

## Syed Ali Mehdi Zaidi

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### Education

- M. A. (2020 - expected) **Jackson School of International Studies**, University of Washington, Seattle  
Masters in South Asian Studies (enrolled) - Current CGPA 4
- B.A. (2017) **Lahore University of Management Sciences**, Pakistan  
History, Political Sciences (Minor) - SCGPA: 3.87  
Graduated with award of distinction top of the class - gold medalist  
66% merit-based scholarship for all four years
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### Research and Teaching interests

Colonial and postcolonial historiography, anthropology of social marginalization, ethnic and sectarian divides, mobility and migration, place-making, deserts, nomadism, Quetta, Hazara refugees, death and dying, social protest, emotions

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### Professional Positions

- 08/2016 - 05/2018 **A' Level Teacher** - Lahore College of Arts and Sciences, Pakistan  
History, Government and Politics
- 01/2016 - 05/2018 **Research Assistant** - LUMS Digital Archive, Lahore University of Management Sciences under supervision of Dr. Ali Raza  
Focus: Recording testimonies of survivors of terrorism and preparing them for online presentation
- 02/2017 - 05/2017 **Research Assistant** - Lahore Biennale 2018, Pakistan  
Mapping Project under supervision of novelist Mr. Bilal Tanweer  
Focus: Creating emotive maps of Lahore
- 08/2017 - 12/2017 **Research Assistant** - Sociology Department, Lahore University of Management Sciences, under supervision of Dr. Nida Kirmani  
Focus: Historical Analysis of Lyari, Karachi
- 01/2016 - 05/2017 **Teaching Assistant** - Department of History, Lahore University of Management Sciences  
Silk Roads and Trade Winds: Transnational Asia, World History, Imperialism and its Discontents in South Asia
- 08/2015 - 12/2015 **Teaching Assistant** - Mushtaq Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences - Lahore University of Management Sciences  
Writing and Communication
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### Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards

- 2017 - 2020 Fulbright Fellow, Foreign Student Program for Masters at University of Washington
- Summer 2019 American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Short-term Research Grant
- Summer 2019 JSIS Diversity and Equity Committee Grant for Summer Research
- 2018 - 2019 Vicky Noon Cambridge Scholarship for M.Phil in South Asian Studies (declined)
- Summer 2017 Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) Fellowship for Senior Thesis writing at CSAS, University of Cambridge

2016 - 2017 Saida Waheed Gender Initiative Travel Grant for Senior thesis  
2013 - 2017 Fatimiyah Education Network Merit Scholarship

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### Conferences and Presentations

- 05/2019 **Paper title: *Tareeqa-e-Tabligh: Propaganda, Performance and the 'Pakistan Movement'***  
South Asia Conference of the Pacific NorthWest (SACPAN), University of Washington
- 09/2018 **Discussant in Roundtable Book Review: *Imagining Pakistan: Modernism, State, and the Politics of Islamic Revival***, Lahore University of Management Sciences
- 04/2017 **Paper title: *Roohi mai hamai Azadi milti hai; Masculine Performances & Place-Making in Cholistan Desert***  
Saida Waheed Gender Initiative Student Colloquium 2017, Lahore University of Management Sciences
- 04/2016 **Paper title: *Recovery and Restoration Act; the Patriarchal Creation of the Indian and Pakistani States***  
Saida Waheed Gender Initiative Student Colloquium 2016, Lahore University of Management Sciences
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### Field Research and Training

- 06/2017 **Quetta, Pakistan (2 weeks):** Assisted University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign PhD student, Faizaan Qayyum with fieldwork on Urban policy vis-a-vis Hazara community
- 07/2017 - 12/2017 **Archival Research (4 months):** Assisted Dr. Nida Kirmani with historical analysis of Lyari, Karachi
- 02/2017 - 05/2017 **Lahore, Pakistan (2 months):** Created 10 emotive maps from the perspective of lower-class men in Lahore
- 08/2016 - 05/2017 **Cholistan Desert, Pakistan (1 month):** Conducted independent research with Formerly nomadic, Hindu community for senior thesis: four trips of a week each
- 06/2016 - 07/2016 **Karakorum, Pakistan (1 month):** Attended summer course in Northern Pakistan and assisted Dr. Hassan Karrar and Dr. Till Mostowlansky with field research
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### Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)

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### Language proficiencies

Urdu (native)  
Hindi (fluent in speaking and listening)  
Punjabi, Saraiki (basic comprehension)  
Farsi (Beginner)

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### Additional experience

08/2016 - 05/2018 **Lahore College of Arts and Sciences, Pakistan**  
*A' Level teacher* - History, Government and Politics

08/2016 - 05/2017 **Feminist Society at LUMS, Lahore, Pakistan**  
*General Secretary* - Incharge of coordinating various events, conferences, protests, study circles

01/2015 - 05/2017 **Democratic Students Alliance, Lahore, Pakistan**  
A coalition of progressive students operating across 5 campuses in Lahore

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### **Skills**

Podcasting

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### **References**

Cabeiri Robinson **Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington**  
Email: cdr33@uw.edu Phone: (206) 221 4210

Sunila Kale **Associate Professor, Chair and Director South Asia Studies, University of Washington**  
Email: kale@uw.edu Phone: (206) 221 4852

Radhika Govindrajan **Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington**  
Email: rgovind@uw.edu Phone: (203) 444 4676

Priti Ramamurthy **Professor in and Director of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington**  
Email: priti@uw.edu Phone: (206) 543 6984

Christian Novetzke **College of Arts and Sciences Professor, Jackson School Associate Director, University of Washington**  
Email: novetzke@uw.edu Phone: (206) 543 6142