SYED SAMI RAZA

(PhD Hawaii)
Associate Professor,
IR & Political Science
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ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Critical IR
Critical Legal Studies
Security Studies
Geopolitics & Borders
Ethnicity, Race & Migration
Islam, Genre & Global Politics

AWARDS

Gold Medal MA Political Science
Distinction LLB
Fulbright Fellowship (PhD)
Aus-Aid Fellowship
East-West Center Affiliate

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1. University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) 2021-2022
   Post-Doctoral Fellowship
   Abstract*: Based on writing a political history of Waziristan, the project aimed to demonstrate signs of resilience after the devastating war, violence and terrorism.* **Advisor**: Vinay Lal, History Department.
2. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA, 2007-2012
   Ph.D. Political Science
   Abstract: Engaging the public law theory of the state of exception and the genealogical method, the dissertation investigates the development of the security and anti-terrorism legal regime in Pakistan (and South Asia).
   Committee: Michael J. Shapiro (Advisor), Manfred Henningsen, Roger Ames, Sankaran Krishna, Nevzat Soguk
3. University of Peshawar, Pakistan, 2002-2007
   M.Phil. Political science, 2004-2007
   Abstract: The thesis does an analytical research on *the Police Reforms (2002) in Pakistan* (Advisor: Dr. Taj M. Khan)
   M.A. 2002, Political Science (Exam Based). (Gold Medal)
   LLB 2018-2021 (Islamic law concentration) (Distinction)

ACADEMIC CAREER

University of Peshawar, Pakistan
Associate Professor, IR, 2022-present
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Associate Professor, IR, 2021
University of Peshawar, Pakistan
Assistant Professor, Political Science, 2014-2022
Lecturer, Political Science, June 2005-2014
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI
Lecturer, Global Politics, 2011
Lecturer, Global/Comparative Politics, 2010

RESEARCH GRANTS

1. HEC (Pakistan) Thematic Research Grant, 2018
   Principal Investigator (PKR. 3.981 million)
   "Waziristan At the Crosscurrent of Social Change"
2. United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 2016
   Principal Investigator (PKR. 1.5 million)
   "Susceptibility of Youth to Radicalization and Violence"

DIVERSITY

Lived Experience

Born-Raised in Pakistan.

Employed in historic Silk route City of Peshawar.

Lived Experience of Pakistan-Afghanistan Borderland.

Lived Experience of Hawaiian multiculturalism and indigeneity

Lived Experience Los Angeles Multi-cultural Society

Ethnicity

Half Syed, half Pashtun

Asian/Pakistani

Languages

English (Full Professional)

Urdu/Hindi (Native/Bilingual)

Seraiki (Native/Bilingual)

Pashtu (Native/Bilingual)

Persian/Dari (Writing, reading)

Punjabi (Writing, reading)

Perspective

Critical/inclusive

ACTIVISM

Human rights in Pakistan

Founding member, Takra Qabaili Khawenday, TQK (Brave Tribal Women of Pakistan) for women rights

CERTIFICATIONS

PUBLICATION RECORD

Books

1. *The Security State in Pakistan: Legal Foundation*, (2018) London/New York: Routledge. (Authored)
2. *Geopolitics of Pakistan-Afghanistan Borderland*, (2020) London/New York: Routledge. (Edited)

Journal Articles

***Subject Area:* Political Violence**

1. *Watan*, loss, and the Pashtun Ethno-nationalism. *Contemporary South Asia*, *33*(2), 151–169, 2025.
2. "Legal Sovereignty on the Border: Aliens, Identity, and Violence on the Northwestern Frontier of Pakistan," *Geopolitics*, Vol. 24/2, 2019.
3. "The Northwestern Colonial Frontier of India: The Rule of Difference and the Rule of Similarity", *Pakistan Horizon,* Vol. 9, No. 3, July 2016.
4. "An Artist's [Van Gogh] Murder: Critical Reflections on the Relationship between Contemporary Art and Muslim Political Sensibility," *Pakistan Journal of Criminology,* Volume 9, No. 2, Oct 2017.

Subject Area: Terrorism, Extremism, Radicalizations

5. "Susceptibility to Radicalization and Violence Among Youth in District Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan" *Pakistan Journal of Criminology,* Volume 10, No. 1, 2018.
6. "Anti-terrorism Legal Regime of Pakistan and the Global Paradigm of Security: A Genealogical and Comparative Analysis," *Review of Human Rights*, Vol. 2, Issue 1, 2016.
7. "Indefinite Preventive Detention: An Anglo-American Legacy of the State of Exception," *Pakistan Journal of Criminology,* Volume 8, No. 2, 2016.
8. "A Preliminary Note on the Genealogy of the concept of Enemy Alien in Pakistan," *Pakistan Journal of Criminology,* Volume 7, No. 2, 2015.

Subject Area: Geopolitics

9. "Coronavirus Pandemic: The Blame Game in Middle-East Geopolitics," *Middle East Policy*, V. 28, I. 3-4, 2021.

ICRC Human Rights

Google Project Management

SERVICES

University of Peshawar Pakistan

Chairman (acting), IR (2023)

Chair, Undergraduate, Political Science, 2016-2019.

Chair, Graduate, Political Science, 2012-2015.

Chair, Baragali Annual International Conference, 2015.

International Summer School, Committee Member, 2014.

Department Website Facilitator, 2013-2015.

University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Member Faculty Hiring, Political Science, 2011.

Member Colloquium Committee 2009-2010.

Member Evening Seminar,2010.

Erfurt University, Germany

Muslim Cultural & Religious History Chair's Curriculum Development

Journal Editorial Service

Founding Editor, *Review of Human Rights* 2015-present (http://reviewhumanrights.com)

10. "Critical Reflections on the *Reality* of Drone Warfare: Thinking with Jean Baudrillard," *IPRI Journal* VOL. XVI, No.1, Winter 2016.
11. "Desiring Enemy: An Ontological Reading of the Military Operations and Small Wars on the North West Frontier," *Journal of Political Studies,* Volume 21, Issue 2, Winter 2014."
12. "War and Game Theory: Reflecting on the War on Terror," *Pakistan Journal of Criminology,* Volume 8, No. 4, Oct 2016.

Subject Area: Security Studies & Critical Legal Studies

13. "Walter Benjamin vs. Carl Schmitt: Giorgio Agamben Intensifies the Debate on the State of Exception, *Global Legal Studies Review*, Vol 7, Issue2, 2023.
14. "Musharraf on Trial: A Preliminary Critique of the Law of High Treason", *Journal Of Political Studies*, Vol. 21, Issue 1, Summer 2014."
15. "On the Disruption of Post-Colonial Constitutional Order: Hans Kelsen or Carl Schmitt?" *ICL Journal, Vienna Journal Of International Constitutional Law*,Vol 3+4/1, 2012.

BOOK CHAPTERS

16. *The Kite Runner*: Children, Violence, and the Ethnic Imaginary in Afghanistan," in Bina D' Costa, *Children, Politics, and Violence in South Asia*, Cambridge University Press, 2016.
17. "The North West Frontier of Pakistan: Preoccupation with Unveiling the Battlefield and Continuing Violent Cartographies," in Samson Opondo and Michael J. Shapiro, *The New Violent Cartography: Geo-Analysis after the Aesthetic Turn,* Routledge, NY, 2012.
18. Sohail Inayatullah, P. Chaudhary, Syed Sami Raza, U. Sheraz, "Covid 19, and the Future of Pakistan: Inclusive Foresight and Innovation," Taipei: Tamkang University Press, 2022.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDING

Syed Sami Raza, "*The Dynamics of Change in the Pakistan-Afghanistan Region: Politics on Borderland*," University of Peshawar, 2016 (ISBN: 978-969-9910-02-9).

Syed Sami Raza, "Borderlands and Frontiers: Navigating Conflict, Flux, and Opportunity," University of Peshawar, 2024.

Guest Editor, *Geopolitics* 2019
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fgeo20/24/2

Associate Editor, *Pakistan Journal of Criminology* (2016-2021)
https://www.pjcriminology.com/category/editorial-team/

REFERENCES

Michael J. Shapiro (UHM)
Nevzat Soguk (UHM)
Sankaran Krishna (UHM)
Vinay Lal (UCLA)
Naeem Inayatullah (Ithaca)
Sohail Inayatullah (UNESCO)
Rohan Kalyan (VCU)
Samson Opondo (Vassar)
Andrea Fleshenberg (Humboldt)
James Caron (SOAS)
Shahida Aman (UOP)
Bina D'Costa (ANU)

PROFESSION AFFILIATIONS

Law and Society
International Studies Association
Western Political Science Association
Mid-West Political Science Association
East-West Center, Hawaii

Syed Sami Raza, "Borderlands and Frontiers: Navigating Conflict, Flux, and Opportunity," University of Peshawar, 2025 (in editing)

PUBLISHED ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP

I mentored the essays published in the following two volumes. They deal with expressions of art and genre and relationship with theory.

19. "In the time of the Pandemic: Essays on Governance, Identity, and Marginalisation," Ed. Saba Gul Khattak, VASL Artists' Association Publisher, 2023.
20. "In the time of the Pandemic: An Anthology of New creative Writers from Pakistan, Ed. Nazish Brohi, VASL Artists' Association Publisher, 2023.

JOURNAL EDITORIALS & INTRODUCTIONS

21. "Introduction: Politics on Border–Critical Reflections on the Pakistan–Afghanistan Borderland," *Geopolitics*, Vol. 24/2, 2019, pp. 277-83.
22. "A Brief Reflection on Policing in South Asia after the George Flyod's incident," *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 12 (1), i-iv.
23. "Community Policing Model for the Newly Merged Tribal Districts?" *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 11 (4), i-iv.
24. Establishing the Department of Criminology at the University of Peshawar, *Pakistan Journal of Criminology, Pakistan Journal of Criminology 9 (2), ii-v, 2017.*
25. The Politics of Police Administration in Sindh, Pakistan, *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 9 (3), ii-v, 2017.
26. "Toward Community Policing: An Institutional Approach", *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 8, Issue 3, July 2016.

DISSERTATIONS SUPERVISED

27. Rehman ullah (2017) "Militias as a Counterinsurgency Strategy in Pakistan (2002-2013)," University of Peshawar.
28. Syed M. Shah Gilani (2018) "Pakistan's Counterinsurgency Policy and the State of Security in Baluchistan," University of Peshawar.
29. Niaz Badshah (2022), "Constitutional and Political Development of Pakistan: A Critical Legal Analysis of the Application of the Doctrine of Necessity. University of Peshawar

30. Seema Gul (2021), Women political participation and the transformation of public sphere of Charsadda, Pakistan.
31. Shakeela Bibi (2023) "Politics of China-Pakistan economic corridor: Future of the Hazara Political Movement"
32. Jawad Ullah (2023) "The State of Provincial Autonomy in Pakistan"

SELECTED MPHIL THESES SUPERVISED

33. Hafeez Ullah (2019), Geo-Politics of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border: A Critical Analysis of Fencing the South Waziristan Border and its Impact on the Wazir Tribe.
34. Asfandyar Shinwari (2020) Geo-Politics of Pak-Afghan Border: Fencing and its Impact On The Political Identity Of Shinwari Tribe.
35. Fasih Uddin (2020) Effectiveness of Knowledge-Based Management in Criminal Investigation: A Case Study Of The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Police.
36. Shehzad Ali (2022) A Critical Discourse Analysis on The Rights, Belonging And (Un) Guaranteed Indigeneity of Kalash
37. Naqeeb Lawon (2022) The War on Terror in Pakistan and its Impact on Pashtun Musicians and Dancers of District Swat.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

-MPSA Conference, Chicago, April 13-16, 2023, "Melancholy and the Re-emergent Pashtun Ethno-Nationalism in the Pakistan-Afghanistan Borderland."
-UCLA CISA Speaker Series, February 28, 2022, Poetic Imaginary of Pashtunistan.
-MPSA Conference, Chicago, April 7-10, 2016, "Aliens and Borders: A Critical Analysis of the Protection of Pakistan Act 2014."
-WPSA Conference, San Diego, March 22-24 2016, "An Alien's Call for Divine Violence/Destituent Power: Where do We Begin to Destitute (Security) Law?"
-ISA Conference, January 8-10, 2015, "An Alien's Call for Divine Violence/Destituent Power: Where do We Begin to Destitute Law?"
-Annual International Conference (June 2014), Political Science Department University of Peshawar, "The Kite Runner: Children, Violence and the Ethnic Imaginary in Afghanistan", Panel: Socio-Economic Transformation
-ISA Conference (Toronto) March 2014, "Aliens and the Making of the Paradigm of Security."
-WPSA Conference (California) March 2013, "The Anti-Terrorism Legal Regime of Pakistan and 'the Global Paradigm of Security': A Genealogical and Comparative Analysis"
-Law and Society Association June, 2012, "High Treason: Criminalization, Decriminalization, and Re-criminalization"

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

-"Wattan in Poetic Imaginary of Pashtun Ethno-nationalism," Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Pakistan, (May 10, 2023)
-"Gramsci is Dead, Long Live Gramsci! - Reflections for New Social Movements, Critical Thinking and Activism" and "Democracy and the Political - Theoretical Thinking in Times of Global Crises and Conflicts" Public Panel Discussions, organized by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Islamabad (Oct 8-9, 2015).
-"Kharotabad Violence: Aesthetics, Politics, and the Call for Divine Violence" Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Pakistan, (Nov. 28, 2014)
-"An Alien's Call for Divine Violence: Where do We Begin to Destitute (Security) Law", The First Polylogue of the Center for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies, East West University, Chicago, May 23-25, 2014.
-"The Kite Runner: Children, Violence, and the Ethnic Imaginary in Afghanistan", Area Study Centre, University Of Peshawar, Pakistan, (November 29, 2013)

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSES

Critical IR

- Bio-Politics in the American War Zone (POLS 815)

- Development of Warfare on the Afghan Frontier: Great Game, Cold War, War on Terrorism, What Next? (POLS 815)

Security Studies

- Writing War: Enmity, Ontology, Exterminism (with Michael J. Shapiro, POLS 703)

- War on Terrorism, Security Laws, and the Development of Global Paradigm of Security (POLS 710)

Critical Legal Studies

- Critical Socio-Legal and Islamic Thought on the State of Exception and Rights in WoT (POLS 806)
- War, Law, and Critique: Reflections on the War on Terrorism (POLS 806)

Geopolitics & Borders

- War, Technology, & the Development of Frontier Warfare (POLS 710)
- Geo-Politics of Pakistan Afghanistan Borderland

Ethnicity, Race & Migration

- Race, Ethnicity & Nationalism: Reflections on Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Beyond

Art, Genre, & Politics

- Art, Genre & Politics: Blasphemy, Islam and Liberalism (POLS 720)