

AHSAN KAMAL

NIPS, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
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Academic and Research Positions

Dec 2010 – current	LECTURER, National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Nov 2005 – Aug 2008	RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, Departments of Social Sciences & Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan
Feb 2003 – Dec 2003	INSTRUCTOR, Oversees Pakistani's Science and Technology College, Lahore, Pakistan

Education

Masters – May 2010	Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, New York, USA Major: International Affairs, South Asian Studies
Bachelors – Oct 2002	National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan Major: Computer Software Engineering

Research Interests

Political violence, state formation and law making, politics of development, disasters, Islam and Secularisms, youth and political participation, postcolonial theory, political theory, colonial and early-modern history

Publications

peer-reviewed

2010 Zaidi, S., Ahsan Kamal, N.B. Ansari. "Targeting Vulnerability after the October 2005 Earthquake: An Evaluation of Pakistan's Livelihood Support Cash Grant Program", *Disasters*, 34(2), pp380-401, ODI: London

works-in-progress

- 2012 Kamal, A. "State as a process: Governance of the post-disaster state," *working paper*, Collective for Activism Research, Islamabad.
- 2013 Kamal, A. "Communities Divided? Differences and similarities in perceptions of justice and violence in Southern Thailand" (*journal manuscript in progress*).
- 2013 Kamal, A., Naila Baig-Ansari, "Results of the 2010 ICJ Southern Thailand Perceptions of the Justice System Survey", Geneva-Bangkok: International Commission of Jurists

book review

2011 Kamal, A. "Iqbal in our Time" book review of *Islam and Open Society* by S.B. Diagne, *J-SAPS* 2(2), Institute of Social and Policy Studies (i-saps), Islamabad, Pakistan.

conference proceedings

2008 Zaidi, S., Kamal, A., Ansari, N. B., & Faraz, S. (2008) "Targeting Cash Assistance to Vulnerable Families in South Asia's 2005 October 8 Earthquake" in *Building Resilience - International Conference on Building Education and Research* (pp. 1493-1504). Heritage Kandalama, Sri Lanka: University of Salford, UK.

working papers and reports

- 2011 Kamal, A. "Pakistan Country Report: Global Integrity 2010", online interactive report, for Global Integrity, Washington DC, USA
- 2009 Kamal, A. "How can the civil society in Pakistan benefit from ICT and social media tools", research report, for Open Society Institute-New York.

- 2008 Kamal, A. & Ishaque, A. "Housing Reconstruction after the October 2005 Earthquake: Monitoring Reconstruction Progress in Pakistan", the Earthquake Budget Project, Lahore University of Management Sciences.
- 2007 Zaidi, S., Kamal, A., et al. "Spot Checks for Livelihood Support Cash Grant Program"—Consultancy report for the World Bank, Lahore University of Management Sciences
- 2006 Kamal, A., Zaidi, R.B., Naqvi, S.A.A. "District Level Data Procedures for October 8 Earthquake: A Case Study of District Mansehra", RISEPAK working paper, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan.

Presentations and Lectures

- 2012 "The Civil and Un-civil Domestic Politics of Political Islam", at "Violent Conflict and Peaceful Change," Summer School, July 30-August 4, 2012, International Institute of Development and Peace, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- 2012 "What is Arab and non-Arab? Drawing political lessons from the 'Arab Spring'," panel discussion, Khudi and Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS), June 8, 2012, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2012 "The Disaster-Management State: Cash grant programs in Pakistan," *Anthropology of Disaster: Research School*, March 19-30, 2012 at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University; Organized by Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich and QAU, Islamabad.
- 2011 "Does the international community hurt or help Pakistan?," panel discussion, *International Youth Festival & Conference 2011*, November 2011, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2010 "Violence and State formation in the Pakhtun Tribal Areas", faculty seminar, National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2009 "Iqbal's philosophy of the individual and the community," student seminar presentation, Columbia University, New York, USA.
- 2008 "Researching in post-disaster areas—the case study of 2005 Earthquake in Pakistan", guest lecture, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2005 "The story of Computer Science – Turing and Godel", invited lecture, Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan.

Consultancies and Research Projects

- Oct 2010 – Aug 2011 Research Consultant, *International Commission of Jurists*, Bangkok Thailand
- Investigated the perceptions and experiences of the people towards the criminal justice system and the security apparatus in the conflict-ridden southern border provinces of Thailand.
 - Designed and conducted a survey of 1,373 randomly selected households, and 16 in-depth focus group discussions.
 - Analyzed the data and currently working on producing reports and papers based on the research.
- Jun 2010 – Mar 2011 Lead Country Researcher, *Global Integrity*, Washington DC
- Conducted research on governance, transparency, accountability, access to information and rule of law in Pakistan for the Global Integrity 2010 country report.
 - Researched the various laws, acts and regulations that govern the de jure state of country's "integrity" indicators
 - Interviewed researchers, academics, lawyers, journalists, and government officials.
 - Reviewed a large body of literature including think-tank and NGO publications, media reports, and academic papers covering the indicators.
- May 2009 – Sep 2009 Research Consultant, *Open Society Institute*, New York
- Explored ways of using cell phones to improve information flows and advocacy work of social sector organizations.
 - Interviewed members of academia, local NGOs, technical experts, and international consultants.
 - Researched and compiled an inventory of ICT solutions suitable for the needs of Pakistani social sector organizations.
- Nov 2006 – Aug 2008 Senior Research Associate, *Earthquake Budget Project*, LUMS, Lahore
- Analyzed official financial data to determine the progress of govt. projects in the earthquake affected areas of Pakistan.
 - Managed a team of five research assistants during field trips, data analysis and report writing.
 - Evaluated the design, implementation, and efficacy of two large cash grant programs for earthquake affected people.
 - Conducted interviews with senior officials at the World Bank, Govt. of Pakistan, Army, NGOs, and local politicians.
 - Conducted household level surveys to determine accessibility, exclusion rates, and priorities and concerns.

- Designed and translated the questionnaire, developed the data entry program and oversaw data entry and cleaning.
- Led the field teams (5 to 25 people) on more than 10 occasions to conduct: livelihood surveys of 2,640 households; expenditure survey of 380 urban households; housing reconstruction survey of 1,200 households and 15 villages.

Nov 2005 – Oct 2006 Research Associate, *Relief Information Systems for Earthquake-Pakistan*, Lahore

- Collected data and provided technical assistance to the RISEPAK team.
- Assisted district governments in managing damage, relief and grants data by improving their data management systems.
- Identified shortcomings in district level data handling procedures; some recommendations were incorporated in later grant-based projects.

Courses Taught

Islam in South Asia

Muslim Political Thought in South Asia

Military, Bureaucracy and Political Systems in Pakistan

Political and Constitutional Development in Pakistan, 1947-1969

Automata and Complexity Theory

Volunteer Affiliations

June 2012- current *member*, Collective for Activism Research, Islamabad, Pakistan

Jan 2009-Jan 2010 *Co- President*, Grassroots Policy Network, Columbia University, New York, USA

Nov 2003- Oct 2004 *Coordinator*, Combinatorics, Complexity and Algorithms (CoCoA) theory group, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore

Awards and Honors

Fulbright Scholarship for Graduate Studies in the US 2008-2010

Merit Scholarship at Lahore University of Management Sciences 2003-2005 (*declined*)

Merit Scholarship for undergrad study by Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan 2001-2002

Merit Scholarship for undergrad study by National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan 1999-2002

Stockholm Challenge Award 2006 for best ICT project, with RISEPAK team

Language skills

Urdu (native), English (fluent), Punjabi (fluent), Farsi (basic)

References

Available on request