

# Sonia Irum

## Lecturer (English)

Department of English, Faculty of Languages & Literature  
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**

2007  
M.A. English (Languages and Literature)  
**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

## Teaching/ Work Experience

### International Islamic University, Islamabad:

- Lecturer (2016 to date), Department of English
- Teaching/Research Associate (2010 – 2016), Department of English
- Visiting Lecturer (2008 – 2010), Department of English

## Academic Activities

- Worked as RH100 Panellist at the Royal Holloway University of London, UK (2016 -2018)
- Coordinator, Critical Thinking Forum, (2010 to date)  
International Islamic University, Islamabad  
[http://www.iiu.edu.pk/index.php?page\\_id=16372](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)  
International Islamic University, Islamabad
- Conference Coordinator, Three-Day International Conference:  
Women, Environment and Environmental Justice (ICWEEJ) (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
December 2016)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary  
Conference: Representation of Women in Media and Literature (10<sup>th</sup> –  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2012)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary  
Conference: Globalization and its Impact on Indigenous Cultures (17<sup>th</sup> –  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2011)
- Conference Organizer, Two-Day International Interdisciplinary  
Conference: Women Universities as Agents of Change (26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>  
November 2010)

### **Professional Memberships**

- *Member Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (UK  
and Ireland), ASLE-UKI*
- Member Critical Thinking Forum, IIUI
- Member ICLA Congress, International Comparative Literature  
Association (AIRC, Association Internationale De Litterature Comparée)
- Member CLAI Comparative Literature Association of India

### **Courses Taught**

Introduction to Literature, Classical Drama, Classical Poetry, Literary  
Theory into Practice, South Asian Literature in English, Functional English,  
Speaking, Listening, Writing and Reading Skills (Advanced &  
Intermediate English Language Learners)

### **Research Projects**

- Core Committee Member, “Consciousness Raising of Pakistani Women  
on Contemporary Academic and Social Issues” (2015 – 2017) in  
collaboration with U.S Embassy and IIUI
- 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**

### **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 (I): 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:**

- "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:**

- *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)

### **Professional Presentations**

#### **Conference Papers:**

- Presented "Narratives of Confession: Religion and Patriarchy in the Fiction of Shahrzad and Hosseini" in the seminar "Fictional Testimonies, Comparative Confessions, and Literary Ethics (Sponsored Seminar of the ICLA 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 Shahrzad 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 (Nov 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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, IIUI. (2014)

#### **Talk/Lectures/Seminars/Interviews:**

- “What is a Short Story?” at Bentilee Library, Staffordshire, UK (Dec 18, 2019)
- “*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)
- “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)

### **Radio/Video/TV Programmes:**

- Interviewed Dr Munazza Yaqoob (Pakistani critic) for the topic "Life & Work Series III" organised by *Progressive Literary & Cultural Society* (India) via FACEBOOK LIVE  
<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  
<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordUniversityPressPak/videos/291016728556505>
  - "Let's Save the Environment". In *TZK TV*, London, UK  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZtTzLiRS0&t=374s>
  - "USA and Pakistan - Seeing each other". In *Central Library Blog*, LA  
<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  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9gWeCuR86Y&feature=share>  
<https://youtu.be/O9gWeCuR86Y>
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