

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)	2025 - Present
Durham University , Teaching Fellow in Comparative Politics of Development School of Government and International Affairs	2023 – 2024
SOAS University of London , Economic and Social Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Development Studies	2022 – 2023
University College London , Senior Postgraduate Teaching Assistant MSc Development Planning and Administration, Bartlett Development Planning Unit	2020 – 2021
University College London , Postgraduate Teaching Assistant MSc Urban Economic Development, Bartlett Development Planning Unit	2017 – 2018

EDUCATION

University College London , Ph.D. Development Policy Dissertation: 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	2016 – 2021
King's College London , MA International Political Economy With Merit	2012 – 2013
University of Pune , BA Economics (Special), Politics & Psychology With Distinction	2007 – 2010

FIELDS

Development Economics, Formal and Informal Institutions, Digital Development, International Financial Institutions, Postwar Governance

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 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>
- 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. (2022). *Patriarchal Hierarchy; Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan*. Cham: **Palgrave Macmillan**
- Rafi, K. (2018). Information and communication technology in development: a contextual approach. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 12(3): 453-461
- 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

- 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., Informal institutions and uncertainty mitigation in an emerging private manufacturing sector. Submitted to *Int. J. of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* on 20 July 2025

WORKING PAPERS AND ONGOING PROJECTS

- (Non)adaptation of IMF policy advocacy to wartime conditions (target journal: *The Journal of Development Studies*)
- Formal institutions and administrative state in post-war state-building (target journal: *Human Geography*)
- 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>

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
	Lecturer and convenor , Democratic Political Systems, Durham University Student number: 83					2023 – 2024
	Lecturer , Democracy, Good Governance and Development, Durham University Student number: 25					2023 – 2024
	Co-leader , Researching Politics and International Relations (RStudio Labs), Durham University, Student number: 138					2024
	Lecturer , Quantitative Methods Workshops, Durham University Student number: 76					2023
	Assistant Lab Leader , Quantitative Methods and Analysis (RStudio Labs), Durham University, Student number: 44					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
FELLOWSHIPS	Durham University , Honorary Visiting Fellow School of Government and International Affairs	2024
	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit , Visiting Doctoral Fellow	2018
CONSULTANCY	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation , International Consultant Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan	2025
	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation , International Consultant Programme: pilot studies on access to education for girls and women in Afghanistan	2024
	SOAS University Enterprise Office , Consultant 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 Project: Researching and writing the Afghan SDGs’ implementation strategy for 2021-2030	2018 – 2020
ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER WORK	University College London , Coordinator The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, Global Change Initiative (Think Tank)	2017
	EastWest Institute (Washington D.C. Headquarters), Research Assistant Economic Security Initiative	2014
	The United Nations Headquarters , Assistant Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations Focus Areas: UN Security Council and ECOSOC	2014
VOLUNTEER SERVICES	University College London , Organiser for Windsor Policy Simulation Workshop Bartlett Development Planning Unit	2017
	University College London , Organiser for UCL Global Citizenship Programme Bartlett Development Planning Unit	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	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

SELECTED MEDIA ARTICLES

1. (2024) The Taliban's harsh new 'vice and virtue' laws are a throwback to the oppression of the 1990s – especially for the women of Afghanistan, *The Conversation*, August
2. (2023) World Bank reports on Afghanistan, *BBC Persian*, June
3. (2023) The Taliban is not playing straight with the West over easing of sanctions, *The Conversation*, April
4. (2021) What's next for Afghanistan? Two experts make predictions, *The Conversation*, Nov (with Scott Lucas)
5. (2021) Will China replace the US in Afghanistan? *Royal United Services Institute*, October
6. (2019) Production during times of instability, *Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit*, June
7. (2018) Why was a strategic port in Iran exempted from sanctions? *Asia Times*, Nov

HOBBIES

1. Western and Middle Eastern philosophy, contemporary history, Persian and English poetry, films and fiction
 2. Painting and drawing, football (i.e., soccer), travel, cuisine, visiting museums and pubs
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Last Updated: September 2025