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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow (2025- Present)
Lund University's Raoul Wallenberg Institute

Research Affiliate (2024 – 2025)
Princeton University's Afghanistan Policy Lab

Research Associate (2021- 2025)
University of Pittsburgh's Center for Governance and Markets (CGM)

Assistant Professor of Political Science (Aug 2019–Jan 2022)
Coordinator of the Department of Political Science (2020)
American University of Afghanistan (AUAF)

Visiting Professor of Political Science (Jan 2018–Aug 2019)
University of Afghanistan

Researcher (Dec 2017–June 2019)
Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)

Researcher (July 2010–July 2011)
National Center for Policy Research (NCPR), Kabul University

EDUCATION

PhD and MA, International Relations (2018)
Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi

BA, Political Science (2009)
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Kabul University, Kabul

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Founding editor/President (2022 – Present)
Negotiating Ideas Society: A Podcast and Magazine about Liberty, Democracy, and Pluralism.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Negotiating Cultural Diversity in Afghanistan, London: Routledge, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-1138371057. DOI: [10.4324/9781003000457](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003000457).

- In Farsi, *Dawlate Modern Wa Hiras Az Kasratgari Dar Afghanistan*, Kabul: Amiri, 2022.

Peer-reviewed Papers and Book Chapters

1. 'Failed Democracy in Afghanistan: Lack of Deliberation and Pluralism,' in A. Larson, D. Mukhopadhyay & O. Sharifi (eds), *Power and Authority in Afghanistan: Rethinking Politics, Intervention & Rule*, New York: IB Tauris (Bloomsbury), 2025. ISBN: [9780755647507](https://doi.org/10.3366/afg.2024.0147).
2. 'How Peace Negotiations Fail: A Case of Afghanistan with the Taliban,' *Afghanistan (Journal of American Institute of Afghanistan Studies)*, 7 Supplement (2024): 114-136. DOI: [10.3366/afg.2024.0147](https://doi.org/10.3366/afg.2024.0147)
3. 'A Case for Democratic Pluralism Instead of Democratic Minimalism,' *Frontiers in Political Science*, 6 (August 7, 2024): 1442766. DOI: [10.3389/fpos.2024.1442766](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2024.1442766)
4. O Sadr & A Umarov. [The Need for Regionalism in Central Asia](#), *Bakhu Dialogue*, 2022, Vol 6. No 1: 74-86.
5. '[The Republic and Its Enemies](#): The Status of the Republic in Afghanistan,' *Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS)*, 2021, ISBN: [978-9936-655-08-9](https://doi.org/10.3366/afg.2024.0147).
- In Farsi, AISS, 2021.
6. '[Political Settlement of Afghanistan Conflict](#): Divergent Models,' *AISS*, 2019.
- In Farsi, AISS, 2019.
7. '[The Fallacy of Peace Process in Afghanistan](#): The People's Perspectives,' *AISS*, 2018.
- In Farsi, AISS, 2018.
8. 'Mahmud Tarzi: Intellectual and Reformist,' in Dev N Pathak and Sanjeev Kumar H.M. (eds.), *Modern South Asian Thinkers*, Delhi: Sage, 2018. ISBN: 9352806778.
9. 'Afghanistan: The Vulnerabilities of Minorities,' in Sajjad Hassan (ed.) *South Asia State of Minorities Report- 2016: Mapping the Terrain*, Delhi: Books for Change, 2016. ISBN: [978-81-926907-3-5](https://doi.org/10.3366/afg.2024.0147)
10. 'Rethinking Stability for Afghanistan: Socializing Great Powers in a Multilateral Order,' in Rajen Harshe and Dhananjay Tripathi (eds.), *Afghanistan Post-2014: Power Configurations and Evaluating Trajectories*, London: Routledge, 2015. DOI: [10.4324/9781315665474](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315665474). ISBN: [9781315665474](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315665474).

Essays

1. "[The Need for a New Lexicon to Describe the Oppression of the Taliban System](#)." University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute, Peace Policy: Solutions to Violent Conflict, No. 60, November 2025
2. '[The Madrasa-State: Authority and Legitimacy in the Taliban Regime](#)', Observer Research Foundation (ORF), August 19, 2025.
3. 'Gender Apartheid and Cultural Relativism under the Taliban and Iranian Regimes', [Jadaliyya](#), September 11, 2023.
4. '[Why Was Political Settlement Not Achieved in Afghanistan: A Bargaining Challenge Approach](#)', *American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)*, March 21, 2023.

5. '[Scholars in Context: Omar Sadr](#)', Jadaliyya, November 15, 2022.
6. '[Central Asia Should Move Towards Regionalism to Avoid Great Power Competition](#)', *The National Interest*, May 22, 2022.
7. '[Is Nonviolent Resistance Against the Taliban Possible?](#)', *The National Interest*, April 11, 2022.
8. '[Afghanistan's Public Intellectuals Fail to Denounce the Taliban](#)', *Fair Observer*, March 23, 2022.
9. '[Afghan Human Rights Protests are Political Resistance Against the Taliban](#)', *The National Interest*, January 6, 2022.
10. '[The Republican System Is Our Only Clear Pathway to Long-Term Peace in Afghanistan](#)', *Atlantic Council (AC)*, February 18, 2021.
11. '[Afghanistan: Prospects of a Political Settlement with the Taliban](#)', *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*, March 15, 2019.
12. '[The Peace Process in Afghanistan is a Failure](#)', *Global Security Review*, December 21, 2018.
13. '[Why Making Taliban a New Normal is Dangerous](#)', *Valdai Club Discussion*, June 18, 2018.
14. '[Mapping Terrorism in Afghanistan](#)', *AISS*, March 13, 2018.
15. '[Understanding War in Afghanistan: Politics, Culture and Social History](#)', *Fair Observer*, October 14, 2014.
16. '[The Politics of Literary Censorship in Afghanistan](#)', *Fair Observer*, July 1, 2014.

Book Review

Johnson, Thomas H (2018), [Taliban Narratives: The Use and Power of Stories in the Afghanistan Conflict](#), London: Hurst, in *The Strategic Bridge Journal*, May 7, 2018.

Works in Progress

1. *Liberalism, Democracy and Polycentrism in Afghanistan*, Omar Sadr and Jennifer Murtazashvili (eds.), Lexington Books, under contract.
2. 'Polycentrism, Pluralism and Islam in Afghanistan' in Omar Sadr and Jennifer Murtazashvili (eds), *Liberalism, Democracy and Polycentrism in Afghanistan*, New York: Lexington Books, under contract.
3. *Civil Resistance Against Religious Authoritarianism: Agency, Adaptation, and Defiance Under Taliban Rule*, Omar Sadr and Munazza Ebtikar (eds.), forthcoming.
4. Cultural Relativism and the Fallacy of the Taliban Totalitarian Regime's Gender Apartheid, *Stanford Journal of International Law*, 2026, Forthcoming.
5. 'How Liberalism Failed in Afghanistan,' Working Paper.
6. 'Human Rights and Sharia Controversy in Afghanistan,' Working Paper.
7. 'The Clergy Nonviolent Action and Everyday Resistance under the Taliban Regime,' Working Paper.
8. 'The Politics of Poor's Resistance Against the Taliban Totalitarian Regime,' Working Paper.
9. 'Everyday Resistance for Academic Freedom in Against the Taliban,' Working Paper.
10. 'Ulama Totalitarianism: Power, Authority & Legitimacy under the Taliban Regime,' Working Paper.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

1. Acton Institute's Collins Center Fellowship for Acton University, 2025.
2. Princeton University's Afghanistan Policy Lab Fellowship, 2024-2025
3. Institute of International Education (IIE)'s Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) Fellowship, 2021-2024.
4. Best Book in Social Science Award, Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), 2022.
5. CAMCA Fellowship, The Central Asian-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), March–May 2022.
6. The New University in Exile Consortium, The New School, New York, Seminar Lead and Co-lecturer, Fall 2022 (\$5,000).
7. Silver Jubilee Scholarship, Master's and PhD in IR, Government of India, 2011– 2017.
8. Manfred Wörner Paper Award, National Center for Policy Research (NCPR), Kabul University, 2010.

GRANTS

1. Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and International Law Research Fund, Lund University, \$5000
2. John F. Richards Fellowship Research Grant, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS), 2024-2025 (\$4,000).
3. University of Central Asia's Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI) Grant, Canada's International Development Research Centre, and the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada, 2023. (\$25,000) (withdrew proposal because of the sanctions on Afghanistan).
4. MESA Global Academy Research and Travel Grant, Middle East Studies Association (MESA), 2022-25. (\$11,000).

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND COLLOQUIUMS

1. Acton Institute, Acton University, 2025
2. Stanford University's Program on Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Symposium on Confronting Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan. 2025. Presentation. "Cultural Relativism and the Fallacy of the Taliban's Gender Apartheid"
3. MPSA, 2025. Presentation. "Nonviolent Action & Everyday Resistance under the Taliban Regime."
4. APSA, 2024. Presentation. "Polycentrism, Pluralism, and Islam: A Critique of Islamic Minarchist Polycentric."
5. Workshop on Ostrom Workshop (WOW7), 2024. Presentation: "Polycentrism, Pluralism & Islam"
6. MPSA, 2024. Presentation: "Failed Democracy in Afghanistan: Lack of Deliberation & Pluralism."
7. University of Pittsburgh's Center for Governance and Markets (CGM), Governing Deep Differences Workshop, February 2024.
8. ASMEA (Association for the Study of Middle East and Africa), 2023. Presentation: "Pluralism and Crisis of Democracy in Afghanistan."
9. CESS (Central Eurasian Studies Society), 2023. Presentation: "Pluralism and Crisis of Democracy in Afghanistan."
10. CESS, 2023. Author Critic Forum: "Negotiating Cultural Diversity in Afghanistan."
11. Cornell University, Learning from the Past to Build the Future of Afghanistan Conference, September 9, 2023. Presentation: "Pluralism and Crisis of Democracy."

12. MPSA, 2023. Presentation: "How Liberalism Failed in Afghanistan."
13. [Ohio State University](#) Mershon Center, March 2023. Book talk: "Negotiating Cultural Diversity."
14. George Washington University's POMEPS Virtual Research Workshop 2023 Series. Presentation: "How Liberalism Failed in Afghanistan."
15. [Penn State University](#)'s Center for Global Studies' Afghanistan in Global Perspective Conference, March 15-18, 2023. Presentation: "Political Order, Religion and Pluralism in Afghanistan."
16. [SOAS](#) University of London's Afghanistan at Stasis Conference, 2022. Presentation: "How Liberalism Failed in Afghanistan."
17. MESA, 2022. Presentation: "How Liberalism Failed in Afghanistan."
18. IHS (Institute for Humane Studies), Online workshop 17-18 November 2022. Presentation: "Liberalism in Afghanistan."
19. George Washington University's Institute for Middle East Studies' monthly interdisciplinary workshop series, September 2022. Presentation: "How Political Settlement Failed in Afghanistan."
20. IHS, February 2022. Presentation: "[Afghanistan's Lessons for Liberalism](#)."
21. IHS, Colloquium on Coexistence in Pluralist Societies, October 2020. Book talk: "Negotiating Cultural Diversity in Afghanistan."
22. Swisspeace, Workshop on Decolonizing Afghan Peace and Summer School on "Afghanistan: A Chessboard of War and Peace", June 2019. Presentation: "Political Settlement of Afghanistan Conflict."

THINK TANKS & POLICY PANELS

1. AISS Webinar, December 2024. Talk: "[Syria Political Transition](#)."
2. US Institute of Peace (USIP) & American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS) colloquium, April 2024. Talk: "How civic activism and civil resistance could lead to a political process in Afghanistan."
3. Afghanistan War Commission (AWC), Washington DC, April 2024, Talk: "State Legitimacy & US Intervention in Afghanistan"
4. USIP & University of Pittsburgh, Negotiating Pluralism and Difference in the Way Ahead colloquium, April 2023. Presentation: "The Fall of Public Sphere in Afghanistan."
5. AISS Webinar, March 2023. Talk: "[Taliban's Gender Apartheid: Moving Beyond Condemnation](#)."
6. Wisdom of Crowds Podcast, December 2022. Episode: "[The Fall of the Republic in Afghanistan](#)."
7. USIP & American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS) colloquium, July 2022. Talk: "How Political Settlement Failed in Afghanistan."
8. CAMCA (Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Caucasus) Annual Regional Forum, DC, June 14-15, 2022. Talk: "[Is Nonviolent Resistance Against the Taliban Possible?](#)"
9. Middle East Institute, Washington DC, May 2022. Talk: "[Global Challenges in Greater Central Asia](#)."
10. USIP Webinar, May 2021. Talk: "[In Search of Peace for AFG: Historical Perspectives](#)."
11. Ankara Centre for Crisis and Policy Research (ANKASAM), online Conference on the Rise of Asian Geopolitics and Terrorism at the Threshold, May 2021. Talk: "[The Prospect of Peace Process in Afghanistan](#)."
12. Hashte Subh Newspaper's 15th Anniversary, May 2021. Talk: "[Ghulam M. Ghubar: The Historian and Intellectual](#)."
13. Insan Magazine, Kabul, February 2021. Talk: "Professor Sayed Bahauddin Majrooh Philosophy."
14. Brookings Webinar, January 2021. Talk: "[Future of Afghanistan](#): Voices from Afghanistan."

15. Insan Magazine, Kabul, January 2021. Talk: “Current Trends in the Study of Afghanistan’s Historical Past.”
16. UNAMA, Beshkik, July 2019. Track II Event on Regional Cooperation Around Afghanistan in Support of the ongoing Peace and Reconciliation Effort.
17. Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization and Pak Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), Islamabad, Pakistan, February 2019. “Proxy War in South Asia.”
18. Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS), HCoC Regional Seminar, Colombo, Sri Lanka, January 2019.
19. Institute for Defense and Strategic Analyses (IDSA), 11th South Asia Conference, New Delhi, India, December 2018. Talk: “Trends of Radicalization Amongst the Taliban.”
20. China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), 4th Trans-Himalaya Development Forum, Dehong, China, September 2018. Talk: “Afghanistan’s International Connectivity and its Prospects.”
21. OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, July 2018. a Brainstorming Seminar on Central Asia-Afghanistan Relations. Talk: “Afghanistan-Central Asia Relations.”
22. New York University’s Center on International Cooperation (CIC) & Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF), Oslo, Norway, March 2018. Workshop on Afghanistan Peace Processes Since 1978: Lessons Learned. Talk: “Afghanistan Peace Process with Taliban.”
23. Women Regional Network, New Delhi, India, January 2017. Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Displacement in India Resulting from Conflict and Development. Talk: “[Internally Displaced Women of Afghanistan.](#)”
24. Minorities Rights Group International (MRG), Nepal, November 2016. Release of the South Asia State of Minorities Report 2016. Talk: “[Minorities in Afghanistan.](#)”
25. People’s SAARC, India International Centre (IIC), August 2015. Talk: “[Challenges of Democratic Statebuilding in Afghanistan.](#)”
26. South Asian University, New Delhi, India, March 2014. Himal South Asia Panel Discussion and Book Launch of Reclaiming Afghanistan.

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP OF CIVIC SOCIETIES

Strategic Team Member, The Afghanistan Dialogue and Visioning Process (DVP), (2025- Ongoing)

Board member, Masoud Cambridge Conference, UK, (2023 – Ongoing)

Board member, Afghanistan Law & Political Science Association (ALPA) in Exile (2023- Ongoing)

Member, CAMCA Network, a collection of professionals from the 10 countries of Central Asia, Mongolia, and the Caucasus (2022- Ongoing)

Board member, Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), Ohio, US (2023- 2025)

Member, The New University in Exile Consortium, The New School, New York (2022- 2025)

Board member, Afghanistan Center for Peace & Democracy, Belgium (2023- 2024)

Member, South Asia Collective, a network of seven South Asian human rights and civil society organizations (2016- 2019)

Member, Universal Peace Federation & Young Ambassador for Peace, Universal Peace Federation & Youth Federation for World Peace (2010– 2013)

COURSES TAUGHT

No	Course Code	Course Title	Level	Methods	Hours
1	POL 110	Introduction to Political Science	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
2	POL 207	Democratic Development	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
3	POL 250	Political Theory	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
4	POL 330	History of Political Reform	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
5	POL 335	Statebuilding & Political Development	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
6	POL 420	Democratization	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
7	POL 440	Culture & Identity Politics	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
8	PAD 110	Introduction to Public Administration	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
9	PAD 210	Public Policy Making	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
10	PAD 310	Governance in Post-Conflict Societies	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
11	PAD 410	Subnational Governance	Undergraduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
12	POL 340	Non-Western Theories of IR	Graduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
13	POL 350	Culture and World Politics	Graduate	Lecture	3 hrs/week
14	-	Crisis of Democracy	Online	Seminar	3 hrs/week

SELECTED GUEST LECTURES

1. “Power, Authority and Legitimacy in the US” at Rashmi Dangol’s class, Societies, University of Pittsburgh, February 16, 2026
2. “State Capacity” at Dr. Iza Ding’s class, Comparative Politics, University of Pittsburgh, March 15, 2023.
3. “Nonwestern Notions of Order” at Dr. Ecaterina Locoman’s class, *International Order-Making*, the Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, February 28, 2023.
4. “The Taliban: Where is the Region Headed?” at Dr. Mumin-Chen’s class, *Regional Security in South and Southeast Asia*, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, October 26, 2022
5. “Statebuilding” at Dr Jennifer Murtazashvili’s class, Geopolitics and Governance in Eurasia, October 5, 2022
6. “Asia in the Twenty-First Century”, Introduction to Global Studies, Governor’s School for Global and International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, July 7, 2022

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Pluralism • Governance and Politics in Diverse Societies • Human Rights, Islam and Politics • Middle Eastern Politics • Islamism and Post-Islamism • Contentious Politics in Authoritarian Regime

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent: English, Farsi (Dari, Iranian and Tajiki dialects), Pashtu and Urdu
Proficient: Hindi

OTHER INTERESTS

- Persian calligraphy
- Public and media commentary and engagement