The Fellowship Programme

DR. BESSMA MOMANI
Professor of Political Science
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Bessma Momani, PhD, is Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo, and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. She is also an Academic Fellow at Toronto Metropolitan University's Rogers Cybersecurity Catalyst. Her research examines international political economy, global governance, Canadian foreign policy, and defence and security, with growing attention to the implications of artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and digital disinformation.

Momani brings more than two decades of experience in academic research, public policy, and university leadership. She previously served as Associate Vice-President, International, at the University of Waterloo, where she led international strategy and developed research and institutional partnerships. Her earlier leadership roles included Assistant Vice-President, Research and International, and Interim Associate Vice-President, Interdisciplinary and Sponsored Research. In these positions, she oversaw major research portfolios, supported federal funding initiatives, and advanced collaboration in cybersecurity, quantum research, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Her policy experience includes serving as an advisor to the International Monetary Fund, directing the Defence and Security Foresight Group, and contributing to Canada's National Security Transparency Advisory Group. She serves as a Governor of the International Development Research Centre and an Advisory Board Member of the Canadian International Council. She previously held a 2026 Fellow at the NATO Defense College and non-resident fellowship at the Brookings Institution.

Momani has secured research funding as principal investigator and contributed to numerous collaborative projects. Her books include An Arab Dawn, What's Wrong with the IMF?, and co-edited volumes on Canadian foreign policy, diversity in the Canadian Armed Forces, and

international financial governance. Her honours include a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellowship and a Fulbright award.

A frequent contributor to public debate, she has provided parliamentary testimony and government briefings and regularly contributes commentary to Canadian and international media. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Western Ontario.