

# Curriculum Vitae

**Dr. Huma Saeed**

*Senior Researcher | Transitional Justice & Human Rights Expert*

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## EDUCATION

**PhD in Criminology** — University of Leuven, Faculty of Law and Criminology, 2012–2017

- Fully funded Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship (USA)
- Dissertation: Economic-State Crime and Transformative Justice: An Analysis at the Intersection of Transitional Justice and Criminology.
- Based on extensive period of field research in Afghanistan (2013-2014)

**MSc in Human Rights** — London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), 2009-2010

- Fully funded Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship (USA)
- Developed interdisciplinary understanding of human rights theory, history, and practice, focusing on international human rights law and its domestic implementation.
- Dissertation: A Critical Analysis of Transitional Justice Processes in Afghanistan.

**BA (Hons) in Political Science and Anthropology** — University of Maryland, 2005-2009, Magna Cum Laude

- Fully funded Sondheim Public Affairs Scholarship (USA)
  - Honors Thesis: Ending the Cycle of Violence: The Role of a Truth Commission in Afghanistan.
  - Based on field research in Kabul (Summer 2008), including 40 semi-structured interviews.
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## CURRENT ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Senior Transitional Justice Fellow, Faculty of Law — City University of New York (CUNY)
  - Affiliated Senior Researcher, Leuven Institute of Criminology — KU Leuven
  - Adjunct Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science — Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
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## MAIN RESEARCH SKILLS

- Expertise in qualitative and field-based research using interviews, focus groups, and participatory methods in conflict and post-conflict settings (notably Afghanistan).
  - Strong interdisciplinary approach combining criminology, human rights, and transitional justice.
  - Skilled in policy-oriented and applied research, including evaluations for UN, EU, and international NGOs.
  - Experienced in supervising and mentoring researchers, and conducting multilingual, cross-cultural studies.
  - Expert-level experience in documentation of gender persecution and human rights violations for international accountability mechanisms (ICC, OHCHR, UN Special Procedures).
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## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- Saeed, H. (2022). *Transitional Justice and Socio-Economic Harm: Land Grabbing in Afghanistan*. Routledge.

### Articles Published in International Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Saeed, H. (2020). No Peace without Justice in Afghanistan. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs (Human Rights and Development)*.
- Saeed, H., & Parmentier, S. (2017). When Rabbits are in Charge of Carrots...: Land Grabbing, Transitional Justice and Economic-State Crime in Afghanistan. *State Crime International Journal*, 6(1), 13–36.
- Saeed, H. (2016). Victims and Victimhood: Individuals of Inaction or Active Agents of Change? Reflections on Fieldwork in Afghanistan. *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 10(1), 168–178.
- Saeed, H. (2015). Empowering Unheard Voices through 'Theater of the Oppressed': Reflections on the Legislative Theater Project for Women in Afghanistan—Notes from the Field. *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, 7(2), 299–326.
- Brodsky, A. E., & Faryal, T.<sup>1</sup> (2006). No matter how hard you try, your feet still get wet: Insider and outsider perspectives on bridging diversities. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 37(3/4), 311–320.

### Book Chapters and Reports

- Saeed, H. (In press). The Economic-State Crime of Corruption and Land Grabbing. In *Routledge Handbook of State Crime*.
- Saeed, H. (In press). Victims' Bottom-up Participation Through Theatre of the Oppressed in an Aparadigmatic Transitional Justice Context. In *Cambridge Handbook on Victims' Engagement in Transitional Justice*.
- Alavi, L. and Saeed, H. (In press). Intersectional gender justice through a bottom-up process in countries affected by conflict. In *Springer Book on Glocalization of Transitional Justice- Mutual Interactions between the Local and the Global*.
- Saeed, H. (2025). Transformative Transitional Justice in Afghanistan. In *Mapping Futures for Afghanistan*. Routledge.
- Saeed, H. (2023). Transitional Justice in Afghanistan: A Hegemonic Power Discourse. In *Transitional Justice in Aparadigmatic Contexts, Routledge Series on Transitional Justice*.
- Parmentier, S., Aciru, M., Saeed, H., & Rauschenbach, M. (2016). Human Rights in Times of Transitional Justice. In Weber, L., Fishwick, E., & Marmo, M. (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Criminology and Human Rights* (pp. 235–246). NY and London: Routledge.
- Saeed, H. (2015). Reflections on Transitional Justice, Socio-economic Rights and Rights Based Approach. In Van Camp, K., & Lembrechts, S. (Eds.), *Human Rights for Development: Summary Report* (pp. 63–68). Gent, Belgium: Children's Rights Knowledge Centre (KeKi).
- Brodsky, A. E., & Faryal, T. (2003). Afghan Women: Canaries in the Coal Mine of International Foreign Policy. In Evans, J., Levine, M., & Perez, P. (Eds.), *In the Twilight of Empire: Essays In Response to Occupation* (pp. 73–81). Santa Monica, CA: Perceval Press.
- Saeed, H. et al. (2019). *Combined Evaluation of the European Union's Humanitarian Interventions in Afghanistan 2014–2018 and DG ECHO's Partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council*. Landell Mills

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<sup>1</sup> During the first Taliban regime, I published and engaged publicly under a pseudonym for security reasons. My co-author can provide written confirmation of my identity if required.

International.

- Saeed, H. (2019). *Analysis and Feedback Report on the GIZ's Manual on Women's Rights in Islam*. GIZ.
- Saeed, H. (2019). *Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM): Afghanistan Design Report 2017–2019*. Open Government Partnership.
- Saeed, H. (2018). *New Penal Code and the ERAW Law: To Incorporate or Not to Incorporate?* Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO).

### Book Reviews

- Saeed, H. (2015). Book Review: *Theorizing Transitional Justice*. *International Review of Victimology*, 22(1), 77–78.
- Saeed, H., & Vandenhoe, W. (2016). Taking Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Seriously in International Criminal Law. *Human Rights Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-016-0423-5>

### Academic Blogs

- Saeed, H. (2025). "May Kabul be without gold, but not without snow" – Environmental Harm in Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding: The Case of Afghanistan. *Agency for Peacebuilding*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2021). The Failure of Transitional Justice in Afghanistan: Impunity Turned Into Law. *Just Security*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2021). What Happens to the Victims of Afghanistan's War? *Inkstick Media*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2021). The rights of Afghan women must not be the "sacrificial goat" in a male dominated peace process. *Security Praxis*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2020). Surviving a Pandemic in Afghanistan amid Impunity, Political Fragility and Ongoing Conflict. *Leuven Transitional Justice Blog*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2019). A Slap in the Face of Justice: The ICC and Afghanistan. *Security Praxis*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2018). Transitional Justice and Criminology: Bridging the Gap. *Leuven Transitional Justice Blog*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2017). Self-determining Refugees: A Story of Empowerment. *KU Leuven Blogt*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2016). Victims and Victimhood in Afghanistan. *Oxford University Press Blog*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2016). Between Research and Activism: The Role of Organic Intellectuals. *Oxford University Press Blog*. [Link](#)
- Saeed, H. (2015). Backward or Forward, That is the Question: A Researcher's Reflection in a Conflict/Post-Conflict Context. *Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Blog*. [Link](#)

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### ACADEMIC AWARDS

- **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship** — 2009–2017  
Full scholarship awarded for graduate studies; supported completion of MSc at LSE and PhD at the University of Leuven
- **Sondheim Public Affairs Scholarship**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County — 2005–2009  
Full undergraduate scholarship awarded for academic excellence and public service leadership
- **Fully Funded PhD Admission**, University of Trento, Italy — 2012–2015 (*declined for a different opportunity*)  
Doctoral program in International Studies
- **Erasmus Mundus Scholarships** (*declined for a different opportunity*)
  - European Master in Global Studies – A European Perspective — 2009–2011

- European Master in Human Rights Practice — 2009–2011
  - **Amsterdam University Merit Scholarship** (*declined for a different opportunity*)  
MA in Conflict Resolution and Governance — 2009–2011
  - **President’s List, Dean’s List, Semester Academic Honors**, UMBC — 2007–2008  
Highest institutional honors awarded for academic excellence
  - **Political Science Outstanding Senior Award**, UMBC — 2009  
Departmental recognition for academic achievement and contribution
  - **Top 20 Graduates of the Year**, UMBC — 2009  
Selected among twenty outstanding graduating students
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## TEACHING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Affiliated Senior Researcher, Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), KU Leuven 2017–Present

- Member, Transitional Justice and Human Rights Research Line
- Chief Co-editor, *Leuven Transitional Justice Blog*
- Ongoing research and publications on transitional justice, socio-economic harm, victims’ rights, and gender justice
- Supervision of MA and PhD students in law, criminology, and social sciences

### Lecturer & Guest Lecturer

- **Adjunct Lecturer**, Department of Political Sciences, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa 2019–2025  
Course: *War Crimes, Advocacy and Peacebuilding* — 18-hour modules (2022-2024)
- **Guest Lecturer**, various graduate programs in Political and Social Sciences across Italy
  - University of Bologna — 2025, 2024, 2023 — *Seminar on Gender Justice and the Struggle of Afghan Women in the context of the annual International and Diplomatic Studies Conference on Afghanistan* — 2-hour module as part of MA International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs
  - Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna — 2019–2025 — *Conflict Dynamics and Post-Conflict Justice in Afghanistan 1978–Present* — 3-hour module as part of MA Human Rights and Conflict Management
  - University of Trento — 2021 — *Political risk analysis in Afghanistan 2001–2021: Local and Global Implications* — 4-hour module, as part of MA International Relations taught by Professor Roberto Belloni
  - Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna — 2021, 2019 — *Peace Processes, Human Rights and Justice (Case studies: Colombia and Afghanistan)* — 6-hour modules as part of MA in International Security taught by Professor Francesco Strazzari
  - Spring Hill College Italy — 2020 — *Transitional Transformative Justice in Afghanistan* — Lecture for the “Human Rights and Global Change” class
  - American University of Afghanistan (online) — 2020 — *Human Rights and Gender Equity in Afghanistan 1880–2021* — 2-hour module as part of Course ANTH 360: Lessons from Afghanistan
  - Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna — 2019 — *Qualitative Research in Conflict/Post-Conflict Contexts* — 3-hour module as part of MA Human Rights and Conflict Management
  - University of Bologna — 2019 — *Precarity and hope: Migration, Crime and Punishment in Europe* — 2-hour module as part of Course Crime, Punishment and Society taught by Professor Dario Melossi

### Teaching Assistant, KU Leuven 2014–2016

- Course: Political Crime and Transitional Justice
  - Graded oral presentations and research papers
  - Provided detailed written feedback and one-on-one mentoring on academic writing and research

### PhD Researcher, KU Leuven 2012–2017

- Dissertation focused on alternative and transformative approaches to transitional justice
- Research areas: critical criminology, state crime, economic crime, and victim agency
- Applied interdisciplinary methodologies grounded in human rights-based frameworks

### Research Methodology & Fieldwork Experience 2007–2021

- Completed formal training in qualitative research methods (Anthropology, Political Science, Interviewing, and Analysis)
- Led multiple rounds of field research in **Afghanistan** (2008, 2013, 2014):
  - Conducted over 90 interviews and focus groups with war victims, civil society leaders, government officials, MPs, and international stakeholders
- Conducted data collection for research and consultancy projects in transitional justice and human rights (2017–2021)

### Research Assistant

- **LSE Global Governance** — London, Oct 2009–Jan 2010
  - Analyzed Afghan media narratives on justice and human rights compliance
- **Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies** — Pisa, Apr–Jul 2009
  - Contributed to the EU-funded *MULTIPART* project on post-conflict reconstruction
  - Researched governance, reconciliation, and multi-stakeholder peacebuilding in Afghanistan
  - Supported the Farsi section of the Iran Electoral Archives

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## CONFERENCES & INVITED SPEAKER ENGAGEMENTS

- (2025, September 11-13). *Symbiotic relationship between economic and state crime and its impact on human rights*. Invited panel speaker, Association of Human Rights Institutes, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima, Peru.
- (2025, June 22-27). Invited co-convenor, lead participant, and Key note speaker at the conference on *Transitional Justice and Minorities*, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund University, Istanbul
- (2024, April 3–6). *Defending the defenders: Women’s rights and gender persecution at home and abroad*. Invited panel speaker, The American Society of International Law, Washington, D.C., USA
- (2024, March 13–15). *A rights-based approach to victims’ participation in paradigmatic contexts*. Paper presented at *Victims and Transitional Justice: Participation, Mobilization, Resistance*, Ghent University, Belgium.
- (2023, December 6–8). *Accountability for gender persecution as a crime against humanity*. Paper presented at *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Rethinking and Constructing its Future Together*, Ghent University, Belgium.
- (2021, June 14–16). *Justice, impunity and economic-state crime*. Presented at *Stockholm Criminology Symposium*, Stockholm, Sweden.
- (2019, March 31). *Presentation of PhD findings to civil society and war victims*. *Afghanistan Center for Memory and Dialogue*, Kabul, Afghanistan.

- (2018, August 29 – September 1). *Socio-economic harm as economic-state crime: Analysis at the intersection of transitional justice and criminology*. Paper presented at *European Society of Criminology Annual Conference*, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
  - (2017, April 6–7). *The Taliban shadow justice: A challenge to the state or an opportunity to reinvent the judiciary?* Presented at *Conference on Rule of Law and Governance*, University of Kent, Brussels, Belgium.
  - (2017, March 14–15). *Democratizing women’s rights in Afghanistan through participatory theatre*. Presented at *Gender, Religion, Law and Society: Exchanges between Iran and Belgium*, KU Leuven, Belgium.
  - (2016). *Transitional justice and development: Friends or foes? Metaforum Mid-Day Talk*, KU Leuven, Belgium.
  - (2016, July 28). *Afghanistan per dove*. (Photo exhibition). *San Vito di Cadore*, Italy.
  - (2016, February 17). *Women’s rights situation in Afghanistan*. Briefing to *European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights*, Brussels, Belgium.
  - (2015, May 26). *Afghanistan per dove?* Public presentation, *Belluno*, Italy.
  - (2015, September 24). *Refugees welcome (?): Citizens’ initiative and media response to the refugee crisis and conflict*. *Brussels Press Club*, Belgium.
  - (2015, August 16 – September 11). *Socio-economic rights violation as economic crime in a transitional justice context*. Presented at *Advanced Summer Course on Human Rights, Development and Transitional Justice*, KU Leuven, Belgium.
  - (2015, September 2–5). *Socio-economic rights violations as state crime? The case of land grabbing in Afghanistan*. *EuroCrim 2015: European Society of Criminology Annual Conference*, Porto, Portugal.
  - (2015, February 9–13). *Violation of socio-economic rights as state crime*. Presented at *International Study Days on State Crime*, Berlin, Germany.
  - (2014, December 10). *Methodological approaches to law and development research*. Presented at *Law and Development Workshop*, KU Leuven, Belgium.
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Senior Fellow, City University of New York (CUNY), Faculty of Law | Nov. 2024–Present

- Lead research on gender persecution as a crime against humanity.
- Co-chair, *Working Group on Gender Persecution Accountability in Afghanistan*.
- Contribute to CUNY’s Gender Persecution Observatory and support the ICC’s gender persecution investigations and analysis.

### Justice Rapid Response Roster Expert

- Seconded by UN Women as Gender Expert Consultant to *OHCHR Commission of Inquiry on Iran (October 2025-present)*
- Seconded by UN Women as Legal Gender Expert to the *OHCHR Commission of Inquiry on Iran (Jan–Mar 2024)*.
- Seconded by UN Women as Gender Expert to International Criminal Court (January 2022-January 2023)

### Country Advisor (Consultant), MADRE | Feb. 2023–Present

- Provide expert guidance on gender justice and human rights in Afghanistan.

- Conduct research and training on standard documentation of gender persecution and Ssexual and Gender-Based Crimes in violent conflict.

**Human Rights Officer, United Nations | Sep. 2022–Dec. 2022**

- Supported the *UN Special Rapporteur* on the human rights situation in Afghanistan (OHCHR).
- Drafted Afghanistan’s UN Special Rapporteur’s report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan

**Research & Evaluation Consultant (Independent) | Nov. 2017–Dec. 2021**

- Conducted applied research and evaluations for international organizations including: *DG ECHO, War Child Canada, Open Government Partnership, International Alert, Human Rights Watch, UN Women, USIP, APPRO.*
- Specialized in transitional justice, restorative justice, and gender justice.
- Conducted fieldwork in Afghanistan with civil society, government, and donor representatives.

**Human Rights & Justice Portfolio Manager, UNDP Afghanistan | Dec. 2011–Dec. 2012**

- Oversaw human rights and access to justice programs, liaising with national and international partners.
- Advised Ministry of Justice and donor agencies; led project strategy and resource mobilization.

**National Policy Advisor, UNDP/NSGP, Afghanistan | Mar. 2011–Dec. 2011**

- Worked with the Office of the President on governance reform and institutional capacity.
- Developed assessments and policy recommendations for national coordination mechanisms.

**Project Manager, Afghanistan Human Rights and Democracy Organization (AHRDO) | Oct. 2010–Mar. 2011**

- Led *Legislative Theatre* project advancing women’s legal awareness and advocacy.
- Engaged over 20 civil society partners and parliamentarians; produced Farsi-language legal resource for women.

**Early Career Roles (2003–2010)**

**Research, Training & Advocacy (Various Organizations & Locations)**

- Consultant & Trainer, Institute for Cooperation and Development (Italy): Assessed EU-funded transitional justice project; trained civil society groups (2009).
- Research Assistant, Human Rights First (USA): Conducted legal analysis on detainees’ rights under Geneva Conventions; authored comparative report (2008).
- Project & Event Coordinator, University of Maryland: Led workshops and engagement programs for transfer students (2007–08).
- Workshop Facilitator, Catholic Relief Services (Afghanistan): Designed and facilitated training sessions; translated between English and Dari (2003–04).

**Human Rights Advocacy & Public Engagement | 1996–2002**

- Led advocacy on Afghan women's rights across Pakistan, Afghanistan, and international platforms.
  - Spoke at over 40 universities and met with officials from the UN, US Congress, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.
  - Raised over \$200,000 for refugee support projects and participated in major media (BBC, CNN, NYT).
  - Organized major awareness and anniversary campaigns, including International Women’s Day events among Afghan refugees in Pakistan.
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## LANGUAGES

- **Farsi (Dari):** Native fluency (oral and written)
  - **English:** Full professional fluency (oral and written)
  - **Pashto:** Advanced proficiency (spoken and reading)
  - **Italian:** Advanced proficiency (spoken and reading)
  - **Urdu:** Intermediate proficiency (spoken and reading)
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## REFERENCES

- Available upon request.