

# Nausheen Husain

## Syracuse University

S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

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## Biography

I am an assistant professor at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School Of Public Communication, teaching journalism with an emphasis on data analysis, underreported communities and civil liberties. My academic research focuses on the news coverage of “War on Terror” defendants, policies and infrastructure after 9/11. I also work as a freelance reporter, and have published pieces in The Nation, The Huffington Post, Prism, and the Chicago Tribune, among others. My reporting focuses on civil liberties issues, incarceration and security, and inequities, and is grounded in perspectives on the Muslim experience in the U.S.

### Teaching Interests

My aim as a professor is to help produce journalists who want to participate in collaborative, data-driven, investigative work. I aim to shape my curricula in data and investigative journalism to emphasize FOIA literacy, basic numeracy and programming concepts, strategies to learn new skills quickly in an ever-changing field and, most importantly, the limits of using data to shape journalism. I’m particularly interested in pulling students into ongoing investigative work so that they can get real-world experience.

### Research/Creative Interests

My research and investigative work focuses on civil rights issues, incarceration and security, and inequities. I focus on Muslim communities and the past, present and ongoing 'War on Terror.' I prioritize research and reporting projects that are collaborative and data- and documents-driven. My work has been supported by the Lender Center for Social Justice, New York Humanities Center, Central New York Humanities Corridor, and the Gumshoe Group.

### Notable Courses Taught

Data and Digital Journalism, Reporting, Investigative Reporting, News Media and Diversity, News And The War On Terror

### Languages

Hindi: Native

Arabic: Limited Working

Urdu: Native

Persian: Limited Working

Spanish: Limited Working

## Education

- 2014 MJ Data Journalism, UC Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley, CA, United States  
> Master's project: islamforreporters.com. In collaboration with the UC Berkeley Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project. Advisors: Jeremy Rue, Hussein Rashid, Hatem Bazian.  
> Voted to be one of two commencement student speakers.
- 2011 BA Journalism, New York University
- 2011 BA Middle Eastern Studies, New York University

## Academic Positions

- 2023 - 2025 Faculty Fellow, Lender Center For Social Justice  
- Led a team of five student fellows to research the agenda-setting news coverage of three Muslim men during the early, middle and more recent iterations of the "War On Terror." Our team is primarily interested in how local and national American agenda-setting media treated each of these people: how were they described in stories about them? Who was quoted in those stories? Which details about the cases were mentioned and which were omitted?  
- Set up oral history workshops in Chicago (May 2024), Washington, D.C. (August 2024) and New York City (May 2025)
- 2021 - Present Assistant Professor, Syracuse University  
- I most consistently teach a newly required course called Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism, which includes spreadsheets and numeracy, data visualizations, web development and writing about data.  
- As a Lender Center faculty fellow, I developed a course called "News And The War On Terror," which focused on how War On Terror narratives intersect with various forms of media, including news, TV and film.

## Professional Positions

- 2014 - 2021 Senior Reporter and Developer, Chicago Tribune  
- Advocated for more consistent coverage of underrepresented communities and civil liberties issues, including investigative and document-based reporting on special prison units in the Midwest, effects of Covid-19 in state and federal prisons, and surveillance in Muslim American areas of Chicago.  
- Contributed data analysis and cross-media visual storytelling for stories on disinvestment in Chicago communities, racial differences in Covid-19 effects, seclusion rooms in Illinois schools, among others. Developed the ability to quickly grow knowledge

of Python, R, and Github, as needed.

- Served as a consistently available resource and consultant for colleagues.

- 2013 - 2014      Reporter and Producer, Islam For Reporters
- Obtained FBI data on anti-Muslim hate crime incidents in the U.S. and reported on how data is flawed and incomplete.
  - Traveled the Northeast to interview scholars on camera.
  - Helped produce ideas for comics to explain Islam-related terms and stories of Islamophobia. Designed and built website to host project.
- 2012 - 2014      Assistant Editor and Reporter, Oakland North
- Covered Oakland school board and education issues. Lead a documents-driven investigation of AIMS charter school fraud and eventual revocation of charter.
  - Produced multimedia projects, and advised first-year students on data reporting.
  - Co-directed coverage and edited stories on the 2013 BART strike.

## Professional Memberships

- 2021 - Present      Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.
- 2021 - Present      Religion News Association.
- 2014 - Present      Investigative Reporters & Editors. Selected member of the Academic Committee since 2024.
- 2014 - Present      South Asian Journalists Association.

## Awards and Honors

### **Received**

- 2024 Professional Recognition Award, Syracuse Press Club
- 2023 Teaching Excellence For Early Performance, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications
- 2019 Best Graphics, Lisagor Award
- 2019 Jones-Beck Award for Outstanding Performance, Chicago Tribune
- 2015 Digital Innovation Award, Graphics Team, Chicago Tribune
- 2014 Winner, International Reporting Grant: India, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

### **Nominated**

- 2020 Reporting Excellence, Religion News Association

## Publications/Works in Progress

### **Forthcoming**

Husain, N., Panjwani, A., Moreland, H. (2025). 'At the newest CMU, reports of physical violence, a hunger strike, and a lawsuit.' The Intercept.

Husain, N. and Bhandari, A. A Count: Data-Driven News Audits of "War on Terror" Coverage. Critical Data Studies.

Husain, N., National and Transnational Security Regimes in North America. Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures.

### **Published**

Husain, N. (2025). 'Elite American media never had a public "War On Terror" reckoning, and Palestinians are now paying the price.' Prism.

<https://prismreports.org/2025/09/11/war-on-terror-media-gaza/>

Husain, N., Panjwani, A., Moreland, H. (2024). 'Little Guantánamo' Gets Bigger. The Nation and The Appeal.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/little-guantanamo-cmu-expansion/>,

<https://theappeal.org/little-guantanamo-communication-management-units-cmus/>

Husain, N., Mehta, D., Sahejpal, A. (2024) By what metric? SOURCE.

<https://source.opennews.org/articles/data-journalism-teaching-community/>

Abdelaziz, R., Husain, N. (2023). The FBI Says This Man Is A Terrorist — But He Says They Set Him Up. The Huffington Post.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/fbi-labels-man-terrorist-court-wants-longer-sentence\\_n\\_648ccc35e4b04ee51a9b84ab](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/fbi-labels-man-terrorist-court-wants-longer-sentence_n_648ccc35e4b04ee51a9b84ab)

Abdelaziz, R. (2022). Trump's Travel Ban Forever Changed the Lives of Muslims Around the World. The Huffington Post.

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-travel-ban-muslims-changed-lives\\_n\\_61e86498e4b01f707dabbdc](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-travel-ban-muslims-changed-lives_n_61e86498e4b01f707dabbdc)

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[More published works here.](#)

## Presentations

### **Accepted Panel**

Husain, N., European Data & Computational Journalism, "Teaching With AI,"

European Data & Computational Journalism, University of Athens, Athens, Greece. (Sept. 8, 2025).

90 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Dhruvil Mehta and Aarushi Sahejpal about how we have assessed our learning objectives in the age of generative AI, and tweaked our lesson plans and activities to optimize learning assessments, whether that means implementing AI or preventing students from using it entirely.*

Husain, N., European Data & Computational Journalism, "Data Journalism Teaching Club,"

European Data & Computational Journalism, University of Athens, Athens, Greece. (Sept. 10, 2025).

45 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Dhruvil Mehta and Aarushi Sahejpal about our work on the Data Journalism Teachers Club, and what we've researched about journalism pedagogy over the past 1.5 years of running the program.*

Husain, N., Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), "Reporting on the War On Terror,"  
Investigative Reporters & Editors, New Orleans, LA, United States. (June 20, 2025).  
75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Akela Lacy, Aly Panjwani, Tanvi Misra and Sanya Mansoor about each of our recent investigations within the 'War On Terror' topic, and how we expect this particular 'war' to expand in the coming years.*

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "Data education beyond the tools,"  
Investigative Reporters & Editors, Baltimore, MD, United States. (March 6, 2024 -  
March 10, 2024).  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17RoWMwMr-K6SZsJ19vcq\\_YAd937vbpqc4MsNkcp9SAI/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17RoWMwMr-K6SZsJ19vcq_YAd937vbpqc4MsNkcp9SAI/edit#slide=id.p)  
75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Eva Constantaras, Janelle O'Dea and Winny de Jong about how each of us bring history, theory, ethics, research, and practical exercises into our classrooms to impart upon students that data journalism is not just counting, sorting and grouping.*

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "Leveraging local newsrooms to uncover hidden police accountability stories," Investigative Reporters & Editors, Baltimore, MD, United States.  
(March 6, 2024 - March 10, 2024).  
75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with several USA Today reporters about an investigation of police vehicle crashes in the state.*

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "Past, present and future of data journalism education," Investigative Reporters & Editors, Baltimore, MD, United States. (March 6, 2024 - March 10, 2024).  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Dox3m0wS\\_nKwJRMQlhmslKjLhSQwtZswbKUTkgkTQI/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Dox3m0wS_nKwJRMQlhmslKjLhSQwtZswbKUTkgkTQI/edit#slide=id.p)  
75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Dhruvil Mehta and Aarushi Sahejpal about pedagogical theories and techniques, scholarly research about data journalism and the history of how teaching data journalism has evolved.*

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "Beyond 'skills-based': contextualizing data journalism for students," Investigative Reporters & Editors, Nashville, TN, United States. (March 1, 2023 - March 5, 2023).  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1qAGgHuaddgr4d47Nx4bdpzzWj-keUpPaROy3upZVy-E/edit>.  
75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Meredith Broussard, Lam Thuy Vo and Mago Torres about how to move beyond just skills in data journalism courses at the college-level. I spoke about Teju Cole's idea of constellational thinking and how that applies to data journalism.*

Husain, N., Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), "Expanding data journalism beyond state-centric narratives," Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Detroit, MI, United States. (August 3, 2022 - August 6, 2022).  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gbuDeihNF0777bMiftnBQPB8wPmozxSykl6EJO\\_odE0/edit](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gbuDeihNF0777bMiftnBQPB8wPmozxSykl6EJO_odE0/edit)  
75 minutes

*This was my first AEJMC conference -- I spoke on a panel about using nontraditional data to expand data*

*journalism education beyond U.S.-centric narratives.*

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "Using nontraditional data to expand data journalism education," Investigative Reporters & Editors, Atlanta, GA, United States. (March 3, 2022 - March 6, 2022).

75 minutes

*I spoke on a panel with Lam Thuy Vo and Lisa Waananen Jones about using nontraditional data to expand data journalism education beyond U.S.-centric narratives.*

## **Invited Talks**

Husain, N. Lender Center For Social Justice, "The Stories We Told Ourselves: The American War On Terror," Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, United States. ArtRage, Syracuse, NY, United States. (November 7-8, 2025).

90-120 minutes

*Our culminating event after two years of research with the Lender Center will be a symposium about our findings on news coverage and the "War On Terror." The symposium also includes art from the Coalition For Civil Freedoms and submitted art from the public.*

Husain, N., Athar, M. South Asia Center, "Creating Dangerous Muslims during the "War on Terror": Elite News Choices that Fail to Question Law Enforcement Narratives," Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, United States. (September 27, 2024).

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YTs2Zk9foXpiKCoLDkmq46gxX1T9H7kc4pQoEF4tFO8/edit#slide=id.p>

90 minutes

*For SU's South Asia Center, a student fellow and I presented our research on the law enforcement and mainstream media targeting of three Muslim men during the "War On Terror."*

Husain, N., Athar, M. South Asia Program, "Creating Dangerous Muslims during the "War on Terror": Elite News Choices that Fail to Question Law Enforcement Narratives," Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, United States. (March 18, 2024).

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18LzdmfYku\\_Q7iRMIZPGtA9E92-bl\\_9pv7WzCPV7t-Cc/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18LzdmfYku_Q7iRMIZPGtA9E92-bl_9pv7WzCPV7t-Cc/edit#slide=id.p)

90 minutes

*For Cornell's South Asia Program, a student fellow and I presented our research on the law enforcement and mainstream media targeting of three Muslim men during the "War On Terror."*

Husain, N., International Summer Studies Institute, "Storytelling With Data," Mario Einaudi Center For International Studies, Cornell University, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, United States. (June 27, 2023).

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_osG42O12XFet55sXSPjOqi5EarQrZaCJYDtTe8jLUI/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_osG42O12XFet55sXSPjOqi5EarQrZaCJYDtTe8jLUI/edit#slide=id.p)

90 minutes

*For Cornell's International Summer Studies Institute, I ran a session on 'Storytelling With Data' in which we created our own data storybooks, inspired by Rahul Bhargava's post on DataBasic.*

Husain, N., NewsTrain, "Developing a data mindset," News Leaders Association, Zoom. (September 23, 2022).

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BL4cQc4ik\\_zdci23Z4z7qWhpOO54wh11edAQIL2KeNE/edit#slide=id.p4](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BL4cQc4ik_zdci23Z4z7qWhpOO54wh11edAQIL2KeNE/edit#slide=id.p4)

*I spoke to journalists in the region about how to develop a data mindset in their day-to-day journalism jobs, including beat reporting. I went over some basic data and then I had the participants "interview" some regional migration data.*

## Teaching Experience

	Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
<b>Fall 2025</b>	Data Journalism	JNL221	14
	Reporting	MND305	12
<b>Fall 2024</b>	Data Journalism	JNL221	15
	Data Journalism	JNL221	14
	Reporting	MND305	15
<b>Spring 2024</b>			
	Data Journalism	JNL221	16
	Data Journalism	JNL221	16
	News And The War On Terror	MND400/MND600	15
<b>Fall 2023</b>			
	First Year Seminar	COM100	17
	Data Journalism	JNL221	16
	Data Journalism	JNL221	16
<b>Spring 2023</b>			
	Data Journalism	JNL221	15
	Data Journalism	JNL221	15
<b>Fall 2022</b>			
	Data Journalism	JNL221	14
	Reporting	MND305	12

	News Media And Diversity	COM350	28
<b>Spring 2022</b>			
	Data Journalism	JNL221	13
	Investigative Reporting	JNL530	9
<b>Fall 2021</b>			
	Data Journalism	JNL221	12
	Data Journalism	JNL221	13

## Faculty Development Activities

### Conference Attendance

- 2025 "European Data & Computational Journalism" European Data & Computational Journalism, University of Athens, Athens, Greece. (Sept 8, 2025 - Sept 10, 2025)
- 2025 "Investigative Reporters and Editors" Investigative Reporters and Editors, New Orleans, LA, United States. (June 19, 2025 - June 22, 2025)
- 2024 "National Institute For Computer Assisted Reporting" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Baltimore, MD, United States. (March 6, 2024 - March 10, 2024)
- 2023 "Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Orlando, FL, United States. (June 21, 2023 - June 25, 2023)
- 2023 "National Institute For Computer Assisted Reporting" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Nashville, TN, United States. (March 1, 2023 - March 5, 2023)
- 2022 "Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication" Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Detroit, MI, United States. (August 3, 2022 - August 6, 2022)
- 2022 "Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Denver, CO, United States. (June 23, 2022 - June 26, 2022)

### Professional Development Training

- 2025 "Reflective Journalism Program" Prism Reports. (May 2025)
- 2023 "Faculty Success Program" National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. (June 2023 - August 2023)

## Professional Service

- 2025 - Present Faculty advisor, Syracuse University IRE student chapter
- 2024 - Present Member, IRE Academic Committee



2024 - Present	Faculty affiliate, CODE^SHIFT Lab, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications
2024 - Present	Faculty affiliate, South Asia Center, Syracuse University
2025 - Present	Faculty affiliate, Middle Eastern Studies Program, Syracuse University
2023 - Present	<p>Founding member, Data Journalism Teachers Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized and executed sessions for data journalism educators, including on syllabus design, course design, instructional standards, and teaching investigative reporting using a Masterfile. <a href="https://datajournalismteachers.club/">https://datajournalismteachers.club/</a></li> </ul>
2014 - Present	<p>Member, Advisor, and Speaker, IRE/NICAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data advisor for IRE fellowship recipient Rowaida Abdelaziz. Advised Abdelaziz on FOIA, data collection, analysis and cross-media visualization for her 2021 project for the Huffington Post on the long-term effects of the Muslim Ban.</li> <li>- Invited trainer and panelist on data journalism-related topics, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Covering Undercovered Communities" (<a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18sxiui_AV69boRMd1iqiBBo_-_13z9jVuAAtIhh_tgVI/edit#slide=id.p">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18sxiui_AV69boRMd1iqiBBo_-_13z9jVuAAtIhh_tgVI/edit#slide=id.p</a>)</li> <li>"Covering Immigration With Data" (<a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Cu6L_NdbRsbxbrdw2sUB8hfRrLnTUiTi9QoLt0Z15IA/edit#slide=id.p">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Cu6L_NdbRsbxbrdw2sUB8hfRrLnTUiTi9QoLt0Z15IA/edit#slide=id.p</a>)</li> <li>"Introduction To Python" (<a href="https://github.com/kcecireyes/nicar-2018-python">https://github.com/kcecireyes/nicar-2018-python</a>)</li> <li>"Using Nontraditional Data To Expand Data Journalism Education"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2021	<p>Speaker, League of Women Voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invited to speak on a panel at LWV's annual conference about demographic and COVID-related data, and how COVID disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic populations.</li> <li>- Invitation came as a result of a story about historical disinvestment in Chicago's south and west sides for which I was the lead reporter. <a href="https://www.chicagotribune.com/living/health/ct-life-inequity-data-policy-roots-chicago-20200726-r3c7qykvvbfm5bdjm4fjb6g5k4-story.html">https://www.chicagotribune.com/living/health/ct-life-inequity-data-policy-roots-chicago-20200726-r3c7qykvvbfm5bdjm4fjb6g5k4-story.html</a></li> </ul>
2015	<p>Speaker, Social Science Research Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invited to speak about data skills and using csvkit in the newsroom.</li> <li>- Led the group through analyzing FBI hate crime data from 2001 to 2013 using csvkit with a step-by-step tutorial that I wrote for this group. <a href="https://nausheenusain.github.io/SSRC-data/">https://nausheenusain.github.io/SSRC-data/</a></li> </ul>

## Community Service

2021 - Present	<p>Member, Community support committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Served as a youth-focused committee member to assist in settling incoming Afghan Ismaili Muslims to Rochester, NY</li> <li>- Produced data-driven reports and presentation to the national council of the Ismaili community to support the 2024 establishment of a Rochester prayer and community center</li> </ul>
2017 - 2019	Facilitator, College Program on Islam

- Served as a facilitator, which included brainstorming resources, activities and lecture and discussion topics about American Muslim history, identity, media representation and involvement with the American civil rights movement. Taught and mentored ~20 Isma'ili Muslim college students each summer during this two-week camp.
  - Served on a team that built a comprehensive, quantitative and qualitative, evaluation system.
  - Ran sessions on representation of Muslims in the media, including the availability (and lack thereof) of data on minority groups.
- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11bUuom-YIPXwUvarGjS-oERV9dxh6b-ZQAUjYZs i4/edit#slide=id.p>

- 2016 - 2018      Program Organizer, Code Camp
- Built curriculum for a Code Camp, covering HTML/CSS, programming concepts like data structures and flow, and Python syntax for 15-20 Isma'ili Muslim kids aged 8-12 in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago.
  - Recruited and mentored college-aged Code Camp teachers, brainstormed and supported teaching techniques, games and lesson plans for classes.
  - Juggled this with several other projects, including a speaker series for underrepresented careers, as an appointed member of an education board for the Midwest Isma'ili community. Mentored Isma'ili college students who served as project managers for these programs.
- <https://github.com/icodecamp/icodecamp.github.io>
- 2015 - 2019      Member, Midwest Aga Khan Education Board
- Served as the Knowledge Discovery and Sharing portfolio member. Launched Knowledge Society Spring Speaker Series in 2018. Helped run the Midwest AKEB Facebook page. Mentored project managers for various Midwest AKEB programs.