

# Melina Raquel Platas

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Social Science, Bldg. A5-145  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, New York University Abu Dhabi, July 2016–

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, Stanford University, 2016  
DISSERTATION: *The Religious Roots of Inequality in Africa*  
Committee: Jeremy Weinstein (chair), Pascaline Dupas, James Fearon, David Laitin  
B.A. Human Biology, Stanford University, 2007  
Minor in Spanish

## PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Platas, Melina and Pia Raffler. 2019. "Candidate Videos and Vote Choice in Ugandan Parliamentary Elections." *Information and Accountability: A New Method for Cumulative Learning*. Edited by Thad Dunning et al., Cambridge University Press.
- [2] Adida, Claire L., Adeline Lo, and Melina Platas. 2018. "Engendering empathy among Americans can promote inclusionary behavior toward Syrian refugees," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- [3] Grossman, Guy, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. 2018. "Crowdsourcing Accountability: ICT for Service Delivery," *World Development*, 112: 74-87.
- [4] Adida, Claire L., Kim Yi Dionne, and Melina Platas. 2018. "Ebola, Elections, and Immigration: Experimental Evidence of Disease Threat Shaping Attitudes toward Immigrants," *Politics, Groups, and Identity*.
- [5] Lee, Melissa M., and Melina Platas Izama. 2015. "Aid Externalities: Evidence from PEPFAR in Africa," *World Development*, 67: 281-294.
- [6] Platas Izama, Melina. 2014. "Muslim Education in Africa: Schooling Trends and Attitudes toward Faith-Based Schools," *Review of Faith and International Affairs*, 12(2): 38-50.

## BOOK

MANUSCRIPT *The Religious Roots of Inequality in Africa*.

## WORKING PAPERS

- [1] Adida, Claire L., Adeline Lo, and Melina Platas. "Engendering Empathy, Begetting Backlash: American Attitudes Toward Syrian Refugees." Stanford-Zurich Immigration Policy Lab Working Paper No. 17-01
  - Winner of the Migration and Citizenship APSA Section Best Paper Award, 2018
- [2] Adida, Claire L., Adeline Lo, and Melina Platas. "The American Refugee Consensus." *Under review*.

- [3] Blaydes, Lisa, and Melina Platas. "Religion, Patriarchy and the Perpetuation of Harmful Social Conventions: Explaining Women's Attitudes toward Female Genital Cutting in Egypt." *Revise and Resubmit, Studies in International Comparative Development*.
- [4] Bauer, Vincent, Melina Platas, and Jeremy Weinstein. "The Historical Legacies of Islamic Rule in Africa."
- [5] Eubank, Nicholas, Guy Grossman, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. "Social Networks, Social Context, and Political Participation: Evidence from Uganda."
- [6] Ferrali, Romain, Guy Grossman, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. "It Takes a Village: Peer Effects and Externalities in Technology Adoption." *Revise and Resubmit, American Journal of Political Science*.
- [7] Platas, Melina. "Culture and the Persistence of Educational Inequality: Lessons from the Muslim-Christian Education Gap in Africa."
- [8] Platas, Melina. "Africa's health tragedy? Ethnic diversity and health outcomes."
- [9] Platas, Melina and Pia Raffler. "The Limits of Partisanship: How Information Can Encourage Crossing Party Lines."

**FELLOWSHIPS,  
GRANTS AND  
AWARDS**

AWARDS

Winner of the Migration and Citizenship APSA Section Best Paper Award	2017
Joshua Lederberg Award for Academic Excellence in Human Biology, Stanford	2007
J.E. Wallace Award for Scholastic Achievement, Stanford	2007
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa	2006

FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Public Service Fellowship, Stanford	2014-2015
Gerald L. Lieberman Fellowship, Stanford	2013-2014
APSA Africa Workshop Fellow	2013
AALIMS Student Fellow	2013
Fulbright Fellowship, Uganda	2008-2009

GRANTS

International Republican Institute (\$20,000), with Pia Raffler	2015
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (\$10,000), with Pia Raffler	2015
NSF RAPID (\$50,000), with Claire Adida and Kim Yi Dionne	2014
Global Development and Poverty (GDP) exploratory project (\$49,950), Stanford, with Jonathan Rodden	2014
Experiments in Governance and Politics Regranting Initiative (\$341,958), with Pia Raffler	2014
Entrepreneurship & Innovation in Developing Economies (\$5,597), Stanford	2014
FSI Student Research Grant (\$6,000), Stanford	2014
The Europe Center Graduate Student Grant (\$2,950), Stanford	2014
USAID Democracy, Rights, Governance – Learning, Evaluation, Research (\$83,958), with Guy Grossman and Jonathan Rodden	2013
OBie Shultz Travel Grant (\$3,000), Stanford	2013
Center for Philanthropy and Civil Society Small Grant (\$2,000), Stanford	2013
FSI Global Underdevelopment Action Fund (\$38,500), Stanford, with Lisa Blaydes	2012-2013
Abbasi Program Student Grant (\$5,000), Stanford	2012

Graduate Research Opportunity Grant (\$3,825), Stanford 2012  
Center for African Studies Graduate Research Grant (\$3,500), Stanford 2011

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Development*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *British Medical Journal Global Health*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Open Economics*, East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST) Collaborative

Member: American Political Science Association (APSA), Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), Association for Analytical Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS)

**CONFERENCES  
ORGANIZED**

AALIMS-NYUAD, February 2019  
Working Group in African Political Economy NYU Abu Dhabi, January 2019  
Working Group in African Political Economy NYU Abu Dhabi and EGAP Learning Days, January 2018  
Working Group in African Political Economy NYU Abu Dhabi and EGAP Learning Days, January 2017

**FIELD  
EXPERIENCE**

Sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa  
*Languages*: English (native), Spanish (advanced), Kiswahili (beginning), French (beginning)

**PRESENTATIONS**

2019: AALIMS-NYUAD, APSA, Cornell University, CIES  
2018: AALIMS-Princeton  
2017: AALIMS-Pomona, APSA, EGAP Metaketa (Washington DC and DFID Headquarters), Carnegie Mellon University Africa  
2016: APSA, African Studies Association (ASA)  
2015: American Political Science Association (APSA), AALIMS-Princeton, African Studies Association (ASA)  
2014: APSA, ASA, Yale Africa Initiative - Nairobi  
2013: APSA, ASA, AALIMS-Rice, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)  
2012: APSA (cancelled), Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), International Political Economy Society (IPES)  
2011: APSA, WGAPE, Western Political Science Association (WPSA)

**OTHER WORK  
EXPERIENCE**

Radio talk-show panelist, 93.3 Kfm, Uganda 2014-present  
TV talk-show panelist, NTV, Uganda 2014  
Columnist, *The Independent (Rwanda Edition)*, Rwanda 2011-2012  
Contributing writer, *The Independent*, Uganda 2009-present

Reporter, *The Independent*, Uganda  
Editorial Intern, *The Daily Monitor*, Uganda

2008-2009  
2007

**SELECTED  
WRITING**

“Here’s why Paul Kagame won a third term as Rwanda’s president,” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, August 5, 2017.

“Imagine yourself as a refugee – That’s what nudges Americans to take action on refugees’ behalf,” (with Claire Adida and Adeline Lo) *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, June 15, 2017.

“Who is behind Uganda’s step forward on same-sex rights?” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, August 4, 2014.

“U.S. Foreign Policy and Ugandan Domestic Politics Collide,” (with Kim Dionne) *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, April 7, 2014.

“The Rise of Morality Politics in Africa,” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, February 24, 2014