Muhammad Omar Afzaal

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EDUCATION

Brown University   Providence, RI

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science   2018 – 2025 (expected)
Dissertation: "Dangerous Borders: Civil-Military Decision-Making Structures and Unintended Escalation"
Committee: Peter Andreas (co-chair), Ashutosh Varshney (co-chair), Jordan Branch, Reid Pauly
Sub-Fields: International Relations; Comparative Politics (with distinction)

Brown University   Providence, RI

Master's of Arts, Political Science   2018 - 2020

Brown University   Providence, RI

Master's in Public Affairs   2015 - 2016

Harvard University   Cambridge, MA

Graduate Exchange Scholar (Brown - Harvard Program)   Fall 2015

Grinnell College   Grinnell, IA

Bachelor of Arts in Economics   2011 - 2014

UNDER REVIEW FOR PUBLICATION

"Pakistan's Strategic Imagination of Civil-Military Relations"   Forthcoming
Book Chapter in Clary, C. & Lalwani, S. (Eds.), "The Strategic Culture of Pakistan." Edited Volume for Stimson Center.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

"China-India-Pakistan: Threat Perceptions & Collision vs Collusion"   Fall 2020
Pakistan Politico

"Unilateral and Collective Counter Terrorism on the Durand Line"   February 2017
Center for Strategic and Contemporary Research, Pakistan

Pakistan's War on Terror: An Outlook on Civil-Military Counter Terrorism   November 2016
Stratagem Journal, Pakistan

ACADEMIC AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Joukowsky Summer Research Award, Brown University	2024
Chair's Award for Academic Development, Dept. of Political Science, Brown University	2024
Travel Grant, Dept. of Political Science, Brown University	2024
Chair's Award for Academic Development, Dept. of Political Science, Brown University	2023
United States Institute of Peace – Minerva Peace & Security Scholar Fellowship	2022 - 2023
Graduate Research Fellowship, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia	2022
Winter Research Award, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia	2021
P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dept. of Political Science, Brown University	2020
Graduate Scholarship, Master's in Public Affairs, Brown University	2015 - 2016

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Bridging the Gap – New Era Workshop	(Expected) Fall 2024
New England Political Science Association (NEPSA)	Spring 2024
International Studies Association (ISA)	Spring 2024
South Asia Workshop (Online) - University of Denver	Spring 2024
American Political Science Association (APSA)	Fall 2023
University of California IGCC Public Policy & Nuclear Threats Bootcamp	Summer 2023
Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University	Fall 2022
International Social Science Conference, University of Lahore	Summer 2022
Covid-19 in South Asia Workshop, Brown University	Fall 2021
International Studies Association (ISA) - Midwest	Fall 2020
International Conference on Threats to Security in the 21st Century, University of Lahore	Spring 2018

TEACHIING EXPERIENCE

Politics of the Illicit Global Economy   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for Peter Andreas   Spring 2022; Fall 2024 (Expected)

Crime, Politics and Punishment   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for David Skarbek   Fall 2021

Chinese Foreign Policy   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for Tyler Jost   Spring 2021

Politics of Climate Change   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for Jeff Colgan   Fall 2020

Awarded the P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching

Education, Inequality and American Democracy   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for Susan Moffitt   Spring 2020

Introduction to International Relations   Brown University
Teaching Assistant for Rose McDermott   Fall 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Political Science, Brown University
Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Reid Pauly   June 2022 – July 2022

- Brinkmanship, Crisis Escalation, Interstate Signaling, Nuclear Crises
- Major Output: Worked on a Brinkmanship and Signaling project, focusing on the politics of brinkmanship to understand how risk is generated in a crisis.

Department of Political Science, Brown University
Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Tyler Jost   June 2019 – July 2019

- National Security Actors, Institutional Design, Interstate Conflict
- Major Output: Worked on a National Security and Institutions (1946-2015) dataset, focusing on Coordinating Institutions and Decision-Making Organizations.

Department of Political Science, Brown University
Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Rob Blair   June 2016 – June 2017

- UN Rule of Law, State Legitimacy, Non-State Actor Violence
- Major Output: Produced casebooks to archive and analyze the UNAMSIL and UNMIL missions by engaging 8 metrics and 31 variables; Wrote STATA code to merge and refine the Uppsala Conflict Program data files.
- Methods: STATA analysis, Balance Tests (multinomial logit regressions and marginal effects), LaTeX coding.

Brown International Advanced Research Institutes, Brown University
Facilitator   Summer 2016 & Summer 2017

- Civil-Military Humanitarian Response, Post-Conflict Reconstruction
- Major Output: Guided teams to produce research designs on 'Systematically Cataloguing Informal Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in State-Building Processes' (2016) and 'Protection Mechanisms and the Safety of Staff in the Humanitarian Sector: South Sudan' (2017).

Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University
Graduate Research Assistant for The Honorable Sue Eckert   June 2016 – April 2017

- Targeted Financial Sanctions, Proliferation Financing
- Major Output: Developed matrix for comparative assessment of national measures to curb nuclear proliferation financing using 37 assessment variables (subdivided by legal, regulatory, and enforcement categories) for 25 countries across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Department of Economics, Harvard University

Research Assistant (non-resident) for Rohit Chandra   April 2015 – May 2015

- Economic History, India's Coal Industry
- Major Output: Constructed a Variable Consistency Matrix for STATA use to monitor over 450 variables across multiple raw datasets from 1965 to 2009 to track the evolution of the Indian coal industry.

Center for Islamic Studies Workshop, Oxford University

Project Researcher (non-resident) for Professor Adeel Malik   March 2015 – May 2015

- Political Economy, Crony Capitalism, Middle East
- Major Output: Catalogued crony capitalism trends in the MENA region by aggregating and matching non-tariff measures (NTMs) from UNCTAD TRAINS and WTO I-TIP databases; Wrote STATA code to produce infographics from the 6-digit Harmonized System (HS) NTM data.
- Methods: STATA coding, WTO Harmonized System (HS) analysis

United Nations University - Maastricht

Research Assistant (non-resident) for Professor Shyama Ramani   February 2015 – May 2015

- Sustainable Development, UN Millennium Development Goals
- Major Output: Co-authored the EU project on 'A Framework Model on MNEmerge's Impact on Global Development Challenges in Emerging Markets' to develop prognosis of the impact of multinational enterprises on UN Millennium Development Goals.

Department of Economics, Harvard University

Research Assistant (non-resident) for Professor Nathan Nunn   October 2014 – March 2015

- Economic History, Economic Theory
- Major Output: Created ArcGIS maps to define a time-series for geographic data of US railroads; Assessed covariates of agricultural productivity and conflict in countries.

Data Analysis & Social Inquiry LAB, Grinnell College

Researcher   September 2013 – May 2014

- Managed faculty projects concerning economic development and political science
- Major Output: Compiled and merged country-level GDP statistics for Professor Irene Powell's 'Economics of Developing Countries' project.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and A Charity and Security Network Project

Project Research Assistant – Financial Access of Non-Profit Organizations: Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism   October 2016 – March 2017

- Provided primary research assistance to the Honorable Sue Eckert for assessing de-risking experiences of governments, financial institutions, and non-profits regarding unintended consequences of regulatory policies to prevent the terrorist abuse of non-profits.
- Developed a guide on how international financial flows work in order to explain cross-border wire transfers and correspondent banking.

The World Bank - Stakeholders Dialogue on De-Risking Research

Rapporteur   January 2017

- Moderated focus group discussions among participants from the Treasury Department, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, and Bank of America.
- Comparative analysis of Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism penalties, bank compliance costs, and due diligence procedures for non-profit organizations in the post-9/11 era.
- Outlined de-risking's impact on global financial inclusion and humanitarian assistance initiatives.

METHODS TRAINING

Text Analysis, Network Analysis & Data Mining

- Introduction to Network Analysis Workshop   November 2020
- Visualizing Data Workshop   April 2020
- Twitter Data for Research Workshop   November 2019

Rockefeller Library, Brown University

Historical Methods Module (Professor Jennifer Johnson, Dept. of History)   May 2022
Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

Mixing Methods Module (Professor Prerna Singh, Dept. of Political Science)   May 2020
Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

Survey Design Module (Professor David Lindstrom, Dept. of Sociology)   May 2019
Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

Ethnography Module (Professor Catherine Lutz, Dept. of Anthropology)   May 2019
Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Languages: Urdu (native), English (fluent), Hindi (intermediate), Arabic (intermediate).

Computer: R, STATA, LaTeX, ArcGIS, Minitab, Vensim.