

## Contact

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[http://www.zmo.de/forschung/projekte\\_2014\\_2019/alimia\\_transnationalism\\_e.html](http://www.zmo.de/forschung/projekte_2014_2019/alimia_transnationalism_e.html)

## Personal Profile

Sanaa Alimia is a COFUND Fellow based at the BGSMCS and ZMO. Sanaa's research interests involve oral histories of Afghan refugees and urban poor residents in Pakistan. Her work pays attention to Pakistan, Afghanistan, urban politics, refugees, biopolitics, necropolitics, and enumeration mechanisms. Sanaa holds a PhD, without corrections, from the Politics and International Studies Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (2013). She holds a BA (Hons) and MSc (First Class) from the London School of Economics (2007). During 2011-2014 she held the position of Senior Teaching Fellow and Teaching Fellow at SOAS where she taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in 'Comparative and International Politics', 'Government and Politics of South Asia', and 'Government Politics of Modern South Asia'. She was also a Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Peshawar (2013/14) where she taught masters and research students 'Global Racialised Migration Systems in the 20th/21st Century.'

## Research

Title: Street Politics, Moral Lives and Transnationalism: Afghan Refugees and Pakistani Citizens in Karachi and Peshawar.

Sanaa's work explores how urban cities in Pakistan are composed of different local, national, transnational, and multinational actors and spaces. She does so by exploring how Afghan refugees, undocumented migrants, as well as 'devalued' Pakistani citizens sustain cities such as Karachi and Peshawar. Using oral interviews, ethnographic research, and discourse analysis her project explores how these actors are placed in spatial and epistemological 'margins' and, then, how they challenge and navigate out of these margins.

## Editorial Roles

Editorial Board Member, Peshawar University Teachers' Association Journal (Humanities and Social Sciences) Higher Education Commission of Pakistan recognised.

## Publications

Alimia, Sanaa. (Forthcoming.) 'Pakistani Pashtun Bodies as 'Ghettos' and Afghan Bodies as 'Frontiers' – Understanding Differences in State Violence in Karachi.' In *Policies, Practices and Perceptions of Intervention in South Asia – the Cases of Afghanistan and Pakistan*, edited by Andrea Fleschenberg and Raquel Freire.

Alimia, Sanaa. 2014. 'How Identity Cards are Changing Cross-Border Identities: The Case of Pashtuns in Afghanistan and Pakistan,' in *Dynamics of Change in Conflict Societies: Pakhtun Region in Perspective Conference Proceedings*, University of Peshawar and Hanns Seidel Foundation, Peshawar.

Alimia, Sanaa. 2014. '[Violence and Vulnerabilities: Afghans in Pakistan.](#)' *Forced Migration Review*, 46 – 'Afghanistan's Displaced People: 2014 and Beyond.'

Alimia, Sanaa. 2014. '[Suffering Happens, But Pakistan's Afghan Refugees Are More Than Just Victims.](#)' *Open Democracy*.

Alimia, Sanaa. 2014. '[Who Counts as a Refugee?](#)' *Himal South Asia Online*.

Alimia, Sanaa. 2013. '[The Black Clouds over Peshawar and the Inescapable Vulnerability of Life.](#)' *Media Diversified*.

Alimia, Sanaa, 2012. '[Afghans in Pakistan Face a Perilous Future.](#)' *Al Jazeera*.

Alimia, Sanaa. 2011. '[A Sense of Nervous Anticipation Looms in Pakistan.](#)' *Jadaliyya Online*.

#### Public Lectures, Working Papers, and Conferences

May 2014. ZMO-EUME Colloquium, Berlin. 'Urban Studies Seminar 2013 – 2014.'  
Paper Presented: 'At the Margins of Urban Pakistan: The Question of Afghan Refugees.'

May 2014. York University, University of Toronto, Ryerson University. 'Pakistan Beyond Tremors and Terror: Critical Engagements with Political, Economic, and Cultural Change.'  
Paper Presented: Afghan and Pakistani Enumeration in Post-2001 Pakistan: Necropolitics, Humiliation, and Reproducing Imperial Discrimination.  
Chair: Dr. Sara Abraham.

Mar 2014. Oxford. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkish Migration Studies (TukrMis) Conference, Hacettepe University, Ankara and Turkish Migration Studies Group, Oxford University.  
Panel: Immigration in to Turkey.  
Paper Presented: Transnational Afghan Lives in Pakistan and Turkey: Insecurity, Networks, and Building Modernity.

Mar 2014. Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad. National Institute of Pakistan Studies. 'Early Career Researchers Workshop: Conducting Governance Research.'  
Paper presented: Researching Governance Practices in Volatile Contexts.

Mar 2014. Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad. National Institute of Pakistan Studies. 'Challenging Governance? Issues of Informality, Subsidiarity and Participation.'  
Panel: Informal Governance Rules and Practices.  
Paper Presented: Stepping Beyond the 'National Order of Things' in the Moral Order of Informal Pakistan.  
Chair: Prof. Dr. Zafar Jaspal, Quaid e Azam University.

Mar 2014. Lahore University of Management Sciences. School of Humanities and Social Sciences. 'Experiences of Transcending Governance - Policy-Making, Interventions and Migration in Multilevel Governance Contexts.'  
Panel: Migration, Participation and Subsidiarity.  
Paper Presented: Migration in a Global Racialised World c.21

Mar 2014. Higher Education Commission, Lahore. 'Early Career Researchers Workshop: Conducting Governance Research.'  
Paper presented: Researching Governance Practices in Volatile Contexts.

February 2014. School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Muslim South Asia Research Group. 'Big Star Rising Star Series. Muslims in South Asian Cities - Trajectories of Marginalisation.'  
Paper Presented: The Shared Lives of Afghans and Pakistanis in Pakistan.  
Co-Presenter: Professor Christophe Jaffrelot.

December 2013. Mardan University, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 'Public Lecture Series.'  
Public Lecture: The Afghanistan-Pakistan Relationship after 2014.

November 2013. Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad. National Institute of Pakistan Studies. 'Public Lecture Series: Nation Building in Pakistan.'  
Public Lecture: The 'Other' Pakistan: Urban 'Underbellies' in Pakistan.

Sep 2013. Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad: Department of History. 'Modern Teaching and Research Methods'.  
Public Lecture: Critical Research Methods: Challenging Dominant Ways of 'Knowing' the Past.

Jun 2013. Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. 'Distinguished Public Lecture Series.'  
Paper Presented: The Future of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan.  
Chair: Dr. Najam Rafique.

Jun 2013. University of Peshawar and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Peshawar. 'Dynamics of Change in Conflict Societies: Pakhtun Region in Perspective.'  
Paper Presented: How are Identity Cards and Enumeration Changing Cross-Border Relationships between Afghans and Pakistanis?  
Chair: Dr. Sana Haroon, University of Massachusetts.

Jun 2013. University College London, London. 'Forced Migration: Global Perspectives and Practices.'

Paper Presented: The Transnational City in Pakistan Karachi and Peshawar: Shared Afghan and Pakistani Spaces.

Mar 2013: Yale University, Connecticut: South Asian Studies Council, Macmillan Centre. 'Annual Modern South Asia Workshop.'

Panel: Negotiating Marginality.

Paper Presented: The Theatre of the Check Post in South Asia: Humiliation, Harassment and Resistance: Afghans in Pakistan & Kashmiris in India.

Jan 2013. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Westminster. 'Working Group: Pakistan and Afghanistan.'

Panel: Ethnic Relations, Militancy and Sectarianism in Pakistan:

Paper Presented: Afghans in Pakistan – A 'New' Ethnic Group in Pakistan?

Nov 2012. 111<sup>th</sup> American Anthropological Association 2012, San Francisco, California.

Panel: Dialectics of Terrorism: Sites of Terror, Imagined Monsters, and 'Real' Bad Guys.

Paper Presented: Disciplining the 'Dangerous' Afghan Body in Pakistan: Harassment, Humiliation, and Identity Cards.

Chair: Dr. Junaid A Rana, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

May 2012. Stanford University, California. 'South Asia by the Bay.'

Panel: Urban Life and Urban Processes.

Paper Presented: Self Sustaining Urban Peripheries and the Shared Realities between Afghan Refugees and Devalued Pakistani Citizens.

Chair: Dr. Thomas Blom Hansen, Stanford University.

Nov 2011. Oxford University, Oxford: Department of Sociology and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). 'South Asia in Transition.'

Paper Presented: Afghans Refugees and the Devalued Citizen in Pakistan: Shared Realities? Networks, Negotiations, and 'Security' in Pakistan.

Chair: Dr. Faisal Devji, Oxford University.

Nov 2011. SOAS, London: Research Students Society (RSS) Seminar Series. 'Fieldwork: How to Do It and How to Survive Coming Back.'

Presentation: Ethnographic Research and How to Complete Oral Histories.

Chair: Dr. Matthew J. Nelson, SOAS.