific Reports*, and *Middle East Law and Governance*.

### Editing

- 2023-2025 Evaluation Manager for Unjournal

### Public Reviews

- 2025 Kubinec, Robert. *Evaluation Summary of “Misperceptions and Demand for Democracy under Authoritarianism.”* *Unjournal*. doi:10.21428/d28e8e57.ef6f66cd
- 2024 Kubinec, Robert. *Evaluation Summary of “How Effective Is (More) Money? Randomizing Unconditional Cash Transfer Amounts in the US.”* *Unjournal*. doi:10.21428/d28e8e57.8a1cac7b
- 2023 Kubinec, Robert. “Evaluation 1 of ‘Does the Squeaky Wheel Get More Grease? The Direct and Indirect Effects of Citizen Participation on Environmental Governance in China’”. *Unjournal*. <https://unjournal.pubpub.org/pub/buntaineeval1revised>.

## Professional Experience & Consulting

2018-2019	Data Science Consultant, Source Molecular
2017-2018	Chief Data Scientist, Unbias
2011-2013	Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State
2010-2011	Data Mining Consultant, IBM Advanced Analytics & Optimization