

# **Nabil Al-Tikriti**

**Associate Professor of History & American Studies at University of Mary Washington**

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Al-Tikriti has firsthand experience with Middle Eastern affairs, as a researcher, humanitarian and election monitor.

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## **Biography**

Nabil Al-Tikriti doesn't just teach Middle Eastern history, he lives it. Aboard the Bourbon Argos rescue ship in May 2015, the University of Mary Washington professor witnessed the desperation of refugees making the perilous Mediterranean crossing from North Africa to Greece and Italy. As a relief worker in Somalia, he saw how famine ravaged millions in the country during the '90s. As an official observer, he viewed the emotional 2014 presidential election in Ukraine in the aftermath of the country's violent revolution. A native of New Orleans, Dr. Al-Tikriti has been a member of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF-Doctors Without Borders) since 1992. He's traveled with the international humanitarian aid organization to Somalia, Iran, Albania, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Ethiopia, where he negotiated with community leaders, served as liaison with United Nations, nongovernmental organizations and local government personnel; dealt with personnel issues in a war zone, analyzed host government policies and leaders; and conducted an exploratory mission to determine potential MSF activity in Iraq. He joined an MSF team on a humanitarian mission to Syria in 2013 and served as a cultural facilitator on the organization's ship that rescued thousands of immigrants in the Mediterranean. He served on the MSF-USA Board of Directors from 2011 to 2017, finishing his second term as the 2016-17 Vice President. Dr. Al-Tikriti has served as a polling station supervisor or election monitor on numerous occasions since 1997, in Bosnia, Kosovo, Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Montenegro and Albania, for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. A faculty member at UMW since 2004, the associate professor of history and American studies was awarded a 2018 Fulbright Scholar Fellowship to teach and conduct research in Azerbaijan; and a 2007 Jennings Randolph Fellowship at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., where he researched the effects on Iraqi civil society of the 2003 Anglo-American invasion. He also was recipient of a 2000 Fulbright DDRA Fellowship and a 2011 National Endowment for the Humanities grant. He has delivered conference lectures and presentations in more than a dozen countries, including a keynote lecture on "The State of the Middle East Studies in the American Academy," for the 5th Joint International Workshop in Tokyo, organized by Kyoto University and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies."

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## **Industry Expertise**

Training and Development, Government Relations, Government Administration, International Affairs, Research, Program Development, Education/Learning

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Humanitarian Affairs, Forced Migration (Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons), The Modern Middle East, Cultural Patrimony, Modern Iraq, Islamic History, Conflict Studies, History of the Ottoman Empire, Genocide, Higher Education, Modern Turkey

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## **Affiliations**

MSF/Doctors Without Borders USA: Member, Board of Directors, 2011-2017, American Association of University Professors : Member, American Civil Liberties Union : Member, American Historical Association : Member, Middle East Studies Association : Member

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## **Event Appearances**

### **Global Security**

Impact of a Global Humanitarian System on the Middle East and Other Crisis Areas

### **Fulbright Programs**

Fulbright Scholar Liaison Workshop

### **Relief Work and Medical Humanitarianism**

Relief Work, Medical Humanitarianism and Challenges of Medical NGOs

### **Between the World and Me**

Between the World and Me: Panels on Course Selection, Career Planning and Ethical Professional Practices

### **Usurpation: The Untold Stories of the Iraq War, 2003 to the Present**

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference

### **Northern Iraq**

The Academic Research Institute in Iraq Panel

### **The Situation in Mosul**

Council for American Overseas Research Centers Panel

### **Refugees and Displaced Persons Exhibit Guide**

MSF/Doctors Without Borders USA Forced From Home Exhibit

### **Migration and Human Rights**

Estoril Conference

### **Istanbul and Athens Debate**

Field Associative Debate

### **Forced Migration**

Field Associative Debate for MSF/Doctors Without Borders

### **MSF/Doctors Without Borders Association Event**

MSF Association open board meeting, hub gathering and Association retreat

## **Ottoman Seas**

Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference

## **Integrating Humanitarian Response and Cultural Heritage in Disasters**

Smithsonian Institution's Cultural Rescue Initiative

## **The Iraq Crisis Today**

National Security Lecture Series

## **Global Migration**

MSF/Doctors Without Borders Global Migration Panel

## **Living (with)out Walls: The Korean, Palestinian, Mexican Experience**

25th Anniversary Fall of the Berlin Wall Event

## **Greatness Denied: Firdevsi-yi Rumi on the Cusp of Ottoman Sunnism**

Middle East Studies Association Conference

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## **Education**

### **University of Chicago**

Ph.D. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

### **University of Chicago**

M.A. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

### **Boğaziçi Üniversitesi**

Certificates Intermediate, Advanced Turkish Language & Literature

### **American University of Cairo, Center for Arabic Studies Abroad**

Advanced Certificate Arabic Language

### **Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs**

M.I.A. Economic and Political Development, International Policy Analysis and Management

### **Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service**

B.S.F.S. Development Economics

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Al-Tikriti Joins Middle East Book Prize Committee**

Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History Nabil Al-Tikriti agreed to join the 2018 Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Book Prize Committee. For this service, the five committee members must review a total of approximately 125 books for three prizes: the Albert Hourani Book Award; the Nikki Keddie Book Award; and the The Fatima Mernissi Book Award.

### **Al-Tikriti Chairs MSF Panel in NYC General Assembly**

On June 24, 2017, in his final capacity as MSF/Doctors Without Border USA's 2016-17 Vice President, Nabil Al-Tikriti chaired a panel which he had co-organized, titled "Navigating in a New Political Environment." The panel was aimed at NGO stakeholders and held at the annual MSF USA General Assembly in New York City, an annual gathering where MSF field staff debate pressing issues in contexts where they operate as well as elect new members to the MSF USA Board of Directors.

### **Al-Tikriti Monitors Montenegro Parliamentary Elections**

Nabil Al-Tikriti, associate professor of Middle Eastern history, served as an election monitor for the Montenegro parliamentary elections. Joining eight other Americans in the U.S. delegation, Al-Tikriti worked as an OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) STO (Short Term Observer) in several rural villages and a provincial capital in the mountains, Mojkovac. His observation partner was a Russian diplomat based in Slovenia.

### **Al-Tikriti Serves in Iraq and Ethiopia, Leads International Migration Workshop**

In the summer of 2016, Associate Professor of History and American Studies Nabil Al-Tikriti carried out several activities while continuing to actively serve as a member of the Board of Directors of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders USA. Read more: <https://eagleeye.umw.edu/2016/09/06/al-tikriti-serves-iraq-ethiopia-leads-international-migration-workshop/>

### **Faculty Research Grant**

Awarded by the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT).

### **Research Grant**

Awarded by the Georg-Eckert-Institut für internationale Schulbuchforschung.

### **Faculty Achievement Award**

Awarded by the University of Mary Washington.

### **Jennings Randolph Fellowship**

Awarded by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

### **Faculty Development Grant**

Awarded by the University of Mary Washington.

### **University of Chicago Humanities Division Overseas Research Grant**

Carried out dissertation-related archival research in the National Library of Malta

**Dissertation Writing Grant**

Awarded by Institute for Turkish Studies

**Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Writing Grant**

Finalist for Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Writing Grant for Ethics and Theology

**Fulbright-Institute for International Education Turkey Fellowship**

Examined and collected manuscript and archival materials at the Süleymaniye, Topkapı Palace, Istanbul University and Millet Library collections in Istanbul with official Turkish government research permission. Conducted research visits to manuscript collections in Ankara, Diyarbakir, Elmalı, Erzerum, Konya, Sivas and Damascus.

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