

Dr. Hafza Tasmia Tahira

Assistant Professor | National Institute of Intelligence and Security Studies (NIISS), Quaid-i-Azam University

Contact Information

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Location: Islamabad,
Pakistan

Core Competencies

- Intelligence and Security Studies
- Critical Security Studies
- Civil–Military Relations
- Military and State Identity
- Religion, Islam, and the State
- Sectarianism and Governance in Pakistan

Profile Summary

Assistant Professor at NIISS, Quaid-i-Azam University, with research spanning civil–military relations, security narratives, sectarian governance, and identity politics in Pakistan. Employs constructivist and critical security approaches, integrating qualitative methods and discourse analysis to examine state–society dynamics and security practices.

Selected Achievements

- Chapter contributor to **Shia Islam & Modern Society** (Indiana University Press, 2023)
- Invited presentations at Indiana University and British Academy–Oxford collaborative workshop
- Public scholarship through Newsroom (New Zealand), focusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan

Education

PhD, Defence and Security Studies — Massey University, New Zealand

MPhil, International Relations — National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad

MA, Political Science — University of the Punjab, Lahore

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor (2025–Present) — National Institute of Intelligence and Security Studies (NIISS), Quaid-i-Azam University

Lecturer (2015–2025) — Punjab Higher Education Department, Islamia College Lahore

Publications

- Hafza Tasmia Tahira; Mobeen Jafar Mir. Deconstructing Dominance: US–China Narrative Clash in the Asia–Pacific. *Journal of Contemporary Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Summer 2024). <https://jcs.ndu.edu.pk/index.php/site/article/view/322>
- Hafza Tasmia Tahira. Pakistan Military’s Narrative of Inclusion: Making Sectarianism Invisible. In **Shia Islam & Modern Society**, Indiana University Press, 2023 (book chapter)

- Hafza Tasmia Tahira. US-Pakistan tension obscures Afghanistan's future. Newsroom (New Zealand), 15 October 2021 (Opinion). <https://newsroom.co.nz/2021/10/15/us-pakistan-tension-obscures-afghanistans-future/>
- Hafza Tasmia Tahira. Taliban's takeover no surprise. Newsroom (New Zealand), 17 August 2021 (Opinion). <https://newsroom.co.nz/2021/08/17/talibans-takeover-no-surprise/>
- Hafza Tasmia Tahira. Analysis of Trade Liberalization between India and Pakistan. The Dialogue (Qurtuba University), Vol. 9, No. 4 (Oct-Dec 2014), pp. 386-402. https://www.qurtuba.edu.pk/thedialogue/The%20Dialogue/9_4/Dialogue_October_December2014_386-402.pdf

Conference Presentations & Workshops

2014 — International Conference on Local Representation of Power in South Asia, GC University Lahore — Paper titled "Elitism - An Impediment in the Way of de facto Decentralization or Local Representation of Power in South Asia: A Case Study of Pakistan and India"; Session: "Assessing Decentralization and Devolution in South Asia"; Dates: November 12-14, 2014

2022 — Shia Studies in the Twenty-First Century, Indiana University, USA (paper presentation)

2021 — Pakistan to Bangladesh 1947-70 Writing Workshop (British Academy & University of Oxford), selected participant

Research Affiliations

Middle East Studies Association (MEISA), Member