

Dr Syed Aleem Gillani OG-III/BPS-19

Strategic Studies | Defence and Security | International Relations



CONTACT

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NDU Islamabad, Pakistan

ACADEMIC STANDING

- HEC Approved PhD Supervisor
- PhD and MPhil, National Defence University
- Twenty peer-reviewed articles in HEC-recognised journals
- Advisory Board Member, POLARIS, National Institute of Maritime Affairs
- Author, *Introduction to International Law* (AIU curriculum book)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Strategic Studies
- Nuclear Deterrence and Strategic Stability
- Conflict Resolution
- Maritime Security and the Blue Economy
- International Law and Non-Traditional Security
- Foreign Policy Analysis and Geopolitics
- Human Rights
- Societal Resilience
- Legal Reforms

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Strategic Studies scholar with a PhD and MPhil from the National Defence University and defence research service at Rear Headquarters Army Strategic Forces Command, and the Air Liaison Branch of the Pakistan Air Force, followed by faculty appointments at the Pakistan Navy War College and its Maritime Centre of Excellence. Doctoral research analysed the Indo-Pak wars through the three images of war. Now an Assistant Professor and HEC-approved PhD supervisor, with twenty peer-reviewed articles and doctoral and postgraduate supervision spanning deterrence, maritime security, international law and foreign policy.

EDUCATION

PhD, International Relations — National Defence University, Islamabad, 2021
Dissertation: *Anatomy of Indo-Pak Wars Through Prism of Three Images of War*. Completed on scholarship, CGPA 4.0/4.0.

MPhil, International Relations — National Defence University, Islamabad, 2014
Thesis: *Conflict Management and Resolution: A Case Study of Kashmir*. CGPA 3.89/4.0.

MSc, Peace and Conflict Studies — National Defence University, Islamabad, 2011

BA, English, Islamic and Pakistan Studies, History of Pakistan — University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 2009

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Defence and Strategic Research Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Strategic Studies SS; National Defence University, Islamabad

National Defence University, Islamabad — Strategic Studies | 14 Sep 2026 – To the Present

Assistant Professor, International Relations; formerly Cluster Head, IR Faculty

Bahria University, Islamabad — Humanities and Social Sciences | Sep 2023 – Aug 2026

Director of Internship & Recruitment, Cyber World Insight (Remote Job)

Cyber World Insight is a publication of the Center for Cyber Research and Artificial Intelligence (CCRAI), | Jan 2026 – Today, 2026–present — Overseeing candidate selection, academic contributors, and peer-reviewed journal submissions for cyber policy and strategic studies publications.

Assistant Professor; Deputy Director, International Linkages; Assistant Director, CRIMA

Minhaj University, Lahore | Nov 2022 – Sep 2023

Directing Staff (Faculty), Assistant Professor and Admin Officer

Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore — Maritime Centre of Excellence | 2019 – 2022

Instruction and research in a professional military education setting focused on maritime affairs.

Research Officer and GSO-2 (Research), Air Liaison Branch of the Pakistan Air Force HQ ASFC

Pakistan Army, Jarrar Garrison, Rawalpindi | 2016 – 2019

Research Officer and GSO-2, History Cell

Rear Headquarters Army Strategic Forces Command, Rawalpindi | 2013 – 2016
Inducted through the Central Selection Board headed by a three-star Lieutenant General, with the approval of the Joint Chief of Army Staff and the Director General, Strategic Plans Division.

University Appointments

Lecturer, Visiting Faculty, Faculty of Contemporary Studies

National Defence University, Islamabad | 2014 – 2017

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5th Summer Workshop for Trainers on Strategic Matters, Centre for International Strategic Studies, Islamabad (2024).

NDU seminar courses in international law and organisations, disaster management, Central Asian politics, and religion in peace and conflict.

Senate Standing Committee on Defence hearing on civil–military relations; Islamabad Trilateral Dialogue on China, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

LANGUAGES

English, Urdu, Hindko, Punjabi

REFERENCES

Available on request.

RESEARCH AND THESIS SUPERVISION

HEC Approved PhD Supervisor. Supervision spans nuclear deterrence and strategic stability, maritime security and the Blue Economy, conflict resolution, foreign policy, international law, cyber sovereignty, societal resilience and legal reform.

- 11 MS theses and 02 BS theses supervised.
- Prior to NDU, 06 MS theses and 04 PhD scholars supervised at Bahria University Islamabad.
- **03 MS scholars awarded Gold Medals; 01 MS scholar awarded a Cum Laude Appreciation Certificate.**

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Twenty peer-reviewed articles in HEC-recognised journals: 01 in W category, 11 in X category and 08 in Y category, together with four op-eds and special reports in national outlets.

- A Tri-Perspective Analysis of the 1971 Indo-Pak War: Individual, State and Systemic Dimensions. 2024 (W).
- Determinants of Indo-Pak Wars: Analysing Through Prism of Waltz Three Images of War, 2023 (X).
- Indo-Pak Rivalry: A Paradox of Deterrence Strategies. *Abasyn Journal of Social Sciences*, 2017 (X at the time of publication).
- Maritime Security & Counter-Piracy: Way Forward for Pakistan Under International Law. *Journal of Regional Studies Review (JRSR)*, 2025 (Y).

BOOKS AND EDITORIAL ROLES

- *Introduction to International Law*, authored and published by Allama Iqbal Open University; adopted as a course curriculum book.
- Advisory Board Member, *POLARIS* Journal of Maritime Research, National Institute of Maritime Affairs, 2025 to present; reviewer, *Journal of Nautical Eye*, 2022–2023.
- Reviewer, *Journal of Pakistan-China Studies (JPCS)*, China Study Center, University of Peshawar (Reviewed: "Great Power Rivalry in Indo-Pacific: Impact on CPEC and Functional Operations of Gwadar").

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- PTV World, June 2024 — panel with former Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi on India's anti-Muslim policies and international criticism.
- ABN News, *Decipher*, April 2024 — appearances with Ambassador Abdul Basit on the Indian elections and on emerging China–US relations.
- PTV World, March 2024 — the Afghanistan–TTP nexus and Indian involvement in global terrorism.
- Director

HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Briefed the President of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr on the research projects of the National Defence University.
- Briefed the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the Prime Minister's House on the research projects of the National Defence University.
- Commended by the President of the National Defence University for organising the live talk show *Pakistan and New Way Forward* on the NDU Channel.
- Doctoral scholarship holder; CGPA 4.0/4.0 in the PhD and 3.89/4.0 in the MPhil, National Defence University.