

Harrison Akins, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Tennessee—Knoxville
Major Fields: International Relations, Public Policy (with Distinction)
Dissertation: *The Terrorism Trap: The Hidden Impact of America's War on Terror*
Dissertation Committee: Krista Wiegand (Chair), Brandon Prins, Gary Uzonyi, Candace White
- 2018 Graduate Certificate in Global Security Studies, University of Tennessee—Knoxville
- 2010 MSc in Political Theory with Merit, London School of Economics
- 2009 MA in Liberal Arts (Great Books Program), St. John's College—Annapolis, MD
- 2006 BA in History Cum Laude with University Honors, American University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 08/2021-Present Subject Matter Expert (Security)
Research & Analysis Directorate
Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
Arlington, VA
- 06/2020-08/2021 Subject Matter Expert (Economic and Social Development)
Research & Analysis Directorate
Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
Arlington, VA
- 07/2019-06/2020 Senior Policy Analyst (South Asia)
Professional Staff, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
Washington, DC
- 08/2016-07/2019 Global Security Research Fellow
Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN
- 08/2015-07/2019 Graduate Teaching Associate
Department of Political Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- 03/2013-08/2015 Program Coordinator, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies
School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC
- 09/2011-08/2015 Ibn Khaldun Chair Research Fellow
School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC
- 09/2010-09/2011 Policy Fellow, U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, Washington, DC
- 08/2006-08/2007 Assistant Language Teacher, Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program
Hokkaido Board of Education, Wakkanai, Japan

Harrison Akins Curriculum Vitae

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2021 “Violence on the Home Front: Interstate Rivalry and Pro-Government Militias,” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 33(3): 466-488.
- 2021 “Delegating Repression?: Pro-Government Militias and Domestic Terrorism,” *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* 14(1): 72-91.
- 2020 “The Assam Rifles and India’s North-East frontier policy,” *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 31(6): 1373-1394.
- 2020 “Tribal militias and political legitimacy in British India and Pakistan,” *Asian Security* 16(3): 304-322.
- 2018 “Mashar versus Kashar in Pakistan’s FATA: Intra-Tribal Conflict and the Obstacles to Reform,” *Asian Survey* 58(6): 1136-1159.
- 2018 “The 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and America’s Endless War,” *Oxford Middle East Review* 2(1): 12-18.
- 2018 “The Two Faces of Democratization in Myanmar: A Case Study of the Rohingya and Burmese Nationalism,” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 38(2): 229-245.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS & LONG-FORM ESSAYS

Classified Supplement and “Economic and Social Development” section, *53rd Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, October 30, 2021.

“Sustainability” chapter, *What We Need to Learn: Lessons from Twenty Years of Afghanistan Reconstruction*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, August 2021.

“Economic and Social Development” section, *52nd Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, July 30, 2021.

“Economic and Social Development” section, *51st Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, April 30, 2021.

“High Risk Area: Lagging Economic Growth and Social Development,” *2021 High-Risk List*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, March 2021.

“Economic and Social Development” section, *50th Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, January 30, 2021.

“Economic and Social Development” section, *49th Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, October 30, 2020.

“Economic and Social Development” section (with Dan Fisher), *48th Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, July 30, 2020.

“The COVID-19 Infodemic and its Impact on Religious Communities in South Asia,” (with Kirsten Lavery), Factsheet, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, July 2020.

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“Pursuing an IRFA Binding Agreement with Pakistan,” Policy Update, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, June 2020.

“Challenges to Religious Freedom in Bangladesh,” Country Update, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, May 2020.

“Afghanistan”, “Burma”, “India”, and “Pakistan” chapters, *2020 Annual Report*, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, April 2020.

“The Path Towards Justice: Accountability for International Crimes Against the Rohingya of Burma,” (With Kirsten Lavery), Factsheet, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, March 2020.

“The Citizenship (Amendment) Act in India,” Legislation Factsheet, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, February 2020.

“The Religious Implications of the National Register of Citizens in India,” Issue Brief, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, November 2019.

“Promoting Religious Freedom in Afghanistan,” Country Update, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, October 2019.

“Pakistan’s Blasphemy Law,” Policy Update, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, October 2019.

“Trump, China, and Pakistan’s Search for an All-Weather Ally,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 7, 2019.

“The Swan Song of a Secular India?,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 9, 2019.

“The Historical Revisionism of a Clash of Civilizations,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 16, 2019.

War by Proxy: Terrorists, Militias, and the India-Pakistan Rivalry, Policy Brief 1:19, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, April 2019.

Does it matter that Trump suspended reporting on drone strikes?, On Point 1:19, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, March 2019.

“Testing Rationality in Foreign Policy: Donald Trump and the US-Pakistan Relationship,” *Conflict and Cooperation in South Asia: Role of Major Powers* (Islamabad: Islamabad Policy Research Institute, 2019), pgs. 115-135.

“The Two Faces of Portugal,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, November 10, 2018.

Indian Muslims in the Crosshairs: The BJP and Its Anti-Beef Crusade, White Paper 8:18, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, September 2018.

Between Allies and Enemies: Explaining the Volatility in the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship, 1947-2018, Policy Brief 7:18, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, March 2018.

FATA and the Frontier Crimes Regulation in Pakistan: The Enduring Legacy of British Colonialism, Policy Brief 5:17, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, November 2017.

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China in Balochistan: CPEC and the Shifting Security Landscape of Pakistan, Policy Brief 4:17, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, September 2017.

The Yemen Imbroglia: Understanding the Many Layers of the Yemeni Civil War, Policy Brief 3:17, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, April 2017.

“Lawnmowers in the Sky”: The Turbulent Past and Uncertain Future of Drone Warfare, Policy Brief 2:17, Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, March 2017.

“U.S. Drone Tactics and Global Precedents in the Fight Against Terror,” SSN Policy Brief, *Scholars Strategy Network*, October 2016.

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

2021	IG Team Award of Excellence, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
2018	William G. McCall Award for Dissertation Research, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
2017-2018	Thomas Dissertation Fellowship, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
2017	Critical Language Scholarship (Urdu), U.S. Department of State
2016	Critical Language Scholarship (Urdu), U.S. Department of State
2015-2019	Chancellor’s Fellowship, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
2015-2016	Graduate School Fellowship, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

RESEARCH & PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Fieldwork- Pakistan (December 2018); Portugal (September 2018); India (Summer 2016 & 2017); UK, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Bosnia, Greece, Denmark, France, Italy (2013-2015)

Senior Researcher and Fieldwork Coordinator– Akbar Ahmed, *Journey into Europe: Islam, Immigration, and Identity* (Brookings Institution Press, 2018).

Associate Producer, Director of Cinematography, and Script Consultant – “Journey into Europe,” Produced and Directed by Akbar Ahmed. Stiftung Mercator Foundation and British Council USA, 2015. Documentary. Premiered ISNA Film Festival, Chicago, September 2015. Screened on PBS and N1 TV (Balkans). Added to the Ethnographic Film Library of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 2018.

Senior Researcher - Akbar Ahmed, *The Thistle and the Drone: How America’s War on Terror Became a Global War On Tribal Islam* (Brookings Institution Press, 2013).

LANGUAGE AND STATISTICS TRAINING

Urdu– Intermediate-High Proficiency
Hindi– Limited Working Proficiency
Statistics Programs- Stata, R, SPSS

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

“Imran Khan and Donald Trump search for common ground,” *East Asia Forum* (Australian National University), July 20, 2019.

“Is the Trump administration ignoring the domestic terrorist threat?,” *The Tennessean*, April 8, 2019.

“Coming face to face with Europe’s migration crisis,” *USA Today*, July 24, 2018.

“Pakistan’s ‘Pashtun Spring’ faces off against a colonial-era law,” *South Asia @ LSE*, May 25, 2018.

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“Pakistan getting tough love from US and China,” *East Asia Forum* (Australian National University), March 9, 2018.

“How Hindu Nationalists Politicized the Taj Mahal,” *The Atlantic*, November 27, 2017.

“Why are the Rohingya Muslims Being Persecuted in Myanmar?,” *India Times*, September 9, 2017.

“Symbols of Confederacy not part of my heritage,” *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, August 31, 2017.

“Going inside the two worlds of European Muslims,” *The Tennessean*, August 8, 2017.

“What Christianity and Islam have in common,” *The Tennessean*, April 24, 2017.

“Trump’s Islam-Focused Policies Are An Example of How Not To Fight Terrorism,” *The Huffington Post*, February 1, 2017.

“Authoritarianism, Nationalism, & Twitter Sum Up The Toxic Week One Under A Trump Presidency,” *India Times*, January 31, 2017.

“India’s Model of Tolerance,” *BBC*, December 8, 2016.

“Why a Trump Presidency Will be Damaging to the US-India Relationship,” *India Times*, November 7, 2016.

“Trump and Hindu Nationalism: America’s Modi,” *The Huffington Post*, October 31, 2016.

“Cutting the study of Islam a mistake,” *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, October 2, 2016.

“Why the Appointment of Kofi Annan to Myanmar’s Advisory Commission on Rakhine State is Important,” *The Huffington Post*, September 1, 2016.

“Drones and the Burden of Proof: The release of the White House’s guidelines on the use of drones,” *The Huffington Post*, August 8, 2016.

“The Rohingya Are Suu Kyi’s Litmus Test for a Legitimate Democracy,” *The Huffington Post*, November 9, 2015.

“To Combat the ‘New Anti-Semitism,’ Europe’s Jews and Muslims Must Work Together,” *The Huffington Post*, April 22, 2015.

“Islam and Dialogue in Northern Ireland,” *The American Muslim*, June 6, 2014.

“A Tennessean in the House of Lords,” *Pakistan Today*, May 31, 2014.

“No Place for Islam?: Buddhist Nationalism in Myanmar,” *Al Jazeera English*, October 18, 2013.

“Mental illness, Islam or revenge?: Understanding terrorism from the Navy Yard to Pakistan to Kenya” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Washington Post*, September 24, 2013.

“Drones or No Drones, The Violence Will Continue in Pakistan,” *LSE Ideas*, August 20, 2013.

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- “Yes, ‘An Unflattering Truth’,” *Dawn* (Pakistan), July 10, 2013.
- “The spectre of fascism in Greece” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, July 9, 2013.
- “US should replace drone strikes in Pakistan with outreach to tribal areas” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Christian Science Monitor*, May 30, 2013.
- “Mr. Sein Goes to Washington” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Washington Post*, May 21, 2013.
- “Global War Gone Wrong: A Response,” *American Diplomacy*, May 2013.
- “Making Enemies in Yemen” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, May 5, 2013.
- “Suu Kyi’s Muslim moral dilemma” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Asia Times Online*, April 23, 2013.
- “Waziristan: ‘The Most Dangerous Place in the World’” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, April 12, 2013.
- “We must understand source of violence to win war on terror,” *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, March 24, 2013.
- “Wayward in Waziristan” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Foreign Policy*, March 15, 2013.
- “Aung San Suu Kyi, the Rohingya of Burma and the Challenge of Faith” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Brookings Institution*, October 24, 2012.
- “Eritrea and its Refugee Crisis” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, October 17, 2012.
- “The Plight of the Rif: Morocco’s Restive Northern Periphery” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, September 28, 2012.
- “Nigeria in Flames: Breaking the Cycle of Revenge” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, September 9, 2012.
- “The Aceh Elections and the Fragility of Peace” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, April 9, 2012.
- “Beyond Dialogue: An Unprecedented Jewish-Muslim Gathering at the Holocaust Museum,” *The American Muslim*, March 30, 2012.
- “Waiting for the Arab Spring in Western Sahara” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, March 14, 2012.
- “Restoring Harmony Between Bangkok and the Malay Muslims of South Thailand” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, February 27, 2012.
- “No Arab Spring for Egypt’s Bedouin” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, February 15, 2012.
- “The Rohingya: Myanmar’s Outcasts” (with Akbar Ahmed), *Al Jazeera English*, January 30, 2012.
- “Little Help for the Persecuted Rohingya of Burma” (with Akbar Ahmed), *The Guardian* (UK), December 1, 2011.

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CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION, BRIEFINGS, & LECTURES

Invited Lecture, “Afghanistan: Thinking Back, Looking Forward,” San Jose State University, September 16, 2021.

Invited Commissioners’ Briefing on Afghanistan, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, September 13, 2021.

Invited Speaker, “USCIRF Recommendations on India: The Next Steps,” Webinar Briefing for U.S. Congress, May 21, 2020.

Invited Keynote Speaker, “Religious Freedom in South Asia: Challenges & Opportunities,” Webinar hosted by Indian American Muslim Council and Hindus for Human Rights, April 18, 2020.

Invited Speaker, “International Implications and Raising Awareness: What can be done bilaterally, via UN & regional bodies,” Roundtable on India’s NRC-CAA, University of York, February 28, 2020.

Invited Speaker, “Implications of India’s New Citizenship Law,” Capitol Hill Briefing, Indian American Muslim Council, Washington, DC, January 27, 2020.

Invited Speaker, “Dialogue with Parliamentarians and Governments on the Promotion and Protection of FoRB/Minority Rights,” South Asia Forum on the Freedom of Religion or Belief (SAFFoRB) Third Annual Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, December 3-5, 2019.

“Religious Freedom in India,” Invited Lecture, Religion and Foreign Policy Course, Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA, August 28, 2019.

“The Terrorism Trap: The Shifting Priorities of U.S. Counterterrorism Policy,” Invited Lecture, Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, December 14, 2018.

“The Geo-Politics of South Asia and U.S. Interests,” Invited Presentation, Islamabad Policy Research Institute Annual International Conference, Islamabad, Pakistan, December 11-12, 2018.

“Understanding Islam Today,” Public lecture hosted by Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Knoxville, TN, April 19, 2018.

“Ethnic Nationalism and Minority Discrimination in Myanmar and Sri Lanka,” Paper presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 5-8, 2018.

“Banning the Burqa: Political Ideology, Gender, and Islam in Europe” (with Allison Critcher), Paper presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 5-8, 2018.

“The Strategic Use of Religion in Civil War,” Paper presented at the Global Security Research Workshop, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, February 14, 2018.

“Journey into Europe: A Documentary Film,” Invited Presentation, Christ’s Church of Georgetown, Washington, DC, May 15, 2017.

“Western Misconceptions about Islam,” Public lecture hosted by Farragut Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, May 1, 2017.

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“Opening the Black Box of Intra-Ethnic Conflict: Elite Power and Terrorism,” Paper presented at the Global Security Research Workshop, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, April 17, 2017.

“Opening the Black Box of Intra-Ethnic Conflict: Elite Power and Terrorism,” Paper presented at the Middle East Studies Faculty Research Seminar, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, April 7, 2017.

“Journey into Europe: A Documentary Film,” Invited Presentation, Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar, Knoxville, TN, April 15-17, 2016.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request