

Ryan Brasher

Department of History and Political Science
Simpson University
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Redding, CA 96003
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Academic Positions:

- Associate Professor, Department of History and Political Science, Simpson University; 2024-
- Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science, Simpson University; 2021-2024
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan; 2014-2021; Department Chair 2017-2021.
- Visiting Faculty, Department of Political Science, Presbyterian College, South Carolina, Fall 2016.
- Visiting Faculty, Department of Political Science and History, Erskine College, South Carolina, Fall 2016.
- Instructor, Collins Living-Learning Center, Indiana University; Fall 2012.
- Associate Instructor, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, 2007-2012.

Education:

PhD: Indiana University, Bloomington (2014)

Political Science

Subfields: Comparative Politics; International Relations

Minor: Central Eurasian Studies

Dissertation Title: "Projecting the State: Political Ideology and Infrastructural Power in early 20th Century Afghanistan and Iran."

Dissertation Advisor: Šumit Ganguly

M.A: Columbia International University, Summa Cum Laude (2003)

General Theological Studies

B.A: Wheaton College, Summa Cum Laude (2001)

Major: Political Science

Minor: History

Publications:

- (2024) *The Afghan Patchwork State: Political Ideology, Infrastructural Power, and the Critical Juncture of 1929*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Guest Editor with Charles Ramsey (2023) "Ethnic Nationalism and Politicized Religion in the Pakistan-Afghanistan Borderland." *Review of Faith and International Affairs*, 21:3.

- With Abdullah Burki (2023), "Memory and National Identity among Afghan Refugees in Peshawar." *Review of Faith and International Affairs*, 21:3.
- (2022) "Domestic Politics and Structural Constraints: Pakistan and its South Asian Neighbors." In *Routledge Handbook of the International Relations of South Asia*, edited by Šumit Ganguly and Frank O'Donnell.
- (2020) "Pride and Abstention: National Identity, Uncritical Patriotism and Political Engagement among Christian Students in Pakistan." *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 43:1, 84-100, DOI: [10.1080/00856401.2020.1689459](https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2020.1689459)
- Editor and Introductory Chapter (2020) *The Politics of Ethnicity and Federalism in Pakistan: Local, National, and Comparative Perspectives*. Karachi: Oxford University Press.
- With Šumit Ganguly (2014) "Militant Islam in South Asia: past trajectories and present implications." In *Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Strategic Change: Adjusting Western Regional Policy*, edited by Joachim Krause and Charles Mallory. New York: Routledge.
- (2011) "Ethnic Brother or Engineered Namesake: The Construction of Tajik Identity in Tajikistan and Afghanistan." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 55, 97-120.

Projects, Working Papers and Presentations:

- "Pakistan's Afghan Repatriation Plan." June 17, 2025. Conference held at Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan, and organized in collaboration with Charles Ramsey (Baylor University), funded by the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies and Simpson University.
- "National Attachment and Minorities in Pakistan." October 2021, Panel Presentation in 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- "Afghanistan and 3 Critical Junctures: 1929, 1979, and 2001." September 2021, Seminar Presentation in "Twilight in Afghanistan: Two Perspectives." Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University, Bloomington.
- Accepted Paper (conference postponed): "National Identity and Uncritical Patriotism among Religious and Ethnic Minorities in Pakistan." Panel: Ethnicity in Politics of the Indian Subcontinent. International Political Science Association, Lisbon (Portugal). July 2020.
- "Collective Memory and the State: An Introduction." Literature Review: The role of nation-states in managing memories of disputed territories. <https://www.disterrmem.eu/publications>. January 2020.

- “Writing a Thesis in Political Science.” Talk in Workshop on “Significance of Critical Thinking in Research Methodology,” organized by Professor’s Association for Students’ Services (PASS), Peshawar. January 16th, 2020.
(https://m.facebook.com/PASS-Professors-Association-for-Students-Services-213566932861673/?refid=13&_tn=%2Cg ; video interview starting at 11:32).
- “Christian National Identity in Pakistan.” Seminar, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad. November 29th, 2019.
- “Long-Distance Nationalism and Conflicting Ethnoscapes: Afghan Conflict, migration, and identity.” Roundtable: Conflict, Transitions to Democracy, and Methods to Research These Experiences. Brunel University, London. July 1st, 2019.
- Chief Organizer, along with Dr. Saeed Shafqat: “Lahore Political Science Symposium: Assessing the Current State of the Discipline in Pakistan”. Department of Political Science and Centre for Public Policy and Governance (CPPG), Forman Christian College. April 30th, 2019.
- Panel Chair, “Social Responsibility and World Religions.” Conference organized by the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Minhaj University, Lahore. October, 20th, 2018.
- “The Afghan Patchwork State”. *Afkar-e-Taza* Thinkfest, Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore. January 13th, 2018.
- “National Identity amongst the Christian Minority in Pakistan: Impact on Political Involvement”; 11th LUMS Humanities and Social Sciences Conference “Pakistan at 70”. April 7-9, 2017, Lahore.
- “State Power and Political Ideology in Post-Imperial Buffer States”; World Congress, International Political Science Association, Poznan, July 23-28, 2016.
- Conference Organizer: “Ethno-Federalism in Punjab and Beyond”; Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College, Lahore, April 13/14, 2015.
- “Projecting the State: Political Ideology and State Infrastructure Power in early 20th Century Afghanistan and Iran”; Seminar, Centre for Public Policy and Governance (Forman Christian College, Lahore), September 30, 2014.
- “Projecting the State”; Presented at Social Science History Association Annual Conference (Chicago), November 2013.
- “State Formation and Ideologies of Legitimation in early 20th Century Afghanistan and Iran”; Presented at Central Eurasian Studies Conference (Indiana University), Spring 2011.

- “Ethnic Brother or Engineered Namesake: The Construction of Tajik Identity in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.” Presented at Central Eurasian Studies Conference (Indiana University), Spring 2010.

In the News:

- Interview with KRCR, March 2026: <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/northstate-professor-offers-insight-on-voter-id-requirements-initiatives>
- Interview with Action News Now, March 2026: https://www.actionnewsnow.com/news/simpson-university-professor-explains-local-impacts-of-conflict-in-iran/article_1e792868-4c4f-4624-a04a-878004696f3e.html
- Interview with KRCR, March 2025: <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/trumps-executive-order-on-voting-faces-constitutional-challenges>
- Interview with KRCR, July 2024: <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/calls-for-bidens-removal-grow-as-he-quits-race-sparking-25th-amendment-debate>
- Interview with KRCR, May 2024: <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/death-penalty-a-possibility-in-triple-murder-case-despite-state-moratorium>
- Interview with San Jose Mercury, February 2022: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/02/07/could-populist-militia-backed-shasta-county-recall-effort-provide-roadmap-for-other-races/>
- Interview with KRCR, August 2021: <https://krcrtv.com/news/local/redding-political-science-professor-weighs-in-on-afghanistan>
- Written Interview with Christianity Today, August 2021: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/2021/08/afghanistan-christians-prayer-lament-united-states-taliban/>
- Interview with ProUrdu on the Politics of the Middle East, Fall 2020: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUTMX826_bA

Teaching Experience:

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL:

- Introduction to Political Science (Forman Christian College, Simpson University)
- Comparative Politics (Indiana University, Forman Christian College, Simpson University)
- International Relations (Simpson University)
- Foreign Policy Analysis (Forman Christian College)
- Contemporary Global Issues (Erskine College)
- American Government (Simpson University)
- Politics of Western Europe and North America (Forman Christian College)
- Research Methodology (Forman Christian College, Simpson University)
- Soccer and Politics (Indiana University, Simpson University)
- Political Thought (Simpson University)
- Politics of the Middle East (Erskine College, Presbyterian College, Forman Christian College)
- Politics of Afghanistan and Iran (Forman Christian College)
- Freshman Orientation (Forman Christian College, Simpson University)
- Politics and Culture of the Developing World (Simpson University)
- US Constitutional Law (Simpson University)
- Democracy and National Security (Indiana University)
- International Political Controversies: America and the Politics of Insurgency, Terrorism, and Nuclear Proliferation in Southwest Asia (Indiana University)
- Senior Seminar (Simpson University)

GRADUATE LEVEL:

- Research Techniques in Political Science (Forman Christian College)
- Theories of Comparative Politics (Forman Christian College)
- Foreign Policy Analysis (Forman Christian College)

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT (Indiana University):

- American Political Controversies
- War and Peace in International Politics
- Politics and Film
- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Analyzing Politics / Research Methodology
- Introduction to International Relations
- Introduction to American Politics

SIMPSON FOR SENIORS (non-credit classes for members of the community in Redding, CA)

- Politics of Afghanistan (January 2024)
- 10 Key Events in Politics of the Middle East (October 2024)
- Politics of Pakistan (April 2025)

- Politics of Iran (March 2026)

INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD (LECTURES 2008-2011)

- Afghan Languages and Culture Training Seminar for Provincial Reconstruction (PRT), Agricultural Development (ADT), and Embedded Training (ETT) Teams, Indiana National Guard: “Polar opposites? Afghan and American Culture”.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACADEMICS AND DEVELOPMENT (MAZAR-E-SHARIF, AFGHANISTAN: 2004-2005; AUGUST 2007):

- English Conversation Classes

Research Grants, Fellowships, Awards, Assistantships:

Research Grant

- Dale Faculty Development Grant, Simpson University (2024/2025), \$5000: “Repatriation of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan.”
- Disputed Territories and Memory (DisTerrMem) European Union Horizon 2020 Three-Year Research Grant (2019-2022), 533,600 € Total. Project Co-lead. Partner Organizations: University of Bath (UK), University of Warsaw (Poland), Borderland Foundation (Poland), National Academy of Sciences (Armenia), Educational & Cultural Bridges (Armenia), Forman Christian College (Pakistan).

Research Fellowships and Scholarships:

- Visiting Researcher, University of Bath (UK), DisTerrMem research grant (June-August 2019).
- Research Scholarship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst / German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD): Bonn, Germany (January-July 2013). 10,000 € total.
- Research Fellowship, John F. Richards Fellowship Program, American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS), Boston University (2012-2013). USD \$6000 total.
- University Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship, The University Graduate School, Indiana University, Bloomington (2012-2013). USD \$10,000 total.
- Scholarship, Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University (Summer 2011).
- Research Grant, Madhusudan and Kiran C. Dhar India Studies Program, Indiana University, Bloomington (Summer 2011). USD \$2000 total.
- Scholarship, Program on Conducting Archival Research (POCAR), George Washington University (March 2011).

- Research Award, Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO), Indiana University, Bloomington (Spring 2011). USD \$500 total.
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship: Persian Language, Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University, Bloomington (2009-2010).

Teaching & Research Fellowships and Assistantships:

- Teaching Fellowship, Collins Living-Learning Center, Indiana University, Bloomington (Fall 2012).
- Assistantship, Department of Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington (2007-2009; 2010-2012).
- Research Assistant and Conference Support: Prof. Šumit Ganguly and Amb. Feisal Istrabadi, Center for the Study of the Middle East (CSME), Indiana University (Fall 2012).
- Research Assistant: Prof. Šumit Ganguly, Research Director of the Center on American and Global Security (CAGS), Indiana University (Spring 2011).

Professional Development and Service:

Service:

- 2025: Faculty President, Simpson University
- 2024-2025: Faculty Personnel Committee, Simpson University.
- 2022-2025: General Education Committee, Simpson University.
- 2024: External Program Reviewer, Political Science Major Program Review, Fresno Pacific University.
- 2023-now: Simpson University Representative, Christian Scholar's Review
- 2023-now: Pre-Law Society Advisor, Simpson University
- 2017-2021: Chair, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College.
- 2018 till 2021: External Member, Board of Studies, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Management and Technology (UMT), Lahore.
- 2019 till Present: Founding Member, Executive Committee, Lahore Political Science Association: an initiative with support and participation from the Departments of

Political Science at University of Management and Technology (UMT), University of Lahore, Government College University (GCU), Punjab University, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Kinnaird College, University of Central Punjab, and Lahore College for Women.

- 2019-2020: Faculty Sexual Harassment Committee, Forman Christian College.
- 2014-2017: MPhil Program Coordinator, Department of Political Science, Forman Christian College.

MPhil Thesis Advisees (degree completed):

- Mansoor Imtiaz Khan (November 2017): "Voter-Party Linkages in 2013 Union Council Elections of Faisalabad District."
- Irtiza Shafaat Bukhari (January 2019): "The Effects of Authoritarian Rule on Democratic Governance in Pakistan."
- Natasha Waseem (May 2019): "Constructivism, Defensive Realism, and the Indo-Pakistan Rivalry."
- Meesam Ali (June 2019): "A Comparative Case Study of Sectarianism in Mianwali and Dera Ismail Khan."
- Dilawar Hussain (June 2021): "The Impact of Shrines and their Custodians on their Disciples: A Case Study of Multan"
- Abdullah Burki (July 2021): "National Identity and Belongingness of Afghan Refugees in Peshawar"
- Maryam Umar (2023): "Women of Revivalist Movements and their National Attachment"

Teaching Training:

- Preparing Future Faculty Program, Department of Political Science, Indiana University (Summer 2010 and 2011)

Research Training:

- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University (June 2011)
- Program in Conducting Archival Research (POCAR), Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University (March 2011)

Related Experience:

- Project Coordinator: Partnership in Academics and Development (NGO), Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan (July 2004 till July 2005).

- Assistant to Principal: Fackelbärarna Bibelskola Holsbybrunn, Sweden (September 2001 till August 2002).
- Summer Intern: Consular, political, and public affairs section, US Embassy, Helsinki, Finland (June to September 2001).
- Research Intern: International Center for Terrorism Studies, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, Arlington, VA (June to August 2000).

Languages:

- English (native speaker)
- German (native speaker)
- Urdu (fluent)
- Farsi/Dari (intermediate)
- French (basic)

References:

Dr. Šumit Ganguly

Senior Fellow: Hoover Institute, Stanford University

Distinguished Professor and Rabindranath Tagore Chair Emeritus in Indian Cultures and Civilization, Indiana University, Bloomington

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434 Galvez Mall, Stanford, CA 94035

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Dr. Jacob Shively

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Dr. Gardner Bovingdon

Associate Professor and Graduate Director: Department of Central Eurasian Studies

Departments of International Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Political Science

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Bloomington, IN 47405

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Dr. Charles Ramsey

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