

# CV

## Rafique Wassan

### Research Anthropologist

ESKAS Doctoral student  
Interdisciplinary Anthropology and Cultural Studies  
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**Profile:** Mr. Rafique Wassan is a trained anthropologist from Pakistan. Currently, he is doing doctoral study under the Swiss ESKAS scholarship program in University of Bern, Switzerland. His interdisciplinary PhD project focuses on the discourse and representations of 'Peace and pluralism in Sufi literary and performance heritage' in Sindh Pakistan. Using the ethnographic, critical heritage studies perspective, project tends to explore and analyze the role of Sufi tradition against radicalization, religious extremism and conflict in society.

Mr. Wassan has been working with research study and community development projects at grassroots level with special focus on human rights, youth leadership and social change frameworks. He is research fellow and member of various national and international forums including the South Asian Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) based at Nepal. In 2011, he conducted a research study project on violence against women and masculinity in Sindh Pakistan under the SANAM fellowship study program. Masculinity as theoretical lens was used to understand the cultural constructions of violence, radicalized forms of behavior and practices.

Mr. Wassan has participated and presented papers in national and international seminars and conferences. In June 2015, he attended two-week study tour and workshop program 'Anti-democratic movements and rise of right-wing extremism in Europe and South Asia' in Germany jointly organized by DAAD and QAU Islamabad.

As a freelance writer on socio-political issues, Mr. Wassan contributes to daily papers and magazines. Under his current PhD project of Sufi discourse and heritage in University of Bern Switzerland, he aims to document the intangible cultural heritage's role in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence in conflicting and polarized society.

#### **ACADEMIC**

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2015- Continue: Doctoral study in Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Bern, Switzerland

2002-2004: MSc in Anthropology from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

## ACADEMIC/POLICY RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

- Karo-Kari – murder of honor in Sindh Pakistan: an ethnographic study published in International Journal of Asian Social Science ( 2013)
- Consultant/Trainer: Awareness and Advocacy on Gender Equality project implemented by AMRDO-USAID-Aurat Foundation (2013)
- Consultant: Books for a Bright Future Project implemented by Sarangaa Society Hyderabad and supported by USAID (2012)
- Community based research Consultancy work with Hagler Bailly Pakistan ‘Public Consultation with Thar Coal project area communities Block-2’ ( June 26 to July 10, 2012)
- Research paper ‘masculinity & honor crimes against women in Sindh’ presented in national SANAM Dissemination Seminar jointly organized by ROZAN & Center of Excellence in Gender Studies, QAU Islamabad. (April 2012). [http://www.engagingmen.net/files/resources/2012/lbelbase/Pakistan\\_Rafique\\_Masculinity\\_Honor\\_Crimes\\_against\\_Women\\_in\\_Sindh\\_Pakistan.pdf](http://www.engagingmen.net/files/resources/2012/lbelbase/Pakistan_Rafique_Masculinity_Honor_Crimes_against_Women_in_Sindh_Pakistan.pdf)
- Research Study project ‘Understanding Masculinity and Honor Crimes against Women in Sindh’ supported by South Asian Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) Nepal.(August 2011- January 2012)
- Community based research Consultancy ‘Social & Environmental Impact Assessment of Thar Coal Project’ supported by Hagler Bailly Pakistan & Wardell armstrong (October 09 – 25, 2011). The FGDs and Consultation meetings methodology was conducted with community groups.
- Research paper ‘Women’s Displacement Experiences: Anthropological Study of Flood IDPs Camp Sukkur, Sindh’ presented in an International Conference on Forced Migration held in Bangladesh by Asian University for Women (AUW) Chittagong.(Sep2011). <https://sites.google.com/site/conferenceforcedmigrationauw/papers/papers>
- Research paper ‘Women’s Empowerment: A participatory analysis by rural women in Sindh’ presented in American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Islamabad (August 2011)
- Collaborative ethnographic research study project on labour rights with PILER, Karachi ( May -December 2011)
- Research paper ‘Gender based Violence: A Mechanism to Control the Women’ presented in 11<sup>th</sup> national Conference held in BZU Multan organized by Population Association of Pakistan (Nov 2010).
- Trainer/Resource Person on gender awareness and youth leadership project implemented by NRSP-IRM, Jamshoro (2010)
- Research paper ‘Manganhaar musician community of Umerkot, Sindh: An ethnographic study’ presented in an International Conference on Islamic Archaeology held by National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR) QAU, Islamabad (Jan 2011). Published
- Research Paper titled ‘Revisiting Development Discourse in Sindh: Using Women’s Empowerment Perspective’ (Under publication by CPCS)
- Research paper ‘Depiction of women: gender analysis of Manik’s literary work’ (published by CPCS Hyd)

- Research paper titled ‘Identifying disparities: Voices of the Communities’ presented in an International Conference “Spheres of Justices” held in September 2007 in Kolkata, India.
- As part of M.Sc Anthropology dissertation: Conducted six months Anthropological research work & thesis writing entitled “An Ethnographic Study of Manganhars: a folk musician community of Umerkot, Sindh. The research study purely focused on the cultural documentation of the folk music and culture of the community by applying ethnographic research methods. (2004) .
- March 28, 2007: Presented Research paper titled” Displacement, Resource Conflict & Development” in National Research Conference on “ Peoples Perspective on Mega Development Projects in Pakistan” organized by Pakistan Development Initiative supported by ActionAid-Pakistan

### **CERTIFICATE COURSES/TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS/MEETING**

- January 23-30, 2016: attended Winter School program ‘Mapping of aesthetics in urban life in Asia’ in Kyoto, Japan organized by Institute of Asian Studies, Netherlands and Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto Japan
- June- July 2015: attended workshop and study tour program ‘Anti-democratic movements, governance and public policy in Germany organized under a research cooperation between DAAD and QAU Islamabad supported by German Federal Foreign Office.
- September 18, 2014: organized one-day seminar ‘Action Anthropology: Role of anthropology in policy and practice’ with students of Anthropology in SU Jamshoro, Pakistan
- September 2014: organized ‘Youth Dialogue on literature, culture and promotion of peace and pluralism’ in University of Sindh, Jamshoro Pakistan
- March 27- 28, 2014: presented paper in an international conference on Migration, Education and Development held in the Department of Anthropology, QAU, Islamabad.
- March 17, 2014: attended Core Consultation Meeting of MenEngage Alliance Pakistan in Islamabad ( a national network supported by UN Women Pakistan)
- January 28-30, 2013: attended three-day workshop “Gender Studies Dissertation Workshop’ jointly organized by American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) & HEC Islamabad.
- Sep 6, 2012: Delivered lecture on ‘Anthropology of Sindh’ at SZABIST Karachi under the ‘Sindh Studies’ Seminar series program for the students of social sciences and media studies.
- Feb-01-18, 2011: participated in Fellowship research study program ‘Understanding masculinities in South Asia: culture, politics and social change’ held in Khathmandu, Nepal organized by South Asian Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) Nepal.
- Sep 2011- Participated as paper presenter in the International Conference on Forced Migration in South and Southeast Asian countries held by AUW in Bangladesh.

- May 22-23, 2010: Participated in the two-day workshop titled ‘Conflict Management and Religiosity’ organized by Fredrich Naumann Foundation, Pakistan
- Sep 01-10, 2009: Participated in the 10-days short course ‘ The Struggle for Health: Equity in Health’ organized by Community Health Cell, Bangalore in collaboration with Peoples Health Movement at Bangalore, India
- September 2008-to Sep 2009: Participating in the monthly/bi-monthly Five-Day Youth Parliament sessions organized by PILDAT, Islamabad.
- April 27-May 01, 2009: Participated in the course titled ‘Sexuality and Sexual Health Rights’ organized by Aahung, Karachi.
- March 04, 2008: Conducted Round Table Discussion on ‘Development discourse in Sindh by Using Women’s empowerment perspective’ with development practitioners and Sindhi writers at Hyderabad.
- September 19 – 23, 2007: Presented research paper on health disparities in conference titled ‘Spheres of Justice’ in Kolkata organized by CRG Kolkata, India
- July 09 – 23, 2007: Attended certificate training on Qualitative Research methods and conceptual themes on Women’s empowerment as part of a multi-country project titled “Women’s empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC).
- Feb 14th - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006: Successfully completed ten-days Training Workshop on “Developing Youth Leadership in Reproductive Health in Pakistan” organized by Population Council, Islamabad. The Training Workshop focused on the RH issues, Gender equity, Sexual rights, youth & Adolescent health issues, Social determinants of Health, health disparities and Women’s rights.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL/E-Group MEMBERSHIPS**

- Member MenEngage Pakistan supported by UN Women Pakistan
- Research Fellow-South Asian Network to Address Masculinities (SANAM) Nepal.
- Member Youth Parliament of Pakistan organized by PILDAT Islamabad.
- Democracy Reporting International ( DRI) network on Election Reforms
- Working Group for Women (WGW) Aga Khan University Karachi.
- Fellow of Youth Leadership in Reproductive Health in Pakistan (**YLRH3**) Fellowship Program of Population Council.

### **Freelance publications**

- A grand gothic church in Switzerland  
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1227227/heritage-a-grand-gothic-church-in-switzerland>
- Music on the go <http://www.dawn.com/news/1216438/diversity-music-on-the-go>
- A salute to Soreh Badshah <http://www.dawn.com/news/1179149/history-a-salute-to-soreh-badshah>
- Under the grind <http://www.dawn.com/news/1177970/kot-dijis-limestone-quarries-under-the-grind>
- Sadiq Faqeer: farewell to a literary musician  
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1173625/tribute-sadiq-faqeer-farewell-to-a-literary-musician>

- Fieldwork based research article ‘The Shrine of Sufi Shah Inayat Shaheed in Sindh’ published in Weekly Pulse Magazine Islamabad ( December 2013)
- Fieldwork based research article ‘Books for a Bright Future’ published in daily Dawn (it focuses on USAID funded project of libraries in Sindh)  
<http://dawn.com/2013/03/10/libraries-books-for-a-bright-future>
- Filed work based research article ‘Daraazi Fakirs of Sachal Sarmast’ (Sufi singers of Sachal Sarmast) published in The Friday Times.  
<http://www.thefridaytimes.com/beta3/tft/article.php?issue=20130111&page=22>
- Fieldwork based research article ‘Cock Busters’ published in Friday Times.  
<http://www.thefridaytimes.com/beta3/tft/article.php?issue=20121012&page=26>
- ‘Natural resources: Sindh and Balouchistan’ published in daily Dawn.  
<http://dawn.com/2012/08/09/natural-resources-sindh-and-balochistan/>