Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research

CSSPR NUCLEAR SCHOLARS INITIATIVE 2021 FACULTY PROFILES

FELLOWSHIP ON NUCLEAR SOUTH ASIA - MARCH 2021

FELLOWSHIP ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2021





CSSPR

The Centre for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR) is an autonomous policy research center housed in the University of Lahore (UOL), Lahore. It aims at generating research on issues relating to contemporary security and strategic aspects that affect Pakistan's domestic security environment and its international relations with other countries of the world. The Center aims to generate research-driven and nuanced discourses on how best to address security and strategic challenges that deny Pakistan the opportunity and ability to play its role as a responsible seventh Nuclear Weapon State in the world.

The Center conducts research, publishes, and holds conferences on a broad range of regional and international security, strategic, peace and conflict issues. Through this Center, we aim to establish national, regional and international linkages and collaborate with universities, think tanks, research institutes and eminent scholars from around the world, enabling national and international scholars and our students to use CSSPR's platform to deliberate upon issues that carry a global impact.

Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR)

1-Km Defence Road Lahore Email: csspr@siss.uol.edu.pk www.csspr.uol.edu.pk

University of Lahore (UOL)

1-Km Defence Road Lahore Email: info@uol.edu.pk T: +92 423 2233888 www.uol.edu.pk © The Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research 2021

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Dr. Rabia Akhtar

Dr. Rabia Akhtar is Director, Centre for Security, Strategy and Policy Research, University of Lahore. She is the founding director of the School of Integrated Social Sciences at University of Lahore, Pakistan. Dr. Akhtar is a member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs. She is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the South Asia Center, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C. Dr. Akhtar holds a PhD in Security Studies from Kansas State University. She is a Fulbright alumna (2010-2015). Dr. Akhtar received her Master's in International Relations from Quaidi-Azam University, Islamabad and her Master's in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University, USA. She has written extensively on South Asian nuclear security and deterrence dynamics. She is the author of a book titled 'The Blind Eye: U.S. Non-proliferation Policy towards Pakistan from Ford to Clinton'. Dr. Akhtar is also the Editor of Pakistan Politico, Pakistan's first strategic and foreign affairs magazine.



Feroz Hassan Khan

Feroz Hassan Khan is a research professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He is a former director of arms control and disarmament affairs in the Strategic Plans Division, Joint Staff Headquarters, in Pakistan. He represented Pakistan in several multilateral and bilateral arms control negotiations and served on numerous assignments in the United States, Europe, and Asia. He has widely participated in international and national conferences on strategic and nonproliferation issues, international security, terrorism, and nuclear arms control. He is the author of Eating Grass: The Making of the Pakistani Bomb. He holds a master's in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University.



Dr. Zachary S. Davis

Zachary S. Davis is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a Research Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he teaches courses on counterproliferation. He has broad experience in intelligence and national security policy and has held senior positions in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government. His regional focus is South Asia. Davis began his career at the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress and has served with the State Department, Congressional committees, and the National Security Council. Davis was group leader for proliferation networks in LLNL's Z Program and in 2007 he was Senior Advisor at the National Counter Proliferation Center, in the office of the Director of National Intelligence. He is the author of numerous government studies and reports on technical and regional proliferation issues. He currently leads a project on the national security implications of advanced technologies, focusing on special operations forces.

Davis's scholarly publications include articles in Orbis, Asian Survey, Arms Control Today, Security Studies, The American Interest, and chapters in numerous edited volumes. He was editor of the widely read 1993 book The Proliferation Puzzle: Why States Proliferate and What Results. His edited book on the 2002 South Asia crisis, The India-Pakistan Military Standoff, was published by Palgrave Macmillan. He is the editor of several recent books on emerging technology: Strategic Latency and World Power: How Technology is Changing our Concepts of Security; Strategic Latency Red, White and Blue: Managing the National and International Security Consequences of Disruptive Technologies; and Strategic Latency Unleashed: Emerging Technology for Special Operations Forces. Davis holds a doctorate and master's in international relations from the University of Virginia and an undergraduate degree in politics from the University of California at Santa Cruz.



Saima Aman Sial

Saima Aman Sial is non-adjunct faculty at QAU DSS department. Previously, she served as Senior Research Officer and expert in strategic issues at the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), Islamabad. She was also the associate editor of CISS Insight, a biannual research journal of the Center. Aman is a Nonproliferation Fellow from the Center for Nonproliferation Studies Monterey California; Graduate Fellow from Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Education Center, KAIST South Korea; a South Asian Voices Fellow from Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington D.C, and from the Cooperative Monitoring Center, Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico. She is also an International Law Fellow from Research Society for International Law, Lahore. She has an M.Phil in Strategic Studies from National Defence University; a Master's in Defence and Diplomatic Studies and a Master's in English Language and Applied Linguistics. Her dissertation related to "Evolution of Pakistan's Naval Strategic Thought & assured second strike capability" and "Fissile Material Treaty and Implication for South Asian Stability", respectively.

She has undertaken several national as well as international certifications and trainings related to nuclear science and technology, safety and security of radioactive sources, nonproliferation and arms control, Chemical weapons Convention (assistance and protection), and nuclear disarmament.

Previously, she served as a research coordinator and Senior Research Associate in Center for Pakistan and Gulf Studies and Strategic Technology Resources Islamabad respectively. She has an experience of working with Pakistan's Strategic Plans Division as an Assistant Director – Research in its Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs Directorate for some years. Aman has conducted research on a variety of subjects including nuclear strategy, doctrines, safety and security, command and control systems, multilateral export controls, Indian Ocean geostrategy, artificial intelligence, arms control, and nonproliferation policy with special reference to South Asia. Her work has appeared in SIPRI, The Diplomat, South Asian Voices (Stimson Center D.C), Pakistan Politico, Global Village Space, Strategic Foresight for Asia, and CISS Insight.

Shahid Raza is an expert of Asian geopolitics, defense and security issues including nuclear and hybrid warfare domain. He is currently serving as the Strategic Affairs Editor at Global Village Space (GVS) based in Islamabad and the Director of Geopolitical Research at Command Eleven. Raza is also a policy consultant and independent researcher who has shared his insights in the form of writings, podcasts, and videos on BBC (English and Urdu), The Independent, PTV, Gulf News, SASSI, Geopolitica Russia, Sputnik Radio, Asia Times, Moscow-based Katehon thinktank, among others. His current area of expertise lies in the analysis of hybrid warfare strategies involving Pakistan, India, China, Russia, Central, and South Asia, North America, and the Middle East.



Ejaz Haider

Ejaz Haider has been a journalist for over two decades, starting his career at The Frontier Post, Lahore. During his career, he has held several editorial positions including the News Editor of The Friday Times and Executive Editor of Daily Times. Mr. Haider has also hosted talk shows on Dawn News and Samaa TV. He was a Ford Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1997) and a Visiting Fellow at the Foreign Policy Studies Programme at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C (2002-03). Ejaz Haider has written extensively for publications at home and abroad including The Friday Times, Daily Times, Express Tribune, Pakistan Today, Times of India, India Abroad, The Indian Express, Daily Star (Beirut), The Washington Post, Janes Sentinel (Crisis Assessment for Pakistan), and The Hindu, among others. His areas of interest include defence and foreign policies, nuclear strategy, theories and concepts of war, international relations, statecraft, literature, and satire. He is currently Executive Editor at Indus News and also anchors a programme, Indus Special.



Pravin Sawhney

Pravin Sawhney is the co-founder and Editor of FORCE, which he started in August 2003 along with Ghazala Wahab. He is the co-author of Dragon on our Doorstep: Managing China Through Military Power (with Ghazala Wahab) and authored, The Defence Makeover: Ten Myths That Shape India's Image and Operation Parakram: The War Unfinished, a widelycirculated monograph, Ballistic Missile Imperatives Between India And Pakistan, which he co-authored with Pakistani scholar Nazir Kamal at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, US. Pravin writes on strategic, defence and foreign policy issues. He also writes a monthly column, Bottomline in FORCE. Before starting FORCE, Pravin was the South Asia correspondent based in New Delhi with Jane's International Defence Review, Jane's Information Group, Surrey (UK) for six years. Taking premature retirement from the Indian Army (artillery), Pravin started his journalistic career with Business and Political Observer newspaper from where he moved on to the Times of India and Indian Express newspapers, finally leaving defence reporting in 1996 as defence editor, The Asian Age. He has also been a visiting fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London, UK and a visiting scholar at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, US.



Dr. Tariq Rauf

Tarig Rauf is the Director of Disarmament, Arms Control and Nonproliferation Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI). Rauf is an internationally-respected authority on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues. He was Senior Advisor to the Chair of the Disarmament Committee at the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. From 2002 to 2011, he was Head of the Verification and Security Policy Coordination Office at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reporting to the Director General, in which capacity he dealt with high-priority verification cases involving Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, South Korea, and Syria; and was Coordinator of Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle from 2003-2012. He was also the Alternate Head of the IAEA delegation to Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Conferences from 2003 to 2010, and the IAEA Liaison and Point-of-Contact for a number of multilateral control regimes and United Nations Security Council committees. From 1987 to 2000, he was Expert Advisor to Canada's NPT delegations. His areas of interests include: nuclear non-proliferation; nuclear disarmament; nuclear security; international and regional security; nuclear-weaponfree zones; international organizations; regional security (esp. North America, South Asia, and the Middle East); multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle; foreign and security policy education and training.



Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd)

Khalid Banuri is a former fighter pilot and flight instructor from the PAF with diverse interests and experience spread over 44 years in public service, in four broad realms – aviation; training, education and outreach; senior level management; policy analysis, research, lecturing, and writing.

A significant part of such pursuits included over two decades of expertise in arms control and diplomacy, along with partaking in Pakistan's official delegations for bilateral dialogues and multilateral negotiations, teaching at public sector universities, lecturing and publishing on a variety of diverse subjects, executing public- private partnerships, training young persons in various facets of knowledge, and representing Pakistani perspectives on a blend of politics and policy, in various governmental and nongovernmental forums nationally and internationally. He was decorated with a civil award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz for policy analysis, and a Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military) for services rendered in the PAF. He has taught 'Use of Force and International Law' at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad since 2017. He holds an avid interest in encouraging and enabling the next generations.



Dr. Adil Sultan

Dr. Adil Sultan is Acting Dean and Head of Department, Faculty of Aerospace and Security Studies (FASSS), Air University Islamabad. He has served at Pakistan's Strategic Plans Division (SPD) for over 14 years, where he worked on Arms Control and Disarmament-related issues. Dr. Sultan was a Visiting Research Fellow at the War Studies Department, King's College London (2017-2019) where he published a book titled "Universalizing Nuclear Nonproliferation Norms: A Regional Framework for the South Asian Nuclear Weapon States," published by Palgrave Macmillan (2019). He has also been a Visiting Research Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London (2015), and Visiting Fellow Henry L. Stimson Centre, Washington D.C. (2006). Dr. Sultan is the co-founder of a web portal 'Strategic Foresight for Asia' (www.strafasia.com), which is a London-based platform publishing policy-relevant analysis on security related issues.



Dr. Sitakanta Mishra

Sitakanta Mishra is currently an Associate Professor of International Relations in the School of Liberal Studies of Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU, formerly PDPU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat (India). He is also the Managing Editor of Liberal Studies journal published by School of Liberal Studies (SLS) of PDPU, Gujarat. Previously, he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi, and a Guest Faculty at the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He was also the Associate Editor of the Indian Foreign Affairs Journal published by the Association of Indian Diplomats, Sapru House, New Delhi. Dr. Mishra received his PhD from the Centre for South Asian Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in 2011. He was a Visiting Research Scholar at Cooperative Monitoring Centre, SNL, USA, during September-December 2013, and CRDF (USA) Visiting Scholar during April–August 2014, and subsequently during June-July 2019. Dr. Mishra has authored/edited four books, two monographs, several book chapters, and research papers related to India's neighbourhood, Indo-Pak and Sino-Indian relations, India's foreign policy, nuclear policy, nuclear safety-security, terrorism, nuclear energy, cruise missiles, and South Asian affairs. He is also involved in India-Pakistan and Indo-Pacific track-2 dialogues organized in different parts of the world. Considering his academic contribution and commitment, Dr. Mishra has been conferred on the prestigious Bharat Vikas Award 2018 by Institute of Self-Reliance (Odisha, India) for outstanding performance in the fields of national security and nuclear energy.



Dr. Sameer Lalwani

Sameer Lalwani is a Senior Fellow and Director of the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center where he researches nuclear deterrence, interstate rivalry, national security decision making, crisis behavior, and counter/ insurgency. He is also a term member with the Council on Foreign Relations, a Contributing Editor to War on the Rocks, a non-resident fellow with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at George Washington University (GWU), and a 2019 National Asia Research Program Fellow. He has been an Adjunct Professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and was previously a Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow at the RAND Corporation. His work has been published by Security Studies, the Journal of Strategic Studies, The Washington Quarterly, Asian Survey, Small Wars & Insurgencies, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and the New York Times. Lalwani completed his Ph.D. from MIT's Department of Political Science, where he was an affiliate of its Security Studies Program



Elizabeth Threlkeld

Elizabeth Threlkeld is a Fellow and Deputy Director of the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center. Before joining Stimson, she served as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State in Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan, and Monterrey, Mexico. Threlkeld previously worked in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq, where she managed development interventions on gender-based violence, and ethnosectarian reconciliation. She has additional work and educational experience in China, Taiwan, and Turkey, and began her career with the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security.



Shahid Raza

Shahid Raza is an expert of Asian geopolitics, defense and security issues including nuclear and hybrid warfare domain. He is currently serving as the Strategic Affairs Editor at Global Village Space (GVS) based in Islamabad and the Director of Geopolitical Research at Command Eleven. Raza is also a policy consultant and independent researcher who has shared his insights in the form of writings, podcasts, and videos on BBC (English and Urdu), The Independent, PTV, Gulf News, SASSI, Geopolitica Russia, Sputnik Radio, Asia Times, Moscow-based Katehon thinktank, among others. His current area of expertise lies in the analysis of hybrid warfare strategies involving Pakistan, India, China, Russia, Central, and South Asia, North America, and the Middle East.



Dr. Ahmad Khan

Ahmad Khan is an IRA, International Relations Office, International Affairs and Training, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Islamabad. He completed his PhD from National Defence University, in December 2019. He was awarded HEC International Research Support Initiative Award in 2017. His dissertation title was 'Arms Race in Outer Space: A Paradigm Shift in International Security and Implication for South Asia.' His research involved extensive working on space security, arms control, and Pakistan's space program. He has also published five research articles in impact factor journal journals, two book chapters, four local research articles, and one co-authored book.



Air Commodore Kaiser Tufail (Retd)

Air Cdre Kaiser Tufail was commissioned as a pilot in the Pakistan Air Force in 1975. For the first two decades of his service, he performed flying duties on fighter and trainer aircraft. This initial phase of service culminated in command of a fighter Squadron and a fighter Wing. He has flown virtually all fighters of PAF, including the much-admired F-16. He is a graduate of the Air War College. His later staff and command appointments included Director of Operations at Air Headquarters, Deputy Commandant at the Air War College, and Base Commander of PAF Base Masroor. He is also a graduate of the National Defence University. Air Cdre Kaiser retired from the PAF in 2005, and since then he has been writing defence-related articles in various local and international magazines. He is also an author of three books. His first book, Great Air Battles of Pakistan Air Force was published in 2005. His second book, PAF in the 1971 Indo-Pak War was published in 2019. This book has also been published in UK under the title Against All Odds. He has also authored a chapter on Pakistan's Air Power in a significant volume, Air Power in the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific, published by Routledge of New York. Air Cdre Kaiser continues to travel widely in his capacity as an analyst and a member of the panel for regional security, sponsored by the United States Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California. The subjects of study have included Conflict Escalation Dynamics, Crisis Management, and Utility of Tactical Nuclear Weapons. He has also been a guest speaker at the Turkish Air War College, and the Turkish Air Force Academy. He has been on the visiting faculty of PAF Air War College since 2007.



Dr. Devin Hagerty

Dr. Devin Hagerty is Professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He teaches courses on international relations, national security policy, and South Asian politics and international affairs. He is the author of The Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation: Lessons from South Asia (MIT Press, 1998) and Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence Stability in South Asia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), as well as co-author (with Sumit Ganguly) of Fearful Symmetry: India-Pakistan Crises in the Shadow of Nuclear Weapons (University of Washington Press, 2005). He also edited South Asia in World Politics (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005). He has published in International Security, Security Studies, Current History, Asian Survey, Nonproliferation Review, the Australian Journal of International Affairs, and other scholarly journals. He co-edits the journal Asian Security. He was awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a B.A. from Rutgers University.



Dr. Salma Malik

Dr. Salma Malik is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. She specializes in the areas of Conflict and Security Studies, and South Asian Affairs. She is an alumnus of the Uppsala University, Sweden, the Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies APCSS, Hawaii and Visiting Research Fellow, Sandia National Labs, New Mexico, USA. Besides being a member of IISS London, she is part of various fora such as the Regional Center for Strategic Studies, Consortium Of South Asian Think Tanks, Social Sciences Research Council, WISCOMP, and WDN-USA.

Prior to joining QAU, she worked as a Research Officer at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan from June 1996 to August 1999. Her publications include an edited volume, "Pakistan's Security Problems and Challenges in the Next Decade," (October 2015). RCSS Policy Studies titled "Small Arms and the Security Debate in South Asia," USIP co-authored study on "Mapping Conflict Trends in Pakistan," besides articles in research journals, book chapters and monthly columns. She has also been on the Visiting Faculty list of the Intelligence Bureau Directorate, National Institute for Management, Foreign Services Academy, and has rendered lectures as a guest speaker at the National Defence University, Islamabad, PAF Air War College, Karachi, Naval War College, as well as Command & Staff College, Quetta, NUST, and Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi. In terms of educational qualifications, she holds a PhD in Defence & Strategic Studies, from the QAU, besides fellowships and certifications from abroad.



Prof. Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain

Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain is Professor and Head of Department of Government and Public Policy in School of Social Sciences and Humanities at National University Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan. Professor Rifaat Hussain has been Chair of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and also served as the Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at the National Defense University in Islamabad, and the Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Professor Rifaat Hussain has also taught at the Political Science Department, Stanford University, California, USA. He received his M.A. and PhD in International Studies from the University of Denver, Colorado, USA.



Akriti Vasudeva

Akriti Vasudeva is a Research Analyst with the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center. Her research focuses on U.S.-India defense and strategic cooperation, geopolitics of South Asia and the Indo-Pacific, and Indian foreign policy. She is also Editor-at-large at South Asian Voices, an online magazine featuring strategic analysis and commentary on the security, politics, and economics of the subcontinent. Previously, she worked as a print journalist in India, reporting on environmental issues for The Indian Express in Mumbai, and on education policy for Hindustan Times, New Delhi. She has also held research positions at the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C. and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, among others. She holds an M.A. in Asian Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in information technology engineering from the University of Mumbai.



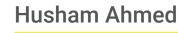
Salman Zaidi

Salman Zaidi works as Director Programs at Jinnah Institute. He was part of the Institute's founding team and led its Strategic Security Program from 2010-2015 where his work concentrated on Track 2 diplomacy between Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and the United States. He has led research projects on security sector reform, radicalization, youth, democratic governance, and resource conflicts. Zaidi has previously worked with international development agencies and INGOs on recasting federal and provincial policy frameworks for security sector reform, rule of law, countering violent extremism, and climate change. He holds an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from SOAS, UK.



Ammara Durrani

Ammara Durrani is a public policy professional with 20 years of leadership experience in knowledge, strategy, management & advocacy. Her expertise lie in the areas of preventing conflict, violent extremism & peace building; democracy & governance; media development & freedom of information; public diplomacy, arts, culture & strategic communications; and gender, youth & children. She served as UNDP Pakistan Adviser Youth & Preventing Violent Extremism (2017-2019); Pakistan Country Director at Search for Common Ground (2012-2014); GM Public Outreach, Corporate Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility at PTCL (2011-2012); Project Director & Strategic Communications Specialist at Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan (2008-2011); and Development Outreach & Communications Specialist at USAID Pakistan (20062008). She also served as Coordinator of World Social Forum 2006 Pakistan (2005-2006). Prior to management roles, she worked as journalist: Senior Correspondent and Assistant Editor, The News International, Pakistan (2001-2006). She has the distinction of being Daniel Pearl Fellow whereby she worked at Los Angeles Times and Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles in Los Angeles (2005). She was trained at Etisalat Academy (2012), Oxford University (2011), Wilton Park (2010), USAID (2006-2008), Poynter Institute (2005), Boston University Radio WBUR (2004), Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism (2005), WISCOMP (2003), and British Council (2001). Her other distinctions include being first Internews Fellow at Annenberg-Oxford Summer Institute on Global Media Law & Policy, University of Oxford (2011); presenting at House of Commons, U.K. (2010); and 2004 WASH Media Award by WSSCC, Switzerland. She holds an M. Phil. in International Relations from University of Cambridge (1999); M.A. (1998) and B.A. Honors (1997) in History from University of Karachi. She was awarded Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust & Sir Patrick Sheehy Cambridge Scholarship (1998) and got three Gold Medals for distinction from Karachi University (1998).



Husham Ahmed is currently serving as Counsellor Political in Pakistan Embassy in Ankara. He is overseeing Pakistan-Turkey relations and Turkey's broader policy in the region. He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 2011 and has previously worked as Director (Arms Control & Disarmament) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad. He has also been posted in Vienna and Moscow previously. In Vienna, he was responsible for nuclear related matters and representing Pakistan's interests at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBO), and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). He is a graduate of NUST (B.E Electrical Engineering). Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked in the field of Public Policy Consultancy with World Bank and ADB, and has been a columnist in various leading national daily newspapers.



Syed Hassan Akbar

Syed Hassan Akbar is presently serving as Senior Policy Specialist at the National Security Division where he heads the foreign policy and national security portfolio at the Strategic Policy Planning Cell. Prior to joining the government, Akbar served as Director Programmes for 7 years at the Islamabad-based think-tank Jinnah Institute where he led the Chaophraya Dialogue – the longest running Track-II between Pakistan and India. He also managed the Institute's portfolio on foreign policy, governance, and fundamental rights. He has previously worked for national and multilateral organizations and published research on foreign policy, democracy, and development in Pakistan. Akbar has a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University.



Sebastian Brixey-Williams

Sebastain Brixey Williams is Co-Director of BASIC and the Director of the Programme on Nuclear Responsibilities, which he co-founded in 2016. A nuclear weapons policy specialist and conflict mediator, he uses dialogues to open up new possibilities for building trust and cooperation among states and non-governmental stakeholders. His work applies established and new conflict resolution ideas to a range of policy areas including nuclear risk reduction, disarmament, international law, emerging technologies, and UK nuclear weapons policy. Sebastian is an N Square Fellow (2020-21), a member of the Younger Generation Leadership Network, a former British Pugwash Executive Committee member, and co-founder of the Emerging Voices Network.



Dr. Nicholas Wheeler

Nicholas J. Wheeler is Professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Birmingham and Academic Lead of the Programme on Nuclear Responsibilities. His publications include: Trusting Enemies: Interpersonal Relationships in International Conflict (2018); (with Ken Booth) The Security Dilemma: Fear, Cooperation, and Trust in World Politics (2008); and Saving Strangers: Humanitarian Intervention in International Society (2000). He is co-editor with Professors Christian Reus-Smit and Evelyn Goh of the Cambridge Series in International Relations, Associate Editor of the Journal of Trust Research, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He was appointed as the first Director of the newly-created Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) at the University of Birmingham in February 2012 and served in this role for its first eight years.



Fahd Humayun

Fahd Humayun is a PhD candidate at Yale University, studying democratic institutions, domestic audiences, and crisis behavior. He was formerly with the Jinnah Institute, a public policy think-tank in Islamabad. He writes for a number of outlets including Foreign Policy, Al Jazeera and The News International.



Dr. Hussain Nadim

Dr. Hussain Nadim is the Executive Director of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) based in Islamabad. He was formerly Special Assistant to Federal Minister at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms. He was also at the Wilson Center and theUnited States Institute of Peace (USIP) as a Senior Pakistan Expert. For his work in the public sector, Dr. Nadim is a recipient of several international awards including being recognised in the Forbes 30 under 30 list of 2016. He has a PhD from the University of Sydney, MPhil from University of Cambridge, and a BA from George Washington University in International Affairs.

Scott Roecker

Scott Roecker is Senior Director, Materials Risk Management, at the Nuclear Threat Initiative(NTI) He focuses on work to reduce the risks associated with nuclear and radiological materials through a number of NTI projects, including the Global Dialogue on Nuclear Security Priorities and the NTI Nuclear Security Index, as well as through targeted cooperation with priority countries. He also supports NTI's nuclear disarmament verification work and advises leadership on issues related to Iran. Roecker previously served as the director of the Office of Nuclear Material Removal at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). In this position, he was responsible for all U.S.led activities to remove or dispose of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium with partner countries. From November 2014 through May 2017, Roecker served as the director for Nuclear Threat Reduction at the National Security Council. In that role, he coordinated the development and implementation of policies to prevent nuclear terrorism through efforts to secure nuclear and radiological materials, minimize HEU and plutonium, and counter nuclear smuggling. He also was the sous-sherpa for the United States at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit and led efforts to implement an outreach campaign designed to reach entry into force of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Roecker has also served as the senior policy advisor for the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, where he provided policy guidance on nuclear security activities across all nonproliferation programs at NNSA. He has worked in the Office of the Second Line of Defense, where he managed border security engagement with partners in South and Central Asia. Roecker began his career at NNSA working with Russia and China to secure nuclear materials.

Prior to his tenure at the NNSA, Roecker worked for United States Rep. Bruce F. Vento as a legislative assistant, advising the congressman on issues related to international relations and business development. Roecker holds a Master's in International Affairs from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science from The University of Minnesota. He is proficient in Russian.



Prof. Dr. Vali Nasr

Prof.Dr. Vali Nasr is the Majid Khadduri Professor of International Affairs and Middle East Studies at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at Atlantic Council's South Asia Center. He served as the eighth Dean of Johns Hopkins SAIS between 2012 and 2019 and served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke between 2009 and 2011. Nasr is the author of The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat; Forces of Fortune: The Rise of a New Middle Class and How it Will Change Our World; The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam will Shape the Future; Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty; Islamic Leviathan, Islam and the Making of State Power; Mawdudi and the Making of Islamic Revivalism; and Vanguard of Islamic Revolution: Jama'at-i Islami of Pakistan; and numerous articles in scholarly journals. He has advised senior American policymakers, world leaders, and businesses, including the President, Secretary of State, senior members of the Congress, and presidential campaigns. He has written for New York Times, Foreign Affairs, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post, among others. He is a member of the International Board of Advisors of the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University, the International Board of Advisors at the American University of Beirut, and the Board of Advisors of Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. He has been the recipient of grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council, and was named a 2006 Carnegie Scholar.

He received his BA from Tufts University in International Relations summa cum laude and was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in 1983. He earned his master's from the Fletcher School of Law in and Diplomacy in international economics and Middle East studies in 1984, and his PhD from MIT in political science in 1991.



Raoof Hasan

Raoof Hasan is the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister(SAPM) on Information and Broadcasting. He is Founder and Chief Executive of the Regional Peace Institute (RPI). He spearheads tracks 1.5 and 2 dialogues involving Pakistan, China, Afghanistan, and the United States. He is a renowned political and foreign policy analyst. He has written extensively for platforms like The News, The Nation, Pakistan Today, The Express Tribune, Daily Times, Foreign Affairs, and War on the Rocks. He is currently doing a weekly piece each for The News (published every Wednesday), Jang (published every Saturday), and Pakistan Today (published every Sunday).



Prof. Dr. Adil Najam

Dr. Adil Najam is the inaugural Dean of the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University which was founded in 2014 with a generous gift from BU alum Frederick S. Pardee. He is also a Professor of International Relations and of Earth and Environment. Earlier, Prof. Adil Najam served as Vice Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Lahore, Pakistan and as the Director of the Boston University Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future. In addition to Boston University, Prof. Najam has taught at MIT and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. His research focuses on issues of global public policy, especially those related to global climate change, South Asia, Muslim countries, environment and development, and human development.

Professor Najam was a co-author for the Third and Fourth Assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); work for which the scientific panel was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the public understanding of climate change science. In 2008 he was invited by the United Nations Secretary-General to serve on the UN Committee on Development (CDP). He was a member of the President of Pakistan's Special Task Force on Human Development (2001) and served on Pakistan's Presidential Commission on Higher Education (2002). In 2010, he was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence), one of Pakistan's highest civil awards by the President of Pakistan. In 2019, he was appointed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan's Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Najam has written over 100 scholarly papers and book chapters. His recent books include: South Asia 2060: Envisioning Regional Futures (2013); How Immigrants Impact their Homelands (2013); The Future of South-South Economic Relations (2012); Envisioning a Sustainable Development Agenda for Trade and Environment (2007); Trade and Environment: A Resourcebook (2007); Pakistanis in America: Portrait of a Giving Community (2006); Global Environmental Governance: A Reform Agenda (2006); Environment, Development and Human Security: Perspectives from South Asia (2003); and Civic Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development (2002). He was also the lead author for the 2017 Pakistan National Human Development Report on Youth.

He is a past winner of MIT's Goodwin Medal for Effective Teaching, the Fletcher School Paddock Teaching Award, and the Stein Rokan Award of the International Political Science Association, the ARNOVA Emerging Scholar Award, and the Pakistan Television Medal for Outstanding Achievement. In 2011, he was elected a Trustee on the International Board of WWF; and in 2013 elected a Trustee of The Asia Foundation (TAF). He is the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Switzerlandbased Luc Hoffmann Institute. He has been a Council Member of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria; and was the Board Chair of the South Asia Network of Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). He is also a past Board Chair of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), Pakistan. Dr. Najam has also served on the Academic Council of the South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, India and the Syndicate (Board) of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, Pakistan. He continues to serve as a Board's Visiting Committee member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Prof. Najam is frequently interviewed by and writes for the popular media and is the founding editor of the award-winning blog Pakistaniat.com.

Professor Najam's areas of expertise include international negotiation, sustainable development, human development and human security, international environmental politics, politics of the Muslim world, and politics of South Asia.



Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad

Asim Iftikhar Ahmad is currently Additional Secretary, Asia Pacific, and Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad. Amb. Asim was, till recently, the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of Thailand (June 2017 - July 2021), and Permanent Representative to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Having joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1993, Asim has held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Pakistan Missions abroad, including as Director General (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan's Political Coordinator in the UN Security Council, and Deputy Chef de Cabinet of the President of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly.

Amb. Asim has represented Pakistan at the UN Security Council, General Assembly, the Peace-building Commission and the Human Rights Council besides various international and regional organizations including the OIC, NAM, the African Union, ASEM, and ARF.



Dr. Francis Gavin

Dr. Francis J. Gavin is the Giovanni Agnelli Distinguished Professor and the inaugural director of the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS. In 2013, Gavin was appointed the first Frank Stanton Chair in Nuclear Security Policy Studies and Professor of Political Science at MIT. Before joining MIT, he was the Tom Slick Professor of International Affairs and the Director of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas. From 2005 until 2010, he directed The American Assembly's multiyear, national initiative, The Next Generation Project: U.S. Global Policy and the Future of International Institutions. Gavin's writings include Gold, Dollars, and Power: The Politics of International Monetary Relations, 1958-1971 (University of North Carolina Press, 2004) Nuclear Statecraft: History and Strategy in America's Atomic Age (Cornell University Press, 2012), and Nuclear Weapons and American Grand Strategy (Brooking Institution Press, 2020).

He received a PhD and MA in History from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Studies in Modern European History from Oxford University, and a BA in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Gavin is an Associate of the Managing the Atom Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, Senior Fellow of the Clements Program in History, Strategy, and Statecraft, a Distinguished Scholar at the Robert S. Strauss Center, a Senior Advisor to the Nuclear Proliferation International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and a life-member of the Council on Foreign Relations.