

Nasir Almasri

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Research Interests

peace and conflict; religion; ideology; colonialism; critical security studies; Middle East and North Africa.

Experience

Postdoctoral Scholar, Society of Fellows Boston, MA
Boston University 2024 – Present
Affiliate in Political Science + Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs

Predoctoral Scholar Cambridge, MA
Harvard Kennedy School, Middle East Initiative 2022 – 2024

Graduate Fellow Washington, DC
Middle East Institute 2023 – 2024

Education

MIT 2017 – 2024
PhD in Political Science

The University of Chicago 2015 – 2017
MA in International Relations
Morton A. Kaplan Prize for Best MA Thesis

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 2011 – 2015
BS in Political Science (*Summa Cum Laude*)
BA in History (*Summa Cum Laude*)

Publications

Mental Health and the PhD: Insights and Implications for Political Science 2022
with Blair Read, Clara Vandeweerdt, *PS: Politics and Political Science*. [Link](#) 

Working Papers

What Islamist Advantage? 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 Under Review
with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams

Mobilization without Organization
with Dana El Kurd and Alexei Abrahams

Book Projects

The Rise and Fall of Radical Movements in the Middle East

In Progress

Wither Islam(ism)? 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

Report: "The Future of Palestinian Leadership and Prospects for Regional Peace," *Middle East Institute*. Forthcoming, 2025


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

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

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

Book Chapters

"When work is personal: closeness to research and its effect on well-being and productivity," w/Amirah Aly, in *Academic Chutes and Ladders* (Bloomsbury), edited by Kerry Crawford and Leah Windsor. Forthcoming, 2025

"Mental health and well-being in graduate school," w/Dana El Kurd, in *Strategies for Navigating Grad School and Beyond*, edited by Kevin G. Lorentz ii, Daniel J. Mallinson, Julia Marin Hellwege, Davin Pheonix, and J. Cherie Strachan (American Political Science Association). [Link](#)  2022

Teaching

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

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

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

Additional Training: 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 Rise and Fall of Revolution in the Middle East Bowling Green State University, Engelhart Speaker Series	Oct 2024
Guest Lecture: Palestine-Israel: History and Contemporary Politics Harvard Kennedy School	Nov 2024
The Fletcher School at Tufts University	Nov 2024
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Oct 2024
Guest Lecture: The History of the Muslim Brotherhood Boston College, Course: Religion-State Relations in the Middle East	Sep 2024
Panel: Surveillance in the Muslim Community, Islamic History Month Simon Fraser University, Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies	Nov 2020

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