

Survey Research in the Middle East Needs to Be Transparent. Here's Why.

by [David Pollock \(/experts/david-pollock\)](#)

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In a region where social taboos and fears of government surveillance persist, independent, unofficial pollsters offer the best path to credible findings.

Public opinion survey research in the Middle East has come a long way. It still faces many very real challenges, however. I have been polling Mideast opinion since 1985, for the U.S. government and as an independent scholar. A recent [article \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/10/20/the-dangers-of-survey-research-in-the-arab-world/?utm_term=.5be163f2c698\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/10/20/the-dangers-of-survey-research-in-the-arab-world/?utm_term=.5be163f2c698) by Justin Gengler raised some important issues, but along the way it made unwarranted assumptions about polls that I recently conducted. The points where we agree and where we diverge on currently realistic best practices in Arab survey research are instructive. . .

[Read the full article on the Washington Post website. \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/16/advancing-transparency-in-arab-survey-research/?utm_term=.b523d5f39fd8\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/11/16/advancing-transparency-in-arab-survey-research/?utm_term=.b523d5f39fd8) ❖

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