

# 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] Adida, Claire, Adeline Lo, and Melina R. Platas. 2019. “Americans preferred Syrian refugees who are female, English-speaking, and Christian on the eve of Donald Trumps election,” *PLOS One*.
- [2] Ferrali, Romain, Guy Grossman, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. 2019. “It Takes a Village: Peer Effects and Externalities in Technology Adoption.” *American Journal of Political Science*.
- [3] Dunning, Thad, Guy Grossman, Macartan Humphreys, Susan Hyde, Craig McIntosh, Gareth Nellis, Eric Arias, Clara Bicalho, Taylor C. Boas, Mark T. Buntaine, Simon Chauchard, Anirvan Chowdhury, Jessica Gottlieb, F. Daniel Hidalgo, Marcus Holmlund, Ryan Jablonski, Eric Kramon, Horacio Larreguy, Malte Lierl, John Marshall, Gwyneth McClendon, Marcus A. Melo, Daniel L. Nielson, Paula M. Pickering, Melina R. Platas, Pablo Querubn, Pia Raffler, and Neelanjan Sircar. 2019. “Voter information campaigns and political accountability: Cumulative findings from a pre-registered meta-analysis of coordinated trials,” *Science Advances*, Vol. 5, no. 7, eaaw2612.
- [4] Platas, Melina and Pia Raffler. 2019. “Candidate Videos and Vote Choice in Ugandan Parliamentary Elections.” *Information, Accountability: A New Method for Cumulative Learning*. Edited by Thad Dunning et al., *Cambridge University Press*.
- [5] 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*.
  - Winner of the Migration and Citizenship APSA Section Best Paper Award, 2018
- [6] Grossman, Guy, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. 2018. “Crowdsourcing Accountability: ICT for Service Delivery,” *World Development*, 112: 74-87.
- [7] 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*.

- [8] Lee, Melissa M., and Melina Platas Izama. 2015. "Aid Externalities: Evidence from PEPFAR in Africa," *World Development*, 67: 281-294.
- [9] 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** *Culture and the Persistence of Inequality: The Muslim-Christian Education Gap in Africa*

**WORKING PAPERS**

- [1] 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*.
- [2] Bauer, Vincent, Melina Platas, and Jeremy Weinstein. "The Historical Legacies of Islamic Rule in Africa."
- [3] Eubank, Nicholas, Guy Grossman, Melina Platas, and Jonathan Rodden. "Viral Voting: Social Networks and Political Participation." *Under review*.
- [4] Makovi, Kinga, Melina Platas, and Anahit Sargsyan. "Partisanship and Exclusionary Attitudes in the United States."
- [5] Platas, Melina and Pia Raffler. "Closing the Gap: Information and Mass Support in a Dominant Party Regime." *Under review*.

**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**

Research Enhancement Fund (\$26,000) 2019  
 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*, *European Political Science Review*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Journal of East African Studies*, *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, <i>The Independent (Rwanda Edition)</i> , Rwanda	2011-2012
Contributing writer, <i>The Independent</i> , Uganda	2009-present
Reporter, <i>The Independent</i> , Uganda	2008-2009
Editorial Intern, <i>The Daily Monitor</i> , Uganda	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