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Tahir is [Professor of Radicalisation Studies](#) at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs at Leiden University in The Hague. Born in Birmingham, UK, in 1970, he earned a BSc(Econ) in Economics with Mathematical Studies at Queen Mary University of London, followed by a MSocSc in Economic Development and Policy at the University of Birmingham and a PhD in Ethnic Relations from the University of Warwick.

Tahir has held various academic positions, including Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London (2016–2018), Professor of Sociology at Istanbul University (2009–2016), and Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture at the University of Birmingham (2003–2009). He also worked as a Senior Research Officer at the UK Home Office and Ministry of Justice in London (2000–2003), Director of Race Equality West Midlands (1999–2000), Research Fellow at the Birmingham City University Business School (1998–1999), and a Research Assistant at the University of Warwick (1995–1998).

As a visiting scholar, Tahir has been affiliated with several prestigious institutions, including the [University of Exeter Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies](#) (2023–), London School of Economics Department of Government (2017–2019), the New York University Remarque Institute (2015–2016), the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Graduate School for Islamic Studies in Jakarta (2012), the University of Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (2007–2009), and the University of Warwick Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations (1999–2001). He is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences (UK).

Tahir's research focuses on sociology, politics, Islamic studies, and critical terrorism studies, specifically exploring various forms of 'radicalisation', extremism, and political violence. He has authored eighteen books and edited volumes, including [Islamophobia and Securitisation](#) (with L. Welten, Springer, 2022), [Countering Violent Extremism](#) (Bloomsbury, 2021), [Islamophobia and Radicalisation](#) (Hurst/Oxford University Press, 2019), [Contemporary Turkey in Conflict](#) (Edinburgh University Press, 2017), and [Islamic Radicalism and Multicultural Politics](#) (Routledge, 2011). He also recently published an autoethnographic account of his formal education, entitled [Ruminations](#) (Beacon, 2022). In addition, recent journal articles have been published in [Ethnic and Racial Studies](#), [Journal of Political Ideologies](#) (with S Dutta), [The British Journal of Sociology](#), [Perspectives on Terrorism](#), [Race Ethnicity and Education](#), (with J Marsden and I Awan), [Journal of Contemporary European Studies](#), and [Terrorism and Political Violence](#) (with D. Vink, D., Y. Veilleux-Lepage, and R. McNeil-Willson).

Presently, Tahir is the Scientific Coordinator of the European Commission (EC)-funded [Drive project](#), which examines how social exclusion impacts the radicalisation of minority and majority groups in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, and the United Kingdom. He is also the principal investigator on the EC-funded [Protone project](#), which explores protecting religious spaces of worship in Europe, and a co-investigator on the EC-funded project Prepare, which generates a proof of concept concerning young people and families who are returnees from countries of conflict.

Tahir has conducted reviews, government-oriented research, and policy development thinking for several organisations, including the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, the Commission for Judicial Appointments, the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government, the Home Office, and the Ministry of Justice in the UK. He has also served as a researcher and consultant to the International Organization for Migration in Erbil and the United Nations Office for Project Services in New York and Jakarta, as well as supporting research reviews initiatives for government scientific authorities in Belgium, France, the UK, Kazakhstan, Qatar, and the Netherlands.

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