

Ali Gibran Siddiqui

Curriculum Vitae

Work Address: Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

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Education

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **PhD (History)**. 2016.

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. **MA (History)**. 2012.

Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan. **BSc (Economics)**. 2008

Professional Experience

Leon B. Poullada Associate Research Scholar in Central Asian Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University. January 2021 – Present.

Conducting research for publication, presenting research projects, organizing talks, and teaching a freshman seminar.

Co-Chair, Review Panel for Arts and Humanities, Higher Education Commission Pakistan. December 2019-Present.

Responsible for reviewing, accepting, and rejecting scholarly grant applications from public and private sector universities across Pakistan. Recommending reforms for university curricula and tenure policy.

Voluntary Project Coordinator (Digitization of Manuscripts) - Anjuman Taraqqi-ye Urdu Pakistan. July 2017 – Present.

Coordinating a project to conserve, digitize and catalog a collection of roughly 2400 rare Urdu, Persian and Arabic manuscripts at the Anjuman Taraqqi-ye Urdu, Pakistan, in collaboration with the Roshan Institute for Persian studies at the University of Maryland and the Hill Manuscript Museum and Library. Oversaw the construction of a climate-controlled manuscript room and the repatriation of the Anjuman's manuscript collection from the National Museum of Pakistan.

Program Director for Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences and Liberal Arts- Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan. August 2018 – January 2021.

Assigned teaching and research assistants, scheduled classes and tutorial sessions, and reviewed syllabi for courses taught in the program.

Assistant Professor- Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan. January 2017 – January 2021. Taught three undergraduate courses a semester. Advised undergraduate seniors on their senior theses.

Visiting Teacher-Researcher (*Enseignant-Chercheur invité*)- Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris, France. January 2019 – April 2019.

Conducted research at CERI in Paris. Taught two undergraduate courses at the Sciences Po Campus in Le Havre.

Member, Admission Committee- Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan. June 2017- January 2019.

Appraised and amended testing requirements for undergraduate admissions. Revised printed material distributed at IBA information sessions.

Consultant- Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, Pakistan. August 2008 - July 2009. Conducted formative research on gender policy in Pakistan. Assisted in research on documentation of contracts in the female informal urban sector. Conducted a Third Party Validation Survey for teacher training in government schools for the Government of Sindh and the World Bank.

Intern- Social Policy and Development Centre, Karachi, Pakistan. July 2008.

Assisted both the Gender and Governance wings. Assisted in the development of a five-year research plan on issues in decentralization.

Intern -ABN AMRO Bank, Karachi, Pakistan. June 2003 - August 2003.

Worked as part of the Strategic Business Value Department/ Commercial Clients Department. Conducted a financial analysis of the cables and conductors industry in Pakistan.

Awards and Honors

Leon B. Poullada Postdoctoral Research Associateship in Central Asian Studies, Princeton University, 2021-2023: This postdoctoral award is currently funding two years of research towards publication goals.

Research Fellowship (Embassy of France in Pakistan; *Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques*), 2019: This fellowship paired three months of research and academic writing at *Le Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI)* at Sciences Po, Paris with additional teaching responsibilities at Sciences Po, LeHavre.

Mershon Center for International Security Studies Grant, 2014: This grant funded five months of archival research in Uzbekistan.

Fulbright Scholarship, 2010-2016: This merit-based scholarship, renewed each year, was awarded for a period of six years of graduate study and covered tuition fees and the costs of travelling to and living in America. Grantees are not allowed to work in the period covered by the scholarship.

HEC-USAID Scholarship, 2004-2008: This merit and need-based scholarship was awarded for a period of four years of undergraduate study in Economics and covered tuition fees and living costs in Pakistan.

Publications

Siddiqui, Ali G. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History* ., s.v. “The Medieval Khwājagān and the Early Naqshbandīyya.” New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.286>

Conferences

“Power, Prestige and Piety: Naqshbandi Sufi networks in Mughal Thatta.” Paper presented at International Conference on Makli, Makli, Pakistan, January 14th, 2018.

“The Naqshbandīyya after Khwāja Aḥrār: Networks of Trade in Central and South Asia.” Paper presented at Order Beyond Borders: Sovereignty and Citizenship in Asia and the Indian Ocean World Conference, Habib University, Karachi, Pakistan, March 18th 2017.

“Trust and Circulation: Examples from the Naqshbandī Ṭarīqah.” Paper presented at the Ohio Academy of History Conference, Kent State University, Ohio, April 2nd 2016.

“Religious Places and Mobilities.” Panel chaired at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference, George Washington University, Washington D.C., October 16th 2015.

“The Sufi Order as a Trust Network: A Reappraisal of Naqshbandī Persian-Language Sources.” Paper presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference, George Washington University, Washington D.C., October 16th 2015.

“The Central Asian Connection: A Study of Ahrari-Bahmani Correspondence.” Paper presented at the OSU Pre-Modernist Graduate Conference, The Ohio State University, Ohio, April 25th 2014.

“My Kingdom for a Horse: The Role of Sufis in the Fifteenth Century Central Asian-Indian Horse Trade.” Paper presented at the Ohio Academy of History Conference, The Ohio State University, Ohio, April 5th 2014.

Courses Taught

From Empires to Nation-States: A History of the Pre-20th Century World (Institute of Business Administration, Fall 2019; Fall 2020)

Introduction to Historical Methods (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Fall 2019; Fall 2017; Fall 2018; Fall 2020)

South Asian History (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Spring 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2020)

Research Methods in History (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Spring 2020)

Historical Methods: Using Primary Sources (Sciences Po, Le Havre, Spring 2019)

Space, Memory and Identity: A Brief History Of South Asia (Sciences Po, Le Havre, Spring 2019)

Culminating Experience-1 (Institute of Business Administration, Fall 2018)

Sufis, Steppe Nomads and Silk Roads: A History of Islamic Central Asia (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Spring 2017; Spring 2018)

Sufism: A Social, Political and Economic History (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Fall 2017)

Ph.D. Dissertation

“The Naqshbandīyya after Khwāja Ahrār: Networks of Trade in Central and South Asia.”

This dissertation reimagines the Ahrārī and the Jūybārī branches of the Naqshbandī Sufi *ṭarīqa* or order in fifteenth and sixteenth-century Central Asia as examples of trust networks and circulation societies and reappraises their roles in Transoxianan politics and society. Augmenting existing scholarship seeking to free Central Asian Sufism from earlier scholarly allegations of feudal and religious exploitation, this project combines a wide variety of sources with a multi-disciplinary approach to chart the origins, creation and development of the Naqshbandī *ṭarīqa*-based network. As trust networks, the Ahrārī and the Jūybārī networks employed several strategies to reduce the risk of loss associated with dishonest commercial transactions in long-distance trade in the pre- and early-modern periods. *Shaykhs*, or Sufi leaders, personally limited *ṭarīqa* affiliation to individuals screened for their honesty. *Shaykhs* also employed a vast trans-regional network of members to report on the honesty and dishonesty of travelling members. The *shaykh* also used his political influence to ensure the safe passage of caravans in foreign lands. These methods thus reveal that the network was centralized around the figure of the *shaykh*. As this study also presents the Ahrārī

and Jūybārī Naqshbandī *ṭarīqas* as examples of circulation societies, it stresses that like family firms and ethnic diaspora communities, Sufī networks were also actively involved in facilitating the trans-regional movement of goods, people and credit across early-modern economies. Eventually regarded as an extension of the Transoxianan state, the Naqshbandī *ṭarīqa* thus provided a social service to Transoxianan mercantile communities.

Masters Thesis

“The Sufi *Ṭarīqa* as an Exchange Network: The Aḥrārīs in Timūrid Central Asia.”

In the late fourteenth and the early fifteenth century Central Asia, the Timūrid Empire continued the Mongol legacy of maintaining an imperial exchange network. The disintegration of the empire into smaller Timūrid polities and the inability of Timūrid rulers to extend their power beyond the borders of their state should have adversely affected exchange process in the region. Trans-regional exchange, however, survived with the help of the Aḥrārī Naqshbandī Sufī network. The creation of the Sufī network was a reaction to the increasingly decentralized Central Asian political environment. The Aḥrārī network represented a body of traders and craftsmen and had a strong presence in urban Central Asia. Though the Aḥrārī network lacked formal political power, it used its trans-regional presence to diplomatically integrate the courts of rival Timūrid rulers into a greater exchange network. Thus, despite the existence of a decentralized political environment, the Aḥrārī network and the Timūrid states successfully ensured the survival of exchange processes in a post-imperial Central Asia.

Professional Affiliations

Anjuman Taraqqi-ye Urdu Pakistan

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Central Eurasian Studies Society

Ohio Academy of History

Language Skills

Fluent in English, Persian, Urdu and Uzbek.

Proficient in Chagatai Turkish, French and Russian.