

## SALEHA ANWAR

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(Last updated: June 5th, 2024)

### Education:

Boston University, Massachusetts

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Political Science (2024-Present)

San Diego State University, California

- M.A. Political Science with Distinction (2024)

University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

- M.Phil. Political Science (2020)

Thesis: *Islam and Democracy in the Muslim world: A Comparative Analysis of Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey*

- **B.S.** Honors Political Science (2018)

Thesis: *The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism and Controlled Democracy in Pakistan: A Case Study of General Zia ul Haq's Era (1977 to 1988)*

### Areas of Specialization:

Islam and political participation, women's agency and empowerment in Islamic contexts, piety and politics, gender and electoral politics in Pakistan

### Experience:

- **Graduate Assistant**, San Diego State University (Aug 2022-2024)
- **Research Assistant**, San Diego State University (Feb 2023-2024)
- **Graduate Assistant**, Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, San Diego State University (August 2023-2024)
- **Emerging Leader Intern**, The Collins Center for Abrahamic Heritage, The Acton Institute, Grand Rapids, Michigan (2023)

### Professional Affiliations:

- Columnist, *Dawn* (Newspaper), 2022-present
- Vice President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, San Diego State University, 2023-2024
- Columnist, *Global Village Space*, 2019-present
- Research Fellow, Akhuwat Foundation (NGO in Pakistan), 2018

- Head of *Council of Happiness* (student organization), University of the Punjab, 2017-18
- Leader, organizing team of Parliamentary Debates and Quiz Competition, University of the Punjab, 2018

#### **Awards, Fellowships and Scholarships:**

- 2024. Outstanding Comprehensive Exam Award, San Diego State University (SDSU)
- 2024. SDSU Student Success Fee Award for conference travel and UN visit in Vienna, Austria, awarded to the Political Science Graduate Student Association (\$25,000)
- 2024. SDSU Student Success Fee Award, received by the Political Science Graduate Student Association to attend the Western Political Science Association annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada (\$18,000)
- 2022. Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship (PGRF), SDSU, (\$7182 tuition per year)
- 2022. Terhune Scholarship, Political Science Department, San Diego State University, (\$5000)
- 2021. Islamic Outreach Fellowship, The Acton Institute

#### **Selected Essays and Op-eds:**

- 2023. "[The Taliban Exploit Islam to Protect Their Illegitimate Rule](#)" *The Acton Religion and Liberty Online*, July 7.
- 2022. "[Review of Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison](#)" *Reading Religion* (American Academy of Religion's Blog), April 23.
- 2022. "[Review of Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire](#)", *Dawn* (English-language news site), October 23.
- 2022. "[Is Aurat \[Women's\] March un-Islamic?](#)" *Dawn*, March 6.
- 2021. "[Muslim Emperors of Subcontinent: Selfish invaders or founders of the Great Indian civilization](#)," *Global Village Space*: October 18.
- 2021. "[Why Shashi Tharoor's inglorious empire is a must-read?](#)" *Global Village Space*, September 27.
- 2020. "[Forget economy, India under Modi is home to contentious identity politics](#)," *Global Village Space*, December 26.
- 2020. "[Islamophobia is a challenge created, developed and aggravated by Muslims](#)," *Global Village Space*, April 16.

#### **Conferences:**

- 2024. Presented a paper titled *The Role of Superior Courts in Democratic Erosion and Resilience* in an International Conference Democratic Governance in a Turbulent Age by the University of Vienna, Feb 14-16.
- 2023. International Studies Association, West Pasadena.

- 2023. Acton University, Michigan, June 20-23.
- 2023. Race and the Borderlands, San Diego State University, April 7.
- 2018. Changing Regional Political Dynamics in South Asia, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2019. Democracy, Governance and Security: Perspectives from South Asia.
- 2017. Indian Atrocities in Kashmir: Regional and Global Implications, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

## REFERENCES

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