

Maria Amjad

CONTACT INFORMATION

Affiliation: University of Genoa

Address: Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Internazionali (DISPI), Albergo dei Poveri, P. le E. Brignole, 3a cancello, 16125 Genova, Italy

E-mail: maria.amjad@edu.unige.it

Website: mariaamjad.org

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariaamjad/>

EMPLOYMENT

January 2023 – to date

Visiting Research Fellow, Centre of International Conflict- Management and Analysis (CICAM), Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. with [Romain Malejacq](#).

November 2020 – to date

PhD Candidate, Security, Risk and Vulnerability Program, Department of Political and International Science (DISPI), University of Genoa. Dissertation Title: “Understanding Rebel Groups Commitment to Peace Negotiation Processes”, Supervisors: [Fabrizio Coticchia](#) and Giampiero Cama.

PAST EMPLOYMENT

November 2021 – September 2022

Fellow at Civil War Paths, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

May 2020 – July 2020

Counterterrorism Analyst Intern, the Counterterrorism Group (CTG), the United States. Weapons and Tactics Team.

Reports written for CTG:

- [Maria Amjad and Louisa Saakian, ‘Drug Trafficking and Hezbollah Operations’, Aug 2020](#)
- [Maria Amjad and Louisa Saakian, ‘Hypersonic Missiles in International Security’, Aug 2020](#)

February 2018 – March 2019

Intelligence and Security Analyst, Intelligence Fusion, the United Kingdom

For the team: Pakistan

May 2017 – July 2017

Research Intern at Hudson Institute, the United States. Worked virtually with Professor Richard Weitz at Centre for Political-Military Analysis.

May 2017 – July 2017

Data Analyst at Gallup Pakistan, Lahore, Pakistan. Project on ‘business innovation and mobile technology use in personal and professional setting’, to analyze the security and reliability of the mobile wallet, mobile payments, and branchless banking services.

May 2017 – July 2017

Teaching Assistant at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. For the undergraduate-level courses: Comparative Religions, Philosophy and Politics of Global Ecology, and Dialogue and Critique in the Age of Terror.

EDUCATION

October 2017- October 2019

Masters in International Relations, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy. Thesis: “Before and After Peace Negotiations with Terrorist Organizations: Comparative Case Study of Pakistan and Nigeria” Supervisor: Giampiero Giacomello

September 2011- July 2015

Bachelors in Hons in Political Science, Minor in Mathematics. Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan.

OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

1. Commanders of the Mujahideen: Introducing the Jihadist Leaders Dataset (JLD). With Mark Berlin (George Washington University), Sara Daub (The Hertie School), Joshua Fawcett Weiner (Radboud University, Nijmegen)
2. Scholarship on Jihadism: Trends, Patterns and Avenues for Future Research. With Sanjida Amin (University of Toronto), Mark Berlin (George Washington University), Jared Pentz (Temple University) and Regine Schwab (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt).

CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

1. Staying the Course or Back Out? Understanding Rebel Groups Commitment to Peace Negotiation Processes, 21-24 May 2024, Legacies of Civil Wars Conference, Swisspeace, University of Basel, and Politics after War | Basel, Switzerland.
2. “There will be direct talks”: Rebel Groups’ Pathways to Participate in Formal Negotiation Rounds: A Case study of Taliban Participation in Doha Negotiations 2019-2020, Conflict Research Society (CRS) 2023, Kings college London | London | September 2023
3. “Rebel Groups Participation in Formal Negotiations,” ISA Conference 2023 | Montreal, Canada | Mar 2023
4. “Rebel Groups Participation in Formal Negotiations,” SISP 2022, Sapienza University | Rome, Italy | Sep 2022
5. “Towards Understanding Rebel Groups Participation in Formal Negotiations: A New Theoretical Framework,” Civil War Paths, 1st Annual Conference 2022 | Online | Sep 2022
6. ‘Time will Tell: Rebel Groups’ Participation in the Formal Negotiations of the Peace Negotiation Process’ at ISA Conference 2022 | Nashville USA – Online | Mar 2022
7. ‘A Critical Review of the Rebel Groups’ Participation in the Formal Negotiations of the Peace Process’ at the SISP Conference 2021 | Online | Sep 2021
8. ‘Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI) in Power and Limits of Populism in Pakistan’ at Ireland-India Institute of Dublin City University | Dublin, Ireland | Apr 2019
9. Student Delegate to ‘Jindal-LUMS Conclave at O.P. Jindal University’ | Sonipat India | Apr 2014

BOOK REVIEWS

3. Proscribing Peace: How Listing Armed Groups as Terrorists Hurts Negotiations. Civil Wars, Taylor and Francis Online. (Aug 2022)
4. Negotiating Survival: Civilian-Insurgent Relations in Afghanistan by Ashley Jackson. Global Policy, Durham University and John Wiley & Sons Ltd (May 2022)

TRAININGS

1. Ph.D. level course on International Mediation: Theory, Cases and Skills Instructors: Laurie Nathan, Jørgen Jensehaugen and Kristian Harpviken PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo) and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies | Oslo, Norway | May 2022
2. Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) Instructor: Ioana-Elena Oana and Carsten Schneider ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques | Online | July 2021

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

1. June 2024, Peace Research Grant by Institute of Peace Research Association Foundation
2. May 2024, Travel grant for Legacies of Civil Wars Conference by Swisspeace, University of Basel and Political After War (PAW), May 2024.
3. February 2024, American Institute of Afghan Studies (AIAS), Research Grant
4. March 2023, ISA Annual Convention Travel Grant
5. 2020-2024, Full PhD Grant by Italian Higher Education (MIUR) and DISPO, University of Genoa, Italy
6. 2017-2019, Unibo Action-2 Merit based scholarship based on GRE scores for international students for full Master's degree at University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

1. English, Full Professional Proficiency
2. Urdu, Native Speaker
3. Punjabi, Advanced Professional Proficiency
4. Hindi, Full Speaking and Listening Proficiency
5. Italian, Elementary Professional Proficiency