

# AISHA S. AHMAD

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University of Toronto, Scarborough  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2013                    **Doctor of Philosophy**, Candidate: Political Science, McGill University.  
Concentrations: *International Relations, Comparative Politics*
- 2003                    **Master of Arts**: International Relations: Munk Centre for International  
Studies, University of Toronto.
- 2002                    **Bachelor of Arts (hon.)**: International Relations (major), Political Science  
(major), Environmental Studies (minor): University of Toronto, Trinity  
College. *Graduated with distinction.*

## ACADEMIC POSITION

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- 2012-Current            **Assistant Professor, University of Toronto**  
Department of Political Science, Scarborough Campus

## OTHER ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

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- 2016-Current            **Director, Islam and Global Affairs Initiative**, Munk School of Global  
Affairs, University of Toronto
- 2016-Currents            **Senior Researcher, Global Justice Lab**, Munk School of Global Affairs,  
University of Toronto
- 2011-2012                **Research Fellow**, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs,  
Harvard Kennedy School, International Security Program Fellowship and  
Initiative on Religion in International Affairs

## FUNDED RESEARCH

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- 2016-2020                **Norwegian Research Council**, Jihadist War Economies Project [co-investigator on  
four-person team; USD\$1.4 million over three years]
- 2014                      **Connaught New Researcher Award**, Elite Targeting and Network Fragmentation  
in Islamic Insurgencies [principal investigator, three-year start-up funds \$10K]

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Scholarly Books:*

Aisha Ahmad, *Jihad & Co.: Black Markets and Islamist Power*, Oxford University Press, New York, forthcoming 2017.

*Peer Reviewed Journals:*

- Aisha Ahmad, "[Canadian Values and the Muslim World](#)," *International Journal*, Vol. 72, No.2 (Spring 2017), pp. 255-268
- Aisha Ahmad, "[Going Global: Islamist Competition in Contemporary Civil Wars](#)," *Security Studies*, (Spring 2016), Vol. 25(2), pp. 353-384.
- Aisha Ahmad, "[The Security Bazaar: Business Interests and Islamist Power in Civil War Somalia](#)," *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Winter 2014/15), pp. 89-117. *Winner of 2017 Best Security Article Award by the International Studies Association.*
- Aisha Ahmad, "[Agenda for Peace or Budget for War? Evaluating the Economic Impact of International Intervention in Somalia](#)" in *International Journal*, Vol. 67, No. 2 (Spring 2012) pp. 313-331

*Book Chapters:*

- Aisha Ahmad, "Canada in Somalia: Learning from the Legacy of Failed Intervention" in *Canada Among Nations* (Centre for International Governance Innovation: Waterloo, ON), 2015.

*Conference Papers:*

- Aisha Ahmad, "Women as the War Front: Islam, Jihad, and the Politics of Intervention," *Canadian Political Science Association*, Calgary, AB, June 2016.
- Aisha Ahmad, "Female Bodies as the War Front in Jihadist Competitions," *International Studies Association*, Atlanta, GA, March 2016.
- Aisha Ahmad, "The Logic of Perpetual Crisis: State Weakness in International Politics," *International Studies Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, February 2015.
- Aisha Ahmad "Financing Failure: International Interventions as Resource Curse in Conflict and Post-Conflict States" *American Political Science Association*: Chicago, MI, August 2013
- Aisha Ahmad "The Boys: Understanding the Spread of Al-Shabaab and the Somali Civil War in the Horn of Africa" *International Studies Association*: San Francisco, CA, April 2013
- Aisha Ahmad "Holy Men and Money Lords: An Economic Explanation of Civil War Outcomes in Somalia" *African Studies Association Annual Meeting; New Fieldwork in Somali Studies Panel*: San Francisco, CA, November 18-22, 2010
- Aisha Ahmad "Holy Warlords: The Rise of Islamist Movements in Failed States" *International Studies Association*: New York, NY, February 15, 2009

*Research in Progress:*

- Aisha Ahmad "Financing Failure: International Interventions as a Resource Curse in Conflict and Post-Conflict States" (Under review)
- Aisha Ahmad "The Logic of Perpetual Crisis: State Weakness in International Politics" (In progress)

Aisha Ahmad “Jihadist Radicalization in Contemporary Civil Wars: Intervention Trigger Points and Extremist Reactions” (In progress)

*Other Publications:*

Aisha Ahmad “Islamic Movements in Afghanistan and Somalia: A Comparison” in Policy Perspectives (Institute for Policy Studies – Pakistan); August 2009.

Aisha Ahmad “Talking to the Enemy: Strategies for Initiating Peace Negotiations in Afghanistan” in Policy Perspectives (Institute of Policy Studies – Pakistan); Special Edition on Afghanistan, March 2007.

Aisha Ahmad “Evolving Patterns in Afghan Women’s Security: A Historical Analysis of Trends in Vulnerability, Rape Prevalence, and Legal Rights” in Policy Perspectives (Institute of Policy Studies) Volume 3, Number 1, November 2005.

Ibrahim Farah, Aisha Ahmad, and Daud Omar “Cross Border Weapons Proliferation in the Horn of Africa: the case of Mandera, Kenya, Melkasufta, Ethiopia, and Bula Hawa, Somalia” in Controlling Small Arms in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region Project Ploughshares: 2006.

*Recent News Articles:*

Aisha Ahmad and Minelle Mahtani, "[Trump immigration ban ushers in an age of academic darkness](#)", *The Globe and Mail*, 6 March 6 2017.

Aisha Ahmad and Daniel Douek, "[Invisible red lines: How Trump’s mixed signals risk global war](#)", *The Globe and Mail*, 8 April 2017.

Aisha Ahmad, “[The Strategic Value of Compassion](#)” in *The Globe and Mail*, 20 November 2015.

Note: This piece was ranked as the top 15 most circulated news articles of 2015.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Assistant Professor:*

2012-2015                      Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Toronto, Scarborough  
POLB80: Introduction to International Relations; POLC09: International Security; POLC80: International Relations of Africa; POLD09 and POL466/2207: International Relations of Ethnic Conflict

*Lecturer:*

2011                              Course Instructor, Political Science, McGill University:  
POLI352: Foreign Policy of Africa

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## SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2017                              **Best Security Article Award**, International Studies Association

2010-2012                      **Department of National Defence**, Security and Defence Forum Doctoral Fellowship

- 2011 **Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award**, Teaching Assistant of the Year, Political Science Students' Association, McGill University
- 2009 **Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy**, Doctoral Fellowship
- 2009-2010 **International Development Research Centre**, Doctoral Field Research Award
- 2008-2010 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)**, Doctoral Fellowship

#### SELECTED TALKS

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- 2017 "Pluralism and Islam: The Future of Peace in Canada Amidst Growing Islamophobia" Massey College, March 20, 2017.
- 2017 "Jihad & Co.: Black Markets and Islamist Markets" Queen's University March 14, 2017.
- 2016 "Faith in Public Life" Massey College, November 24, 2016.
- 2016 "The Forgotten War: Al-Shabaab in Somalia" Yale University, November 2016.
- 2016 "We Have Captured Your Women" " Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University, October 2016.
- 2015 "Road to Recovery: China, India and Pakistan's Role in Afghanistan's Post-NATO Era", Munk School, Asia Institute Event, March 11, Toronto, ON.
- 2015 "IS in a Global Context", Canadian Association for Intelligence and Security Studies (CASIS), January 15, Ottawa, ON.
- 2015 "The ISIS Attacks on Paris: What they mean for Immigration, Refugees, and Security" Munk School Featured Event, November 18, Toronto, ON.
- 2015 "Canada Among Nations 2015 Book Launch" Munk School Event Panelist, November 2, Toronto, ON.
- 2015 "Policy Relevance in Foreign and Defence Scholarship" Women in International Security-Canada Workshop, May 27-29, Kingston, ON.
- 2014 "The Boys: Ideological Extremism and Islamist In-Fighting in the Somali Civil War" Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University, March 20, 2014
- 2014 "Trade and Taliban: Business Interests and Political Power in Civil War Afghanistan (1992-96)" Asia Institute, Munk School, University of Toronto, December 4, 2013
- 2013 "The Economics of State Failure and State Formation", Mogadishu University, Somalia, February 21, 2013

- 2013 “Aid, Trade, and the Business of War: Field Notes from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Somalia”, CCDS Lecture, University of Toronto, Scarborough, March 20, 2013
- 2013 “A Diverse Humanitarian Landscape: Engaging with ‘Emerging’ Relief Actors”, International Peace Institute, United Nations, New York, NY, April 18, 2013
- 2013 “Forgiveness in War”, TEDx University of Toronto, May 18, 2013
- 2012 “The Mosque and the Market: An Economic Explanation of Political Islam in Civil War Somalia” Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade: March 23, 2012 in Ottawa, Canada
- 2012 “The Mosque and the Market: An Economic Explanation of Political Islam in Somalia” Harvard Kennedy School: January 26, 2012 in Cambridge, MA, USA
- 2011 “Contemporary and Future Ideas and Approaches for Peacebuilding” Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto: on October 15, 2011 in Toronto, Canada
- 2009 “Transnational Civil Society and Climate Change Policy” University of Nairobi: for the course *Environment and Security* on November 19, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya
- 2009 “The Taliban and Neo-Taliban Insurgency in Pakistan and Afghanistan” Coro Civic Center: on February 20, 2009 in Pittsburgh, USA
- 2009 “Islamic Nationalism and State Failure: A Comparison of Social Movements in Afghanistan and Somalia” Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Public Seminar: on June 10, 2009 in Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2008 Two-part lectures: “Women and insecurity in Afghanistan” and “Understanding the Taliban and Neo-Taliban Insurgencies” Claremont Colleges on February 20, 2008 in Claremont, CA, USA
- 2006 “Canada's Role in Afghanistan Panel” NDP Panel with the Honorable Jack Layton: on October 5, 2006 in Ottawa, Canada
- 2006 “Pakistan in a Regional and International Security Context” Three-part guest lecture series Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar (Pakistan) April-May 2006 in Peshawar, Pakistan