

# TAHSEEN SHAMS

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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- 2023- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
- Core Faculty, Asian American Studies Program
  - Research Associate, Population Studies Center
  - Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration
- 2022- Affiliated Faculty, Center for Security, Race, and Rights, Rutgers University
- 2018-2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto – St. George
- Non-Budgetary Cross-Appointment, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
  - Faculty Affiliate, School of Cities
  - Faculty Affiliate, Institute of Islamic Studies
  - Faculty Affiliate, Centre for South Asian Studies, Asian Institute
- 2020-2021 Bissell-Heyd Research Fellow  
Centre for the Study of the United States, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy,  
University of Toronto

## EDUCATION

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- 2018 Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2014 M.A. Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2012 B.S. Sociology (*Summa Cum Laude*), University of Southern Mississippi

## RESEARCH AREAS

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International Migration, Globalization, Race/Ethnicity, Religion, Muslims, South Asians, Immigrant Identities

## BOOK

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- 2020 Shams, Tahseen. *Here, There, and Elsewhere: The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World*. Stanford University Press.
- Winner of the 2021 Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award, International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association
  - Winner of the 2021 Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association
  - Winner of the 2021 Asian America Book Award, Asia and Asian America Section of the American Sociological Association
  - Winner of the 2021 Distinguished Scholarship Award, Pacific Sociological Association

- Book Forum at the 2023 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Organizer: Dina G. Okamoto; Moderator: Dr. Pawan H. Dhingra; Panelists: Dr. Prema Ann Kurien, Dr. David Scott FitzGerald, and Dr. Hajar Yazdiha.
- Author Meets Critics panel at the 2021 Eastern Sociological Society conference. Discussants: Dr. Douglas Massey, Dr. Philip Kasinitz, and Dr. Claire Alexander.
- Book Talk hosted by the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Organizers: Dr. Samuel Perry, Dr. Geneviève Zubrzycki, and Dr. James Spickard.
- Reviewed in: (1) *American Journal of Sociology*, (2) *Social Forces*, (3) *Sociological Forum*, (4) *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, (5) *Contemporary Sociology*, (6) *South Asian Diaspora*, (7) *The Sociological Review*, (8) *CHOICE*, (9) *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration*, (10) *H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online*, (11) *Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, (12) *The Journal of Asian Studies*, (13) *Ethnic Studies Review*
- Media Coverage: [The Cornell Migration Initiative](#); [Asian American Writers' Workshop](#); [The Harvard Crimson](#); [The Pg 99 Test](#); [New Books Network](#); [Chapati Mystery Blog](#); [The Siasat Daily](#); [Ethnographic Marginalia](#); [The Christian Century](#)

#### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2023 Elcioglu, Emine Fidan and Tahseen Shams (equal co-authors). "Brokering Immigrant Transnationalism: Remittance, Family Reunification, and Private Refugee Sponsorship in Neoliberal Canada." *Current Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921231155652>.
- 2023 Waldinger, Roger and Tahseen Shams. "Cross-Border Politics: Diasporic Mobilization and State Response." *Annual Review of Sociology* 49(1): 401-419.
- 2022 Shams, Tahseen. "Race, Religion, and Geopolitics: Dating and Romance among South Asian Muslim Immigrants in Canada." *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* 83(4): 505-526.
- 2021 Shams, Tahseen. "Homeland and Heartland: Reconceptualizing the 'Muslim' 'Diaspora'." *Diaspora* 21(1): 47-63.
- 2019 Shams, Tahseen. "Successful yet Precarious: South Asian Muslim Americans, Islamophobia, and the Model Minority Myth." *Sociological Perspectives* 63(4): 653-669.
- Honorable Mention, Best Scholarly Article Award 2020, Global and Transnational Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2018 Shams, Tahseen. "Visibility as Resistance by Muslim Americans in a Surveillance and Security Atmosphere." *Sociological Forum* 33(1): 73-94.
- Top 20 Most Read Paper in *Sociological Forum* in 2017-2018
- 2017 Shams, Tahseen. "Mirrored Boundaries: How Ongoing Homeland-Hostland Contexts Shape Bangladeshi Immigrant Collective Identity Formation." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(4): 713-731.
- 2015 Shams, Tahseen. "Bangladeshi Muslims in Mississippi: Impression Management Based on the Intersectionality of Religion, Ethnicity, and Gender." *Cultural Dynamics* 27(3): 379-397.

- 2015 Shams, Tahseen. "The Declining Significance of Race or the Persistent Racialization of Blacks?: A Conceptual, Empirical, and Methodological Review of Today's Race Debate in America." *Journal of Black Studies* 46(3): 282-296.
- 2013 Reid, Julie and Tahseen Shams. "Gender and Multigenerational Global Human Development." *Sociology Compass* 7/8: 612-629.

#### **INVITED ESSAYS AND COMMENTARY**

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- 2022 Shams, Tahseen. Review of Mapping the Transnational World: How We Move and Communicate across Borders and Why It Matters by Emanuel Deutschmann. *Social Forces* 101(1).
- 2022 Shams, Tahseen. "The Immigrant Threat Narrative and the Politics of Resentment." Feature essay on *Immigrant Labor and the New Precariat* by Ruth Milkman. *Contemporary Sociology* 51(1): 1-5.
- 2021 Shams, Tahseen. Review of *Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistani Immigration to Houston During the Cold War* by Uzma Quraishi. *South Asian Diaspora*. DOI: 10.1080/19438192.2021.1987145.

#### **ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

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- Shams, Tahseen. "Papists and Terrorists: Re-examining the Nativist Backlash Against Irish Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Using a Multicentered Relational Framework." (In preparation)
- Shams, Tahseen. "Effects of Geopolitics on Immigrant and Black Muslims in America." (In preparation)
- Shams, Tahseen. "Muslim American Panethnicity Based on Global Geopolitics." (In preparation)

#### **RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

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"Race, Religion, and Romance: Interracial and Interfaith Relationships of South Asian Muslim Immigrants in Canada" (book project; fieldwork completed and data analysis underway; funded by SSHRC Insight Grant and Connaught New Researcher Award)

#### **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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- 2021 Asian America Book Award, Asia and Asian America Section, American Sociological Association
- 2021 Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Religion Section, American Sociological Association
- 2021 Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award, International Migration Section, American Sociological Association
- 2021 Distinguished Scholarship Award, Pacific Sociological Association
- 2021 Early Career Investigator Award, Canadian Sociological Association
- 2021 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant (\$99,833)
- 2021 Dean's Excellence Award, University of Toronto
- 2020 Honorable Mention for Best Scholarly Article, Global and Transnational Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2020 CSUS Bissell Heyd Research Fellowship, University of Toronto (\$10,000)
- 2019 Connaught New Researcher Award, University of Toronto (\$19,700)
- 2017 Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA (\$20,000)

- 2017 Institute of American Cultures Graduate/Pre-doctoral Fellowship, UCLA (\$6,000)
- 2016 Graduate Division Award, UCLA (\$18,000)
- 2014 Department of Sociology Summer Conference Travel Grant, UCLA
- 2013 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$102,000)
- 2013 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA (\$6,000)
- 2012 Graduate Division Award, UCLA (\$17,000)
- 2012 Best Paper Dealing with an International or Transnational Issue, USM (\$500)
- 2012 Best Paper Dealing with an Issue of Race/Ethnicity, 2nd Place, USM (\$250)
- 2012 Outstanding Service Award, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, USM
- 2011 Best Oral Delivery Award, USM (\$250)
- 2011 Best Paper Using Interviews as Primary Source, USM (\$500)
- 2009-12 President's List, USM
- 2011 Sociology Student of the Year, USM
- 2011 Alpha Kappa Delta Best Sociology Paper of the Year, USM
- 2011 Outstanding Service Award, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, USM

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2024 Keynote Speaker. "Movement and Stillness: Navigating the Currents of Borders, Ideas, and Stillness." Stony Brook University. April 5.
- 2023 Main Speaker. "The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World." George Mason University. September 29.
- 2023 Transnationalism. Research Workshop Honoring Roger Waldinger. Center for Comparative Immigration Studies and the ESRC Research Center on Micro-Social Change. San Diego. May 5.
- 2023 Blackmar Lecturer. University of Kansas. April 21.
- 2022 Panelist. "Transnationalism and Time." Semi-Plenary at IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network) Annual Conference. Oslo, Norway. June 29 - July 1.
- 2022 Speaker. "Conceptualizing the Muslim Diaspora." Workshop on Muslim Diaspora. Middle East Technical University, Ankara-Turkey. June 6-10.
- 2022 Panelist. "Here, There, and Elsewhere: The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World." Hosted by American Sociological Association Asia and Asian America Section. April 11.
- 2022 Panelist. "The Diversity of the U.S. Asian Population." Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration (CSERI). University of Pennsylvania. April 1.
- 2021 Main Presenter. "Here, There, and Elsewhere: The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World." Ethnographic Café. Organized and hosted by Ashley Mears, Ekédi Mpondo-Dika, and Loïc Wacquant. October 22.
- 2021 Panelist. "Turning 'Me-Search' Upside-Down: Challenges and Opportunities of Knowledge Production as 'Insiders'." Department of Sociology, University of Toronto. June 16.
- 2020 Panelist. ASA Migration Book Slam. Organized by the International Migration section of the American Sociological Association. April 2.

- 2020 Panelist. "A Multicentered Relational Approach to Studying Refugee and Immigrant Integration." Virtual Roundtable Conference on "Longing, Belonging, and Exclusion in a Global World: Refugees in Past and Present." Department of History, Queen's University. October 20.
- 2020 Guest Lecture. "Surveillance of Muslim Americans in a Security Atmosphere." Undergraduate Seminar of Social Studies of Surveillance. University of Alberta. October 6.
- 2020 Panelist. "South Asian Muslim Americans: A Successful yet Precarious Model Minority." Conference on "Middle-class Nation-building Through Immigration? Human Capital and Ethnic Diversity at Times of Social Polarization." Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. (Postponed for Covid -19 pandemic)
- 2020 Panelist. "Multiculturalism, Religious Accommodation and Muslims in the West." Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting, London, Ontario. (Cancelled for pandemic)
- 2020 Guest Lecture. "Mirrored Boundaries: How Ongoing Homeland-Hostland Contexts Shape Bangladeshi Immigrant Collective Identity Formation." Graduate Seminar on Immigration. University of Toronto. May 25.
- 2019 Main Presenter. "Transnationalism and Territorialization: *Ummatic* Solidarity Across State Borders," Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto. November 21.
- 2019 Consultant. Discussion with Statistics Canada on the Muslim question in Canadian census, Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto. August 15.
- 2019 Discussant. The Munk School of Global Affairs 12th Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference, University of Toronto. February 1.
- 2018 Main Presenter. "Echoes of Conflict and Solidarity in Cyberspace: How Social Media Shapes Immigrant Identity-Making," Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto. November 29.
- 2018 Discussant, The Toronto Theory Working Group Paper Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, St. George. November 21.

### **INVITED BOOK PRESENTATIONS ON *HERE, THERE, AND ELSEWHERE***

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#### *Book Launch:*

- Discussants: Dr. David FitzGerald, Dr. Peggy Levitt, and Dr. Robert Courtney Smith. Moderator: Dr. Rhacel Salazar Parreñas. Hosted by Stanford University Press. 09/10/20. [Video here](#).

#### *Selected Book Talks/ Colloquium Talks:*

- Lehman College, City University of New York. 04/05/22
- Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain. 03/01/22
- The WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany. 01/12/22
- Cornell University. Department of Sociology. 11/18/21
- New York University. Department of Sociology. 11/10/21
- University of Pennsylvania. Department of Sociology. 10/27/21

- University of California, Los Angeles (Center for the Study of International Migration) and University of California, San Diego (Center for Comparative Immigration Studies). 06/04/21
- Canada Bangladesh Social Justice Action Research Alliance. 06/02/21
- Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland. 04/29/2021
- Western University. Collaborative Graduate Specialization in Migration and Ethnic Studies. 02/01/2021
- New York University, Abu Dhabi. Division of Social Science. 12/11/2020
- McGill University. Department of Sociology and the CRC of International Migration. 12/04/20
- University of Toronto. Department of Sociology. 11/25/20
- Loyola University Chicago. Department of Sociology. 11/19/20
- Queen's University. Cultural Studies Program. 11/11/20
- University of California, Riverside. Department of Sociology. 11/05/20
- Migration Policy Centre. European University Institute, Italy. 11/04/20
- Boston College. Department of Sociology. 10/21/20
- Harvard University. Immigration Initiative at Harvard. 10/07/20
- The American University in Cairo, Egypt. Department of Sociology, Egyptology, and Anthropology, and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies. 12/08/19
- The University of Guelph. Department of Sociology and Anthropology. 03/13/19

*Selected Guest Lectures (book was assigned on syllabus):*

- Boston University. Graduate Course on Immigration and Religion. 05/02/2022
- New York University. Undergraduate Sociology Course. Introduction to Sociology. 03/21/22
- University of Chicago. Graduate Seminar: Muslims in the US. 02/23/22
- University of Toronto. Graduate Seminar: Immigration I. 02/14/22
- University of Arizona. Undergraduate Mexican American Studies Research Methods Course. 03/24/21
- University of Toronto, Mississauga. Undergraduate Sociology Course: Thinking Like a Sociologist. 03/08/21
- University of Toronto, Scarborough. Undergraduate Sociology Seminar: Immigrant Scarborough. 02/02/21
- University of Toronto, Mississauga. Undergraduate Course: Introduction to Diaspora and Transnational Studies II. 01/26/21
- McGill University. Sociology Graduate Seminar on Migration and Immigrant Groups. 12/07/20
- UCLA. Anthropology Graduate Seminar on Critical Study of Migration. 10/14/20

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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| 2021 | "Citizens Brokers of Immigrant Transnationalism: Private Refugee Sponsors in Neoliberal Canada." American Sociological Association, Chicago. (With Dr. Emine Fidan Elcioglu) |
| 2021 | "Citizens Brokers of Immigrant Transnationalism: Private Refugee Sponsors in Neoliberal Canada." Canadian Sociological Association, Ontario. (With Dr. Emine Fidan Elcioglu) |

- 2019 “The Precariousness of South Asian Muslim Americans: Geopolitics, Islamophobia, and the Model Minority Myth.” American Sociological Association, New York.
- 2019 “Studying Diasporic Identities Beyond the Homeland-Hostland Paradigm: Social Media, Transnationalism, and Global Geopolitics.” Canadian Sociological Association, Vancouver.
- 2018 “Homeland, Hostland, and Elsewhere: A Multicentered Relational Framework for Immigrant Identity Formation.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia.
- 2014 “Mirrored Boundaries: The Intersection of Ongoing Homeland-Hostland Contexts in Bangladeshi Immigrants’ Boundary-Work in Los Angeles.” American Sociological Association, San Francisco.
- 2012 “Representation of Food in Korean Dramas.” Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans.
- 2012 “Being Muslim in Mississippi: An Exploratory Study of the Intersectionality of Religion, Race, Gender, and Nationality of First-Generation Bangladeshi Muslim Immigrants in Mississippi.” Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans.
- 2011 “From Cradle to Daycare: How First-Generation Bangladeshi Immigrant Mothers View Daycare/Preschool in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.” Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville.

## **PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY**

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- 2024 Interviewed for video podcast Undocumented History on AAPI history and contemporary issues. February 9.
- 2022 Invited panelist in an online program “[Importance of Learning Mother Tongue in a Foreign Land.](#)” Hosted by The Daily Star newspaper and Bangla Iskool language program. March 12.
- 2021 Organizer of a free public three-day research webinar series, “Racisms in the United States,” as the 2020-2021 Bissell-Heyd Research Fellow at the University of Toronto. Invited distinguished and emerging U.S. race scholars to discuss issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Lives Matter movement, and Indigenous nationhood. March 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 2021 Interviewed for “[Shortcuts to Identity: How We Tell Asian American Stories.](#)” Literary Hub. February 12.
- 2021 Interviewed for “[Love Bridges Religious Divides for 2 Desi Dancers.](#)” *Asian American Writers’ Workshop*. February 8.
- 2020 Shams, Tahseen. “[We Need a More Globalized Response to Pandemics for Immigrant Integration.](#)” Invited Publication in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)’s *Development Matters* blog platform. September 29.
- 2020 Interviewed for “[Why Scapegoating is a Typical Human Response to a Pandemic.](#)” *NPR*. August 29.
- 2020 Collaborator of the North American Cultural Diplomacy Initiative
- 2020 Shams, Tahseen. “Immigrants in a Global World.” Invited book chapter in *Journey to Canada* by Clare Morneau. Proceeds from book to be donated to an immigrant rights charity organization.

- 2020 Shams, Tahseen. "[Immigrants are not to blame for global epidemics: insights from past and present.](#)" Invited Publication in CERC Migration and Integration's *Pandemic Borders* blog platform. June 8.
- 2020 Interviewed for "[Shame Stopped Me from Learning Hindi as a Kid: Love and Loss Changed That.](#)" *HuffPost*. January 3.
- 2019 Panel Organizer. "Islamophobia in Higher Education: Challenges and Prevention." Conference on Sexual, Racial and (Trans)Gender Based Violence in Higher Education: Possibilities and Limitations. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. November 1.
- 2015 Shams, Tahseen. "[Religion and Nationhood in South Asia.](#)" Invited Publication in *Al-Talib Magazine*. October 20.

## **UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING**

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*At University of Pennsylvania:*

Asian Americans in Contemporary Society – F2024, S2025

*At University of Toronto, St. George:*

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity – F2018, F2019, W2021

Introduction to Qualitative Methods – F2020, W2020

Deconstructing "Muslim American": Race, Nationalism, and Globalization – W2019, W2020, W2021

*At University of California, Los Angeles:*

Introduction to Cultural Geography (Teaching Assistant; UCLA Academic Advancement Program)

## **GRADUATE TEACHING**

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Ethnicity I (core course in Immigration, Ethnicity, and Race cluster at University of Toronto) – F2020

## **GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION**

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*At University of Toronto:*

### Ph.D. Supervisor

2021-2022 Maleeha Iqbal, University of Toronto - Sociology (Co-Chair)

2021-2022 Daniela Rebeca Ugarte Villalobos, University of Toronto - Sociology

2019-2022 Jessica Stallone, University of Toronto - Sociology (Co-Chair)

### Ph.D. Committee Member:

2021-Present Nisarg Mehta, University of Chicago - Sociology

2021-2023 Md. Saidur Rahman, University of Toronto - Kinesiology

2021-2022 Laila Omar, University of Toronto - Sociology

2021-2022 Amny Athamny, University of Toronto - Sociology

2018-2020 Asma Khalil, University of Toronto - Kinesiology

2019 Sarah Shah, University of Toronto - Sociology



Master's Thesis Committee Member:

2021-2023 Harmit Chima, San Diego State University - Big Data Analytics

*At University of California, Los Angeles:*

2015-2018 Consultant, UCLA Graduate Writing Center  
(Developed research workshops; mentored Ph.D. and M.A. students on conducting and writing qualitative research)

**POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR SUPERVISION**

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2020-2022 James (Jay) G. Johnson (Ph.D., UCLA)  
University of Toronto Arts and Science and Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow

**SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY**

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*At University of Pennsylvania:*

2024-2025 Assistant Professor Representative on Executive Committee

2024-2025 Member of Sociology of Sexuality Faculty Search Committee

*At University of Toronto:*

Winter 2022 BIPOC Table Talk on Public Sociology Organizing Committee

2021-2023 Member of the Advisory Board for the R.F. Harney Program in Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

2021-2023 International Advisory Board of the Muslims in Canada Data Initiative (MiCDI)

2021-2022 Member of the International Migration Faculty Search Committee, St. George

2021-2022 Graduate Program and Curriculum Committee

2020-2022 Member of the Tri-Campus Departmental Speaker Series Committee

2020-2021 Member of the Urban Sociology Faculty Search Committee, St. George

Fall 2020 Member of the Chair Search Committee for the Department of Sociology, St. George

Winter 2020 Member of the Chair Search Committee for the Department of Sociology, St. George

Winter 2020 Member of the Advisory Committee for Faculty Appointment Proposals, St. George

2018-2021 Committee Member and Area Examiner for Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity Cluster

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS**

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2024-2029 International Editorial Board Member, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*

2023-2026 Editorial Board Member, *Contemporary Sociology*

2021-2022 Co-Chair, 2022 Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award, International Migration section of the American Sociological Association

2021-2022 Committee Member, 2022 Asia and Asian American Book Award, Asia and Asian America section of the American Sociological Association

- 2021-2022 Committee Member, 2022 Sociology of Religion Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Religion section of the American Sociological Association
- 2021-2022 Organizer, “Immigrant Families/Communities” Regular Session of the 2022 American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2020-Present Advisory Board of *Ethnographic Marginalia*
- 2019-2020 Roundtables Co-organizer for the 2020 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting International Migration Section
- 2019-2020 Co-organizer, Chair, and Discussant of the 2020 Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting International Migration Section. “Diasporic Reflections and Resistance in a Postcolonial World.” (Cancelled for pandemic)
- Reviewer: *Ethnic and Racial Studies, American Sociological Review, Sociological Perspectives, Social Problems, Sociological Focus, Sociological Forum, Identities, Sociology of Religion, International Migration Review, Oxford University Press Canada, National Science Foundation; South Asian Diaspora, Canadian Review of Sociology, Social Sciences, Stanford University Press*

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Bangla	Native Proficiency
Hindi	Full Professional Proficiency
Urdu	Professional Working Proficiency