

Kambaiz Rafi, PhD

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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

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

2023 –
2024

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

2022 –
2023

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

2020 –
2021

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

2017 –
2018

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

FIELDS

Industrial Development, Formal and Informal Institutions, Digital Economy, International Financial Institutions, Postwar Economy

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Rafi, K. (2025). Ograyi and Bourdieusian social capital in Afghanistan's manufacturing sector. *Third World Quarterly*, 1-22, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2025.2547089>
2. 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
3. Rafi, K. (2022). *Patriarchal Hierarchy; Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan
4. Rafi, K. (2018). Information and communication technology in development: a contextual approach. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 12(3): 453-461
5. Rafi, K. (2015). The Afghan insurgency and the uncertainty of peace negotiations. *Journal of Perspectives on Terrorism*, Centre for Security Studies, University of Massachusetts (Lowell) and ETH Zürich, 9(5): 69-72

SUBMITTED PAPERS

1. 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
2. Rafi, K., Uncertainty mitigation in an emerging private manufacturing sector. Submitted to the *Oxford Journal of Development Studies*

ONGOING PROJECTS

1. (Non)adaptation of IMF policy advocacy to wartime conditions (target journal: *The Journal of Development Studies*)
2. Formal institutions and administrative state in post-war state-building (target journal: *Human Geography*)
3. Enabling environment; tracing the concept in World Bank documents (target journal: *Review of International Political Economy*)

DATASET	Rafi, K (2025). Fieldwork 2018-2019.docx. figshare. Dataset https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28558436.v1					
RESEARCH SKILLS	Quantitative Data Analysis and Visualisation, Structured Topic Modelling, Qualitative Interviews, Thematic Analysis					
LANGUAGES	English Persian	Proficient Native	French Urdu	Proficient Intermediate	Hindi Arabic	Intermediate Beginner
TEACHING CERTIFICATE	The United Kingdom Higher Education Academy, Associate Fellow					
SELECTED FUNDING	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 , 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	Seminar Lecturer , Political Economy of Development, Durham University Student number: 54	2023 – 2024				
	Assistant Lab Leader , Quantitative Methods and Analysis (RStudio Labs), Durham University, Student number: 44	2023 – 2024				
	Lecturer , Quantitative Methods Workshops, Durham University Student number: 76	2023				
	Lecturer , Research Project on Democracy, Good Governance and Development, Durham University, student number: 25	2023 – 2024				
	Co-leader , Quantitative Labs for Researching Politics and International Relations, Durham University, student number: 138	2024				
	Lecturer and convenor , Democratic Political Systems, Durham University Student number: 83	2023 – 2024				
	Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant , MSc Development Administration and Planning, University College London, student number: 86	2020 – 2021				
	Postgraduate Teaching Assistant , MSc Urban Economic Development, University College London, student number: 75	2017 – 2018				
DISSERTATION SUPERVISION	1. Oliver Bell, BSc thesis, polarisation in US politics, 2024 2. Charlotte Dean, BSc thesis, tendency for executive aggrandisement in UK government, 2024 3. Hamis Hunter, BSc thesis, perceptions of mega-sporting events in the news, 2024 4. Maeloc Rivero, BSc thesis, the size of the lower house in US state legislatures and female descriptive representation, 2024 5. 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 6. 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 7. Korina Messicot, BSc thesis, 2024					
COMPUTER SKILLS	R Studio, NVivo, Text Analysis, MS Office Tools, Virtual Learning Technologies					

MEMBERSHIP	1. Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics 2. UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab 3. European International Studies Association	
COURSE PROPOSALS	1. International Development and Postwar Reconstruction 2. States, Markets and Civil Society in Development 3. Introduction to International Political Economy	
FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE	Afghanistan – Kabul and the northern region	
SELECTED PRESENTATIONS	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
	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit , Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Kabul, Afghanistan	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	2025
	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization , International Consultant, Paris, France Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan	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 Project: Researching and writing the Afghan SDGs' implementation strategy for 2021-2030	2018 – 2020
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER WORK	Durham University , Member of 'Widening Participation Group' (EDI initiative) School of Government and International Affairs, Durham, UK	2023 – 2024
	University College London , Coordinator The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Global Change Initiative, London, UK	2017
	EastWest Institute , Research Assistant Economic Security Initiative, Washington, D.C., US	2014
	The United Nations Headquarters , Assistant Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations, New York, US Focus Areas: UN Security Council and ECOSOC	2014
VOLUNTEER 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

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
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). <i>Adult literacy assessment survey</i> [Unpublished manuscript]. Pilot Study Report, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.	
	Rafi, K. (Ed.). (2024). <i>Assessment of the youth and adult literacy and basic education model</i> [Unpublished manuscript]. Report, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.	
	Rafi, K. (2019). <i>Afghanistan Sustainable Development Goals Vision 2021–2030</i> [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	

Last Updated: November 2025