MUHAMMAD IRFAN MAHSUD, PhD

Associate Professor (Tenured), Department of Peace and Conflict Studies
Faculty of Contemporary Studies, National Defence University, Sector E-9, Islamabad, Pakistan
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PROFILE

Tenured Associate Professor at the National Defence University, Islamabad, with more than fifteen years of university teaching, research supervision and administration experience. Advisor to the Mahsud Welfare Association (MWA since 2014, guiding its work on education, youth development and community welfare in South Waziristan and engaging with local communities, the civil administration and security institutions on post-conflict recovery and wider social issues. Research focuses on education, militancy, ethnonationalist movements, counter-terrorism, and governance in Pakistan's north-western borderlands, grounded in over a decade of fieldwork in the erstwhile tribal areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Author of 23 journal articles and two book chapters, including work in Web of Science and Scopus-indexed journals. Has supervised two PhD and 36 MPhil thesis and led or contributed to funded research for the French Ministry of Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defence, UNDP, USAID and the HEC. Serves on statutory bodies at NDU and as a subject expert on selection boards at other universities.

SERVICE AT A GLANCE

Position	Institution	Period	Duration
Associate Professor (Tenured)	National Defence University, Islamabad	Jul 2026 – Present	Current
Assistant Professor	National Defence University, Islamabad	15 Jan 2020 – Jun 2026	6 yrs 5 mos
Assistant Professor and Academic Coordinator	CECOS University of IT and Emerging Sciences, Peshawar	Feb 2016 – Dec 2019	3 yrs 11 mos
Lecturer and In-Charge, Quality Enhancement Cell	Luqman Law College, Dera Ismail Khan	Apr 2011 – Jan 2016	4 yrs 10 mos
Visiting Faculty	Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar	2012 – 2019	7 yrs

Total full-time university service: over 15 years (April 2011 – present) including more than six years at NDU.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor (Tenured) — **July 2026 – Present**
Assistant Professor — **15 January 2020 – June 2026**
Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad

- Teach doctoral, MPhil and undergraduate courses in Peace and Conflict Studies Peace Education, Research Methodology, Terrorism Studies and Borderland Dynamics.
- Supervise PhD and MPhil research; two PhD and 36 MPhil theses completed to date.
- Design and revise departmental degree curricula as a member of the Board of Studies.
- Serve on the Doctoral Board, the University Examination and Research Committee and other statutory committees (details below).

Assistant Professor and Academic Coordinator — **February 2016 – December 2019**
Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities, CECOS University of IT and Emerging Sciences, Peshawar

- Taught Social Sciences, Pakistan Studies, Professional Ethics and Philosophy.
- Ran undergraduate academic administration as Academic Coordinator: timetabling, curriculum updates, examinations and supervision of junior faculty.

Lecturer and In-Charge, Quality Enhancement Cell — **April 2011 – January 2016**
Luqman Law College, Dera Ismail Khan

- Taught Constitutional Law, Human Rights and Refugee Law.
- Headed the college's Quality Enhancement Cell and coordinated academic affairs.

Visiting Faculty **2012 – 2019**

Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar

- Taught graduate courses in Political Science, International Relations and Qualitative Research Methods.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

National Defence University, Islamabad (2020 – Present)

- **Member, Doctoral Board,** Department of Peace and Conflict Studies: reviews PhD proposals, monitors progress milestones and evaluates defences.
- **Focal Person and Member, University Examination and Research Committee (UERC):** oversees postgraduate examination rules, supervisor allocation and progress monitoring of MPhil and PhD scholars.
- **Member, Board of Studies,** Department of Peace and Conflict Studies: reviews degree structures, curricula and course outlines.
- **Departmental Focal Person, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC):** supports grant applications and research dissemination.
- **Member, Faculty Selection and Recruitment Board:** shortlisting, evaluation and interviews for academic and administrative posts.
- **Member, Postgraduate Admissions Committee:** assessment of applicants for BS, MPhil and PhD programmes.
- **Member, Departmental Unfair-Means Committee:** investigation of academic misconduct and disciplinary hearings under university statutes.
- **Organizer, departmental symposia and workshops,** including the 4th International Peace Symposium (2022) and the annual research methodology and postgraduate workshops (see Conferences Organized).

External Statutory Roles

- **Subject Expert, University Selection Boards:** University of Peshawar, Gomal University (D.I. Khan) and higher education institutions in Islamabad; evaluation of candidates for faculty and administrative appointments.
- **Member, Board of Studies,** Department of Political Science, Kohsar University, Murree.
- **External Examiner,** PhD and master's dissertations at the University of Peshawar, Quaid-i-Azam University, Bahria University, Gomal University and Qurtuba University.

Earlier Administrative Posts

- **Academic Coordinator,** CECOS University, Peshawar 2016 – 2019
  - Managed undergraduate scheduling, examinations, student evaluation and curriculum updates; supervised junior faculty.
- **Head, Quality Enhancement Cell,** Luqman Law College, D.I. Khan 2011 – 2016
  - Ran internal academic audits, prepared Self-Assessment Reports and implemented HEC quality criteria.

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science **2019**

Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar

Dissertation: *Religious Militancy and Tribal Transformation in Pakistan: A Case Study of the Mahsud Tribe in South Waziristan Agency*

Doctoral Research Fellow (HEC IRSIP) **2016 – 2017**

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING POSITIONS

Paris Young Leadership Program, IRSEM, French Ministry of Armed Forces, Paris **2023**

- Selected international fellow; took part in strategic dialogues on European defence policy, regional security and multilateral governance.

Visiting Research Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA **2016 – 2017**

- Doctoral training and archival research; presented at UCLA conferences. Guest lecture on religious militancy in Pakistan, Department of Religious Studies, University of Southern California (April 2017).

Visiting Research Fellow, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore **2014-2015**

- Residential fellowship; delivered research seminars and conducted archival work.

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

- **Fields:** Peace and Conflict Studies; International Relations; Strategic Studies; Borderlands and Frontiers.
- **Themes:** counter-terrorism and de-radicalization; ethnonationalist mobilization; climate security; peace education.
- **Methods:** qualitative inquiry; grounded theory; elite and community interviewing; fieldwork ethics in insecure settings.

PUBLICATIONS

Author position and indexing are noted under each entry.

A. HEC W-Category Journals (Web of Science and Scopus)

1. "Exploring Ripeness and Readiness Models in the Context of Indo-Pak Conflict: A Systematic Review." *Lex Localis – Journal of Local Self-Government*, 23(3), 172–193 (2025).
   First author of three · HEC W · Web of Science, Scopus
2. "The Emergence of Nonviolent Nationalist Movement among the Tribes of Waziristan in Pakistan." *Cogent Social Sciences*, 10(1), 2333084, Taylor & Francis (2024).
   Sole author · HEC W · Web of Science, Scopus
3. "Colonial Governance System in Pakistan: A Case Study of South Waziristan, Newly Merged District." *Lex Localis – Journal of Local Self-Government*, 21(2), 421–439 (2023).
   First author of three · HEC W · Web of Science, Scopus
4. "Media, State Power and Neo-Nationalist Ethnic Movement: The Case Study of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement, Pakistan." *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, 1–12, Wiley (2026).
   Third author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus

B. HEC X-Category and Indexed Journals

1. "From Environmental Governance to Climate Citizenship: Rethinking State Authority, Climate Vulnerability and Conflict Dynamics in Pakistan." *Oñati Socio-Legal Series*, 16(3), 1394–1419 (2026).
   Second author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
2. "Conflict Escalation/De-escalation Dynamics and Deterrence in South Asia: Evaluating Pakistan's Response to India's Limited War Doctrines." *IPRI Journal*, 26(2) (2026).
   Second author of two (with I. Khan) · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
3. "Youth Mobilization and the Peace Movement: A Comparative Analysis of Resistance Struggles in Czechoslovakia, China and Bangladesh." *Otoritas: Jurnal Ilmu Pemerintahan*, 16(1) (2026).
   First author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
4. "Pakistan: Early Warning by Women for Conflict Prevention in the Erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Merged Districts)." *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, Issue 54, 68–85 (2026).
   Second author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
5. "Decentralisation of Climate Governance in Pakistan: Exploring Polycentric Approach." *Masyarakat, Kebudayaan dan Politik*, 39(2), 226–240 (2026).
   Second author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
6. "A Comparative Analysis of International Approaches and Best Practices in Deradicalization Programs." *FWU Journal of Social Sciences*, 19(4), 12–26 (2025).
   Second author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus
7. "Local People's Perceptions and Expectations from Political, Legal and Administrative Transition in the Erstwhile FATA after Merger into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province." *Mankind Quarterly*, 65(3) (2025).
   Third author of three · Scopus
8. "A Brief History of Pakistan–USSR Bilateral Relations, 1947–1991." *Voprosy Istorii*, 5(1), 171–181 (2021).
   Second author of three · HEC X · Web of Science, Scopus

9. "Iran Nuclear Deal: Its Political and Economic Implications for the Region as a Whole and for Pakistan." *Science Journal of Volgograd State University: History, Area Studies, International Relations*, 24(5), 259–267 (2019).
   Third author of three · Web of Science, Scopus

C. Accepted, Forthcoming 2027

1. "Countering Extremism through Schools in Pakistan: A Case Study from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province." *South African Journal of Higher Education* (forthcoming 2027).
   First author of three · Web of Science, Scopus
2. "The Politics of Exclusion: Mechanisms, Practice and the Durability of Rohingya Statelessness." *International Journal of Islamic Thought (IJIT)* (forthcoming 2027).
   First author of three · Web of Science, Scopus

D. HEC Y-Category Journals

1. "Exploring the Role of Law Enforcement Institutions and Religious Elite in Mitigating Sectarianism in Pakistan: A Case Study of Rawalpindi District (2014–2024)." *Regional Lens*, 5(1), 154–165 (2026).
   Co-author · HEC Y
2. "Climate Change Impacts: Exploring the Rising Climate-Security Nexus in Pakistan." *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal (LASSIJ)*, 8(1), 177–190 (2024).
   Co-author · HEC Y
3. "Disentangling Pakistan's Climate Change Governance Challenges: Trajectories and Underpinnings." *Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom*, 3(10), 36–53 (2024).
   Co-author · HEC Y
4. "Transformation of Leadership Paradigm in Balochistan: A Case Study of Baloch-led Militant Groups in Post-2004 Period." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 14(2), 537–544 (2022).
   Co-author · HEC Y
5. "The Challenge of Madrassa Reforms in Pakistan." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 12(3/4), 122–134 (2020).
   Co-author · HEC Y
6. "Semi-Presidentialism and State-Centricism in Pakistan: A Case Study of Authoritarian Federalism during Pervez Musharraf Regime." *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 4(1), 247–258 (2020).
   Sole author · HEC Y
7. "Pakistan's Anti-Corruption Legal Regime: A Story of Political Rag Tag." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 12(1) (2020).
   Sole author · HEC Y
8. "Pakistan's Geo-Political and Strategic Compulsions." *The Dialogue*, 14(4), 74–83 (2019).
   Sole author · HEC Y
9. "Electronic Crimes, Internet and Violence: Jama'at-e-Islami and the Progressive Civil Society of Pakistan." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 13(3) (2019).
   Sole author · HEC Y
10. "History of Religious Militancy in Pakistan." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 10(4), 98–110 (2018).
    Sole author · HEC Y

E. Book Chapters and Conference Proceedings

1. "Religious Militancy in Pakistan: A Historical Perspective." In *Conflict and Peace in International Politics: Issues, Actors, Approaches*, 19–32. London: IJOPEC Publication, 2020. ISBN 978-1-913809-10-2.
   Sole author · international book chapter
2. "Militant Demobilization and Reintegration in the Pashtun Belt of Pakistan." In *The Dynamics of Change in the Pakistan–Afghanistan Region: Politics, (Dis)integration and Reformation in the Borderland*, 71–77. Peshawar: Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel Foundation, 2020.
   Sole author · conference proceedings

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

- **Lead Consultant:** *Security Dynamics and Violent Movements in Erstwhile FATA*
  Commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, Government of Pakistan, 2022-2023.

- **Principal Investigator:** *Ethno-nationalist Uprising among the Tribes of Waziristan (Phases I and II)*
  NORIA South Asia Program, Paris France (competitive grant), 2018 – 2020. Value: €12,000.
- **Research Associate:** *Socio-Economic-Political Transformations and Governance Reforms in FATA*
  Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, 2016 – 2019. Value: PKR 5.50 million.
- **Fellowship Grantee:** *Doctoral Research Fellowship, UCLA*
  HEC International Research Support Initiative Program (competitive), 2016 – 2017. Value: USD 30,000.
- **Consultant:** *Youth De-Radicalization Model Formulation*
  Commissioned by UNDP, Islamabad, 2016 – 2017.
- **Research Associate:** *Understanding Youth Susceptibility to Radicalization and Violence in Dera Ismail Khan*
  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2015 – 2016. Value: USD 15,000.
- **Research Associate:** *National Thematic Research Project on Security Governance*
  Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, 2015 – 2016. Value: PKR 3.34 million.
- **Research Associate:** *Batkhela Bazaar: Catalyst for Socio-Economic and Political Change in Malakand*
  USAID, Pakistan Strategy Support Program, 2012 – 2013. Value: USD 10,000.

FIELDWORK

Over a decade of qualitative fieldwork in conflict and post-conflict areas of north-western Pakistan, including South and North Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan and major part of KP province. Interviewees have included tribal elders, ulama, youth activists, security personnel, civil administrators and displaced families. Work follows do-no-harm principles, with verbal consent, anonymization of sources and secure data storage.

- **Militancy resurgence and security transition** (2025–2026): interviews across South Waziristan and Khyber on community security and administrative integration.
- **Ethnonationalist movements and civil resistance** (2018–2020, 2022): fieldwork and participant observation on rights movements in Waziristan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- **FCR abolition and governance transition** (2019): interviews with tribal elders, lawyers and officials on the end of the Frontier Crimes Regulation.
- **Tribal transformation and militancy (doctoral research)** (2014–2017): multi-phase study of the Mahsud tribe and militant recruitment in South Waziristan and adjoining districts.
- **Madrassah assessment, D.I. Khan** (2015–2016): survey and interviews across 30 seminaries on sectarianism and youth vulnerability (UNDP).
- **Post-conflict markets in Malakand** (2012–2013): fieldwork in Batkhela Bazaar on local economic resilience (USAID).

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

PhD Dissertations (2)

1. **Qazi Jamil ur Rehman** (2026). *Analysing an Alternate Model for Deradicalisation and Reintegration: A Case Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prisons Department.* Principal Supervisor.
2. **Tariq Mehmood** (2022). *The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Erstwhile FATA: Lessons for Conflict Management against Terrorism in Erstwhile FATA.* Co-Supervisor.

MPhil Theses (36 completed), grouped by theme

Climate security, environmental governance and migration

1. **Shiza Saad** (2024). *Implications of Climate Change on Armed Conflicts in Pakistan.*
2. **Humaira Atiq** (2024). *Decentralization of Climate Governance in Pakistan: An Application of Polycentric Approach.*
3. **Kanwal Munir** (2024). *Climate Change Induced Conflict and Internal Migration in Pakistan: Impacts of Climate Change on Tourism in Pakistan – A Case Study of 2022 Floods in Swat Valley.*
4. **Ayesha Khalil** (2024). *Gendered Experiences of Climate-Induced Migration: A Study of Women's Vulnerability and Agency in Pakistan.*
5. **Mohsin Muneeb Butt** (2024). *Effects of Climate Change and Challenges/Adaptation Aspects for Pakistan.*

6. **Maheen Tariq** (2025). *Integrating Climate Governance in Pakistan: Challenges in Policy Formulation and Implementation.*
7. **Kainaat Binte Faisal** (2026). *Food Security and Climate Change Nexus in Pakistan: Assessing the Impact on Small Farms in Faisalabad and Challenges for Peace and Stability.*

Borderlands, merged districts and ethnonationalism

8. **Muhammad Waseem Shah** (2022). *Conflict in Balochistan: Role of Traditional Leadership and Tribal Youth in the Emergence of Militant Groups (2004–2020).*
9. **Aqsa Munir Khan** (2022). *Role of Media in the National Integration of Pakistan: A Case Study of Newly Merged Tribal Districts.*
10. **Sidra Zubair** (2023). *Socio-Political Transformation and National Integration in Pakistan: A Case Study of Newly Merged Tribal Districts.*
11. **M. Usman Ali Khan** (2024). *FATA Merger into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in Pakistan: Challenges and Consequences.*

Extremism, counter-terrorism and sectarian conflict

12. **Hira Shakeel** (2021). *Reforming the Madrassah System in Pakistan to Counter Religious Extremism: Post 9/11 Period.*
13. **Ghazanfar Ali Tarar** (2021). *Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Approach: Psychological Aspects.*
14. **Risalat Saeed** (2023). *Politico-Religious Extremism: A Case Study of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan.*
15. **Taliya Ejaz** (2025). *Role of Law Enforcement and Religious Elite in Mitigating Sectarianism in Rawalpindi (2014–2024).*
16. **Imran Baig** (2026). *Challenge of Religious Extremism and Its Impact on the National Security of Pakistan.*

Afghanistan, regional security and refugees

17. **Samiullah Khan** (2021). *A Case Study of Contesting Geopolitics in Afghanistan: Implications for Pakistan and Way Forward.*
18. **Hameed Akbar** (2024). *Analysis of the Management of Pakistan Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement.*
19. **Saad Shakeel** (2024). *The Prospect of Repatriation vs Integration of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: Contemporary Legal Framework Analysis (2015–2023).*
20. **Amber Khalid** (2024). *Exploring Educational Barriers: Afghan Refugee Experiences in Pakistan.*
21. **Muhammad Tauqeer Azam** (2025). *Current Afghan Governance Under Taliban Regime, Its Comparison with Pre 9/11 Governance – Impact on Relations with Pakistan.*
22. **Muhammad Afzal** (2026). *Afghanistan's Political Landscape Post 2001: Impact on Pakistan's Foreign Policy.*

Strategic studies, deterrence, media and national security

23. **Waleed Ahmed** (2022). *Mahanian Assessment of Maritime Potential in Pakistan.*
24. **Muhammad Adnan** (2023). *Conflict Resolution Between India and Pakistan through Ripeness and Readiness Model: Challenges and Relevance.*
25. **Rashad Manzoor** (2024). *Emerging Strategic Competition in Indian Ocean: Implications for Pakistan's National Security.*
26. **Maliha Mughal** (2026). *Signal Interpretation and the Nuclear Threshold in the May 2025 India-Pakistan Conflict.*
27. **Nayyab Humayun Kiani** (2026). *Strategic Communication and Public Trust in State Security Institutions Post Pahalgam Incident: The Perspective of University Students in Islamabad.*
28. **Sardar Sheheryar Khan** (2026). *The Role of Electronic Media in Shaping National Security Narrative among University Students in Islamabad: A Case Study of the 2025 Pahalgam Incident.*

Peace education, youth activism and governance

29. **Muhammad Naeem Ahmed Dar** (2021). *Transformative Model for Peace Education in Pakistan: Case Study of Sabaoon-II Deradicalization Center Bara.*
30. **Hafsa Akhtar** (2023). *Assessment of Peace Education in Primary and Secondary Schools in Islamabad (ICT) 2019–2022.*
31. **Shah Faisal** (2023). *The Role of Bacha Khan Foundation in Countering Extremism and Peacebuilding in KPK.*
32. **Omer Riaz** (2023). *Political Activism in Post 2013 Period: A Case Study of Youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.*
33. **Nadeem Yaqoob** (2023). *Democracy and Islam: Comparative Study vis-à-vis Fundamental Concepts.*

34. **Anwar Saeed** (2024). *Skills Verification (Accreditation) and Manpower Export: A Case Study of Pakistan.*
35. **Asad Rasheed** (2026). *Youth Political Participation in General Elections 2018: A Case Study of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.*
36. **Gul Wareen** (2026). *Youth Mobilisation and the Transformation of Political Conflict Under Populist Leadership: A Comparative Analysis of Hungary and Poland.*

INVITED LECTURES AND KEYNOTES

- **Invited Speaker,** National Institute of Intelligence and Security Studies (NIISS), Islamabad: security and governance in Pakistan's western borderlands (30 March 2026).
- **Invited Speaker,** NIISS, Islamabad: intelligence, counter-terrorism and regional security (16 December 2025).
- **Guest Speaker,** "War and Terrorism: Its Consequences in Pakistan," Shifa College of Medicine, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad (11 September 2024).
- **Invited Speaker,** "Challenges to Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century," TILLS, Islamabad (11 March 2022).
- **Keynote Speaker,** "COVID-19 as a Threat to International Peace," Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (9 November 2020).
- **Guest Lecturer,** "Religious Militancy in Pakistan," Department of Religious Studies, University of Southern California, USA (April 2017).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. **Paper Presenter,** *Southwest Asian Horizons: Regional Politics and Diplomacy*, International Studies Summer School, NDU and Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, Islamabad (paper delivered 14 July 2026).
2. **Paper Presenter,** *Pakistan and the Region Beyond: Navigating Conflict, Geopolitical Flux and Economic Opportunities*, International Studies Conference, Baragali Summer Campus, University of Peshawar (8–11 July 2026).
3. **Panelist,** *Borderland, Geopolitics and Economy of KP's Merged Districts*, National Seminar, Peshawar Club, Peshawar Cantt (May 2026).
4. **Paper Presenter,** *"NFC Award: Its Significance for the Federation of Pakistan"*, National Seminar on NFC Share and Challenges Faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, University of Chitral (1 December 2025).
5. **Paper Presenter,** *"Borderlands and Frontiers: Navigating Conflict, Flux, Opportunity"*, International Studies Conference, Baragali Summer Campus, University of Peshawar (27–30 July 2025).
6. **Presenter,** *Summer Course on Advanced Qualitative Research Methods in Conflict Studies*, ISSRA, NDU Islamabad (7–11 July 2025).
7. **Paper Presenter,** *"Importance of Literature Review in Qualitative Research Methodology"*, National Postgraduate Research Workshop, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU Islamabad (18–19 December 2024).
8. **Paper Presenter,** *"Gender and Development in Conflict Societies: A Case Study of Post-Merger Erstwhile FATA"*, 5th NDU International Peace Symposium: Conflict, Security and Development, NDU Islamabad (3–6 December 2024).
9. **Paper Presenter,** *"Leadership Dynamics and Institutional Roles"*, Executive Leadership Symposium, Department of Leadership and Management Sciences, NDU Islamabad (15 May 2024).
10. **Paper Presenter,** *"Climate Change a Threat Multiplier: The Future of Militant Mobilization in Pakistan"*, 5th International Conference on Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Women University Mardan (13–14 December 2023).
11. **Paper Presenter,** *"Refugee Displacement and Terrorism in the Tribal Belt of Pakistan in the 21st Century"*, 4th International Peace Symposium, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU Islamabad (12–16 December 2022).
12. **Discussant and Presenter,** *"Extremism, Militancy and De-weaponization"*, National Roundtable, ISSRA, NDU Islamabad (1 August 2022).
13. **Paper Presenter,** *"Internal Migration, Socio-Political Transformation and Counter Violent Extremism in Pakistan: A Case Study of Newly Merged Tribal District South Waziristan"*, International Conference on

Mapping the Wounded Landscape of Swat Valley, King's College London, SOAS University of London and University of Malakand (4–5 June 2022).

14. **Paper Presenter,** International Conference on Business, Management and Social Sciences (ICBMASS-22), S3H, NUST, Islamabad (9–10 February 2022).
15. **Paper Presenter,** *"The Selection of Qualitative Research Dissertation Title: Importance of Literature Review"*, National Workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences, NDU Islamabad (1–2 December 2021).
16. **Paper Presenter,** *"COVID-19 in Pakistan: An Opportunity for the Militant Groups to Regroup"*, National Conference on Challenges of Governance in Pakistan amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, University of the Punjab, Lahore (7–8 July 2021).
17. **Paper Presenter and Session Chair,** *"COVID-19 and the Emergence of Militant Groups in the Tribal Belt of Pakistan"*, 4th International Conference on COVID-19 Studies, Istanbul, Turkey (17–19 April 2021).
18. **Paper Presenter and Discussant,** *"Post-Conflict Era and Militants' Rehabilitative Measures in the Tribal Belt of Pakistan"*, International Conference on Federalism, State and Society, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (25–26 March 2021).
19. **Invited Presenter,** International Research Conference on Education and Social Development, Ministry of National Education, Istanbul, Turkey (2021).
20. **Paper Presenter,** *"Militant Demobilization and Reintegration in the Pashtun Belt of Pakistan"*, 9th International Conference on the Dynamics of Change in Pakistan-Afghanistan Region, University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel Foundation (15–16 October 2020).
21. **Paper Presenter,** *"Writing a Grant Research Proposal in Social Sciences"*, National Workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences, NDU Islamabad (15 October 2020).
22. **Paper Presenter,** International Congress on Current Debates in Social Sciences (CUDES 2020), Sakarya University, Turkey (29–30 September 2020).
23. **Paper Presenter,** *"Rise of Taliban in South Waziristan Agency: State and the Mahsud Tribe"*, 6th International Conference on Dynamics of Change in Pakistan-Afghanistan Region, Baragali, University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel Foundation (20–22 August 2017).
24. **Paper Presenter,** *"War and Conflict in FATA and the Challenges Faced by Tribal Women"*, same conference (August 2017).
25. **Paper Presenter,** *"Terrorism in the Tribal Belt of Pakistan"*, 2nd Annual International Social Sciences Conference, UCLA, USA (April 2017).
26. **Paper Presenter,** *"Pathans Among Pathans: The Mahsud Tribe"*, UC-Wide Asian Conference, Institute for South Asian Studies, UCLA, USA (February 2017).
27. **Paper Presenter,** *"Religious Militancy and Tribal Transformation in Pakistan"*, International Conference on South Asian Affairs, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore (8–9 October 2015).
28. **Paper Presenter,** *"Rise of Taliban in Waziristan in the Post-9/11 Era"*, International Research Workshop, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore (October 2015).

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

- **Lead Organizer and Presenter,** 5th National Postgraduate Research Workshop (two days), Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU Islamabad (6–7 January 2026).
- **Lead Organizer,** Postgraduate Research Workshop (two days), Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, NDU Islamabad (11–12 December 2024).
- **Chief Organizer,** 4th International Peace Symposium: Refugees, Migration and Humanitarian Crisis under International Law (five days), NDU Islamabad (12–16 December 2022).
- **Lead Organizer,** National Workshop Series on Research Methodology in Social Sciences: Theory and Practice, NDU Islamabad (2020, 2021 and 2023).
- **Co-Organizer,** seven international conferences and four summer schools at Baragali, with the Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel Foundation (2012–2019).
- **Coordinator,** academic seminars on gender equality, human rights and research design, CECOS University, Peshawar (2016–2019).
- **Lead Organizer,** Graduate Students Conference, Department of Political Science, University of Peshawar (12 December 2013).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Resource Person and Participant,** Training Workshop on MS/MPhil and PhD Research Supervision, NDU and University of Peshawar (February and May 2026).
- **Participant,** 15th National Media Workshop, ISSRA, NDU Islamabad (4–8 August 2025).
- **Participant,** Three-Day Training on Leadership in Public Sector, Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad (17–19 October 2023).
- **Participant,** Faculty Development Program, Quality Enhancement Cell and ORIC, NDU Islamabad (17–19 October 2022).
- **Participant,** Faculty Mentoring Workshop Series on Outcome-Based Education, Pakistan Engineering Council and HEC (2018).

EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW

- **Founding Editorial Board Member,** Journal of Review of Human Rights, University of Peshawar.
- **Peer Reviewer,** *Cogent Social Sciences* (Taylor & Francis); *Mankind Quarterly*; *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*; *NUST Journal of International Peace and Stability*; *Global Foreign Policies Review*.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Appears on national television as an analyst on Pakistan–Afghanistan relations, border management, counter-terrorism and security in the merged districts.

- PTV News, *Riasat* (host: Ahmed Quraishi): Afghan peace process and post-US withdrawal security (September–December 2021).
- PTV World, *Perspective* (host: Mahrukh Hameed): Pakistan's stakes in Afghanistan, transit trade and refugee repatriation (September–November 2021).
- PTV World, *Newsroom* (host: Omar Khalid Butt): border fencing and borderland livelihoods (January 2022).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Member and Advisor, Mahsud Welfare Association (MWA) **2014 – Present**

- Advises on post-conflict recovery, rehabilitation and education in South Waziristan and the merged districts, including the Waziristan Education City initiative.
- Acts as a channel of communication between tribal communities, the civil administration and security institutions.
- Sits on scholarship selection panels supporting conflict-affected and displaced youth.

LANGUAGES

Pashto (native); English and Urdu (fluent); Saraiki and Punjabi (working knowledge).

REFERENCES

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