

# 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](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