

Kambaiz Rafi, PhD

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	University of Central Asia , Non-resident Fellow Afghanistan Research Initiative	2025 - Present
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	<p>Durham University, Teaching Fellow in Comparative Politics of Development School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK</p> <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) <p>SOAS University of London, Economic and Social Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Development Studies, London, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Published article in <i>Global Policy Journal</i> ▪ Organised book introduction events for monograph ▪ Coded 238 IMF policy documents (4,747 pages) for a research project ▪ Published op-eds (e.g., <i>The Conversation</i>) and participated in media interviews <p>University College London, Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK</p> <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 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 <p>University College London, Postgraduate Teaching Assistant Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	2023 – 2024
EDUCATION	<p>University College London, PhD. Development Policy Bartlett Development Planning Unit, London, UK</p> <p>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</p> <p>King's College London, MA International Political Economy Department of European and International Studies, London, UK</p> <p>With Merit</p> <p>University of Pune, BA Economics (Special), Politics & Psychology Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, India</p> <p>With Distinction</p>	2016 – 2021
RESEARCH INTERESTS	International Financial Institutions, Industrial Development, Political Economy of Institutions, Digital Economy, Postwar Economy	2007 – 2010

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</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		2024
	▪ 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
	▪ 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 Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan		2025
	▪ 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 Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan		2024
	▪ 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
	▪ Consultation round with the head of UNICEF for Afghanistan		
	Government of the Republic of Afghanistan , Economic Advisor on UN SDGs Ministry of Economy, The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan		2018 – 2020
	▪ 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) School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK		2023 – 2024
	▪ 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 Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Berlin, Germany	2025
	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). <i>Project to improve the quality and reach of the accelerated non-formal education programme (ANEP)</i> [Unpublished manuscript]. Endline Evaluation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
	Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2025). <i>Project to improve the quality and reach of the accelerated non-formal education programme (ANEP)</i> [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