

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Independent Researcher

Completed multiple research projects, including publishing an article in the *Third World Quarterly* (see section on Publications), Strasbourg, France

2025 -
Present

- Published a research paper in *Third World Quarterly* between March and August 2025
- Submitted a research paper to the *Oxford Journal of Development Studies*
- Analysed data for two working papers
- Attended the 18th European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference on International Relations in August 2025

Durham University, Teaching Fellow in Comparative Politics of Development
School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK

2023 –
2024

- Seminar Lecturer, Political Economy of Development, Undergraduate (student no.: 54)
- Assistant Lab Leader, Quantitative Methods and Analysis, Postgraduate (student no.: 44)
- Lecturer, Quantitative Methods Workshops, Undergraduate (student no.: 76)
- Lecturer, Research Project on Democracy, Good Governance and Development, Undergraduate (student no.: 25)
- Lecturer and convenor, Democratic Political Systems, Undergraduate (student no.: 83)
- Co-leader, Quantitative Labs for Researching Politics and International Relations, Undergraduate (student no.: 138)
- Marking (no. of scripts: 490)

SOAS University of London, Economic and Social Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Development Studies, London, UK

2022 –
2023

- Published article in *Global Policy Journal*
- Organised book introduction events for monograph
- Coded 238 IMF policy documents (4,747 pages) for a research project
- Published op-eds (e.g., *The Conversation*) and participated in media interviews

University College London, Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

2020 –
2021

- Coordinated the Master's in Development Administration and Planning programme during the COVID pandemic, using online teaching (student no.: 86)
- Tutored the Development in Practice module on digital fieldwork
- Provided academic and pastoral support
- Marked essays and provided individual formative feedback
- Organised a book club to keep students engaged in virtual academic activities.
- Maintained online communication through Twitter, Slack, and Instagram
- Developed a digital strategy to assess student participation in online and offline course activities

University College London, Postgraduate Teaching Assistant
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

2017 –
2018

- Coordinated the Master's in Urban Economic Development programme
- Monitored the London Project – a research assignment involving the coproduction of development policy between students and the City of London Municipal Authority
- Provided academic and pastoral support
- Marked essays and provided individual formative feedback

EDUCATION

University College London, Ph.D. Development Policy
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

2016 –
2021

Dissertation: Habitus and Embodied Institutions; A Study of Manufacturing Enterprises in Kabul's Conflict-Affected Market Economy and Adaptive Strategies for Enterprise Continuation
Supervisor: Michael Walls | Examiners: Magnus Marsden and Alexandra Panman

King's College London, MA International Political Economy
Department of European and International Studies, London, UK
With Merit

2012 –
2013

University of Pune, BA Economics (Special), Politics & Psychology
Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, India
With Distinction

2007 –
2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS	Industrial Development, Aid, Economic Sociology, Institutions, Digital Economy, International Financial Institutions, Postwar Economy														
PUBLICATIONS (Selected)	<p>Journal Articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rafi, K. (2025). Ograyi and Bourdieusian social capital in Afghanistan's manufacturing sector. <i>Third World Quarterly</i>, 46(16): 2178 – 2199 ▪ Rafi, K. (2024). Minimalist economic management, deferred revenue regime and aid dependency: explaining contradictory post-war statebuilding aims. <i>Global Policy Journal</i>, 15(5): 869-885 ▪ Rafi, K. (2018). Information and communication technology in development: a contextual approach. <i>Indian Journal of Human Development</i>, 12(3): 453-461 <p>Monograph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rafi, K. (2022). <i>Patriarchal Hierarchy; Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan</i>. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan <p>Working Papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rafi, K., Technology-in-practice: ICT use in Afghanistan's manufacturing sector. Accepted by <i>The European Journal of Development Research</i> under the journal's Early Career Researcher Initiative ▪ Rafi, K., Uncertainty mitigation in an emerging private manufacturing sector. Submitted to the <i>Oxford Journal of Development Studies</i> (09 Nov 2025) ▪ IMF Advocacy for Postwar Macroeconomy: A Structured Topic Modelling (target journal: <i>The Journal of Development Studies</i>) ▪ IMF Advocacy in War-affected and War-time Conditions: A Structured Topic Modelling (target journal: <i>Review of International Political Economy</i>) ▪ Enabling environment; tracing the concept in World Bank documents (target journal: <i>Review of International Political Economy</i>) ▪ Formal institutions and administrative state in post-war state-building (target journal: <i>Human Geography</i>) 														
GRANTS AND AWARDS	<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mobility Fund, European International Studies Association, €600</td> <td>2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research Grant, Canadian International Development Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation (administered by the Central Asian University), \$8,000.00</td> <td>2023 – 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Grant, Economic and Social Research Council, UK Research and Innovation, The Government of the United Kingdom, £110,000.00</td> <td>2022 – 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PhD Bursary (small grant), University College London, £500</td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John F. Richards Travel Fellowship, The American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, \$2,000.00</td> <td>2017 – 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conference Fund, University College London, £1000</td> <td>2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fully Paid Undergraduate Scholarship (merit-based), The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, ₹304,000.00</td> <td>2007 – 2010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mobility Fund, European International Studies Association, €600	2025	Research Grant, Canadian International Development Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation (administered by the Central Asian University), \$8,000.00	2023 – 2024	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Grant, Economic and Social Research Council, UK Research and Innovation, The Government of the United Kingdom, £110,000.00	2022 – 2023	PhD Bursary (small grant), University College London, £500	2019	John F. Richards Travel Fellowship, The American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, \$2,000.00	2017 – 2018	Conference Fund, University College London, £1000	2017	Fully Paid Undergraduate Scholarship (merit-based), The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, ₹304,000.00	2007 – 2010
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TEACHING PROFILE	<p>Advance HE (formerly the UK Higher Education Academy), Associate Fellow</p> <p>Curriculum Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Democracy, Good Governance and Development (undergraduate research project) ▪ Political Economy of Development (undergraduate module) ▪ International Development and Postwar Reconstruction (undergraduate module) ▪ States, Markets and Civil Society in Development (postgraduate module) ▪ Introduction to International Political Economy (postgraduate module) 														
SUPERVISION	<p>Undergraduate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oliver Bell, BSc thesis, polarisation in US politics, 2024 ▪ Charlotte Dean, BSc thesis, tendency for executive aggrandisement in UK government, 2024 ▪ Hamis Hunter, BSc thesis, perceptions of mega-sporting events in the news, 2024 ▪ Maeloc Rivero, BSc thesis, the size of the lower house in US state legislatures and female descriptive representation, 2024 														

- Eve Sibley, BSc thesis, an investigation into how the United States justifies its continued relationship with Israel in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict using critical discourse analysis, 2024
- Alice Weldon, BSc thesis, the relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the United States government's decision to go to war in the post-Cold War period, 2024
- Korina Messicot, BSc thesis, 2024

LANGUAGES	English Spoken: Bilingual Written: Bilingual Read: Bilingual French Spoken: Advanced Written: Advanced Read: Advanced Persian Spoken: Native Written: Native Read: Native Pushto Spoken: Advanced Written: Advanced Read: Advanced Urdu Spoken: Advanced Written: Intermediate Read: Novice Hindi Spoken: Advanced Written: None Read: None Arabic Spoken: Novice Written: Novice Read: Novice	
INVITED TALKS	The 18 th European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference on International Relations, <i>University of Bologna</i>	2025
	The 17 th European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference on International Relations, <i>Université Catholique de Lille</i>	2024
	International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy (IIPPE), <i>Universidad Rey Juan Carlos</i>	2023
	US Institute of Peace, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, Centre for Governance and Markets at the <i>University of Pittsburgh</i> & Hollings Centre for International Dialogue	2023
	UNU-WIDER and EU Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation	2022
	Alternative Scenarios for Afghanistan Conference, Center for Global Affairs, <i>New York University</i>	2022
	Sussex Afghanistan Forum Conference, <i>University of Sussex</i>	2019
	Afghanistan Inside Out – Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University, <i>Kabul University</i>	2018
	International Initiative for Promoting Political Economy, <i>Berlin School of Economics and Law</i>	2017
INVITED FELLOWSHIPS	Durham University , Honorary Visiting Fellow School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK ▪ Completed and submitted an article to the <i>European Journal of Development Research</i>	2024
	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit , Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Kabul, Afghanistan ▪ Contributed to research and policy in this leading Central Asian think tank ▪ Conducted workshops on effective research methodologies for think tank researchers ▪ Authored blog articles and participated in seminars and conferences	2018
CONSULTANCY	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization , International Consultant, Paris, France Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan ▪ Revised pilot studies, ensuring clarity, readability, and logical consistency ▪ Ensured evidence-based claims, improved structure and narrative flow ▪ Ensured balanced and objective conclusions with actionable recommendations	2025
	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization , International Consultant, Paris, France Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan ▪ Revised pilot studies, ensuring clarity, readability, and logical consistency ▪ Ensured evidence-based claims, improved structure and narrative flow ▪ Ensured balanced and objective conclusions with actionable recommendations	2024
	SOAS University Enterprise Office , Consultant, London, UK ▪ Consultation round with the head of UNICEF for Afghanistan	2022
	Government of the Republic of Afghanistan , Economic Advisor on UN SDGs Ministry of Economy, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan ▪ Developed a policy for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ▪ Collaborated with the Ministry of Economy and UN Development Program ▪ Contributed to Afghanistan's import substitution strategy	2018 – 2020
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER WORK	Durham University , Member of 'Widening Participation Group' (EDI initiative) School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK ▪ Visited underrepresented schools in Durham County to promote higher education ▪ Provided information about academic courses and financial support at Durham University	2023 – 2024
	University College London , Coordinator The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Global Change Initiative, London, UK	2017

- Assisted in establishing a think tank at UCL's Bartlett Faculty.
- Organised debates, forums, and conferences, managing logistics and communication with guest speakers.

EastWest Institute, Research Assistant

Economic Security Initiative, Washington, D.C., US

2014

- Contributed to and organised the release of the study on trade connectivity in Central and South Asia by the EastWest Institute and the US Institute of Peace, subsequently presented and debated at the United Nations Headquarters
- Organised a book launch at the Brookings Institution and at the EastWest Institute on cybersecurity
- Conducted research on the Israeli-Palestine issue
- Contributed articles to the EastWest Institute blog

The United Nations Headquarters, Assistant

Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations, New York, US

2014

- Covered UN Security Council and Economic and Social Council meetings
- Drafted reports on negotiations regarding the formulation of UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Attend month-long negotiations on revising UN counter-terrorism financing strategy

COMPUTER SKILLS

R Studio, NVivo, Text Analysis, MS Office Tools, Virtual Learning Technologies

RESEARCH SKILLS

Quantitative Data Analysis and Visualisation, Structured Topic Modelling, Qualitative Interviews, Thematic Analysis

DATASET

Rafi, K (2025). Fieldwork 2018-2019.docx. figshare. Dataset <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28558436.v1>

FIELDWORK

Afghanistan – Kabul and the northern region

MEMBERSHIP

UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab
European International Studies Association

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Durham University, College Mentor and Member of the Senior Common Room
College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham, UK

2023-2024

University College London, Organiser for Windsor Policy Simulation Workshop
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

2017

University College London, Organiser for UCL Global Citizenship Programme
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

2017

TECHNICAL TRAINING

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council, Postdoctoral Fellows Professional Development Programme
Content: 1) strategic career development, 2) funders and funding, 3) policy engagement, 4) policy challenge workshop, 5) publications and communication, 6) networks, teams and collaboration, 7) parliamentary engagement

2022 –
2023

The British Academy, Academic Writing Workshop
Rethinking Liberal Peace Through Southern Eyes

2021

University College London, Doctoral Skills Development Programme
Content: 1) statistical concepts in research, 2) research methods for quantitative data, 3) SPSS, 4) responsible research & innovation, 5) introduction to qualitative thematic analysis, 6) working with archives, 7) NVivo

2017 –
2018

Deccan Education Society, Higher Education Diploma in National Security and International Relations, Pune, India

2009 –
2010

Symbiosis College of Liberal Arts, Higher Education Certificate in International Economic Cooperation, Pune, India

2009 –
2010

POLICY BRIEFS

Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2025). *Project to improve the quality and reach of the accelerated non-formal education programme (ANEP)* [Unpublished manuscript]. Endline Evaluation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2025). *Project to improve the quality and reach of the accelerated non-formal education programme (ANEP)* [Unpublished manuscript]. Endline Evaluation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2024). *Adult literacy assessment survey* [Unpublished manuscript]. Pilot Study Report, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2024). *Assessment of the youth and adult literacy and basic education model* [Unpublished manuscript]. Report, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Rafi, K. (2019). *Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals Vision 2021–2030* [Unpublished manuscript]. Policy Brief, Ministry of Economy, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

INTERESTS

1. Philosophy, contemporary history, Persian poetry, films and fiction
 2. Painting and drawing, football (i.e., soccer), travel, cuisine, museums and pubs
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Last Updated: November 2025