

RAZA AHMAD RUMI

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Distinguished Lecturer, City University of New York
Faculty, Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University

SUMMARY OF EXPERTISE

- **Teaching:** graduate and undergraduate courses at Cornell University, Ithaca College, Hunter College and New York University. Public Policy; International Development; Journalism; Writing.
- **International Development:** Development Policymaking; Human Development; Institutional Development; Governance & Anticorruption; Decentralisation; Disaster Management and Post-Conflict Needs-Assessment; Monitoring & Evaluation; Capacity Development; Program Management.
- **Journalism & Writing:** Editor, [Daily Times](#) (2017-2019); Editor, [The Friday Times](#) (2008-2016; 2021-to date); TV show host (2013-2014); Founder [Nayadaur Media](#) (a bi-lingual digital news portal 2019 to date); Commentator/ Columnist on South Asian and International media.
- **Policy Research:** Democratisation, civil society and human rights; NGO movement in the Global South; gender and development; security; violent extremism; counterterrorism; sectarianism, South Asian politics and trade; Pakistan's relations with India, US and Afghanistan; State effectiveness, etc.
- **Nonprofit Board memberships:** [The Ithaca Voice](#), [Cinemapolis](#) (The Seventh Art. Corporation of Ithaca), [Ithaca City of Asylum](#) (member, [International Cities of Refuge Network](#)).

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (2013 – 2023)

Distinguished Lecturer, Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, Hunter College, CUNY 08/23 to Present

- Designed and taught human rights courses leading to a human rights minor or certificate. Work with the faculty advisory committee in the planning and development of new courses. Inputs for policy-themed academic conferences and public programs. Provide collaborative support to faculty associates for research initiatives and centres at the Roosevelt House.

Director, Park Center for Independent Media, Ithaca College 08/2018 to 07/24

- Oversaw the operations and coordinated all activities of the Center; supported the Center's national profile and enhanced its national and international reputation; taught courses on US-based independent media; supervised summer independent/progressive media internships; managed the judging and presentation of the annual [Izzy Award](#); formulated the Center's independent journalism media speaker's series; conducted research on independent media; supervised and evaluated staff associated with the Center.

Lecturer, Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University 08/21/2016 to Present

- Taught courses for Master of Public Administration degree: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Challenges in International Development, Institutional Reform in Developing Countries, Corruption Governance and Development & Policy Writing

Scholar in Residence, Assistant Professor Ithaca College, USA 10/01/2015 to 2018

- Taught courses on South Asia (history, politics, culture), Journalism, (News Editing, Introduction to Journalism, Global Journalism in the Age of New Media. Journalism Research); & *Personal Essay*

Visiting Faculty Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University 01/2016 to 05/2016

- Taught an undergraduate course – *Writing Dissent in the Age of Mass Media*

Visiting [Fellow](#), National Endowment for Democracy, Washington DC 03/2014 to 2018

Research Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Washington DC 08/2015 to 2020

Senior Fellow, United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC 09/2014 to 03/15

Senior Fellow, New America Foundation, Washington DC 05/2014 to 09/14

Director/[Senior Research Fellow](#), Jinnah Institute, Pakistan 04/2012 to 04/2014

EDUCATION & TRAINING

London School of Economics, UK - MSc, <i>Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries</i> 1992	1991 to
London School of Economics, UK - BSc, <i>Economics: International Trade & Development</i>	1988 to 1991
Central Superior Services Recruitment Examination, Pakistan	1994
Civil Services Academy, Lahore, Pakistan Certificate [with distinction] in Common and Specialised Training Programmes in Law & Public Administration	1994 to 1996

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

1. [Delhi By Heart: Impressions of a Pakistani Traveller](#) (2013. Harper Collins, India)
2. [The Fractious Path: Pakistan's Democratic Transition](#) (2015. Harper Collins, India)
3. [Identity, Faith and Conflict: Essays on Pakistan and Beyond](#) (2016. ICOA, Ithaca)
4. [Being Pakistani: Society, Culture and the Arts](#) (2018. Harper Collins, India)
5. [Rethinking Pakistan](#) (Co-edited volume, 2020. Anthem Press)

POLICY/DEVELOPMENT

- [Unpacking the Blasphemy Laws of Pakistan](#), Asian Affairs, 2018 Vol. XLIX, no. II, 319–339
- ["Charting Pakistan's Internal Security Policy"](#) USIP Special Report, May 2015.
- ["The Prospects for Reform in Islam"](#), in 'Current Trends in Islamist Ideology', March 30th, 2015
- 'Pakistan: Education, Religion and Conflict' in Religion in Conflict: Responding to the Challenges", Tony Blair Faith Foundation; January 2015
- ["Half Citizens: The Ahmaddiya Community of Pakistan"](#) included in 'Extremism Watch: Mapping Conflict Trends in Pakistan 2010-2011'; Jinnah Institute, Islamabad 2013.
- ["Stability in Afghanistan rests on regional cooperation"](#): a policy paper prepared for Senate's standing committee on Defence, December 2012.
- ["Pakistan: Ungoverned Spaces"](#) a policy research paper published by the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, July 2012.
- ["The rise of violent sectarianism in Pakistan"](#) included in 'Extremism Watch: Mapping Conflict Trends in Pakistan 2010-2011'; published by Jinnah Institute, Islamabad Feb 2012.
- ["Jinnah's Pakistan cannot be abandoned"](#) 2012, published by Jinnah Institute
- "Implementing Urbanisation in Pakistan", co-authored in ["Urban Pakistan: Frames for Imagining and Reading Urbanism"](#), OUP, 2013
- ["Discourse, donors and development: The policy conundrum in Pakistan"](#), Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan; with A. Rashid, 2010. Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad.
- ["The Endemic Crisis of Federalism in Pakistan"](#), The Lahore Journal of Economics, 15: SE (September 2010): pp. 15-31. Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan.
- ["Investing in Sub-national Accountability: Lessons for Practitioners"](#), Working Paper for *Capacity is Development Global Conference*, 2010, UNDP.
- "Public-Private Partnerships: Breakthroughs, Breakdowns and Challenges", in *"The Role of State in Public Service Delivery."* National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, forthcoming.
- ["Technocratic Solutions versus Political Realities: Implementing governance reforms in the Balochistan Province of Pakistan"](#), 2007 in *Governance in Asia*; Asian Political and International Studies Association; with S A Akif.
- [Governance, Social Accountability and Civil Society: Liberalism Bypassing Politics?](#) Submitted at the Annual Conference on *"Innovation, Policy Transfer and Governance-"*; 2006; University of Sydney.
- ["The Role of Public Administration in Building a Harmonious Society"](#), ADB, 2006. (Editor)
- ["Fostering Public Participation in Budget-Making: Case Studies from Indonesia, the Marshall Islands and Pakistan"](#), ADB, 2006. (Co-editor).
- "Participatory Budget-Making" in Bahasa and Urdu, The Asia Foundation, 2006. (Co-editor).
- ["Justice Sectors Reform and Policy Conditionality – Symbiosis or Mutual Denial"](#) in "Searching for Success – Narrative Accounts of Legal Reform in Developing and Transitional Countries"; International Law and Development Organization; 2006. Authored with Douglas J. Porter.

- Toolkits in CD-ROM versions – “[Citizen Report Card Methodology](#)” and “[Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking](#)”; ADB, 2006. (Editor).
- *Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (Focus Areas)*: Household and Income Expenditure Survey, Village level Institutional Maturity Index, Village Studies and impact assessment studies of project interventions; etc.1992-94; (titles available on request)

PAPERS ON ART, POLITICS & CULTURE:

Full list here: <http://razarumi.com/publications/>
Journalist writings are archived at www.razarumi.com

CAREER HISTORY (1991 – 2013)

Television commentator/presenter & Consulting Editor, *The Friday Times* 2008-present

Freelance Policy Adviser/Consultant 2008-2014

- Designed and implemented public policy programs and initiatives relating to democracy, devolution, strategic and security analysis, counter- extremism. Managed India-Pakistan Track II dialogues; Policy debates on Devolution; Human Rights, Extremism Watch; Published various reports; Economic and Budgetary Analyses; Media Monitoring etc. Worked as Director Policy & Programs until May 2012 - September 2013.
- **UNDP- Bangkok**: Capacity Assessment of Key Ministries in the Government of Mongolia for Mainstreaming UN-REDD (September 2013-Feb 2014, intermittent)
- **Coffey International-DFID**. Institutional development adviser to the Peace-building Support of the PCNA; (intermittent, September 2012-June 2013)
- **DFID**. Education Voice and Accountability & Education Innovation Fund. (Nov-December 2012)
- **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs**. Policy Research Paper: Ungoverned Spaces (July 2012)
- **World Bank, Pakistan**: Public expenditure review for the education sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. (May-June 2012)

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- Member, Institutional & Governance Reforms Working Group, Planning Commission of Pakistan
- Chairperson, Steering Committee, Network for Asia Pacific Schools & Institutes of Public Administration & Governance, JNU Delhi.
- Advisory and coaching at public sector training institutions in Pakistan.

RESEARCH & ADVISORY – THEMATIC

Social Sectors

- **Planning Commission of Pakistan**: Team Leader for the preparation of Social Protection Strategy Paper and provincial social protection frameworks. (September 2011).
- **UNICEF Cambodia**: Policy paper prepared for the Royal Government of Cambodia on improving policies, procedures & practices relating to ‘special centres’ managed by the Ministry of social affairs, veterans, and youth rehabilitation. (July 2011).
- **Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Environment**: Country Sanitation Report- prepared country situation analysis on Progress vis-à-vis MDG achievement.(April 2011).
- **Water and Sanitation Policies**: Worked with UNICEF, assisted the Government of the Punjab (Pakistan) in the preparation of Water and Sanitation Policies and strategies (2010-2011, intermittent).
- **Global Sanitation Fund, United Nations**: Drafted the Pakistan Sanitation Report and preparation the Country Program Proposal for interventions in the sanitation sector (April-June 2010).
- **Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan**: *Social Sector Interventions – a review and analysis* – led a team of researchers/prepared a policy brief (July 2010).

Decentralisation & Service Delivery

- **UNICEF/GIZ Cambodia**: Functional Review and Capacity Assessment of Ministry of Social Affairs for reassignment of functions under the ongoing Deconcentration & Decentralisation Reforms (January-June 2011-intermittent).
- **UNDP Bangkok/Nepal**: “Delivering Basic Services in Post-Conflict Nepal” A case study prepared for the Capacity Development Group, Bureau for Development Policy, New York. (February 2011).

- **UNDP, Geneva Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery:** Prepared Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Guide (Governance Section), provided inputs to Study on Decentralisation and Political Economy Analysis for the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction. (December 2010).
- **UNDP, Regional Centre in Bangkok, UNDP/UNICEF Cambodia:** Institutional /Capacity Assessment of 4 Central Ministries in support of ongoing Deconcentration & Decentralisation Reforms. (August 2009).

Analytical

- **The Asia Foundation:** Developed a Governance Index for the Agriculture Sector in Pakistan – Scoping study and potential outline of a governance index at the subnational levels. (Jan 2010).
- **UNDP, Pakistan:** Performed Institutional Assessment for the development of a Labour Market Information System in Pakistan. (November 2008).
- **Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), Pakistan:** Public Policy Adviser - Advice to LEAD's governance and public policy programme and action-research (www.lead.org.pk).

Post-Conflict & Disaster Management

- **UNDP, Pakistan: Damage Needs Assessment (governance) -** Worked with Government of Pakistan, ADB and the World Bank to assess the impact of natural disaster on the governance institutions and public service delivery and identifying short- and medium-term interventions for restoration of services and entitlements. (October 2010).
- **UNDP, Pakistan: Post crisis needs assessment (governance & rule of law) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province and federally administered tribal areas (FATA) Pakistan -** Post conflict analysis of local, provincial, and national governance imperatives; working with stakeholders to identify interventions for peace and security. (August 2010).
- **UNDP, Pakistan: Design of project for strengthening rule of law in Malakand, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan -** Post conflict situation analysis of formal and non-formal Justice systems, public safety, legal aid & access to justice (March 2010).
- **UNDP, Pakistan: Baseline study on governance & rule of law in Malakand, NWFP, Pakistan -** Post conflict situation analysis of formal and non-formal justice systems, public safety, legal aid, and access to justice (February 2010).
- **UNDP, Pakistan: Governance & Institutional Assessment - *Conflict Early Recovery Initial Needs Assessment*** for the conflict-affected areas in NWFP and FATA (July 2009).
- **UNDP, Pakistan: Led the Mid Term Review Mission of Technical Assistance for Management of Earthquake Early Recovery (TAMEER) -** (October-November 2008) – analysis and recommendations for the continuation of a refocused TA support.

Grievance Redress & Benchmarking

- **UNDP, Pakistan: Strengthening Public Grievance Redress Mechanisms Project** at the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat – Institutional and capacity development for the application of *Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking* techniques for the Registration and Investigation wings (April-July 2010).

Public Resource Management/Economic growth

- **DFID: Punjab Public Resource Management-Technical Assistance Management Agency (TAMA), Lahore, Pakistan** (programme management from November 2008 – July 2011); provided technical support to project management and ensured compliance and quality; developed individual and institutional capacity for project management within the provincial government; supported line departments in problem analysis and project design. Led technical workstreams: public finance, service delivery and private sector development.

Asian Development Bank, Governance Specialist & Capacity Development Specialist, ADB HQ 08/2005 to 05/2012

Project Design, Management, and results-based Monitoring:

Bangladesh: Good Governance Program: National Integrity Strategy, judicial and administrative reforms; & Support to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Nepal: Support to Anticorruption Institutions: Governance Support Program.

Bhutan: Support for Anticorruption and Good Governance at Local Level

India: Administration of Justice Project: project.

Maldives: “Private Sector Development” & “Strengthening Economic & Financial Management.”

Bangladesh: Member of design team for the Public-Private Infrastructure Development Facility.

- **Governance and Anticorruption Risk Assessments:** Preparation and finalisation of governance assessments for Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

- **Knowledge Management:** Preparation of knowledge products on administrative and justice reforms, decentralization, public expenditure management and anti-corruption; External publications and internal notes. Website[s] management and learning networks.
- **Sector Governance Work:** Policy and operational advice on governance and anticorruption aspects of sectoral interventions. Key sectors include energy, transport, water, education, and urban development.

Regional Technical Assistance Projects

- Dissemination and Pilot Testing of Tool-Kits on Citizen Report Cards and Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking Techniques. **Pakistan, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.**
- Pro-Poor participatory budgets: Implemented in **Pakistan, Indonesia and the Marshall Islands.**
- **Network of Public Administration Institutes of the Asia and Pacific Region:** Facilitated the evolution of this network and its sustainability.
- **Supporting Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency:** Assistance to prepare, pilot and launch a series of regional anticorruption training programs.
- **ADB-OECD Anticorruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific:** Participation in the regional network and implementation of Action Plan.
- **Promoting Knowledge Transfer through Diaspora Networks.** Country studies and policy/operational lessons in **China, Afghanistan and the Philippines.**
- **Operational work/design & implementation of projects:** (i) Pakistan- Punjab Public Resource Management Program Subprogram II; (ii) India - Administration of Justice India Project; (iii) Pakistan- Supporting Public Resource Management Reforms in Punjab; Upstream operational assistance: (iv) Bangladesh - Participation of the Urban Poor in Municipal Governance Project; (v) Good Governance Project; Pakistan- Second Microfinance Sector Development Program; (vi) Private Participation in Infrastructure Development; and Nepal: Economic and Social Inclusion of the Disadvantaged Poor through Livelihood Enhancement with Micro-Irrigation.; among others
- **Contribution to ADB Policies, Strategies and Frameworks:** Member governance and capacity development teams. Supported the preparation and approval of governance and anticorruption action plan and the framework for ADB to mainstream CD in its operations. Advancing Law and Policy Reform activities within ADB's member countries.
- **Supporting Quality Assurance for ADB Interventions:** Reviewing and providing comments on project documents circulated – project documents from capacity development, governance and anti-corruption perspectives.
- **Knowledge Management:** Internal and external on justice reforms, decentralization, public expenditure management and anti-corruption. Website management and content development for governance, project websites and learning networks.

Asian Development Bank, Project Specialist – Governance; Civil Society Coordinator Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM); Pakistan

08/2002 to 06/2005

- **General:** Managing teams of staff and consultants for the operations of the *Governance Unit*. Actively monitored ADB assisted governance programs in Pakistan; and assisted in formulating new governance programs/interventions.
- Participated in policy dialogue with the Government and civil society on legal and judicial reforms; legal empowerment and legal education models and mobilizing the demand side for effective implementation of judicial and legal reforms.
- **Civil society:** Work as “NGO Coordinator” for the PRM and support its liaison with Pakistan NGO community and other civil society organizations.
- **Projects/Programs:** Monitoring the implementation of ADB financed a) Access to Justice Program (USD 350 million) and b) Decentralization Support Program, Gender Reform (USD 300 million) and associated Advisory TA Projects including (i) Institutional Strengthening of Government-NGO Cooperation; (ii) Supporting & Monitoring Progress under the Access to Justice Program; (iii) Strengthening of Institutional Capacity for Judicial and Legal Reform.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Civil Affairs Officer; {Deputy Municipal Administrator} Kacanik Municipality, Kosovo

09/2000 to 08/2002

Municipal Services

- **Public Services:** Coordination with the Central and Municipal Registration Offices for the streamlining of registration/document issuance at the Municipal level.
- **Judicial:** Contribution to the development and streamlining of the district court in the Municipality and coordinating with the local judges for effective court management and facilities for the litigants etc.
- **Legal Affairs:** Overseeing the contracts, agreements etc. of the Municipality. Assistance in court cases against the Municipality. Drafting of the Municipal regulations on urbanism, water and sanitation company, public health etc.

- **Budget & Finance:** Budget preparation in consultation with the Kosovar administration for submission to Central Fiscal Authority, monitoring and reviewing actual expenditures and Commitments to ensure that these conform to the authority which governs such expenditures as well as recommending reassignment of and transfer of funds where warranted. Resource generation, Setting up of Municipal Property tax etc.
- **Establishment** of local/Kosovar administration and logistics, procurement and other support to the Municipal offices.

Political

- **Peacekeeping and political functions** – involvement in Municipal elections and transition to local self-government, support of local political structures; Liaison with the local KFOR and UN Police and OSCE in day to day security and in matters concerning political developments, human rights and democratisation. Attended security meetings in the absence of Municipal Administrator and other coordination meetings.
- **Municipal Assembly matters:** Providing support to the MA in the affairs of the Municipal Assembly – oath taking, election of committees and offices, minute recording, resignations, etc.
- **Assistance in Refugee crisis management at the local level:** Coordination with UNHCR/SDC in setting up of the refugee transit camp in Kacanik. Facilitation of water and sanitation supply services to the camp from the local utility.
- **Drafting** of reports, communiqués and memorandums for MA/DMA; daily/weekly reports to the Regional Head Quarters.

Local/Municipal Development

- **Focal point** for Municipal and Local Infrastructure projects: local development planning and identification of projects; budgetary planning and monitoring of projects.
- **Urban Regulation:** Regulatory framework for building permits, drafting of notices and technical support to the Kosovar Director Urbanism and Public Works in matters of illegal constructions, housing records etc. Liaison with Regional Housing and Property Directorate.
- **Public Utilities Management** at the local level; Management/ oversight of the public utility service provider (water and sanitation company) at the local level; appointment of director, formation of a supervisory board, drafting of statute, tariff regulation and personnel management assistance.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Civil Service of Pakistan, District Management Group **11/1994 to 09/ 2000**
Assistant Commissioner/Sub Divisional Magistrate; Field experiences in Sargodha, Sahiwal, Wazirabad and Murree Hills, Punjab Province, Pakistan

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Northern Areas **1992 to 1994**
Pakistan Social Scientist, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Section

HONOURS & AWARDS

2004 **Asian Development Bank;** Exceptional Performance bonus (2006); Exemplary Performance Recognition Certificate and Staff Performance Recognition Certificate for contributions to ADB's governance agenda in Pakistan (2004)

2002 **United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo;** Certificate of Achievement.

1996 **Civil Services Academy, Pakistan;** President's Gold Medal for the best probationer/officer; Stood first in both the training programmes. Gold Medal in Academics; President's Gold medal for the Best Officer under training; Distinction in Law and Economics.

1994 **Government of Pakistan;** Stood First in the Country Wide **Civil Services Examinations** among 6000 competitors.

1989-91 **London School of Economics;** Election as the President of the *LSE Pakistan Society*; Secretary General, *Overseas Student Federation* and editor University of London Asian Magazine

1988 **Aitchison College, Pakistan;** Full College Blazer and Rivaz Gold Medal (Best Leaving student); Editor College Magazine; Stood first in the Higher School Certificate Examinations (Humanities); Editor College Magazine

RECENT CONFERENCES, KNOWLEDGE, PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENTS

List here: <http://razarumi.com/public-events-conferences/>

REFERENCES

Available on request