Mohammad Rezwanul Haque Masud

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor of Political Theory and World Politics, Saginaw Valley State University (July 2026- Present)
- Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Denver (2025-2026)
- Graduate Part-time Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder (2022- 2026)
- Lecturer, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (2015-2016, 2018-2019)
- Fulbright Foreign Student Fellow (2016-2018)

EDUCATION

- *Ph.D. in Political Science. June 2026.* University of Colorado, Boulder.

  Major Fields: Political Theory and Comparative Politics
  (Dissertation: *Rethinking Islamic Political Thought: Politics of Polarization and the Quest for Tolerance*)
- *Master of Arts in Political Science, May 2021.* University of Colorado, Boulder.
  (Qualifying Paper: Authoritarianism, Ideology, and Media Hegemony: A Warning for Democracy; Advisor: Dr. Michaele Ferguson)
- *Master of Arts in International Studies, May 2018.* Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.
  (Substantial Research Paper: Ideological Features of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State: A Comparative Analysis; Advisor: Professor Erica Chenoweth)
- *Master of Social Sciences in International Relations, May 2014.* University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  (Thesis: Foreign Policy Formulation Process of Bangladesh: Re-examining Domestic Inputs; Advisor: Professor Delwar Hossain)
- *Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Relations, May 2013.* University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  (Thesis: Bangladesh-US Relations: Strategic Implications and Regional Dynamics; Advisor: Professor Delwar Hossain)

DISSERTATION

Rethinking Islamic Political Thought: Politics of Polarization and the Quest for Tolerance.

Committee: Dr. Michaele Ferguson (Chair), Dr. Nader Hashemi, Professor Jennifer Fitzgerald, Dr. Alexandra Siegel, Dr. Andrea Stanton.

What conditions create an appeal for radical polarization? How can Muslim communities resist the appeal of radical political Islam from a political theory perspective? In order to explore these vital questions, I examine two groups of thinkers and activists in Islam who theorized violence on the one hand and tolerance on the other hand. I first look at how influential radical Islamists theorized intolerance depicting a polarized worldview based on the victimhood of Muslim identity. In doing so, I look at the rhetoric of Sayyid Qutb, Osama bin Laden, and Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi and examine how they characterized concepts like the state system, sovereignty, and world order. To juxtapose these views, I engage with more tolerant and democratic traditions within Islamic political thought, which often go unnoticed. For this purpose, I examine other thinkers (i.e., Rached Ghannouchi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad) to demonstrate that tolerance is not an un-Islamic practice and that Islam can accommodate freedom, justice, and human rights. I argue that instead of vilifying Islam as a religion, we can apply the Rawlsian concept of overlapping consensus to find common grounds between Islam and the West to prevent radical rhetoric and work towards respectful tolerance.

RESEARCH

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rezwanul Haque Masud, M. (2016). Domestic Inputs in Bangladesh Foreign Policy: A Critical Reappraisal. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Humanities),* 61 (2), 259-282.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Rezwanul Haque Masud, M. (2022). "The UN Climate Change Conferences: Bangladesh's Conundrum," in Samina Luthfa, Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan and Munasir Kamal (eds.), *The Bangladesh Environmental Humanities Reader: Environmental Justice, Development Victimhood, and Resistance*. Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 301-315.

Yasmin, L. and Rezwanul Haque Masud, M. (2016). "Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Bangladesh's Cogitation," in ASM Ali Ashraf (ed.), *Intelligence, National Security and Foreign Policy: A South Asian Narrative*. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, Dhaka, 169-182.

WORKING PAPER

Nazneen, S. and Rezwan, M. (2017). "The Politics of Negotiating Gender Equity in Bangladesh," *ESID Working Paper No. 76*., UK: ESID, The University of Manchester, available at www.effective-states.org

BOOK REVIEWS

Rezwanul Haque Masud, M. (2020). Review of Srinath Raghavan, *1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh*, Harvard University Press, Massachusetts, 2013, in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Hum.)*, 65(1), 97-10.

Rezwanul Haque Masud, M. (2015). "Vision of A Changing International System in Kissinger's View," (in Bangla) Review Article of Henry Kissinger's book titled *World Order: Reflections on the Character of Nations and the Course of History,* Protichinta, 158-170.

WORK IN PROGRESS

(Forthcoming). "Islam and Secularism in Bangladesh: Unresolved Clash of Ideologies", in the *Oxford Handbook on Islam and Secularism*, Oxford University Press, 2027.

(Article in progress). "Alienation, Recognition and the Question of Muslim Identity in the US."

(Article in progress). "Authoritarianism, Ideology, and Media Hegemony: A Warning for Democracy."

(Article in progress). "Media Culture in the 21st Century: Reimagining the Public Sphere."

(Article in progress jointly with Dr. Michaele Ferguson). "The Development of Leadership and Public Speaking Skills Using Reacting to the Past Pedagogy."

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- APSA 2025 Travel Grant, $200, Fall 2025
- Elsa Favila Travel Award, WPSA, $200, Spring 2025
- Graduate Research Awards Demonstrating Excellence, Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2025 ($850)
- Department of Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant in the Fall Semester, 2025 ($400)
- *The Best Should Teach* Award, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2024.

- Beverly Sears Research Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2024 ($1000)
- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2024 ($1500)
- Graduate Research Awards Demonstrating Excellence, Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2024 ($850)
- Fall Graduate Research Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder ($2500)
- Center for Teaching and Learning Lead Fellowship, University of Colorado, Boulder ($2500)
- APSA First Generation Scholar Travel and Accessibility Grant, 2023 ($145)
- Department of Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant in the Fall Semester, 2023 ($400)
- GPSG Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate and Professional Student Government, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2023 ($400)
- GPSG Collegiality and Scholarship Excellence Award, Graduate and Professional Student Government, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2023 ($400)
- JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Grant for Graduate Research, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2023 ($2000)
- Eaton Graduate Student Research Award, Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2023 ($1000)
- Graduate and Professional Student Government Travel Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring semester, 2023 ($300)
- Administrative TA Scholarship, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023 ($500)
- Department of Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant in the Fall Semester, 2022 ($400)
- APSA Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, 2022 ($150)
- Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2022 ($300)
- Department of Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant in the Spring Semester, 2022 ($300)
- Political Science Graduate Student Co-Authorship Grant for a summer project with Professor Michaele Ferguson, 2022 ($750)

- Political Science Graduate Student Co-Authorship Grant for a summer project with Professor Steven Vanderheiden, 2022 ($750)
- Political Science Graduate Student Co-Authorship Grant for a project with Professor Michaele Ferguson, 2021 ($1100)
- Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2021 ($35)
- Political Science Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2020 ($300)
- Graduate School Travel Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020 ($300)
- Summer graduate school fellowship, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020 ($2500)
- J. William Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship, U.S. Department of State, 2016-2018
- Prime Minister's Gold Medal, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2016
- Chancellor's Gold Medal, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2014

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "The Political Thought of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Resisting Colonialism through Pluralist Politics," accepted, Western Political Science Association (WPSA) annual conference, San Diego, California, April 1- 4, 2026.
- "The Political Thought of Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi: Radical Undoing of the Westphalian Order," Association of Political Theory (APT) annual conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 6-8, 2025.
- "The Political Thought of Rached Ghannouchi: In search of Tolerance in Islam," American Political Science Association (APSA) annual conference, Vancouver, Canada, September 11-14, 2025.
- "The Political Thought of Osama Bin Laden: Constructing the Enemy Image," Western Political Science Association (WPSA) Conference, Seattle, Washington, April 17- 19, 2025.
- "The Political Thought of Osama Bin Laden: Constructing the Enemy Image," ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco, California, April 03-06, 2024.
- "The Political Thought of Osama Bin Laden: Constructing the Enemy Image," WPSA Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC, Canada, March 28th- 30th, 2024.
- "The Political Thought of Sayyid Qutb: Theorizing Intolerance," Center for Media, Religion, and Culture Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, January 10-13, 2024.

- "The Political Thought of Osama Bin Laden: Constructing the Enemy Image," iPoster presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, August 31- September 02, 2023.
- "The Political Thought of Sayyid Qutb: Theorizing Intolerance," presented at WPSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 6- 8, 2023.
- "Promoting Justice Across Borders: A Theoretical Proposal," presented at the ISA Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada, March 15-18, 2023.
- "Climate Change Displacement: Adaptation, Compensation, and the Capabilities Approach," presented (virtually) at the Human Development & Capability Association (HDCA) Conference, Antwerp, Belgium, September 21, 2022.
- "The Development of Leadership and Public Speaking Skills Using Reacting to the Past Pedagogy," presented jointly with Dr. Michaele Ferguson at the APSA Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada, September 17, 2022.
- "Alienation, Recognition and the Question of Muslim Identity in the US," presented at WPSA Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 10, 2022.
- "Authoritarianism, Ideology and Media Hegemony: A Warning for Democracy," presented (virtually) at WPSA Annual Conference, April 03, 2021.
- "Ideological Features of Al Qaeda and the Islamic State: A Comparative Analysis," presented at The Four Corners Conflict Network (4CCN) Conference, Tucson, Arizona, January 24, 2020.
- "Political Islam in Bangladesh: An Uncertain Journey," presented at the University of Denver Research and Performance Summit, Denver, Colorado, April 07, 2017.
- "How do political settlements influence women's inclusion and gender equity in policy making of Bangladesh? The case of Domestic Violence Act (2010)," presented jointly with Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, at ESID Gender and Political Settlement Workshop, Kampala, Uganda, September 23-26, 2014.

TEACHING

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor, Political Theory, University of Denver

"Introduction to Political Thought," Political Science undergraduate lower-division course, Autumn quarter 2025 and Spring quarter 2026.

"Free Speech and Dangerous Ideas", Political Science undergraduate special topics course, Winter quarter 2026 and Spring quarter 2026.

Instructor of Record, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Modern Political Ideologies", Continuing Education undergraduate lower-division course, Fall 2025; Spring 2026; synchronous online.

"Free Speech and Dangerous Ideas," Political Science undergraduate upper-division course, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2022; in-person.

"Introduction to Comparative Politics," Political Science undergraduate lower-division course, Summer 2023, asynchronous online; Continuing Education undergraduate lower-division course, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, synchronous online.

"Free Speech and Dangerous Ideas," Political Science undergraduate upper-division course, Summer 2025, Summer 2022, Summer 2024; asynchronous online.

Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado, Boulder

"Survey of Western Political Thought," Political Science undergraduate lower-division course, Teaching Assistant, in Fall 2024, Fall 2021, and Spring 2021.

"Modern Political Ideologies," Political Science undergraduate lower-division course, Teaching Assistant, in Spring 2022.

"Introduction to Comparative Politics," Political Science undergraduate lower-division course, Teaching Assistant, in Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Fall 2019.

Lecturer, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

"Religion and International Politics", International Relations undergraduate course, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Lecturer, Spring 2018.

"Bangladesh in Global Affairs," International Relations undergraduate course, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Lecturer, Fall 2015.

"State, Civil Society and Human Rights," International Relations undergraduate course, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Lecturer, Spring 2015.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, Summer 2023.

- Part of a team understanding the escalating trend of book bans and their implications for free speech and academic freedom
- Dissected the multifaceted motivations behind book bans, investigating whether these actions stem from political maneuvering, ideological zeal, or a combination of both, and scrutinizing the impact these bans have on the fabric of American democracy.

Research Assistant, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, 2018-2019.

- Conducted qualitative interviews for Professor Haider Khan for his book project titled *'When the Earth Trembled': A History of Bangladesh's Liberation War*
- Reviewed literature relevant to the project

Research Assistant, Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Center, University of Manchester, and BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, Bangladesh, February- October 2014.

- Conducted archival research, moderated Key Informant Interviews, and analyzed data for a comparative research project titled "Gender and Political Settlement" under the supervision of Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Research Assistant, East Asia Study Center, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 2013-January 2014.

- Prepared reports, moderated Key Informant Interviews, and collected primary and secondary data for a research project titled "Bangladesh-India Relations and Regionalism in South Asia: A Perspective from the Political Elites in Bangladesh" in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), New Delhi under the supervision of Dr. Delwar Hossain, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka.

Intern, "Generation Change and Social Media Campaign project-2013," International Education and Resource Network-Bangladesh, and the American Center, Dhaka.

- Conducted research and organized a social media campaign to promote non-violence, spreading the message of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela to the young generation of Bangladesh.

PEDAGOGICAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certificate in College Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023-2024.

Micro-credential Badge on Justice and Equity in Teaching, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Colorado, Boulder, Spring 2024.

Conducted a session titled "Wellbeing for ourselves and our students" for graduate instructors at the University of Colorado, Boulder, as a CTL Lead, Spring 2024

Department Lead, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023-2024.

Participated in **Reacting to the Past Conference**, University of Colorado, Boulder, June 13-16, 2022.

Academic Mentor with Paper Airplanes, an e-learning nonprofit that mitigates the education gap for students affected by war, Fall 2022.

SPECIAL COURSES ATTENDED

- Understanding Israel-Palestine Conflict
  Course offered by the Center for Middle East Studies, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, the University of Denver from April 2017- June 2017.
- Tactical Level Protection of Civilians in Conflict Zones
  Course offered by Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training, Armed Forces Division, Rajendrapur Cantonment, Gazipur, Dhaka, Bangladesh from November 24- 28, 2013.
- Social Media Campaign to Promote Non-Violence
  Course offered jointly by the American Center, Dhaka, and International Education and Resource Network, Bangladesh (iEARN-BD) as part of the project titled "Generation Change and Social Media Campaign-2013."

SERVICE

REVIEWER

Reviewed a journal article for the *SAGE Open* journal.

CAMPUS

- Graduate Peer Mentor, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023- Present.
- Member, Bangladeshi Students' Association, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2023-Present.
- Member, Muslim Students' Association, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2020- Present.
- Campus Ambassador, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, 2017-2018.
- Discussant for Professor Andrew March's talk titled "Can a State Have a Right to Exist?" at the University of Colorado, Boulder, organized by the Center for Critical Thought, on October 11, 2024.

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

- Lead Graduate Student Teaching Fellow, 2023-2024
- Member, Racial Justice Task Force, 2021-2022.
- International Student Liaison, Graduate Student Government, 2020-2021.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Member, American Political Science Association, 2022-Present.
- Member, Association for Political Theory, 2020- Present.
- Member, International Studies Association, 2022-Present.
- Member, Western Political Science Association, 2023- Present.

REFERENCES

Dr. Michaele Ferguson,

Associate Professor,

President's Teaching Scholar,

Department of Political Science,

University of Colorado, Boulder.

Email: michaele.ferguson@colorado.edu

Professor Jennifer Fitzgerald,

Professor, Department of Political Science,

Interim Associate Dean for Student Success, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Email: jennifer.fitzgerald@colorado.edu

Dr. Nader Hashemi,

Associate Professor of Islamic Politics,

Director, the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU)

Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service,

Georgetown University.

Email: nader.hashemi@georgetown.edu