

## Amy Hawthorne – Biography

**Amy Hawthorne** is the Deputy Director for Research at the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED). She is a Middle East expert with extensive policy, analytical, and on-the-ground experience on Arab political reform and democracy promotion.

Prior to joining POMED in October 2015, Hawthorne served as Resident Senior Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, where she focused on U.S. policy toward Egypt and on U.S. and European strategies to support political and economic reform in the post-2011 Arab world, with a concentration on Tunisia. Before joining the Atlantic Council in April 2013, Hawthorne was an appointee at the U.S. Department of State for two years (January 2011-December 2012), where, as Egypt Coordinator in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Middle East Transitions, she helped to shape and coordinate the U.S. government response to Egypt's transition. Hawthorne previously served for five years as the founding executive director of the Hollings Center for International Dialogue, a nongovernmental organization operating in Washington and Istanbul that promotes mutual understanding and dialogue between citizens of the United States and the broader Middle East region.

Earlier in her career, Hawthorne was an Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where she was the Founding Editor of the *Arab Reform Bulletin* (now *Sada*) and analyzed political reform in the Arab world. At the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Hawthorne was Senior Program Officer for the Middle East and North Africa, managing democracy and governance programs across the Arab world. She has published a number of widely-read analyses on U.S. policy and democracy promotion in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world.

Hawthorne received her BA in history with honors from Yale University, with a focus on the Middle East, and obtained her MA in modern Middle Eastern studies at the University of Michigan, where she concentrated on Islamic law and received several fellowships and awards. She has advanced skills in Arabic and has spent extensive time over many years in the Middle East and North Africa (especially in Egypt) as well as Turkey. Ms. Hawthorne was a Fulbright Scholar at Al Azhar University in Cairo.

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