

# Mehr Latif

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## EDUCATION

- PhD in Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA April 2017
- M.A. in Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA May 2013
- M.A. in Public Policy, International Development, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD May 2004
- B.A. in English Literature and Political Science from Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA May 2000

## RESEARCH

### **Post-doctoral Associate, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (May 2017-present)**

- Manage the data analysis of a project on extremism within the United States.
- Develop publications and present findings to academic and non-academic audiences.

### **Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (May 2016- April 2017)**

- Contributed to data analysis and development of publications.
- Coded qualitative data on right-wing movements.
- Conducted literature reviews.
- Conducted interviews (May-September 2014)

## TEACHING

### **Teaching Fellow (independent teaching), University of Pittsburgh (June 2013-August 2014).**

- Social Theory
- Introduction to Sociology
- Global Society

### **Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh (August 2011-May 2013).**

- Basic Applied Statistics, Deviance and Social Control, Introduction of Sociology, and Sociology of the Family.

## PUBLICATIONS

Plummer Janelle and Gavin Tritt, eds. 2012. *Voice, Choice, and Decision: A Study of Local Governance Processes in Cambodia*. Cambodia: The World Bank and The Asia Foundation. (contributing author and researcher)

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Latif, Mehr. 2017 "The Construction of a Public Sphere at the Intersection of State and Family: Evidence from Pakistan." Under review.

Blee, Kathy and Mehr Latif. 2017. "The Sociology of the Far Right," In Stephen Ashe, ed., *Researching the Far Right: Theory, Method and Practice*. London: Routledge series on Fascism and the Far Right.

Blee, Kathy, Matthew DeMichele, Pete Simi, and Mehr Latif. 2017. Forthcoming. "How Racial

Violence is Provoked and Channeled.” *Socio*.

Latif, Mehr, Kathy Blee, Matthew DeMichele, and Pete Simi. 2017. “How Emotional Dynamics Maintain and Destroy White Supremacist Groups.” Unpublished Manuscript.

Blee, Kathy, Matthew DeMichele, Pete Simi, and Mehr Latif. 2017. “The Gendering of Political Disillusionment: A Study of Former Female Violent White Supremacists.” Unpublished Manuscript.

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- “Political Disillusionment & Exit: A Study of Female Former White Supremacists.” Social Movement Session of the American Sociological Association. August 2017.
- “Exploring the Dera: A Performative Public Sphere in Pakistan.” Political Culture Session of the American Sociological Association. August 2016.
- “Exploring Kinship Structures in Pakistan.” Regular session of the North-Central Sociological Association, April 2015.
- “Doing Research in Dangerous Places.” University of Pittsburgh Sociology Department, January 2014.
- “Field Work: A Gender Perspective.” University of Pittsburgh Anthropology Department, January 2014.

### **PROFESSIONAL UNIVERISTY SERVICE**

- Teaching Assistant Mentor, August 2015-April 2016.
- Mentored 5 undergraduate capstone projects, January-April 2016.
- Sociology Department Post-doc Selection Committee, April 2014.

### **CONSULTANCIES & SHORT-TERM ASSIGNMENTS**

- Technical Advisor, Implementation of the Social Accountability Framework, The Asia Foundation, Cambodia (July-September 2017)
- Leader Researcher, Drivers of Violent Extremism Study in Southern Pakistan, Management Systems International, for USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), Pakistan (July 2016-August 2017)
- Technical Adviser, Reproductive and Child Health Alliance, Cambodia (November 2015-February 2016)
- Team Leader, Evaluation of a DRL-funded Religious Freedom Project, Social Impact, Pakistan (August-December 2015)
- Evaluation Technical Specialist, Development of an Evaluation Framework for USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), Pakistan (May 2015)
- Evaluation Expert-Pakistan, Evaluation of a DRL-funded Informal Economy Project, Social Impact, Pakistan (January – April 2015)
- Cambodia Country Expert, Democracy and Governance Political Economy Assessment for USAID, Tetra Tech, Cambodia (October 2014 – February 2015)
- Proposal Development Specialist, The Asia Foundation, San Francisco, CA (May 2014 – present)
- Social Accountability Specialist, The Asia Foundation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (June – August 2013, December 2013)

- Proposal Development Specialist, The Asia Foundation, Kabul, Afghanistan (August 2012)
- Manuscript Editor, The Asia Foundation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (June 2012)
- Proposal Development Specialist, The Asia Foundation, San Francisco, CA (May 2012)
- Evaluation Specialist, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir, Rural Support Programme Network, Pakistan (June – July 2007)
- Governance Specialist, Aga Khan Foundation, Gilgit, Pakistan (June – September 2003)
- Legal Research Assistant, Shirkat Gah (Women’s Center), Lahore, Pakistan (May – September 1999)
- Parliamentary Research Assistant, London, UK (August – December 1998)

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Project Manager, The Asia Foundation (TAF), Phnom Penh, Cambodia (August 2007-August 2011)**

- Managed the non-state actor component of the World Bank-funded Demand for Good Governance, a \$5 million project designed to develop synergies between state and civil society actors and to improve governance in Cambodia.
- Managed a research project to understand local decision-making in Cambodia, contributed to the study design, field research, and the final report.
- Designed a study to measure size and scope of the civil society sector in Cambodia. (Converted to Project Manager from Senior Program Officer in October 2009)

### **Senior Program Officer, The Asia Foundation (TAF), Islamabad, Pakistan (March 2006-June 2007)**

- Coordinated governance projects, including civil society development, civic education and election monitoring, engagement with political parties, and activities related to access to information.
- Managed two policy research projects for the British and Dutch governments in preparation of the Pakistan country assessment on the political economy of conflict and socio-economic drivers of change, focusing on different sectors, including the state.

### **International Policy Fellow, Open Society Institute (OSI), Islamabad, Pakistan (July 2005-March 2006)**

- Received funding from the Open Society Institute to conduct policy research on the devolution process in Pakistan.
- Designed research methodology and conducted field research in 10 districts.

### **Research Assistant, Center for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (September 2002-September 2004)**

- Worked on a comparative research project that examined the size and scope of civil society in 35 countries.

### **Project Coordinator, Institutions and Governance Program, Africa Division, World Resources Institute, Washington, DC, USA (December 2000-September 2002)**

- Coordinated the Africa Program focused on devolution, legislative strengthening, and environmental justice programs.
- Undertook relevant research on impact of decentralization on natural resources

- management.
- Assisted in implementing the program's capacity-building initiative for partners in Africa including, undertaking organizational assessments as well as management/financial training, exchange visits, and regular monitoring of local associate activities.
  - Designed and administered grants.
  - Managed Africa project budgets amounting to \$3 million and coordinated fund-raising and grant reporting.
  - Coordinated knowledge management strategy of the program. (Promoted to Program Coordinator from Program Assistant in June 2002)

## **RELATED SKILLS**

**Language Skills:** English (native), Urdu (native), Punjabi (conversational), French (basic), and Khmer (basic)

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

- Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, September 2015-May 2016.
- Graduate Student Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, December 2014
- Social Science Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, September 2014-April 2015.
- Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, Summer 2013
- Stanley Prostednik Grant, University of Pittsburgh, Summer 2012 for M.A. field work in Pakistan
- Presidential Merit Award, The Asia Foundation, September 2010
- International Policy Fellowship, Open Society Institute, June 2005
- Academic Scholarship, Johns Hopkins University, September 2002-May 2004
- Rosenfield Grant in International Affairs and Human Rights, Grinnell College, Summer 1999
- Merit Scholarship, Grinnell College, September 1996-May 2000