

Nasir Almasri

📍 Boston ✉ nalmasri@bu.edu 🌐 nasiralmasri.com in almasri

Research Interests

social movements; colonialism; political violence; critical security studies; international relations; Middle East and North Africa.

Experience

Postdoctoral Scholar, Society of Fellows Boston University	Boston, MA 2024 – Present
Predoctoral Scholar Harvard Kennedy School, Middle East Initiative	Cambridge, MA 2022 – 2024
Graduate Fellow Middle East Institute	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

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

Contextualizing Moderation: The Colonial Origins of Modern Political Opposition	
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	

Book Projects

The Rise and Fall of Radical Movements in the Middle East

In Progress

The Rise of Madani Parties in the Middle East

w/Marsin Alshamary

Regional Power Competition and the Palestinian National Movement

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." Forthcoming, 2025
Presented at New Directions in Palestine Studies Conference, Brown University

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

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

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

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), Forthcoming, 2025
edited by Kerry Crawford and Leah Windsor.

"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). 2022
[Link](#) [↗](#)

Teaching

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

Teaching Assistant for "Causes of War and Peace," 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: Foreign Intervention in the Middle East Harvard Kennedy School, Palestine Caucus	Oct 2024
Guest Lecture: Palestine 101: 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 Rise and Fall of Revolution in the Middle East Bowling Green State University, Engelhart Speaker Series	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

American Political Science Association (Scheduled, 2025)
New Directions in Palestine Studies, 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 (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)

References

Richard Nielsen: ✉ rnielsen@mit.edu
Roger Petersen: ✉ rpeters@mit.edu
Jeremy Menchik: ✉ menchik@bu.edu