

Imtyaz Ahmad

Al-Rehman Masjid, Street No. 4, I-8/1,
Room No. 2, Near Usmania Market,
Islamabad, Pakistan
imtyaz@seekpk.org
ahmadimtyaz5566@gmail.com
(92) 349-0630880

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political science (In Progress), Hazara University, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan

Supervisor: Dr. Muhammad Imran Hazara University, Mansehra, KP Pakistan

Co-Supervisor: Dr. Sameena Azhar, Fordham University, New York USA

Thesis: "The politics of third gender people in contemporary Pakistan"

M. Phil., Political science (2018-2020), Hazara University, Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan

Supervisor: Dr. Muhammad Imran Hazara University, Mansehra, KP Pakistan

Co-Supervisor: Dr. Sameena Azhar, Fordham University, New York USA

Thesis: "A critical analysis of guru chela culture among third gender people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan"

B.S., Political science (2013-2017), GPG Jahanzeb College, Mingora, Swat

Thesis: "Cultural and political adjustment of third gender people: A case study of Swat District in KP, Pakistan"

PUBLICATIONS

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.**, Tariq, N. & Herrera, M.M.G. (2022). "Having a guru is like having a license": Analyzing Financial Relationships between Khwaja Sira Gurus and Chelas in Swat, Pakistan. *Culture, Health and Sexuality*.

Azhar, S., Herrera, M.M.G.. & **Ahmad, I.** (2023). "The hardest and most difficult days of my life": Mental health of khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*.

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.** & Tariq, N. (2024). "One by one, they raped me": Sexual Violence against Khwaja Sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Psychology of Violence*.

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.**, Tuten, M., & Kumari, R. (2024). "I would prefer to be dead than to live this life this way": Stigma and discrimination against khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health*

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.**, Tuten, M., & Kumari, R. (In Review). "Our strength is to give each other respect": Techniques for building community and increasing resilience among khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan Planning to submit to: interdisciplinary *Journal of sexuality and culture*.

Tripathi, S., Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.** (In Review). "We don't have any honor because we are khwaja sira": Police violence and discrimination against the khwaja sira community in Swat, Pakistan, *Journal of Human Rights Practice Oxford university*

AWARDS

Faculty Research Grant, Fordham University (\$6,000)

Awarded to Dr. Sameena Azhar, subcontract to Imtyaz Ahmad

"A critical analysis of guru-chela culture among khwaja sira communities at KP Pakistan"

Study involved the recruitment of third gender people to participate in an exploratory study, approved through the Fordham University Institutional Review Board (IRB), New York City. The study involved the completion of 45 interviews in Pushto, translating and transcribing these interviews into English, coding and analyzing interview transcripts, interpreting themes, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

Faculty Research Development Fund, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service (\$4,000)

Awarded to Dr. Sameena Azhar, subcontract to Imtyaz Ahmad

"Religious Views Regarding Khwaja Sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan."

The study was approved by the Fordham University Institutional Review Board (IRB) on Sept. 6, 2022. The study involves two phases of data collection. In the first phase, 40 interviews with religious scholars and leaders. In the second phase, 30 interviews and 05 FGDs with khwaja sira in Urdu translating and transcribing into English, coding and analyzing transcripts, interpreting themes, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

USIPS & Faculty Research Development Fund, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service (\$4,000)

Awarded to Dr. Sameena Azhar, subcontract to Imtyaz Ahmad

"Gender-Based Violence Against Khwaja Sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan."

The study was approved by the Fordham University Institutional Review Board (IRB) in March. 1, 2024. The study involves 500 surveys with khwaja sira and transcribing these interviews into English, coding and analyzing interview transcripts, interpreting themes, and preparing manuscripts for publication.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Azhar, S., Arshid, M. & **Ahmad, I.** (2022, Nov.). Perspectives of Mullahs/Ulamas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan on Khwaja Sira (Third Gender) Identities. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting.

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I** & Vaudrey, J. (2022, Nov.) Impact of COVID-19 on Khwaja Sira (Third Gender People) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference. *Accepted but unable to attend.*

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.**, Vaudrey, J., Douglas, A., & Jokhakar, V. (2022, Apr.) Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Khwaja Sira (Third Gender) Communities in Swat, Pakistan. *Fifth International Conference on Gender Research*, University of Aveiro, Portugal. (Virtual attendance). **Winner, Best Poster Presentation.**

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.**, & Herrera, M.M.G. (2024, Jan.). "I would prefer to be dead than to live life this way": Stigma and Discrimination against Khwaja Sira in Swat, Pakistan. *Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference*, Washington, D.C.

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.** & Tariq, N. (2024, Jan.). "One by one, they raped me": Sexual Violence against Khwaja Sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference*, Washington, D.C.

Azhar, S., **Ahmad, I.** (2023, Dec.). If we try to resist, they threaten to kill us": Lived experiences of khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan. *International Conference on Psychology and Allied Sciences*, Limon, Puerto Rico.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lecturer for Pakistan Studies International Education Academy Faiz Abad, Mingora Swat, KP, Pakistan	2013-2016
Lecturer for Pakistan Studies and Social Studies Dawn College System, Mingora Swat, KP, Pakistan	2016-2018
Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Sameena Azhar Graduate School of Social Service Fordham University New York, USA	2018-present

TRAININGS

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiatives (CITI): Research ethics training for protecting human subjects in research, February 2019.
