Sarah Smierciak

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**Education**

**University of Oxford**, Oxford, UK

*DPhil,* Middle East Studies, June 2017

*MPhil*, Development Studies, July 2014

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

*BA*, History, Middle East Languages & Civilizations*,* *summa cum laude*, June 2011

**Work Experience**

**Assistant Professor of Political Science**

*American University in Cairo* *: 2023-present* Cairo, Egypt

* Teach courses and conduct research on international relations and political economy

**Research Fellow**

*Harvard University, Kennedy School, Belfer Center: 2022-present* Cambridge, MA

* Research and write in-depth reports to advance sound policy in the Middle East

**Contributing Analyst**

*Oxford Analytica: 2015-2022* Cairo, Egypt

- Analyzed political economic developments in the Middle East in policy brief and reports

**Editor & Writer**

*Routledge: 2019-2021* Cairo, Egypt

* Edited and wrote introductory chapter for the politics section of the *Routledge Handbook on Contemporary Egypt*

*Hachette Book Group: 2019-2021* Cairo, Egypt

* Wrote and photographed the *Moon* *Egypt* travel guide

**Lecturer**

*University of Oxford: 2014-2016* Oxford, UK

* Designed and taught courses for students on history and politics in the MENA

**Foreign Correspondent**

*The National: 2015* Cairo, Egypt

* Wrote feature-length articles on political economy of Egypt-Arab Gulf relations

**Education Consultant**

*FACE Charity for Children in Need: 2011-2012* Cairo, Egypt

* Established UN-approved school at Salam Orphanage
* Created and implemented curriculum and activities alongside head teacher

**Program Manager**

*Northwestern University Middle East Forum (NUMEF): 2010-2011*  Evanston, IL

* Organized academic conferences for international Middle East scholars

**Selected Scholarships, Grants & Awards**

**Rhodes Scholarship, 2012-2015**

**Fulbright Scholarship, 2016-2017**

**Marshall Scholarship, 2012-2014** (did not accept)

**Antonian Fund Conference Grant, 2015**

- To present at Bruno Kessler Foundation conference (Trento, Italy)

**Carr and Stahl Funds Travel Grant, 2013**

* *MPhil* dissertation fieldwork funds from St. Antony’s College, Oxford

**Queen Elizabeth House Fieldwork Grant, 2013**

**-**  *MPhil* dissertation fieldwork funds from Dept. of International Development, Oxford

**Biosophical Institute Project Grant, 2011-2012**

- Funds to establish a school in accordance with UN guidelines in orphanage in Cairo

**Critical Language Scholarship, 2011** (did not accept)

-Persian study in Tajikistan, U.S. State Dept. and Bureau of Educational Affairs

**Undergraduate Research Grant, 2010**

* International Institute of Social History (IISG) in Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Immersion Language Grant, 2009 and 2010**

* Cairo, Egypt: Egyptian Colloquial Arabic study, Al-Diwan Language Institute
* Damascus, Syria: Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) study, University of Damascus

**Phi Beta Kappa,** **2010** (elected as junior)

**Selected Publications**

* *Cronyism and Elite Capture in Egypt: From Businessmen Cabinet to Military Inc.* (Routledge 2021)
* *Routledge Handbook on Contemporary Egypt*, co-edited with Robert Springborg et al. (Routledge 2021)
* “Can Egypt’s social safety nets cushion the impact of IMF-led reforms?” (Chatham House, May 2023)

**Conference Papers & Presentations**

* **Middle East Institute with Chatham House**, Washington, D.C., 2023

- “Social Safety Nets and Social Protections in Egypt: The Way Forward”

* **IEMed Aula Mediterrània Conference**, Barcelona, Spain, 2021

- “Cosmopolitan Capital in Egypt’s Political Economy: From Mubarak to Sisi”

* **Italian Society for Middle East Studies (SeSaMo) Conference***,* Venice, Italy, 2015

- “Weaving Networks of Exclusion: Business-State Relations and Egypt’s Textile Sector”

* **Bruno Kessler Foundation International Relations Conference**, Trento, Italy, 2015

- “Of Businessmen and Bureaucrats: ‘Developing’ Egypt’s Networks ofReform”

**Other Activities**

- Oxford Triathlon Club, 2013-16

- Northwestern Triathlon Club, Vice President (2008-09), 2007-11

- Northwestern Crew, 2011-2012

- The Middle East and Central Asia (MECA) Report, Founder and President, 2009-11

- Photography and film ([sarahsmierciak.com](https://www.sarahsmierciak.com/))

**Languages**

Egyptian Arabic (Fluent); Modern Standard Arabic (Advanced); Spanish (Advanced); Turkish (Intermediate)