

Nasir Almasri

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Research Interests

comparative politics; security studies; conflict and political violence; colonialism and colonial legacies; Global South; Middle East and North Africa.

Appointments

Wellesley College Mellon Fellow, Peace & Justice Studies	Wellesley, MA 2026 – Present
Boston University Postdoctoral Scholar, Society of Fellows	Boston, MA 2024 – 2026
Journal of Global South Studies Member, Board of Editors	Remote 2026 – Present
Harvard Kennedy School Predoctoral Scholar, Middle East Initiative	Cambridge, MA 2022 – 2024
Middle East Institute Graduate Fellow	Washington, DC 2023 – 2024

Education



MIT PhD in Political Science	2017 – 2024
The University of Chicago MA in International Relations <i>Morton A. Kaplan Prize for Best MA Thesis</i>	2015 – 2017
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville BS in Political Science (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>) BA in History (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>)	2011 – 2015

Publications

Book Project

1. *Varieties of Radicalism: Colonial Path-Dependencies and State-Opposition Trajectories in the Middle East*
2. *Where is the Madani State? The Evolution of Political Parties in the Middle East* (with Marsin Alshamary)



Refereed Articles

1. Forthcoming. “Colonial Legacies and the Dynamics of Opposition: How Factional Power Shapes Cycles of Moderation and Radicalization” *Perspectives on Politics*.
2. 2025. “Moral Shocks and (De)mobilization: The Case of the Palestinian Liberation Movement.” *Contention*, Volume 13, Issue 1, pp. 102-137 (with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams). [Link](#) 
3. 2022. “Mental Health and the PhD: Insights and Implications for Political Science.” *PS: Politics and Political Science*, Volume 55, Issue 2, pp. 347-353 (with Blair Read and Clara Vandeweerd). [Link](#) 



Work in Progress

1. “Courting Repression: Anti-Terrorism Courts and Authoritarian Legalism”
2. *Working Paper*: “Mobilization without Organization” (with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams)
3. *Working Paper*: “Islam, the War on Terror, and Pitfalls of the Moderate-Radical Dichotomy”
4. “Logistical Deterrence: Maintenance and the Hidden Foundations of Military Power”

Book Chapters

1. 2026. “When work is personal: closeness to research and its effect on well-being and productivity,” with Amirah Aly, in *Academic Chutes and Ladders* (Bloomsbury), ed. by Kerry Crawford and Leah Windsor. [Link](#) 
2. 2022. “Mental health and well-being in graduate school,” with Dana El Kurd, in *Strategies for Navigating Grad School and Beyond*, edited by by Kevin G. Lorentz II et al (American Political Science Association). [Link](#) 

Selected Policy Writing

1. In Progress. “The Future of Middle Eastern Leadership and Prospects for Regional Peace.” *Middle East Institute*
2. May 2024. “Israel invades Rafah while Hamas and Israel negotiations at standstill,” *Middle East Institute*. [Link](#) 
3. Feb. 2024. “Wither Abbas? Palestinian president clings to power as Israel concludes Hamas will survive,” *Middle East Institute*. [Link](#) 

Teaching

Instructor, “People Power in Global Politics,” Boston University	Spring 2025, 2026
Instructor, “Introduction to International Politics,” Boston University	Summer 2025
Teaching Assistant for “Causes of War and Peace,” MIT	Spring 2020
Teaching Assistant for “Introduction to Comparative Politics,” MIT	Fall 2019
<i>Additional Training</i> : Teaching + Learning Lab, MIT	
Teaching Development Fellow, Dept. of Political Science	2023-2024
Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program	Spring 2023

Grants and Awards

Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, \$2500 (2025)
Islamic Scholarship Fund, Makhraj Endowed Scholarship, \$4000 (2023)
Center for International Studies, Summer Study Fellowship, \$3500 (2021, 2022)
Islamic Scholarship Fund, Alassar Endowed Scholarship, \$5000 (2022)
Security Studies Program Special Summer Funding, \$3000 (2020)
Kenan Sahin Presidential Graduate Fellowship, MIT (2017-18)
Islamic Scholarship Fund, \$3000 (2017)
Morton A. Kaplan Prize for Best MA Thesis, \$1000, University of Chicago (2017)
University Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Chicago (2016-17)
Social Science Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Chicago (2015-16)
Dr. Gordon D. Bush Political Science Award, \$1000, SIUE (2014-15)
Dr. Timothy P. Fischer Award in Historical Studies, \$500, SIUE (2013-15)
URCA Associate Research Grant, \$2400, SIUE (2014-15)
Outstanding Student Leader Award, SIUE (2013, 2014, 2015)
Chancellor’s Meridian Full Tuition Scholarship, SIUE (2011-15)

Talks and Presentations

- Guest Lecture:** The History of the Muslim Brotherhood Oct. 2025
Boston College, Course: Religion-State Relations in the Middle East Oct. 2024
- Guest Lecture:** Foreign Intervention in the Middle East March 2025
Harvard Kennedy School
- Guest Lecture:** War and Peace in the Middle East
Harvard Kennedy School Nov. 2024
The Fletcher School at Tufts University Nov. 2024
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Oct. 2024
- Guest Lecture:** The Rise and Fall of Revolution in the Middle East Oct. 2024
Bowling Green State University, Engelhart Speaker Series
- Panel:** Surveillance in the Muslim Community, Islamic History Month Nov. 2020
Simon Fraser University, Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies

Conferences and Workshops

- American Political Science Association (2025)
NDPS Conference, Brown University (2024)
Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Doha, Qatar (2024)
Middle East Research Workshop, Harvard University (2024)
Middle East Studies Association (2023)
Southwest Mixed-Methods Research (2023)
American Political Science Association (2023; canceled due to labor strike)
Middle East Research Workshop, Harvard University (2023)
Midwest Political Science Association (2023)
Middle East Research Workshop, Harvard University (2022)
Midwest Political Science Association (2021)
Middle East Research Workshop, Harvard University (2021)
POMEPS Junior Scholars Workshop (2020)
Middle East Research Workshop, Harvard University (2020)
MIT Security Studies Working Group (2020)
Midwest Political Science Association (2017)
International Studies Association (2017)
University of Chicago Program on International Security Policy (2017)

Leadership and Service

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Teaching Development Fellow, Political Science (2023-2024)
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group in Political Science (2020-2021)
Graduate Anti-Racist Political Science Collective (2020-2022)
Coordinator, Security Studies Working Group (2019-2020)
Chair, Graduate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2018-2019)
Executive Member, MIT Graduate Student Council (2018-2019)

The University of Chicago

- Social Science Graduate Student Advisory Council (2015-2016)

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- Chair, Multicultural Center Council (2014-2015)
University Policy and Budget Council (2011-2012, 2014-2015)
University Quality Council (2014-2015)
Search Committee, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences (2014-2015)

Language

English (native), Arabic (heritage), Spanish (intermediate)

References

Richard Nielsen: ✉ rnielsen@mit.edu

Roger Petersen: ✉ rpeters@mit.edu

Taylor Boas: ✉ tboas@bu.edu

Jeremy Menchik: ✉ menchik@bu.edu