

# Elizabeth L. Young

elizabeth@singelconsulting.com

## PROFILE

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- Social scientist with extensive experience managing, analyzing, and presenting qualitative & quantitative research
- Expertise in democratization, elections, governance, and countering violent extremism (CVE)
- Professional experience throughout Africa, the Middle East, and Europe

## EDUCATION

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**University of Michigan** - Ann Arbor, MI (2018)

Ph.D., Sociology

*Research Areas:* Political Sociology, Nationalism, Democratization, and Elections

**University of Michigan** - Ann Arbor, MI (2010)

M.A., Sociology

**Haverford College** - Haverford, PA (2005)

B.A., *magna cum laude*

*Major:* Religion, Honors

Concentration: Arab & Islamic Studies

## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Singel Consulting** (Owner) – Amsterdam, Netherlands (2016 – Present)

*Research Design, Data Analysis, and Research Methodology Training Consultant*

- Developed tailored research studies for national and international governments and civil society organizations using a range of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, archival research, statistical analysis, and literature reviews).
- Conducted research and analyzed data on social, political, and security issues, particularly with respect to democratization, elections, governance, human rights, and violent extremism.
- Designed and conducted research assessments and capacity building for CSOs, researchers, and governments.
- Wrote reports, developed recommendations, and made presentations for specialist and non-specialist audiences, including governments, NGOs, civil society, academics, and the general public.
- Conducted training courses on research methodology, survey enumeration, and conducting interviews and focus group discussions for field researchers, civil society organizations, and international organizations.
- Select projects include:
  - *United Nations Development Program (Survey Consultant):* Advised on design and implementation of nationwide household survey to assess voter knowledge, attitudes, and electoral practices (KAP) in the Solomon Islands following the 2019 elections. Developed survey enumerator training materials. Conducted key informant interviews of government and civil society stakeholders. Statistically analyzed survey data and wrote comprehensive report. Presented findings to national and international stakeholders.
  - *United Nations Volunteers (Survey Consultant):* Designed and implemented survey of former UN Volunteers to assess their career trajectories and retention within the United Nations. Statistically analyzed survey data and developed reports and presentations on data.
  - *Search for Common Ground (Lead Researcher):* Designed qualitative research study to examine the reintegration of Moroccan violent extremist returnees through an assessment of current legal frameworks and interviews with returnees and civil society members. Trained field researchers. Conducted literature review on global reintegration programs. Analyzed data and wrote research report with findings and policy and programming recommendations for government and civil society stakeholders.
  - *Norwegian Church Aid (Survey Consultant):* Advised design of household survey to assess the immediate and long-term socio-economic and security needs of displaced religious and ethnic minorities living in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. Statistically analyzed data and wrote three evaluative reports on data from the surveys.

**Building Resilience in Civil Society (BRICS) Program / Wasafiri Consulting** – Nairobi, Kenya (2017 – 2019)

*Research Director, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)*

- Identified research priorities and managed all aspects of CVE research – design, data analysis, and presentation – in Kenya and Uganda for the British High Commission’s +£1 million *Building Resilience in Civil Society* research program.
- Researched topics including drivers of violent extremism; social cohesion; radicalization and recruitment strategies; gender dynamics; and preventative interventions. Wrote research reports and developed presentations on findings.
- Analyzed qualitative interview data with the family and social networks of individuals connected to violent extremism and wrote six research reports.
- Designed and conducted quarterly and *ad hoc* capacity building trainings for 14 field researchers including sampling, interviewing, coding, and reporting techniques.
- Oversaw quality assurance of data collection and analysis, as well as ensuring ethical standards.
- Translated research findings and made recommendations to impact civil society programming and government policy, including national CVE strategies.

**Department of Sociology, University of Michigan** – Ann Arbor, MI (2012 – 2017)

*Dissertation Research: “Guardians of Religion: Islam, Nation, and Democratization in Post-Revolution Tunisia”*

- Conducted 10 months of fieldwork in Tunisia, including interviews, ethnographic research, and archival research, focusing on democratization, elections, and constitutional reform.
- Wrote and secured research grants from multiple institutions and organizations.

**Electoral Integrity Project, Harvard University - University of Sydney** – Sydney, Australia (2015)

*Visiting Ph.D. Fellow*

- Analyzed survey data on measurements of electoral integrity worldwide with a focus on Tunisia and Turkey.
- Designed and conducted research to evaluate the effectiveness of electoral assistance programs.
- Collaborated in project’s activities, including research and evaluation design. Worked with international team of colleagues to identify project priorities and development.

**The Washington Institute for Near East Policy** - Washington, D.C (2005 – 2006)

*Research Assistant, Project on the Middle East Peace Process*

- Researched topics including Israeli & Palestinian politics, U.S. foreign policy, peace process negotiations, demographics, elections, human rights, settlements, and international aid.
- Wrote and edited policy papers and articles for publications. Coordinated research & policy events.
- Organized and participated in research trip to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, & the West Bank to meet with government officials, journalists, and civil society representatives.

**DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERIENCE (ADDITIONAL)**

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**The National Democratic Institute** (2006-2008, 2014)

*Elections Assistant (Volunteer)* – Tunis, Tunisia (2014)

- Wrote weekly reports of long-term observer findings. Drafted portions of election observation mission report.
- Staffed election-day call center and compiled findings of short-term observers.

*Program / Project Assistant, Middle East and North Africa* – Washington, DC (2006 – 2008)

- Planned and implemented programs to strengthen parliaments, local governments, election bodies, and civil society organizations in the Middle East & North Africa, focusing on Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, & Yemen.
- Coordinated programs including electoral observation missions, civic education, political candidate training sessions, and capacity building programs for regional parliamentarians.
- Worked with democracy, electoral, and civil society organizations throughout the Middle East & North Africa.
- Wrote and edited briefing papers, grant proposals, reports, and budgets for U.S. Government funded programs.
- Supervised project assistants & interns.

*Project Assistant, Elections & Parliamentary Programs* – Sana’a, Yemen (2006 – 2007)

- Served as an international elections observer and prepared briefing materials for the 2006 Yemeni elections.

- Researched issues pertaining to the Yemeni Parliament and supported work of the Parliamentary Program.

**Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) & The National Democratic Institute (NDI)**  
*International Short-term Election Observer*

- Served as member of international delegation to monitor and assess elections in Yemen (2006, NDI), Albania (2011, OSCE), Bosnia & Herzegovina (2014, OSCE), and Tunisia (2014 - 3 Rounds, NDI).

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Department of Sociology, University of Michigan (2009 – 2016)**

*Graduate Student Instructor*

- Designed curriculum and taught courses for undergraduates, including sociological theory, research methodology, nationalism, and stratification. Received outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (2013).

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- “Violent Extremism in Eastern Uganda.” *Building Resilience in Civil Society*. 2019.
- “Preventing Violent Extremism: Understanding At-Risk Communities in Kenya.” *Building Resilience in Civil Society*. 2018.
- “Can Turkey Survive Another Election?” *Electoral Integrity Project Blog*. 2015.
- “Islam and Islamists in the 2014 Tunisian Elections,” *Rethinking Nation and Nationalism*. George Washington University. 2015.
- “Gender Equality.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*. Ed. Natana J. DeLong-Bas. Oxford University Press. (with Fatma Goçek). 2013.

## SELECTED AWARDS

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- Presidential Management Fellowship Finalist, *U.S. Office of Personnel Management*
- Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic), *U.S. Department of State*
- Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, *Social Science Research Council*
- Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship (Arabic), *U.S. Dept. of Education*
- David L. Boren Scholarship, *National Security Education Program*

## SKILLS

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- **Computer:** Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access), G Suite (Google), HyperRESEARCH, SPSS, & Stata.
- **Research Methodology:** Survey, focus groups, interviews, case studies, statistical analysis, cross-national research, archival research, etc.
- **Languages:** English (Native); French (Advanced), Arabic (Advanced Modern Standard; familiarity with Moroccan, Syrian, & Tunisian dialects), Dutch (Basic).

## REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- **Africa (Sub-Saharan):** Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
- **Americas:** United States of America
- **Asia-Pacific:** Australia, Nepal, Solomon Islands
- **Europe:** Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia
- **Middle East & North Africa:** Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank/Gaza, Yemen