DR. ZOHAIB GILLANI

Assistant Professor of International Relations | Game Theory & Quantitative Conflict Modeling

CONTACT

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Nationality: Pakistani

SIGNATURE STRENGTHS

- Assistant Professor of International Relations, National Defence University, Islamabad
- PhD-trained scholar in formal & quantitative modeling of international conflict
- 6 peer-reviewed publications (2023–2026) in game theory & strategic modeling
- Teaching experience across five universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi
- Specialist in nuclear deterrence, escalation & crisis-behavior modeling
- Strong quantitative toolkit: Python, MATLAB, SPSS, LaTeX

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- Game Theory in International Politics
- Nuclear Deterrence & Escalation Modeling
- Strategic Signaling & Crisis Behavior
- US–Russia Strategic Competition
- Syrian Conflict & Middle East Security
- Quantitative & Formal Modeling in IR

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Game-Theoretic & Mathematical Modeling
- Python (Spyder), MATLAB
- SPSS & Quantitative Data Analysis
- LaTeX, MS Word
- Algorithm Design

LANGUAGES

English — C1, Professional Proficiency

Urdu — Native

REFERENCES

ACADEMIC PROFILE

I am a political scientist working on the formal and quantitative modeling of international conflict, with substantive interests in game theory, nuclear deterrence, great-power competition, and Middle Eastern security. My research combines mathematical modeling and simulation with close comparative case analysis in order to examine how states act strategically under uncertainty, and recent work has addressed US-Russia competition in Syria, the collapse of the Assad regime and the regional order that followed it, and escalation dynamics in South Asia.

I hold a regular, full-time appointment as Assistant Professor of International Relations at the National Defence University, Islamabad. This follows several years of teaching across four universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, where I taught international relations theory, foreign policy analysis, research methodology, and quantitative reasoning, including applied statistical training in SPSS and Python. My current agenda extends game-theoretic and Bayesian modeling to deterrence, maritime chokepoints, and crisis bargaining, and I am developing this work through collaborative and externally funded research.

EDUCATION

PhD, American Studies (International Security & Strategic Modeling) | *Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad* **2017 – 202**

- Dissertation: "Russian Intervention in the Syrian Conflict: Implications for US Foreign Policy."
- Focus: Strategic game-theoretic modeling of US-Russia interaction.

MPhil, International Relations | *National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad* **2012 – 201**

MSc, International Relations | *National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad* **2009 – 201**

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of International Relations | *National Defence University, Islamabad* **2026 – Presen**

- Regular full-time faculty appointment in the Department of International Relations.
- Responsibilities span teaching, curriculum development, and the supervision of student research in international relations theory, strategic studies, and research methodology.
- Courses taught: Quantitative Reasoning, Foreign Policy, Research Methodology

Visiting Faculty | *Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad* **2023 – 202**

- Courses taught: World Politics since 1945; Quantitative Reasoning; Research Methodology.

Available upon request.

Visiting Faculty | *COMSATS University, Islamabad* **2025 – 202(**

- Courses taught: Introduction to International Relations; Approaches and Theories of International Relations; International Relations in the New Millennium.

Visiting Faculty | *Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi* **2024 – 202!**

- Courses taught: Research Methodology; SPSS.

Visiting Faculty | *Islamic International University, Islamabad* **2018 – 201!**

- Courses taught: Theories of International Relations; Foreign Policy Analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Gillani, Zohaib, Ada Mir, and Arhamna Rana. 2026. "Strategic Gendered Power in One Hundred Years of Solitude: A Game Theoretic and New Historicist Reading." Pakistan Journal of American Studies. Vol. 44, No. 1, Spring 2026.
2. Gillani, Zohaib, Zia Bashir, and Saira Aquil. 2024. "A Game-Theoretic Conflict Analysis Model with Linguistic Assessments and Two Levels of Game Play." Information Sciences 677. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ins.2024.120840
3. Gillani, Zohaib, Zahid Mehmood Zahid, and Saira Aquil. 2025. "Deterrence, Technology, and Escalation: A Quantitative Game-Theoretic Study of India-Pakistan Military Conflict 2025." Dialogue Social Science Review (DSSR) 3 (11): 451–467. https://dialoguesreview.com/index.php/2/article/view/1230
4. Gillani, Zohaib, and Ada Nabi Mir. 2025. "Populism, Institutions, and Cultural Resistance: A Comparative Analysis of Trump's America and Bolsonaro's Brazil." Pakistan Journal of American Studies 43 (1). https://pjas.qau.edu.pk/index.php/pjas/article/view/307
5. Gillani, Zohaib, Meimoona Kiani, and Inshal Haider. 2026. "Game-Theoretic Model for the Fall of Assad and the Middle East Regional Order." Journal of Innovative Research in Mathematical and Computational Sciences 5 (1). https://jirmcs.agasr.org/index.php/jirmcs/index
6. Gillani, Zohaib, Saira Aquil, and Huda Rehman. 2023. "Strategic Interaction between Russia and the United States in Syria: A Game-Theoretic Analysis (2014–2022)." Liberal Arts & Social Sciences International Journal 7 (1): 221–238.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Chokepoints and Currency Power: A Bayesian Game-Theoretic Approach to the Strait of Hormuz Crisis," with Saira Aquil and Rubina Waseem prepared for the Journal of Conflict Resolution. Further manuscripts applying game-theoretic and quantitative methods to contemporary conflict and deterrence dynamics are in preparation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1st Faculty Development Program | *National Defence University, Islamabad* **27–28 Au**

2nd Faculty Training and Development Program | *National Defence University, Islamabad* **15–17 September 202(**