

Sonia Irum (PhD)

Assistant Professor

Department of English,
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International Islamic University Islamabad,
Pakistan

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Education

2020
Dissertation Title: PhD English
Exploring Environmental Concerns in Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction
Royal Holloway University of London, UK

2013
Dissertation Title: MS English
Commodified World: An Analysis of Uzma Aslam Khan's Selected Fiction in the Light of Ideology of Consumerism
International Islamic University, Islamabad

Research Interests

Ecocriticism, Contemporary Environmental Writings, Comparative Literature, Film & Media Studies, South-Asian Fiction in English, Literary Theory, Cultural Studies, Feminism, Subaltern Studies, Creative Writing

Awards

- Awarded HEC Scholarship for Royal Holloway, University of London, (2015 – 2020)
- Awarded a certificate for Art of Writing Course (Aug 2020 – Oct 2020) by Ajoka Institute (Ajoka Theatre Pakistan)
- Awarded a certificate for UK Alumni Professional Development Programme focusing on Entrepreneurship & Strategy (Feb 2023) by British Council (Islamabad)

Travels Abroad

- London, Wales (UK)
- Los Angeles, North Carolina (USA)
- Amsterdam, Utrecht (Netherlands)
- Jaipur (India)

Teaching/Work Experience

International Islamic University, Islamabad:

- Assistant Professor (2022 to date), Department of English
- Lecturer (2015 to 2022), Department of English
- Teaching/Research Associate (2010 – 2015), Department of English
- Visiting Lecturer (2007 – 2010), Department of English

Royal Holloway University of London:

- Worked as RH100 Panelist at the Royal Holloway University of London, UK (2016 - 2018)

Academic/Administrative Activities

- HEC Approved Supervisor
- Incharge, Alumni Office (2022 to date)
- Master Trainer (Learning Management System) for online teaching & learning in English Department (2020 to date)
International Islamic University, Islamabad
- Coordinator, Critical Thinking Forum, (2010 to date) International Islamic University, Islamabad http://www.iiu.edu.pk/index.php?page_id=16372
- Coordinator, English Literary Society, (2011 – 2015)
International Islamic University, Islamabad
- Coordinator, International students ELT Department (2012–2015, 2020 – to date)
International Islamic University, Islamabad
- Conference Coordinator, Consciousness-Raising of Pakistani Women: Negotiating Differences and Building Alliances from (17th – 18th December 2015)
- Conference Coordinator, Three-Day International Conference: Women, Environment and Environmental Justice (ICWEEJ) (7th – 9th December 2016)

- Conference Organizer, Two-day International Conference: Critical Social Sciences and Humanities (14th – 15th Sep 2017)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary Conference: Representation of Women in Media and Literature (10th – 11th May 2012)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary Conference: Globalization and its Impact on Indigenous Cultures (17th – 18th November 2011)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary Conference: Women Universities as Agents of Change (26th – 27th November 2010)

Professional Memberships

- Member of Board of Studies, International Islamic University Islamabad
- Member of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (UK and Ireland), ASLE-UKI
- Manuscript Reviewer, Peter Lang Publishing
- Manuscript Reviewer, *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History*
- Member of CTF Consultancy
- Member of ICLA Congress, International Comparative Literature Association (AIRC, Association Internationale De Litterature Comparée)
- Member of CLAI Comparative Literature Association of India

Courses Taught

Literature & Environment, Creative Writing, South Asian Literature in English, Introduction to Literature, Classical Drama, Classical Poetry, Literature & Ideology, Communication & Presentation Skills, Literary Theory into Practice, Functional English, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing Skills

Projects

- Lead Trainer, "Fostering Critical Thinking and Entrepreneurial Skills in Young Women for Gender Inclusive Socioeconomic Development (FCTEYW) (2021-2023), a collaborative project of Shaor Foundation for Education and Awareness, Pakistan, and Critical Thinking Forum (CTF) sponsored by Department of State, US Embassy Pakistan

- Principal Investigator, "Women in Leadership Positions in Higher Education in Pakistan: Challenges and Solutions" (2021) for WomenWriting Pakistan: Gender in the South Asian Literary Landscape in collaboration with Teesside University, UK
- Core Committee Member, "Consciousness Raising of Pakistani Women on Contemporary Academic and Social Issues" (2015 – 2017) in collaboration with U.S Embassy and IUI
- Task Based Language Learning: A Comparative Study (2007 – 2008). Assisted in developing contexts and taught speaking skills to the experimental group in collaboration with university of Wales, Newport, UK

Publications

Book:

- ***Environmental Dialectics: Exploring Postcolonial Ecocritical Concerns in Pakistani Fiction*** (Contracted to Routledge, Forthcoming 2023)

Research Papers:

- The Case of Connection: A Bibliographic Essay on Emerging Human Ecological Criticism. *Journal of Research (Humanities)*, vol. LVI. 2020
- Commodified Relationships: A Study of Khan's Fiction through the Lens of Consumerism. *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry*, 16 (1): 17-28. 2018
- "Rainbow Alliance": A Subaltern Study of Selected Pakistani Fiction in English. In *Kashmir Journal of Language Research, Pakistan*, 19(2): 13- 24. 2016
- "My death means their life.": A Feminist Study of Body and Soul in Nawal al Sadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*. In *Mayar*, 16: 5-14. 2016

Book Reviews, Journalistic Articles/Blogs etc.:

- "Reflections on 'Women Writing Pakistan: Gender in the South Asian Literary Landscape' Workshop. In *BLOGS Contemporary Women's Writing Association*, December, 2022
<https://thecwwa.org/blog/>
- "Sara Suleri (Goodyear)." *The Literary Encyclopedia*. Vol. 10.3.2. Pakistani and Bangladeshi Writing and Culture. Available at
<https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=14562>
- "Essay: The Nature of Folklore". In *Books & Authors, Dawn*, June 09, 2019
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1486934/essay-the-nature-of-folklore>

- "Essay: A Contrapuntal Archive". In Books & Authors, Dawn, March 18, 2018
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1395668>
- "'Aadhay Adhooray Khawab': Exploring the death of creativity through education". Book Review. In BLOGS, *The Express Tribune*, May 24, 2017
<http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/47609/aadhay-adhooray-khawab-exploring-the-death-of-creativity-through-education/>
- "Walking the Winds of Wilmington". In AikRozan.com, November 2016
<https://www.aikrozan.com/walking-winds-of-my-wilmington/>
- "Critical thinking can help to change our general perception of women". In BLOGS, *The Nation*, April 09, 2016
<http://nation.com.pk/blogs/09-Apr-2016/critical-thinking-can-help-change-our-general-perception-of-women>
- "Visiting Jaipur changed my impression of India". In BLOGS, *The Express Tribune*, February 21, 2016
<http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/30813/visiting-jaipur-changed-my-impression-of-india/>
- "A grand wedding or a happy marriage, what's more important?". In BLOGS, *The Express Tribune*, April 05, 2015
<http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/26150/a-grand-wedding-or-a-happy-marriage-whats-more-important/>

Creative:

- Editor, *Gentle Visitations: Literary Reflections & Conversations* (online English Literary Magazine)
<https://gentlevisitations.com>
- *Shut in a Shuttlecock*, a short story published in *FEMIDA*, March 20, 2021, p. 8 (PROSE), №03 (49), Kashkadarya, Republic of Uzbekistan
- *Fall in Love*, a short story published in *Pakistaniaat: A Journal of Pakistan Studies*, University of North Texas Vol. 6, (2018). EISSN: 1946-5343; ISSN: 1948-6529.
<http://pakistaniaat.org/index.php/pak>
- *The Whisper that Calls Me*, a reflective piece published in *Spectrum Magazine*, International Islamic University, Islamabad (2006-2007)

Trainings Conducted

- Trained faculty and administrative staff in a workshop on **Communication Skills for Faculty and Administration Development** at Muslim Youth University (MYU) Islamabad (Dec 2022)

- Trained faculty and students in a session on **Social Inclusion and Gender** at Women University Swabi, Women University Multan, Government College University Lahore, Rawalpindi Women University (2021-2023)
- Trained faculty and students in a session on **Critical Thinking, Gender Equality, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution** at Women University Swabi, Women University Multan, Government College University Lahore, Rawalpindi Women University (2021-2023)
- Trained faculty and students in a session on **Research, Women's Literature—Case Studies from Pakistan and the United States** at Women University Swabi, Women University Multan, Government College University Lahore, Rawalpindi Women University (2021-2023)

Trainings Attended

- Alumni UK Professional Development Course on **Entrepreneurship and Strategy** at British Council, Pakistan (February 7, 2023)
- 03-Day Workshop on **Developing Higher-Order Thinking Skills – A Teacher Training Programme** by Learning Innovation Division of Higher Education Commission, Pakistan at International Islamic University, Islamabad (November 14-16, 2013)

Professional Presentations

Invited Presentation:

- Spectated "Virtual Poetry Recital" organized by Susan B. Anthony Reading Room (FJWU) in Mar. 2022.
- Presented "New Forms of Imperialism and Colonization in Pakistani Ecofiction" in the virtual international conference on Environmental Sustainability: Multi-dimensional Perspectives at the Faculty of Humanities, Kristu Jayanti College, India (March 6, 2021)

Other:

- Presented Narratives of Confession: Religion and Patriarchy in the Fiction of Shahraz and Hosseini" in the seminar 'Fictional Testmonies, Comparative Sessions, and Literary Ethics (Sponosred Seminar of the IICLA Research Committee on Religion, Ethics, and Literature) at the Annual Meeting of ACLA Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, USA (March 29 – April 1, 2018)
- Presented "Religion and Patriarchy in the Fiction of Shahraz and Hosseini" in the seminar 'The Many Redemptions of Literature, Part 1: The "Sense" of

Redemption (a seminar sponsored by the ICLA Research Committee on Religion, Ethics, and Literature)' at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Universiteit Utrecht in Utrecht, the Netherlands (July 6-9, 2017)

- "“Rainbow Alliance”: A Subaltern Study of Selected Pakistani Fiction in English” at Senate House, Royal Holloway University of London, UK (November 4, 2016)
- "“You’re just an ajnabi”: A Subaltern Study of Uzma Aslam Khan's *Trespassing*” at *Progress: Oxford English Faculty Graduate Conference*. Oxford University, England, UK (June 2016)
- "Trauma of Displacement: An Ecopsychological Study of *Trespassing*” at IIUI-UNCW Partnership Conference on *The New Global City: Presenting and Translating Cultures within a Worldwide Citizenry* in Wilmington, USA (May 2016)
- "Exile and Displacement: A Human Ecological Study of *Trespassing* and *Sea of Poppies*” at *XII CLAI Biennial International Conference 2015 on CULTURE, ARTS AND SOCIO-POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES*, Centre for Rajasthan Studies and Department of Urdu and Persian, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur in Collaboration with Comparative Literature Association of India (March 1-4, 2015)
- "Reified Minds of Commodified Society in Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction” at *FICLL 2014: First International Conference of Literature and Language* organized by Department of English, GC University, Lahore, Pakistan
- "Teaching Reading Skills through Reader Response Theory” at *SPELT International Conference* (2011) at COMSATS, Islamabad
- "A Feminist Pedagogical Model for Teaching English to Second Language Learners” at *SPELT International Conference* at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi (2010)
- *Beauty and the Beast Fixation of Identity in Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Sadawi and *Eleven Minutes* by Paulo Coelho” at *Two-Day International Interdisciplinary Conference: Women Universities as Agent of Change* in International Islamic University, Islamabad (2010)

Video Presentations:

- "Women and Environmental Consciousness” in the International Conference on Women, Environment and Environmental Justice (ICWEEJ Dec 7-9, 2016) at IIUI, Pakistan
- "Rediscovering Female Literary Voices of Subcontinent (1880 -1950)” in *Marginalized Mainstream Conference*, UK
<https://marginalisedmainstream.wordpress.com/2013/09/12/rediscovering-female-literary-voices-of-subcontinent-1880-1950/>

Panel Discussions:

- Series of Panel Discussions in London, UK (2017)
 - “Contemporary South Asian Women Narratives: Subversion, Resilience and Shifting Responses” at Turl Street Kitchen Room (Oxford City) on Aug 12, 2017
 - “India-Pakistan-UK: Political vs. Personal” at Senate House, University of London, Bloomsbury, London on Aug 16, 2017
 - “Violence against Women in Media and Literature from India, Pakistan and UK” at Tara Arts, London on Aug 17, 2017
 - “What it means to be a Feminist in 21st Century India, Pakistan, and UK” at Senate House, University of London, Bloomsbury, London on Aug 18, 2017
- Series of Panel Discussions in Los Angeles, USA (2016)
 - “Women in USA + Pakistan: Seeing Each Other and Expanding Our Vision” at DTLA Los Angeles Central Library, California, USA. (2016)
 - USA + Pakistan: Images of Women in Media and Reality at West Hollywood Library, Los Angeles, California, USA. (2016)
 - “Pakistani Women: Religion and Peace” at Santa Monica Quakers Meeting House, Los Angeles, California, USA. (2016)
 - “Observing Fashion in the Post-Feminist Era: Global Trends from Pakistan to the United States” at (FIDM) Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles, USA. (2016)
 - “Creating Urban Green Spaces, From California to Islamabad” at Cottonwood Canyon, Pasadena, (Arroyos Foothills Conservancy (AFC)), USA. (2016)
- “Grassroots & Community Initiatives Towards Rebuilding U.S. – Pakistan Relationship in US-Pakistan Interreligious Consortium in collaboration with Intersections International and Iqbal Institute of Research & Dialogue, IUI. (2014)

Talk/Lecture/Interview/Seminar/Webinar/Radio/Video/TV Programme:

- Interviewed by Muniba Mazari in the PTV programme SAMAAJ | FOOD WASTAGE on Feb. 19, 2023. Available at <https://youtu.be/83g5x2rSU2o>
- Moderated Live Q & A for the session on “Navigating Women’s Leadership

Advancement in Higher Education" with Dr Cynthia Warrick (USA) organized by U.S. Embassy, Pakistan on Mar. 30, 2022.

- Moderated the international three-day Women Early Career Researcher Workshop (Women Writing Pakistan: Gender in the South Asian Literary Landscape) organized by Teesside University, UK and International Islamic University, Islamabad and sponsored by the UK Global Challenges Research Fund from Mar. 24-26, 2021.
- Moderated "6th Regional Dialogue: Promoting Diversity & Inclusiveness for Co-existence in South Asia" organized by Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network - PUAN on Feb 23, 2021. Available at <https://youtu.be/460YjwcxH4g>
- Interviewed Dr Munazza Yaqoob (Pakistani critic) for the topic "Life & Work Series III" organised by Progressive Literary & Cultural Society (India) via FACEBOOK LIVE. Available at <https://www.facebook.com/112658057223416/videos/142805977190183>
- Moderated "'Every detail is Story' Book Launch: The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali", streamed live on Oct 23, 2020 at 7th Islamabad Literature Festival by Oxford University Press, Pakistan via FACEBOOK and YOUTUBE. Available at <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordUniversityPressPak/videos/291016728556505>
- "What is a Short Story?" at Bentilee Library, Staffordshire, UK (Dec 18, 2019)
- "Let's Save the Environment". In TZK TV, London, UK. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTtTzLiRS0&t=374s>
- "Haider (2014) An Indian Adaptation of Hamlet." Shakespeare in the Twenty-First Century . . . at English Department, School of Humanities, Royal Holloway, University of London (March 2019)
- "Meet the Writer." Interviewed renowned Pakistani novelist Uzma Aslam Khan at Senate House Library, University of London (May 28, 2018)
- "USA and Pakistan - Seeing each other". In Central Library Blog, LA. Available at <https://www.lapl.org/collections-resources/blogs/central-library/usa-and-pakistan-seeing-each-other>
- Interviewed by The Mansuri Show, Pakistan Link ARY Digital, Los Angeles as a representative of Critical Thinking Forum, IIUI. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9gWeCuR86Y&feature=share>
<https://youtu.be/O9gWeCuR86Y>
- "Fictional Women vs Real Women: Representation of Women in Contemporary South Asian Literature" via Skype at Department of English, Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak (April 20, 2016)
- "Consciousness Raising through Environmental Literary Representations" at

the Critical Thinking Forum, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan (June 2016)

- “‘Value’ in Taming of the Shrew: Shakespeare Page to Stage” at English Department, Royal Holloway, University of London (December 2, 2015)

Thesis Supervision

PhD:

- De-imperializing and Retrieving Erased (Hi)stories: A Study of Selected Novels as Historiographic Metafiction (in progress, Azher Khan, 2023)

MS:

- (Non)Violent Resistance as a De-colonial Strategy in *A God in Every Stone* and *A Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali* (Sehrish Nawaz, 2022)
