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EDUCATION/ RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (IISMM)- Paris, France*Professeur invité, 2015-2016***Portland State University- Portland, OR***Research Fellow, Spring 2016*

Department of History

University of Edinburgh- Scotland, United Kingdom*Doctorate of Philosophy, 2013*

New College, School of Divinity

University of Dar-es-Salaam- Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania*Research Fellow, 2008*

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences- Department of Political Science

University of Denver- Colorado Seminary- Denver, CO*Master of Arts in Religious Studies- Islamic Theology, 2008***Quaid-i-Azam University- Islamabad, Pakistan***Research Fellow, 2003-2004*

Pakistan Studies and International Relations Departments

Tulane University- New Orleans, LA*Master of Arts in Political Science, 2004*

Concentration: International Politics (South Asian and Middle Eastern Politics) and Islamic Political Theory

"Secondary and Higher Secondary Civics Education in Rawalpindi-Islamabad, Pakistan: A Study of Civic Education"

Washington University- St. Louis, MO*Artium Bacculaureus, 2002*

Major: Political Science; Minor: Jewish, Islamic & Near Eastern Studies

PUBLICATIONS- MONOGRAPHS

Akhtar, Iqbal S. [*The Khoja Of Tanzania: Discontinuities Of A Postcolonial Religious Identity*](#). Brill: Leiden, 2015.

PUBLICATIONS- JOURNALS

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "[Religious citizenship: the case of the globalised Khōjā](#)" *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*. 10:2, 219-236 (2014).Akhtar, Iqbal S. [The Anthropology of Dreams and Dreaming among Muslim Communities](#). *Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia*, 2:1 (2014).Akhtar, Iqbal S. "[The Narrative Prayers \(kahanī\) of the Indo-African Khōjā](#)". *Journal of Narrative Culture*, 1:2 (2014).Akhtar, Iqbal S. "[Negotiating the Racial Boundaries of Khōjā Caste Membership in Late 19th Century Colonial Zanzibar \(1878-1899\)](#)". *Journal of Africana Religions*, 2:3 (2014).

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Rizvi, Saeed Akhtar." Edited by A. Sharma. *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions* (Springer Science+Business Media B.V.), 2013.

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Ismail, Gulamali." Edited by A. Sharma. *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions* (Springer Science+Business Media B.V.), 2013.

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Teena Purohit, *The Aga Khan Case: Religion and Identity in Colonial India*", *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 36:4, 688-690 (2013).

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Islamophobia: The Challenge of Pluralism in the 21st Century. Edited by John L. Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. 236 pp. \$99.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper." *Religion and Politics*, 481-483 (2012).

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Race and Religion in the Political Problematization of the American Muslim." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (Cambridge University Press) 44:4 (October 2011).

Akhtar, Iqbal S. "Shi'ism in America." *ПОЛИТИКОЛОГИЈА РЕЛИГИЈЕ* (Center for Study of Religion and Religious Tolerance) 5: 2 263-264 (Autumn 2011).

Patterson, Jessie; Lange, Christian; Akhtar, Iqbal; Iacobelli, Francisco; Anderson, Paul; & Leonhard, Annette. "Exploring the Use of Computational Linguistics for Automated Formative Feedback in the Humanities." IDEA Lab, University of Edinburgh, 28 September 2010.

Akhtar, Iqbal and Southworth, Maj. Aric. "Historical Lessons from Islamic Civilization: The Khārijites and the Malay Insurgency." *Institute for National Security Studies, Occasional Paper*, December 2007.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Contemporary Pakistan: Musharraf's Dilemma." *USNORTHCOM SJFHQ-N Islamic Civilization Series, Official Analysis Report*, Fall 2006.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Endangered Archives Programme

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Awarded the EAP grant entitled "[The preservation of Gujarati materials from British colonial Zanzibar](#)" was awarded by the British Library in 2015 for the complete digitization of Gujarati-language materials at the Zanzibar National Archives which will run from 2016-2017. The files to be preserved date from the early 19th to mid-20th centuries during the British protectorate period on the archipelago and consist of thousands of files in English, Arabic, and Gujarati relating to probate, insolvency, civil, and criminal cases of the Indian merchant communities tried both in the British and Sultan's *kadhi* courts.

TEACHING / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales

Paris, France

Professeur invité

May 2016

An invited professorship at the Institut d'études de l'islam et des sociétés du monde musulman to deliver a series of public lectures on the development of Khōjā historiography and avenues for future research that will conclude with an inaugural Khōjā Studies conference in Paris.

Florida International University, School of International and Public Affairs

Miami, FL

Research Director, [Western Indian Ocean Studies](#)

2015- Present

Created and directing the Western Indian Ocean Studies (WIOS) research group as an initiative of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs. Subsumed within the initiative is the study of Muslim minority communities, such as the Khōjā and Ahmadi. WIOS is linked to Le Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud in Paris, the State University of Zanzibar, and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. The research is directed at understanding how religious identities are shaped by transnational communities in the littoral, particularly South Asia- East Africa dynamics.

Florida International University, School of International and Public Affairs
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations and Religious Studies

Miami, FL
 2012- Present

Tenure track dual appointment in the departments of Politics and International Relations and Religious Studies within the School of International and Public Affairs. Courses taught in both departments include 'Development of IR thought', 'IR of South Asia', 'Islamic Political Thought', 'Islam and IR', 'Islam: Faith and Society', 'Islamic Mysticism: Sufism', and 'Quran, Gender, and Jihad'. As the only Islamicist at the fourth largest public university and nation's premier Hispanic-serving institution, have and continue to serve on master's dissertation and doctoral thesis committees related to the politics and religion of Islamic civilization. In 2014, graduated a Master's student as chair of his dissertation committee entitled '[Without a nation: Muslim mobilization after the caliphate](#)', looking at the impact on religio-politics in Turkey, India, and Egypt as a result of the abolishment of the Ottoman caliphate. For this, he won best IR Master's in the FIU Department of Politics and International Relations and was selected as a '[Worlds Ahead](#)' scholar.

University of Edinburgh, New College School of Divinity
Teaching Assistant

Edinburgh, Scotland
 2009-2011

Teaching assistant for 'Religion in the Contemporary World: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam' and 'Phenomenological, Historical and Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion'. Previously taught 'Religion and Society: Social Scientific Approaches to the Study of Religion' and 'Religion in the Contemporary World: Indigenous Religions and the Religions of Asia'. Duties for teaching assistants at New College generally entail lecturing, facilitating group discussion, grading of coursework/final essays, and providing consistent constructive feedback throughout the semester to students in order to promote stronger research skills and critical thinking.

University of Edinburgh, University Chaplaincy
Honorary Chaplain

Edinburgh, Scotland
 2011

Represented the Muslim faith in a voluntary capacity at interfaith dialogues, official university gatherings, and in chaplaincy initiatives on multi-faith development and internationalization. Additionally, provided pastoral care to students and staff at the university.

University of Edinburgh, New College School of Divinity
Conference Organizer, 'Religion in Diaspora Round-table'

Edinburgh, Scotland
 20 October 2010

Organized an interdisciplinary conference which looked at transnational networks among ethnic and religious minorities in the global north, their relationships to the global south, and its impact on integrating into the larger national identities of the host country. Dr. Liyakat Takim of McMaster University (Canada) launched his new book *Shi'ism in America*. Funding was secured from the Alaweed Centre and through the University of Edinburgh Small Grants Initiative.

University of Edinburgh, iDEA Lab Project (School of Informatics)
Project Team Research Assistant

Edinburgh, Scotland
 March 2010-July 2011

iDEA lab is a virtual laboratory that facilitates prototyping of novel applications of state-of-art informatic technologies. This project was a collaborative between the School of Divinity and School of Informatics. The project, "Assisting Assessment of Online Collaborative Student Work" investigated whether computational linguistic techniques can be used to automate the assessment of student essays and provide an objective measure of the student's understanding.

U.S. Air Force Academy, Department of Political Science
USNORTHCOM Analyst-in-Residence/Instructor

USAFA, CO
 January 2007 – December 2007

Taught the Social Science 112 core course in Geopolitics. Geopolitics is an introductory course mandatory for all cadets which focused on the foundational ideas of geography and international relations from a political science perspective. In addition to this course, concurrently taught PS493 'Asian Politics' which is a major's course focusing on the history, culture and political systems of China, India, and Japan. Introduced into this course was the 'Reacting to the Past Pedagogy' developed by Columbia University/Barnard College. Pedagogical focus was given to the 'learning-centred approach' which concentrated on active learning and student participation in knowledge dissemination.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

U.S. Fulbright Islamic Civilization Grant & Critical Language Enhancement Award
Field Researcher and Fellow

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
 January 2008 – December 2008

The Fulbright fellowship explored the nature of the Khoja Ithna-Asheri *jamaat* in Dar es Salaam. It focused on the history of migration from India in the 1850s, the Swahili indigenization process in Zanzibar, negotiating Tanzanian identity as Asians in the post-colonial period, and contemporary challenges in the face of globalization. This thesis research looked at the major narratives of Khoja Ithna-Asheri history in Tanganyika and Zanzibar- language, culture, and religious identity. Part of the fellowship included an intensive five months of Gujarati language training- the traditional language of the community.

David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship
Field Researcher and Fellow

Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Pakistan
 Autumn 2003- Spring 2004

Research dealt with Pakistan's education system and the role it plays in determining civic values, a cohesive national identity, civil society and attitudes towards the government. Research interviews were conducted with elite English medium, Pakistani-national Urdu medium and private high schools in the Rawalpindi/Islamabad region (rural and urban). Culmination of the research fellowship produced a published article containing background, empirical analysis of data and recommendations for future education policy formulation and implementation in Pakistan.

SERVICE

Library Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida International University
Chairman

Miami, Florida
 Autumn 2013- Present

Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia Journal
Book Review Editor

Oxford, England
 Autumn 2012-Spring 2016

The Burton Charitable Society of Edinburgh for Tanganyika and Zanzibar
Founder/Chief Executive

Edinburgh, Scotland
 Summer 2009-Present

The society was founded in honour of Sir Richard Francis Burton to promote academic and intellectual exchange with students and faculty between the U.S./U.K. and Tanzania. The aim of this charity non-profit is to promote religious pluralism, multiculturalism and the civil society in Tanzania. The Burton Society is a charitable tax-exempt body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC041142 on the Scottish Charity Register maintained by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

U.S. Air Force Academy
Muslim Lay Chaplain

USAFA, CO
 2005-2007

Served as religious leader for the Muslim cadets at the US Air Force Academy. Duties included leading prayer services and study circles, working with the Academy to provide religious requirements to cadets, arranging services for holy days, mentoring, and morale & welfare trips/events for the cadets.

PRESENTATIONS

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Chronicle of Light: Khōjā cosmology in the periphery of Indic Islam". American Academy of Religion annual meeting in the Contemporary Islam group. Atlanta, 25 November 2015.

Akhtar, Iqbal. Roundtable entitled "Indic Religiopolitics in Colonial and Postcolonial Sub-Saharan Africa". Asian Studies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects of a New Axis of Intellectual Interactions. Accra, Ghana. 15-17 January 2015

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Woodcutter's Tale (Kaṭhiyārōnī Kahānī): Historicizing the Indic Narrative Prayers of the Khōjā Caste". Ismaili Studies Conference. University of Chicago. 17 October 2014

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Exploring the Ethno-Linguistic Evolution of Religious Identities among the Khōjā of Dar es Salaam". Global Diasporas in the Age of High Imperialism. Universität Kassel, Kassel. 11 September 2014

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Gujarati Quran". Languages in Muslim Societies: Sacred Requirements and Profane Necessities. Casa de Velázquez, Madrid. 20 March 2014

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Remembering The Ancients: Reconstructing Indic religious authority in early modern Khōjā 'Islamic' manuscripts" Poetics of Law, Politics of Self. Plymouth University. 5 September 2013

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Exploring the context and content of the Khōjā Majmū'ō." Université Catholique de Lyon. 12 December 2012

Akhtar, Iqbal. "*Nasur Jesa v. Hurbayee Jesa Damani*: Negotiating Racial Boundaries of Khōjā Caste Membership in Nineteenth Century Zanzibar" India Beyond India: Debating Communalism and Belonging, Universität Göttingen Forschungskommission der Sozialwissenschaftlichen Fakultät. 25 May 2012.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "A modern reimagining of the medieval Khōjā saint." Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités- CNRS; Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes - Sorbonne (Centre d'Études sur l'Inde et l'Asie du Sud). 3 December 2011.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Echoes of sainthood among the Ithnā 'Ashari Khōjā of Tanzania: Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi & the Bilal Muslim Mission". European Association for the Study of Religions, Budapest. 19 September 2011.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Khōjā Majmū'ō: The Esoteric Islamic Rites of Gujarati Shi'ism". Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3, Departement Orient et Monde Arabe Etudes Iraniennes." 9 November 10.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Culture of Mehfil, Shrines and the Religious Character of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat in Dar-es Salaam and Zanzibar." Sunni-Shi'i Mausoleums and Saint Veneration in the Turko-Persian World, University of St. Andrews. 12 April 2010

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Postcolonial Indo-African Identity: the Case of the Khoja." British Association for South Asian Studies, University of Warwick. 30 March 2010.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Development of an American Muslim Political Identity Post-9/11". American Politics Group Seventh Annual Conference (Political Studies Association), Rothmere American Institute, University of Oxford. 8 January 2010.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Globalized Shrine Culture in Tanzania." British Association for the Study of Religion Annual Conference. University of Wales at Bangor. 9 September 2009.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "The Hindu in Medieval and Contemporary Shi'a Jurisprudence: The Case for Religious Pluralism in South Asian Islam." Presentation at Witherspoon Institute, Princeton Theological Seminary. 7 August 2009.

Akhtar, Iqbal. Fulbright Reflections lecture presented at the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania entitled "Are Asians Tanzanian? The Case of the Ithna Asheris." 6 November 2008

Akhtar, Iqbal and Shoeb, Nadia. "Democratic Cycles: A Case Study of Islam and Democracy in Pakistan". American Political Science Association. Washington, DC. 1 September 2005.

Akhtar, Iqbal. "Secondary and Higher Secondary Civics Education in Rawalpindi-Islamabad, Pakistan: A Study of Civic Awareness". International Studies Association. San Diego. 22 March 2006.

Akhtar, Iqbal. *American Muslims and US Foreign Policy*. UC Berkeley Press: Berkeley, 2003. Published paper and gave presentation at UC Berkeley conference 'Islam in America'.

Akhtar, Iqbal. Presentation entitled "The Future of Pakistan in South Asia: Analysis and Policy Recommendations for 2020" delivered to USDA-SRRC for Asian-Pacific Heritage Month 1 May 2003.

FUNDING GRANTS AND ACTIVITIES

- American Institute for Pakistan Studies Travel Grant, 2014
- FIU Trustee, American Institute for Pakistan Studies (AIPS)
- Florida International University Merit Bonus Award, 2013
- Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys *Bridging Cultures* grant, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2013
- Florida International University Morris and Anita Broad Research Fellowship Award, 2013
- University of Edinburgh Development Trust Project Grant, 2010
- University of Edinburgh Scottish Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme Scholarship (ORSAS), 2009-2011.
- North America Scholar Consortium Honour Society, April 2009 (lifetime membership).
- New College School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh Scholarship, 2009-2011.
- Institute for National Strategic Studies research award through U.S. Air Force Academy, summer 2007
- Wallace B. Clift Award for outstanding graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies, Univ. of Denver
- Armed Forces Civilian Service Award, awarded in 2006 for meritorious service during Hurricane Katrina
- Dean's List, Washington University, 2001-2002.
- Louisiana Honours Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, Tulane University, 2002.
- A&H Dean's and William Gravely Scholarships, University of Denver, 2005-2007.
- Views Columnist, Tulane University *Hullabaloo* Newspaper
- Secretary, Tulane University Political Science Graduate Student Association
- Mid-East Affairs Columnist, Washington University *Student Life* Newspaper
- Co-Founder and Vice-President, Washington University Pakistani Students Association
- Washington University History Honours Program

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association (since 2002)
- American Academy of Religion (2005)
- International Studies Association (2003)
- South Asian Journalists Association (2007)
- Middle East Studies Association (2004)
- American Academy of Religion (2009)
- British Association for the Study of Religions (2009)
- British Association for South Asian Studies (2009)
- Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom (2009)
 - American Studies Group (2009)
- Royal African Society (2010)
- African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (2010)
- Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux (2012)
- American Historical Association (2013)

LANGUAGES

Overall Levels: Spanish (3), Modern Urdu (3), Classical Arabic (2), Kiswahili (1), & Gujarati (3)