

# Muhammad Omar Afzaal

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## EDUCATION

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**Brown University, Providence RI** 2015 - 2016

Master's in Public Affairs (MPA)

Research Focus: US foreign policy, security institutional design, conflict resolution

Global Policy Experience (Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden): Swedish and EU legal and political affairs

Simulations: Nuclear Diplomacy in the UN, Extraterritorial US Drone Strikes in Af-Pak Region

**Harvard University, Cambridge MA** Fall 2015

Graduate Exchange Scholar (Brown-Harvard Program; Included in Brown's Transcript)

Research Focus: international security, civil-military relations, nuclear nonproliferation, identity politics in South Asia

**Grinnell College, Grinnell IA** 2011 - 2014

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics

Early Graduation (by 1 year)

Research Focus: Geopolitics, Foreign Aid, Religion and History in Middle East

Capstone Projects: Hydro-Politics and Cross-Border Diplomacy – An Analysis of the Political, Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts of River Indus on Indo-Pakistan; Foreign Aid – A Remedy for the Developing World?

## GRADUATE PAPERS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS (SELECT)

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"Institutionalism in Pakistan's National Command Authority."

Course: U.S. Foreign Policy (Professor Brian Atwood), Brown University, Spring 2016.

"The United Nations Peacekeeping Mission: War and Peace in Sierra Leone (Casebook)."

Course: Graduate Independent Study (Professor Rob Blair), Brown University, Spring 2016.

"Nuclear Weapons: A Golden Era for Civil-Military Relations?"

Course: International Security - PhD seminar (Professor Anne Sartori), Harvard University, Fall 2015.

"Delegation and Assertion in Nuclear Command-and-Control."

Course: Policy Implementation (Professor Susan Moffitt), Brown University, Fall 2015.

"Nuclear Diplomacy: Strategy for a Criteria-Based NSG Membership."

Course: Diplomacy, Economics and Influence (Ambassador Richard Boucher), Brown University, Fall 2015.

"Religion and Communalism: Identity Politics under non-Muslim Rule in South Asia."

Course: Muslim Societies in South Asia: Religion, Culture, and Identity (Professor Ali Asani), Harvard University, Fall 2015.

## NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (SELECT)

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"Reckoning the Impact of the latest US Sanctions against Iran," *Center for Strategic and Contemporary Studies (Pakistan)*, August 2017.

"Unilateral and Collective Counter-Terrorism on the Durand Line," *Center for Strategic and Contemporary Studies (Pakistan)*, February 2017.

"Pakistan's War on Terror: An Outlook on Civil-Military Counter-Terrorism," *Stratagem Magazine (Pakistan)*, November 2016.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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International Student Scholarship, Grinnell College	2011-2014
Graduate Scholarship, MPA Program, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs & Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy, Brown University	2015-2016

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC SERVICE

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**Research Assistant, Professor Rob Blair (Political Science, Brown University)** June 2016 - June 2017  
UN Rule of Law, State Legitimacy, Non-State Actor Violence

Major Output: Produced casebooks to archive and analyze the UNAMSIL and UNMIL missions by engaging 8 metrics and 31 variables; Wrote STATA code to merge and refine Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) data files

Methods: STATA coding, Balance tests (multinomial logit regressions and marginal effects), LaTeX coding

**Facilitator, Brown International Advanced Research Institutes** Summers 2016 & 2017  
Civil-Military Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Major Output: Guided teams to produce research designs on 'Systematically Cataloguing Informal Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in State-Building Processes' (2016) and 'Protection Mechanisms and the Safety of Staff in the Humanitarian Sector: South Sudan' (2017)

**Research Assistant, Sue Eckert (Brown University)** June 2016 - April 2017  
Targeted Financial Sanctions, Proliferation Financing

Major Output: Developed matrix for comparative assessment of national measures to curb nuclear proliferation financing using 37 assessment variables (subdivided by legal, regulatory, and enforcement categories) for 25 countries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East

**Program Development Advisor, BrownThink (Brown University)** April 2016 - March 2017  
Brown's Public Policy Think-Tank

Major Output: Co-organized two-day conference/competition on 'Legal Immigration: A Broken System' (2016) and 'Security: Cyber & Diplomatic Challenges' (2017)

**Research Assistant (non-resident), Rohit Chandra (Harvard Kennedy School/The World Bank)** April 2015 - May 2015  
Economic History, Indian Coal Industry

Major Output: Constructed a Variable Consistency Matrix for STATA use to monitor over 450 variables across multiple raw datasets from 1965 to 2009 to track the evolution of the Indian coal industry

**Project Researcher (non-resident), Professor Adeel Malik (University of Oxford)** March 2015 - May 2015  
Political Economy, Crony Capitalism, Oxford Center for Islamic Studies' workshop

Major Output: Catalogued crony capitalism trends in the MENA region by aggregating and matching non-tariff measures (NTMs) from UNCTAD TRAINS and WTO I-TIP databases; Write STATA code to produce infographics from the 6-digit Harmonized System (HS) NTM data

Methods: STATA coding, WTO Harmonized System (HS) analysis

**Research Assistant (non-resident), Professor Shyama Ramani (UN University, Maastricht)** February 2015 - May 2015  
Sustainable Development, UN MDGs

Major Output: Co-authored the EU Project 'A Framework Model on MNEmerge's Impact on Global Development Challenges in Emerging Markets' to develop prognosis of the impact of multinational enterprises (MNEs) on UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

**Research Assistant (non-resident), Professor Nathan Nunn  
(Harvard University)**

**October 2014 - March 2015**

Economic History, Economic Theory

Major Output: Created ArcGIS maps to define a time-series for geographic data of US railroads;  
Assessed covariates such as agricultural productivity and conflict in countries in Nunn's working papers

**Researcher, Data Analysis & Social Inquiry LAB (Grinnell College)**

**September 2013 - May 2014**

Faculty Projects concerning Economic Development and Political Science

Major Output: Compiled and merged country-level GDP statistics for Professor Irene Powell's 'Economics of Developing Countries' project

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Senior Research Associate & Advisor to Board of Directors (non-resident)  
(Center for Strategic and Contemporary Research)**

**February 2016 - Present**

Drafted monthly international security research briefs for CSCR's Stratagem Magazine;

Advised directors on weekly in-house analysis to inform the 60-plus CSCR team

**Project Associate (Financial Access of Non-Profit Organizations: Anti-Money  
Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism - A Charity and Security  
Network/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Project)**

**October 2016 - March 2017**

Provided primary research assistance to Sue Eckert for assessing de-risking experiences and perspectives of government, financial institutions and nonprofits regarding unintended consequences of regulatory policies to prevent the terrorist abuse of non-profits;

Developed a guide to how international financial flows work explaining cross-border wire transfers and correspondent banking

**Rapporteur ('Stakeholders Dialogue on De-risking' - The World Bank)**

**January 2017**

Moderated focus group discussions among participants from the Treasury Department, Oxfam, Islamic Relief and Bank of America;

Comparative analysis of Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism penalties, bank compliance costs, and due diligence procedures for non-profit organizations in the post-9/11 era;

Outlined de-risking's impact on global financial inclusion and humanitarian assistance initiatives

**Grinnellink Funding Committee (Grinnell College)**

**April 2015**

Member of 3-person panel to review and grant funding to applicants for Grinnell's internship program

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

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Languages: Urdu (native), English (fluent), Hindi (advanced), Arabic (intermediate)

Computer: ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Minitab, STATA, Vensim