

Kambaiz Rafi, PhD

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	University of Central Asia , Non-resident Fellow Afghanistan Research Initiative	2025 – Present
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Durham University , Teaching Fellow in Comparative Politics of Development School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Published article in <i>Global Policy Journal</i>Organised book introduction events for monographCoded 238 IMF policy documents (4,747 pages) for a research projectPublished op-eds (e.g., The Conversation) and participated in media interviews University College London , Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 fieldworkProvided academic and pastoral supportMarked essays and provided individual formative feedbackOrganised a book club to keep students engaged in virtual academic activities.Maintained online communication through Twitter, Slack, and InstagramDeveloped 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinated the Master's in Urban Economic Development programmeMonitored the London Project – a research assignment involving the coproduction of development policy between students and the City of London Municipal AuthorityProvided academic and pastoral supportMarked essays and provided individual formative feedback	2023 – 2024 2022 – 2023 2020 – 2021 2017 – 2018
EDUCATION	University College London , PhD. Development Policy Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK 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 University of Pune , BA Economics (Special), Politics & Psychology Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, India With Distinction	2016 – 2021 2012 – 2013 2007 – 2010
RESEARCH INTERESTS	International Financial Institutions, Industrial Development, Political Economy of Institutions, Digital Economy, Postwar Economy	

PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

Journal Articles:

Rafi, K. (2025). Ograyi and Bourdieusian social capital in Afghanistan's manufacturing sector. *Third World Quarterly*, 46(16): 2178 – 2199

Rafi, K. (2024). Minimalist economic management, deferred revenue regime and aid dependency: explaining contradictory post-war statebuilding aims. *Global Policy Journal*, 15(5): 869-885

Rafi, K. (2018). Information and communication technology in development: a contextual approach. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 12(3): 453-461

Monograph:

Rafi, K. (2022). *Patriarchal Hierarchy; Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan

Working Papers:

Rafi, K., Technology-in-practice: ICT use in Afghanistan's manufacturing sector. Accepted by *The European Journal of Development Research* under the journal's Early Career Researcher Initiative

Rafi, K., Uncertainty mitigation in an emerging private manufacturing sector. Submitted to the *Oxford Journal of Development Studies* (09 Nov 2025)

IMF Advocacy for Postwar Macroeconomy: A Structured Topic Modelling (target journal: *The Journal of Development Studies*)

IMF Advocacy in War-affected and War-time Conditions: A Structured Topic Modelling (target journal: *Review of International Political Economy*)

Enabling environment; tracing the concept in World Bank documents (target journal: *Review of International Political Economy*)

Formal institutions and administrative state in post-war state-building (target journal: *Human Geography*)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

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

TEACHING PROFILE

Advance HE (formerly the UK Higher Education Academy), Associate Fellow	2024 - Present
Curriculum Development:	2023 – 2025
<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

Undergraduate:

- 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 Reading: Bilingual French Spoken: Advanced Written: Advanced Reading: Advanced Persian Spoken: Native Written: Native Reading: Native Pushto Spoken: Advanced Written: Advanced Reading: Advanced Urdu Spoken: Advanced Written: Intermediate Reading: Novice Hindi Spoken: Advanced Written: None Reading: None Arabic Spoken: Novice Written: Novice Reading: 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 & Hollings Centre for International Dialogue</i> 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 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed and submitted an article to the <i>European Journal of Development Research</i> Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit , Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Kabul, Afghanistan 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
CONSULTANCY	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization , International Consultant, Paris, France 2025 Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization , International Consultant, Paris, France 2024 Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 SOAS University Enterprise Office , Consultant, London, UK 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation round with the head of UNICEF for Afghanistan Government of the Republic of Afghanistan , Economic Advisor on UN SDGs 2018 – 2020 Ministry of Economy, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER WORK	Durham University , Member of 'Widening Participation Group' (EDI initiative) 2023 – 2024 School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited underrepresented schools in Durham County to promote higher education • Provided information about academic courses and financial support at Durham University University College London , Coordinator 2017	

- The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Global Change Initiative, London, UK
- 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 2014

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

- 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 2014

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

- 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, Fieldwork (including in war-affected regions)

MEMBERSHIP

UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab
European International Studies Association

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Lund University, Workshop Discussant 2025
Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Berlin, Germany

Durham University, College Mentor and Member of the Senior Common Room 2023-2024
College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham, UK

University College London, Organiser for Windsor Policy Simulation Workshop 2017
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

University College London, Organiser for UCL Global Citizenship Programme 2017
Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK

TECHNICAL TRAINING

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council, Postdoctoral Fellows Professional Development Programme 2022 – 2023
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

The British Academy, Academic Writing Workshop 2021
Rethinking Liberal Peace Through Southern Eyes

University College London, Doctoral Skills Development Programme 2017 – 2018
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

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: December 2025