

# Sobia Paracha

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science

Department of Political Science  
Syracuse University  
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## Education

- 2017–2026 **Ph.D. Political Science**, *Syracuse University*, Syracuse, NY  
Specializations: International Relations, Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods.  
**Dissertation:** *Entrenched or Abandoned: Nationalism and Political Contestation in Territorial Disputes*  
**Committee:** Brian Taylor (Chair), Ryan Griffiths, Erin Hern, Naushin Husain
- 2011–2012 **Master by Research in War Studies**, *King's College*, London  
Thesis: Military Implications of Indian Space Program (Distinction)
- 2006–2008 **M.Sc. in Defense & Strategic Studies**, *Quaid-i-Azam University*, Islamabad  
Seminar: Safety and Security of Pakistan's Nuclear Complex
- 2004–2006 **B.A. in Political Science and Economics**, *University of Punjab*, Lahore

## Research Agenda

- In Progress Fluctuating Elite Nationalism and the Kashmir Dispute: A Longitudinal Computational Analysis of Pakistani Press Discourse. *Targeting: Journal of Conflict Resolution*. (Draft available)
- In Progress Security Without Voice: Discursive Suppression and Elite Strategy towards Pakistan's Borderlands. *Targeting: Nations and Nationalism*.
- Working Paper Contested Identity: A Comparative Study of State Formation in Post-Colonial Pakistan and Argentina.

## Publications & Research

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Paracha, Sobia. 2013. Military Dimensions of the Indian Space Program. *Astropolitics* 11, no. 3: 156–186.

### Book

Paracha, Sobia. 2017. *Indian Defence Budget and Conventional Modernization*. Monograph. Islamabad: Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). ISBN: 978-969-8721-61-9.

### Selected Policy Papers & Technical Briefs

Paracha, Sobia. 2009. *Strategic Export Controls: Case Study of Pakistan*. Research Report. London/Islamabad: South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI).

Khan, Maria, and Sobia Paracha. 2009. Strategic Brief: Kerry-Lugar Bill Uncut. *SASSI Policy Brief*. London: South Asian Strategic Stability Institute.

Khan, Maria, and Sobia Paracha. 2008. Technical Brief: A Comparison between the Indo-US Nuclear Deal and Different IAEA Safeguards Systems. *SASSI Technical Report*. London: South Asian Strategic Stability Institute.

## Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

- Summer 2025, 2024 and 2022 **PSC 124 – International Relations, Syracuse University**  
Designed and delivered a hybrid seminar-lecture course for 30 students. Focused on the bargaining model of war, international security and political economy and institutions. Introduced foundational concepts of IR paradigms, colonialism and post colonialism. Mentored diverse undergraduate cohorts in developing analytical writing and critical policy evaluation skills.
- Spring 2022 **PSC 300 – International Organization, Syracuse University**  
Upper-division elective exploring the evolution of the UN and regional bodies. Examined the efficacy of international law and institutional design in managing transborder conflicts and human rights.
- Teaching Associate
- 2023–2026 **Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences, Professors Andrew London and William Oliver, (Four labs per week, grading 35 assignments, two exams, a labs skill test and mentoring 25 students to write individual research papers) , Syracuse University**
- 2022 **Political Analysis, Professor Liwu Gan, Syracuse University**
- 2020–2021 **Issues and Actors in International Relations, Professor Jim Steinberg, (Graduate Seminar) , Syracuse University**
- 2020 **International Relations, Professor Daniel McDowell, Syracuse University**
- 2019 **Comparative Law and Courts, Professor Yuksel Sezgin, Syracuse University**
- 2019 **Ethics and International Relations, Professor Glyn Morgan, Syracuse University**
- 2018 **International Relations, Professor Terrell Northrop, Syracuse University**

## Research Grants & Fellowships

- 2025 Roscoe Martin Fund for Dissertation Research in India, Syracuse University (\$1,500).
- 2024 Stuart Thorson Award for ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) Summer School (\$3,000).
- 2024 Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) Grant (\$2,000).
- 2024 Roscoe Martin Fund for Dissertation Research in Pakistan, Syracuse University (\$1,500).
- 2023 Bharati Memorial Award for Fieldwork in Pakistan, Moynihan Institute (\$2,200).
- 2019–2020 Andrew Berlin Family National Security Research Grant (\$3,000).
- 2014 United States Department of State, Technical Nuclear Safety and Security Scholarship (~\$35,000).
- 2011–2012 Chevening Scholarship, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (~£24,000).

2010–2011 National Defense University (NDU) Merit-Based Scholarship (PKR 50,000).

## Technical Expertise & Methods

**Computational** Automated Content Analysis (Supervised & Unsupervised Topic Modeling), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Sentiment Analysis, and LLM Fine-tuning.

**Econometric** Causal Inference for Observational Data, Time-Series Cross-Sectional (TSCS) / Panel Analysis, Multi-level (Nested) Modeling, Discrete Choice Models (Multinomial Logit, Probit, OLS).

**Programming** Python (Pandas, NumPy, NLP libraries), R (Tidyverse, Quanteda, ggplot2),  $\LaTeX$ , Stata, SPSS.

**Data Management** Archival Research (Pakistan); Digital Humanities: Text Extraction from Non-Digital Sources; Large-scale Data Storage (Parquet, SQL); Automated Corpus Construction.

## Research Affiliations & Fellowships

2024–Present Selected Member, International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network (IPSCON). Hosted by the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins SAIS. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

## Professional Experience

2015–2017 **Policy Consultant**, *Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)*

Authored a monograph on Indian defense budget, organized international conferences, and wrote op-eds on strategic issues.

2014 **Carnegie Scholar for Security**, *New America Foundation, Washington DC*  
Research on Pak-US cooperation on nuclear security.

2014 **Visiting Research Scholar**, *Sandia National Labs, Albuquerque, NM*  
Focused on nuclear security and international transparency.

2014 **Visiting Research Scholar**, *Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia*  
Researched civilian oversight of Pakistan's nuclear program.

2013–2014 **Research Fellow**, *Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad*

Worked on Indo-Pak nuclear balance and organized conferences on national security.

2013 **Visiting Faculty**, *Iqra University, Islamabad*

Taught global security trends to graduate students.

2008–2011 **Research Fellow**, *South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI)*

Led strategic export controls projects and contributed to policy on nuclear and regional security.

## █ Select Presentations, Papers, and Conferences

- 2026 **Security Without Voice: Discursive Suppression and Elite Strategy in Pakistan's Borderlands**, *SPSA Annual Conference*, New Orleans
- 2025 **Nationalism on Demand: Divergent Elite Discourse on Pakistan's Territorial Disputes**, *Workshop on Inclusive Nationalism*, Yale University, Connecticut
- 2025 **Security Without Voice: Discursive Suppression and Elite Strategy in Pakistan's Borderlands**, *Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Conference*, Columbia University, New York City
- 2024 **Entrenched or Abandoned: Nationalism and Elite Competition in Post Colonial Territorial Disputes**, *ISA Annual Conference*, San Francisco
- 2024 **Entrenched or Abandoned: Nationalism and Elite Competition in Post Colonial Territorial Disputes**, *MPSA Annual Conference*, Chicago
- 2022 **Territorial Disputes Categorization in Post-1945 States**, *MPSA Annual Conference*, Virtual
- 2019 **Conventional Deterrence and Nuclear First Use in South Asia**, *ISA Annual Conference*, Toronto
- 2015 **Emerging Indo-Pak Sea-Based Deterrents**, *International Student and Young Pugwash Conference*, Nagasaki
- 2015 **Space Programs of India and Pakistan**, *University of Gujrat*, Gujrat
- 2014 **Technical Aspects of Nuclear Security and Transparency**, *CRDF Global Headquarters*, Washington DC

## █ Research Interests

- Computational Social Science
- Economy and Politics of Borders
- Nationalism
- Foreign Policy and Domestic Politics
- Strategic Dynamics of South Asia

## █ Research Skills

Software Python, LaTeX, SPSS  
Languages English, Urdu, Punjabi, Siraiki, Hindi, Farsi (beginner)

## █ Institutional Service

2022 Graduate Student Representative, Tenure and Promotion Committee.  
2020–2021 Organizer, Political Science Graduate Research Workshop.  
2019–2020 Treasurer, Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA).

## █ Additional Training

Instructed in Nuclear Security Course by Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (2009 & 2010).

Organized and presented at institutional seminars and conferences.

Authored press releases and conference reports.

Appeared as a defense analyst on national television.

Received training as an anchorperson at Pakistan Television Network.

## Referees

Dissertation Advisor **Professor Brian Taylor**, *Director, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University*, bdtaylor@syr.edu  
(315) 443-3713

Committee Member **Professor Ryan Griffiths**, *Professor & Research Co-Director, International and Intra-State Conflict, Syracuse University*, rgriff01@syr.edu  
(315)443-2416

Mentor **Professor Daniel McDowell**, *Professor, Political Science Department, 334 Eggers Hall*, dmcdowel@syr.edu  
(315) 443-2416

Teaching Professor **Dr. William Oliver**, *Assistant Teaching Professor, Sociology Department, 302 Maxwell Hall*, wjoliver@syr.edu  
(518) 391-8927