

- Research** China-Pakistan Relations, One Belt One Road, Deobandi Madrassahs/Islam, Non-State Actors, Counter-Extremism.
- Experience** Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, National Defense University, Islamabad, January 2026 — till present.
- Assistant Professor, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University, Shanghai, April 2023 — December 2025.
- Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Pakistan, August 2019 — March 2023.
- Research Associate, Centre for Research and Security Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan, October 2016 — July 2017.
- Teaching Assistant, Govt. Degree College No. 2, D. I. Khan, Pakistan, September 2013 — April 2014.
- Education** Ph.D. in International Relations, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Jilin University, Changchun, China, 2018.
- M.Phil in International Relations, School of Politics & International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, 2014.
- Masters of Science in International Relations, School of Politics & International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, 2011.
- Bachelor of Arts (Political Science & Law), Gomal University, D. I. Khan, Pakistan 2008.
- Publications** Abdur Rehman Shah, Afsah Qazi & Syed Mujeeb, Habitus and Ideological Metamorphosis: Unpacking the Paradox of Pakistan's Deobandi Madrassahs' Response to Taliban 2.0, *Third World Quarterly* (W category). Vol. 47, Issue 46, pp. 1222-1244.
- Abdur Rehman Shah & Afsah Qazi, Political Survival through Religious Instrumentalism: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman's Resistance to Madrassah Reforms in Pakistan, *Politics and Religion* (W category), Vol. 16, Issue 1, pp. 45-72, March 2023.

The Geopolitics of Pakistan's 2018 Greylisting by the Financial Action Task Force — *International Journal* (W category), Vol. 76, Issue 2, pp. 280-297, May 2021.

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China's 'Belt and Road Initiative': The Way To Modern Silk Road and the Perils of Over-Dependence — *Asian Survey* (W category), Vol. 59, Issue 3, pp. 407-428, May/June 2019.

How Does China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Show the Limitations of China's 'One Belt One Road' Model — *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies* (W category), Vol. 5, Issue 2, pp. 378-385, May 2018.

Revisiting China Threat: The U.S.' Securitization of the 'Belt and Road Initiative'— *Chinese Political Science Review* (X category), Vol. 8, Issue 1, pp. 84-104, April 8, 2021.

The Rise of Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM): Polemics and Conspiracy Theories — *Asian Affairs* (X category), Vol. 51, Issue 2, pp. 265-285, May 1, 2020.

Understanding the Overarching Trends in Pakistan-China Relations — *The Korea Journal of Chinese Affairs*, April 2018.

China's New Afghan Diplomacy: Awakening from Inertia or Exception to Old Habits — *Fletcher Security Review*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Summer 2017.

Policy Analyses

The Coming of Pakistan-China *Entente Cordiale 2.0*, *The Diplomat*, September 18, 2018.

China Watch (Weekly Report), *Centre for Research and Security Studies*, Islamabad, October 2016 — July 2017.

How CPEC Security Will Test the 'All-Weather Friendship' of China and Pakistan — *The Diplomat* — June 24, 2017.

China's New Venture in Pakistan Can Be a Game Changer or an Opinion Changer — *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* — February 2017.

China's Trouble with Pakistan's Turbulent Democracy — *The Diplomat* — January 7, 2017

Thinking China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond Pakistan — *South Asia Journal*
— December 2, 2016.

Is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a 21st Century East India Company? — *The Diplomat* — November 11, 2016.

Book Reviews

Peter Frankopan, *The New Silk Roads: the Present and Future of the World*, *Global Change, Peace & Security*, Vol. 32(3), 2020, pp. 347-348.

Robert D. Kaplan, *The Return of Marco Polo's World: War Strategy, and American Interests in the Twenty-first Century*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 32 (4), 2019, pp. 565-567.

Francis Fukuyama, *Identity: The Demand for Dignity and Politics of Resentment*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, Vol. 25 (3), 2019, pp. 340-341.

Anand Giridharadas, *Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World*, *International Affairs*, Vol. 95(5), 2019, pp. 1178-1179.

Journals Reviewer

Contemporary South Asia, Politics, Religion & Ideology, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Asian Journal of Political Science, South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, Geopolitics, International Development Planning Review, Political Studies Review, Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Energy Strategy Reviews, Global Media and China, Journal of Public Affairs.

Teaching

Research Methodology; Contemporary Issues in International Politics; Theories of IR; Politics of Asia Pacific; BRI, CPEC and Regional Development; Extremism, Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism; International Political Economy.

Languages

English (Fluent), Urdu (Fluent), Pashto (Fluent), Persian (Basic), Mandarin (Basic).

Media Talks

Zia ur-Rehman. "A Long Fight to Keep A Closer Eye on Madrassas Unravels in Pakistan." *The New York Times*. 3 January 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/03/world/asia/pakistan-madrasas.html>

Zia ur-Rehman et al. "Army Public School Massacre: A 10-Year Report." *Dawn*. 16 December 2024. <https://www.dawn.com/army-public-school-10-years/>

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