

Sonia Irum (PhD, UK)

Lecturer

Department of English,
Faculty of Languages & Literature
International Islamic University Islamabad,
Pakistan

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Education

2020	PhD English
Dissertation Title:	<i>Exploring Environmental Concerns in Uzma Aslam Khan's Fiction</i>
	Royal Holloway University of London, UK
2013	MS English
Dissertation Title:	<i>Commodified World: An Analysis of Uzma Aslam Khan's Selected Fiction in the Light of Ideology of Consumerism</i>
	International Islamic University, Islamabad

Research Interests

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

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)
- Tashkent, Samarkand (Uzbekistan)
- Dubai (UAE)
- Mecca, Medina (Saudi Arabia)

Teaching/Work Experience

International Islamic University, Islamabad:

- Lecturer (2024 to date), Department of English
- Assistant Professor (adhoc) (2022 to 2024), 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

- Incharge, Alumni Office (2022 to date)
International Islamic University Islamabad
- HEC Approved Supervisor
- Master Trainer (Learning Management System) for online teaching & learning in English Department (2020 to date)
International Islamic University Islamabad
- Member, Postgraduate Research Committee (PGRC) in the Department of English (2024 to date)
International Islamic University Islamabad
- Member Seminar & Research Committee (2024 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 – 2022)
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 (2022-
2023)
- 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 ACLA American Comparative Literature Association
- Member of CLAI Comparative Literature Association of India

Courses Taught

Ecocriticism & Green Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, South Asian Literature in English, Critical Theory and English Language Arts, Introduction to Literature, Environmental Studies, Modern Novel, Classical Drama, Classical Poetry, Literature and Ideology, Communication and 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 Shoor 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 Women Writing 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 the US 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 the University of Wales, Newport, UK

Publications

Research Papers:

- Echoes of the Unheard: Reimagining Colonial History in *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali*. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 8 (4): 273-285. **2024**
- 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>
- "Rising Waters, Resilient Hearts", a short story published in *Gentle Visitations: Literary Reflections & Conversations* (online English Literary Magazine), Issue 3, Fall 2023 Edition, pgs. 22-25.
<https://gentlevisitationsmag.com/gentle-visitations-third-edition/>

- "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 bankers in a workshop on Communication & Presentation Skills at NIBAF - National Institute of Banking & Finance, Islamabad (Sept. 2023)
- 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

- Future-Proof Careers: Employability, Communication & Green Finance: British Council Alumni UK Professional Development Training by British Council, Pakistan (October 19, 2024)
- Quality First: Enhancing Online Teaching in Higher Education by Higher Education of Pakistan (HEC), (September 18-19, 2024)
- IIUI Future Leaders Training Program (Phase I) by Research & Enterprise & Professional Training Office (HRM&D) in the International Islamic University Islamabad, (June 10, 2024)

- Consultative Workshop on Risk and Media Communication by International Science & Technology Centre (ISTC) and PRECA in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (March 4-6, 2024)
- 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:

- “Navigating the Digital Nexus: Social Media's Dual Role in Suppressing and Amplifying Peripheral Epistemologies” at the Three-Day International Conference on *Peripheral Epistemologies: Voicing the Unvoiced*, at the School of Liberal Arts, UMT, Lahore (Apr. 18-20, 2024)
- Spectated “Virtual Poetry Recital” organized by Susan B. Anthony Reading Room, FJWU, Rawalpindi (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 (Mar. 6, 2021)

Other:

- Presented Narratives of Confession: Religion and Patriarchy in the Fiction of Shahrāz and Hosseini” in the seminar ‘Fictional Testimonies, Comparative Sessions, 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 Shahrāz 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, IIUL. (2014)

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

- “Who Owns the English Language: Contemporary Pakistani Anglophone Fiction,” at the 10th Islamabad Literature Festival by Oxford University Press on Nov 10, 2024. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/1xjbURQKzg4>
- Moderated “Beyond the Hype: Content Creators Crafting Stories” on Nov 10, 2024, at the 10th Islamabad Literature Festival by Oxford University Press, Pakistan. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/1xjbURQKzg4>

- Moderated 'Book Launch: *What More Could She Possibly Want*' on Nov 9, 2024, at the 10th Islamabad Literature Festival by Oxford University Press, Pakistan. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/NM3-Bbg7ZtA>
- Moderated as Master of Ceremony in the Closing Ceremony of the 10th Islamabad Literature Festival by Oxford University Press on Nov 10, 2024. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/1xjbURQKzg4>
- Moderated as Master of Ceremony in the British Council Alumni UK Networking reception and panel discussion on 'Women Empowerment and Gender Equality' organized by the British Council, Pakistan on Jul. 7, 2024.
- 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 "Navigating Women's Leadership Advancement in Higher Education" session with Dr Cynthia Warrick (USA) organized by the 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 the 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=zZttTzLiRS0&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 the 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:

Reclaiming the Lost Agency of Indian Women through Social Media: A Study of Rupi Kaur's Poetry (Afsheen Ali, 2024)

Glorification of a Single Woman: A Critique of Neoliberal Feminism in Selected Anglophone Fiction (Noor ul Ain Masood, 2023)

(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)

Slow Collapse: Tracing War-induced Ecofeminist Trauma in *The Island of Missing Trees* and *The Book of Gold Leaves* (Anmol Saeed, in progress)

Self-identity as a Neo-colonial Imperative in Dark Tourism Narratives (Shanzae Niazi, in progress)

Ecofeminist Utopianism in Environmental Catastrophe: A Study of Chimeras in Selected Fairy Tales (Bakhtawer Syed, in progress)

From Slow Violence to Active Violence: Transformative Adaptation for Global Governance in *The Ministry for Future* and *New York 2140* (Mahnoor Zahra, in progress)

Ecological Imperialism and Eco-Caste in *Waste Tide* and *The Water Knife* (Zarah Khattak, in progress)

Sustainability of Ecological Pluriverse via CoFutures in Vandana Singh's Fiction (Javeria Hafeez, in progress)

