

Reva Dhingra

Harvard University
Department of Government
1737 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138

revadhingra@g.harvard.edu
Personal Website

Research Interests

Forced migration; socioeconomic rights for refugees in developing countries; public service provision; political economy of development, humanitarian aid, and local governance

Education

Harvard University Ph.D in Political Science, 2017-present

Brown University B.A in International Relations and Middle East Studies, Honors

Dissertation Project

A Shock to the System: Refugee Crises and Local Government in Developing States

In my dissertation project, I examine how local elected officials respond to refugee “crises” and accompanying international aid, and the effects on local public service provision and governance. I ask whether refugee crises may serve as a “shock” to clientelist distributive systems in developing states by increasing both resources and responsibilities for local government-led service provision. I test my theory using an original quantitative dataset at the municipal level in Jordan, semi-structured key-informant interviews in Jordan and Lebanon, a planned survey of Jordanian mayors and municipal councils, and planned ethnographic work.

Research in Progress

“Clientelism and Competition: The Politics of Humanitarian Coordination in Jordan.” Working paper.

“Service Protectiveness: How Access to Public Goods Shapes Relations between Refugees and Host Communities in Developing States.” (with Shelby Carvalho and Olivia Woldemikael)

“State Distributive Strategies Post-Conflict: The Case of Iraq.” (with Melani Cammett and Gabriel Koehler-Derrick)

“Catalysing Responsive and Inclusive Governance: Developing Theory and Methods for Evaluating Government Training on Citizen Engagement.” (with Kamran Hakiman and Ryan Sheely)

Publications

Academic

Dhingra, R., Kilborn, M. and Woldemikael, O., “Immigration Policies and Access to the Justice System: The Effect of Enforcement Escalations on Undocumented Immigrants and Their Communities.” *Political Behavior*, pp.1-29.

Policy and Analysis

- “Refugees at Risk in Jordan’s Response to COVID-19.” 2020. *Middle East Report*.
- “Keeping Syrian refugees in neighboring countries isn’t working. Here’s why.” 2020. *Washington Post*.
- “Idlib’s Internally Displaced Persons Crisis.” 2020. *Lawfare*.
- “US and EU Accept Dire Consequences for Refugees to Keep Them Out.” 2019. *TruthOut*.
- “Worsening gaps in education for Syrian refugees: Lessons from the early education response in Jordan.” 2019. *Harvard Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy*.
- “Widening Access to Higher Education for Syrian Refugees.” 2016. *University World News* 404.
- “Losing Syria’s Youngest Generation: The Education Crisis Facing Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” 2016. *Middle East Report*.
- “Providing Sustainable Psychosocial Support in Jordan for Syrian Refugees.” 2015. *Oxford Monitor of Forced Migration*.
- “Syrian Refugees and the Jordanian Economy.” 2014. *Muftah*.

Presentations and Posters

- Middle East Studies Association. “A Shock to the System: Refugee Crises and Local Service Provision in Developing States.” 2020.
- American Political Science Association. “A Shock to the System: Refugee Crises and Local Service Provision in Developing States.” 2020.
- Project on Middle East Political Science Virtual Workshop. “Clientelism and Competition: The Politics of Refugee Aid Coordination in Jordan.” 2020.
- Koç University Migration Research Center 15th Anniversary Conference. “Clientelism and Competition: The Politics of Humanitarian Coordination in Jordan.” 2019.
- Harvard University Migration Workshop. “Immigration Enforcement and Access to Justice: Do Enforcement Tactics Lead to Under-reporting of Crime Among Hispanic Populations?” 2019.
- Harvard University Graduate Political Economy Workshop. “A Shock to the System: Refugee Crises and Local Governance in Developing States.” 2019.
- Harvard University GIS Institute. “Desperate Times Equals Desperate Measures? Trends in Healthcare Attacks in Syria.” 2019.
- Brown University. “A Lost Generation? The Education Crisis Facing Refugees and Host Communities in the Middle East.” 2015.
- Swarthmore College. “A Lost Generation? The Education Crisis Facing Refugees and Host Communities in the Middle East.” 2015.

Selected Grants and Awards

- Immigration Initiative Fellowship, 2020
- Weatherhead Comparative Inequality and Inclusion Grant, 2020
- IQSS Research Grant, 2020
- Project on Middle East Political Science Grant, 2020
- Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning Small Projects Grant (with Kamran Hakiman and Ryan Sheely), 2019

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2019
American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship, 2019
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Pre-Dissertation Award, 2018, 2019
C.V. Starr Fellowship, 2017
Fulbright Student Research Fellowship in Jordan, 2014
Dean of the College Undergraduate Prize for Outstanding Research, 2014
Academic Achievement in International Relations Prize, 2014
Middle East Studies Undergraduate Research Award, 2013
International Affairs Undergraduate Research Award, 2013
Watson Institute for International Studies Undergraduate Fellowship, 2013
Critical Language Scholarship, 2012

Academic and Department Service

Diversity Committee Member. 2018-present.
Dominguez External Review Working Group Co-founder and Member. 2018-Present.
Harvard Department of Government Graduate Student Association, Co-founder and Steering Committee Member. 2018-2019.
Harvard Department of Government Climate Change Committee, Departmental Democratization Sub-committee Member. 2018-2019.
Harvard Middle East and North Africa Workshop Coordinator. 2018-2019.
Diversity Working Group Member. 2017-2018.

Relevant Professional Experience

Program Assistant, International Rescue Committee Syria Regional Response Team. 2015-2017.

Responsible for assisting management of IRC relief programs in Syria and the surrounding region for displaced Syrians, Iraqis, and host community members. Travel to Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria to provide support for inside Syria and Iraq programming, including through site visits and interviews conducted in refugee and IDP camps in northern Iraq and Syria and conducting grants trainings of education staff. Acting Grants Manager for inside Syria programming from Iraq from December 2016-January 2017.

Additional Information

Graduate Fieldwork: Jordan (5 months); Lebanon (1.5 months)

Languages: Arabic, Professional proficiency

Software: R programming language, L^AT_EX

References: Available upon request.