

Nasir Almasri

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Research Interests

social movements; democracy and authoritarianism; moderation and radicalization; political violence; Islam; colonialism; regional security; Middle East and North Africa.

Experience

Postdoctoral Scholar, Society of Fellows Boston University <i>Affiliate in Political Science + Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs</i>	<i>Boston, MA</i> <i>2024 - Present</i>
Predoctoral Scholar Harvard Kennedy School, Middle East Initiative	<i>Cambridge, MA</i> <i>2022 - 2024</i>
Graduate Fellow Middle East Institute	<i>Washington, DC</i> <i>2023 - 2024</i>

Education

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

Publications

Mental Health and the PhD: Insights and Implications for Political Science with Blair Read, Clara Vandeweerdt, <i>PS: Politics and Political Science</i> . Link 	2022
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Working Papers

The Pendulum Effect: Exclusion and Shifting Dominance Between Moderate and Radical Factions in Opposition Groups	Under Review
Islam, the War on Terror, and pitfalls of the moderate-radical dichotomy	Under Review
Social media, Transnational Activism, and Demobilization with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams	Under Review
Mobilization without Organization with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams	

In Progress

Book Project: The Rise and Fall of Radical Movements in the Middle East

The New Political Class: The Rise of Madani Parties in the Middle East
w/Marsin Alshamary

Conspiracy or Incompetency? Why Islamist Parties Fail in Office
w/Ameni Mehrez

Rich City, Poor State: The Dubai Model and Economic Instability


Communist Extermination: Long-Term Consequences of American Policy in the Global South


A Third Lebanon War? Technological Advancement, Civilian-Centric Warfare, and Israel's Ground-Air Dilemma

Selected Policy Writing


Editorial: "Double Standards and Media Bias in Israel's War on Gaza," 2024
E-International Relations. [Link](#) 

Report: "The Future of Palestinian Leadership and Prospects for Regional Peace," *Forthcoming*
Middle East Institute.

Brief: "Wither Abbas? Palestinian president clings to power as Israel concludes Hamas will survive," *Feb 2024*
Middle East Institute. [Link](#) 

Brief: "Israel invades Rafah, while Hamas and Israel negotiations at standstill," *May 2024*
Middle East Institute. [Link](#) 

Book Chapters

"Mental health and well-being in graduate school," w/Dana El Kurd, in *Strategies for Navigating Grad School and Beyond*, edited by by Kevin G. Lorentz ii, Daniel J. Mallinson, Julia Marin Hellwege, Davin Pheonix, and J. Cherie Strachan (American Political Science Association). [Link](#) 

"When work is personal: closeness to research and its effect on well-being and productivity," w/Amirah Aly, in *Academic Chutes and Ladders*, edited by Kerry Crawford and Leah Windsor. *Forthcoming*

Teaching

Instructor, "People Power in the Global Politics," Boston University Spring 2025

Teaching Assistant for "Introduction to Comparative Politics," MIT Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant for "Causes and Consequences of War," MIT Spring 2020

Additional Training: Teaching + Learning Lab, MIT

Teaching Development Fellow, Dept. of Political Science

Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program

2023-2024

Spring 2023

Grants and Awards

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 Rise and Fall of Revolution in the Middle East Oct. 2024
Bowling Green State University, Engelhart Speaker Series

Guest Lecture: Palestine-Israel: History and Contemporary Politics MIT, Oct. 2024
Tufts, Nov. 2024

Guest Lecture: The History of the Muslim Brotherhood Sep. 2024
Boston College, Course: Religion-State Relations in the Middle East

Panel: Surveillance in the Muslim Community, Islamic History Month Nov. 2020
Simon Fraser University, Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies

Conferences and Workshops

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 (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)

References

Richard Nielsen: ✉ rnielsen@mit.edu
Fotini Christia: ✉ cfotini@mit.edu
Roger Petersen: ✉ rpeters@mit.edu
Tarek Masoud: ✉ tarek.masoud@hks.harvard.edu