

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Sohela Nazneen



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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

LANGUAGES: English, Bengali, Hindi, French

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: women's economic and political empowerment, gender and governance, rural livelihoods, social/feminist movements, violence against women

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda

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## OVERVIEW

Dr. Nazneen has 17 years of research, teaching, policy analysis and advocacy experience on gender and development issues. Her research largely focuses on women's empowerment, gender and governance, rural livelihoods and feminist movements in South Asia and sub Saharan Africa. She has worked as a consultant in South Asia and sub Saharan African countries for agencies such as FAO, UNDP, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Academy for Educational Development (AED)—designing gender and development interventions, conducting policy analysis and programme evaluations. Dr. Nazneen is well versed in conducting political economy analysis, institutional analysis, political and social ethnography using qualitative and participatory methods.

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## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

**2003 - 2008**                      **PhD in Development Studies**  
Institute of Development Studies, UK

**2000 - 2001**                      **MA in Gender and Development**  
Institute of Development Studies, UK

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## RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

**1999 – 2015**                      **Professor (on leave)**  
**Previous positions: Associate Professor, (2008–2012),**  
**Assistant Professor (2004–2008) and Lecturer (1999–2004)**  
Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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## AFFILIATIONS

Member, Development Studies Association

Member, Political Science Association

Member, International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFEE)

Member, British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS)

Member, European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS)

Member, Commonwealth Scholars Alumni Network

Member, IDS Alumni Network

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## RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AT IDS

- 2019 - Present**      **Workstream Lead, Women's Social and Political Action, Action for Empowerment and Accountability research consortium.** Lead the development of research proposal, provide intellectual leadership on women's social and political action in fragile settings in Mozambique, Nigeria and Pakistan, quality control of output, ensure delivery of products, facilitate cross stream learning and capacity building.
- 2018 - Present**      **Principal Investigator, Gender and Informal Networks in Clientelist Contexts, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) RPC,** University of Manchester, with partners in universities in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda. Design, manage and lead the research on how informal networks influence gender positive policy outcomes in the following three areas: inheritance law reform, domestic violence, and education policy.
- 2018 - Present**      **Qualitative Lead, IDRC,** analysis of qualitative data collected on India, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania for evidence review on how childcare affects women's involvement in paid work for low income women; develop codes for analysis, identify trends, jointly draft working paper and organise roundtable.
- 2018 - Present**      **Workstream lead, Access to Justice,** Evaluation of Stamping out and Preventing GBV programme in Zambia, OPM. Scoping of various justice interventions around the world; provide expert input into designing assessment tools and frameworks, ensure quality of the analysis and suggest recommendations for program re-design.
- 2016 - Present**      **Political Economy Co-lead, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Research Program Consortium,** co-ordinated by the Overseas Development Institute, UK Designed an analytical framework for political economy analysis (PEA) of Bangladesh, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Nepal country contexts; researched the politics specific legal and policy reforms on GBV and SRHR using PEA provided inputs to the qualitative and quantitative team for designing program interventions for social norm change.
- 2016 - 2017**        **Synthesis stream co-ordinator, Accountable Grants Scheme, DFID.**  
Collaboratively produce an evidence review of various interventions to reduce unpaid care burden, jointly produce briefings for UN high level panel, lead two workshops with core and affiliate members of the Gender and Sexuality Cluster to identify research and knowledge gaps and to link the work on care, sexuality and violence. Collaborate on producing the new research directions for the Gender and Sexuality Cluster.
- 2013 - 2017**        **Principal Investigator, Gender and the Political Settlement, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) RPC,** University of Manchester, with partners in universities in Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and Bangladesh, India, and South Africa. Designed the framework, led the research exploring the politics of legal change and policy reform and implementation gaps in two areas: girl's access to primary education and domestic violence Act, in Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Bangladesh, India and South Africa using PEA lens and process tracing and qualitative methods.

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## PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2012 - 2014**      **Country focal point, Gender, Power and Sexuality Program (Unpaid Care Work Network),** based at the Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University. Co-ordinated research and policy advocacy work on unpaid care in Bangladesh. BIGD is a part of the Sida funded

project co-ordinated by IDS, UK on developing 'policy asks' related to unpaid care and building alliances for promoting these policy asks in national and international fora.

- 2013 - 2016 Co-Investigator**, Project: Gender norms, labour supply and Poverty Reduction in Comparative Contexts, funded by ESRC/DFID. Responsible for designing qualitative interview tools, supervisions and analysis of Bangladesh qualitative data and comparison with the Indian data on gender norms on labour force participation and wellbeing and writing. The research areas included coastal areas, char areas (riverbanks), and agricultural belts.
- 2012 - 2013 Co-Lead, South Asian Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians**, based at the Center for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University funded by The Asia Foundation. Designed and co-ordinated regional network activities of women parliamentarians around political participation, violence against women and UN resolution of peace and security 1325 in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka.
- 2010 - 2012 Co-Investigator; Project: Women's Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence**; Academy for Educational Development (AED which later merged with FHI 360, Funded by NIH), Washington DC, USA. Designed qualitative data collection instruments, checked data quality, analysed findings and produced academic papers on women's empowerment, gender norms and intimate partner violence in Bangladesh.
- 2008 - 2011 Research Fellow, (part time), Pathways of Women's Empowerment RPC**, based at the South Asia Hub, BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University. Worked on designing, conducting and analysing findings on how women's organisations in Bangladesh mobilise constituencies for demanding gender justice; political parties' and NGOs' discourse on women's empowerment in Bangladesh; and new aid modalities. Edited a book on feminist activism in seven transitional countries.

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## SELECTED POLICY RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE

(IDS marked with \*)

- 2018\* **Consultant, Development Leadership Programme, University of Birmingham**, Review evidence on collective action and social movement, specifically exploring women's movement and movements by marginalised groups, and write a State of the Art paper for research and programming on collective leadership for policy reforms.
- 2017 - 2018\* **Consultant, Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC)**: Evidence review paper on socially inclusive budgeting processes, case studies of gender responsive budgeting at the local level in Bangladesh and Nepal
- 2018\* **Country Case Lead engaged by Act Alliance**: Country analysis of closing civic space in Nepal and its impact on SDGs, particularly, inclusion of marginalised groups, including analysis of how women's rights will be affected by the changes.
- 2017\* **Consultant, Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC)**: Thematic review of gender and intersecting inequalities in local government in South Asia.
- 2017\* **Gender and political economy advisor, Wise Development**; Project: PROKAS, conduct a gendered political economy analysis of the Bangladesh context, and write briefings on the impact of political economy shifts on migration policy and climate financing for the Government of Bangladesh.

- 2016\* **Consultant, FAO, Rome:** Evidence review paper on rural women's voice and agency in agriculture in South Asia, Latin America and sub Saharan Africa.
- 2014 **Gender Expert engaged by UNDP-Dhaka:** Background paper for 'Governance and Accountability: Public Sector Reform and Justice Sector' for the 7<sup>th</sup> Five year plan for the Government of Bangladesh.
- 2013 **Lead Consultant, CARE Bangladesh:** Researched the political determinants of incentives for local government officials in delivering pro poor inclusive governance in Bangladesh, focusing on women.
- 2011 **Consultant, OXFAM-GB (Bangladesh):** Developed strategy for designing a programme on Women's Transformative Leadership in Bangladesh.
- 2010 **Consultant, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, Washington, USA,** Review the impact of the Urban Poor Fund International (UPFI) on Slum/ Shack Dwellers International (SDI) and their partner federations in securing low income housing, infrastructure and services for the slum dwellers in Sri Lanka, Philippines, Uganda, Malawi and Zimbabwe.
- 2008 - 2009 **Consultant, Human Development Report Unit, UNDP Regional Research Centre in Colombo**  
Background paper on 'Rural Livelihoods and Gender' for the Asia Pacific region for the HDRU report 2009 on 'Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and Pacific

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### EDITED BOOKS

- 2014 (co-edited) ***Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*** London: ZED Books
- 2019 (co-edited), ***Negotiating Gender Equity in the Global South: The Politics of Domestic Violence Policy***,  
London: Routledge

### EDITED SPECIAL ISSUE

- 2014 Guest Editor, Researching Women's Empowerment: Reflections on Methodology by Southern Feminists, ***Women's Studies International Forum***, Vol. 45
- 2019 (Forthcoming) Guest Editor, Contentious Empowerment: Women Development and Power in South Asia,  
Special issue in ***Contemporary South Asia***

### SELECTED PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

- 2018 S. Nazneen, Binary Framing, Islam and Struggles for Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh, ***Feminist Dissent***, 3 with S. Schuler, Does Intimate Partner Violence Decline as Women's Empowerment becomes Normative? Perspectives of Bangladeshi Women, *World Development*, 101
- 2017 S. Nazneen, S. Schuler, R.Lenzi, S.H.Badal, Men's Perspective on women's empowerment and intimate partner violence in rural Bangladesh, ***Culture, Health and Sexuality***, DOi Org/ 10.1080/13691058.2017.1332391

- 2017 S. Nazneen and M. Hassan, Violence and the Breakdown of the Political Order: An Uncertain Future for Bangladesh? In ***Conflict, Security and Development***, Special Issue on Violence and Political Settlements, Vol 17: 3
- 2016 S. Nazneen and M. Noor, To Connect is to be Influenced: what determines a third party's forgiveness attitudes to conflicting groups violent members, ***Asian Journal of Social Psychology***, 20:3\*\*
- 2014 S. Nazneen, M. Sultan and A. Darkwah, Researching Women's Empowerment: Reflections on Methodology by Southern Feminists, ***Women's Studies International Forum***, Vol. 45
- 2014 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, Positionality and Transformative Knowledge Production in Doing Feminist Research in Bangladesh, ***Women's Studies International Forum***, Vol 45
- 2013 S. Nazneen, S. Schuler, R. Lenzi and L. Bates, A Perceived Decline in Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh: Evidence from Eight Villages, ***Studies in Family Planning***, Vol. 44
- 2010 S. Nazneen and S. Tasneem, 'A Silver Lining: Women in Local Government in Bangladesh, ***IDS Bulletin*** 41.5
- 2010 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, N. Hossain, 'National Discourses on Women's Empowerment: Enabling or Constraining Women's Choices,' ***Development***, 53.2
- 2009 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, 'Struggles for Survival and Autonomy: Impact of NGOization on Women's Organizations in Bangladesh' in ***Development***, 52.2

#### SELECTED BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 S. Nazneen, Building Strategic Relations with the Politics Elites: The Politics of Domestic Violence Act 2010 in Bangladesh, in S. Nazneen, S. Hickey and E. Sifaki, ***Negotiating Gender Equity in the Global South***, Routledge: London
- 2018 S. Nazneen, Struggles for Gender Justice: Regional Networks and Feminist Experiences of South-South Collaborations' in Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E. and Daley, P. (eds.) ***Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations***, London: Routledge
- 2017 S. Nazneen, Negotiating gender equity in a clientelist state: The role of informal networks in Bangladesh, in G. Waylen, ed. ***Gender and Informal Institution***, Rowan and Littlefield
- 2016 S. Nazneen, Subversively Complicit: Negotiating Gender Knowledge Production, in M. Mukhopadhaya, ed. ***Feminist Subversion and Complicity: Governmentalities and Gender Knowledge in South Asia***, Zubaan: New Delhi
- 2014 S. Nazneen and S. Mahmud, Gendered Politics of Inclusive Development. In ***Does Politics Matter for Inclusive Development?*** in S. Hickey; K. Sen and B. Bakunya et al., eds, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- 2014 S. Nazneen, I. Ehsan and B. Hasan, Exceptional Women? Urban Municipal Councillors in Bangladesh, in M. Tadros, ed., ***Women in Politics: Gender, Power, Empowerment***, Zed Books: London
- 2014 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, Reciprocity, Distancing and Opportunistic Overtures: Women's Organisations Negotiating Legitimacy and Space, A. Cornwall and J. Edwards, eds, ***Feminisms, Empowerment Development***, ZED Books: London

- 2014 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan 'Well Chosen Compromises? Feminists Legitimizing Voice in Bangladesh.' in S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, eds, **Voicing Demands: Feminist Voice in Transitional Contexts**, Zed Books, London
- 2013 S. Nazneen 'Men Aboard?: Movement for a Uniform Family Code in Bangladesh,' in M. Al Sharmani, ed., **Feminist Activism, Women's Rights and Legal Reforms**, Zed Books: London
- 2012 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, Contemporary Feminist Politics in Bangladesh: Taking the Bull by the Horns, in S. Roy, ed., **New South Asian Feminisms**, ZED Books, London
- 2008 S. Nazneen, Group Discrimination in the Parliamentary Election of 2001 in Bangladesh. in D. Mendis, ed.s **Electoral Processes and Governance in South Asia**, Sage: New Delhi and London

#### SELECTED WORKING PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 S. Nazneen and D. Thapa, Adolescent Health and Development Strategy, GAGE Policy Note, GAGE, ODI
- 2019 S. Nazneen and M. Sultan, Policy and legal analysis notes: Bangladesh, GAGE Policy note, ODI
- 2018 S. Nazneen Gender and Intersecting Inequalities in Local Government in South Asia, **IDS Working paper 507**, IDS: Brighton
- 2018 Hossain, N.; Khurana, N.; Mohmand, S.; Nazneen, S.; Oosterom, M.; Roberts, T.; Santos, R.; Shankland, A. and Schröder, P., What Does Closing Civic Space Mean for Development? **IDS working paper 515**, IDS: Brighton
- 2018 S. Nazneen and N. Cole, Literature Review on Socially Inclusive Budgeting, SDC, <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLGN/Documents/SIB%20GRB%20Literature%20Review%20March%202018%20Final.pdf>
- 2017 S. Nazneen and R. Masud, The Politics of Negotiating Gender Equity in Bangladesh, **ESID working paper 76**, University of Manchester
- 2016 S. Nazneen, A Seat at the Table is Not Enough: Gender and Political Inclusion, The **World Social Science Report on Inequality: UNESCO, IDS, ISSR**
- 2012 S. Nazneen, Rural Livelihoods and Gender, **Technical background paper series, 2010/08**, UNDP
- 2012 S. Mahmud and S. Nazneen, 'Gendered Politics of Securing Inclusive Development', **ESID Working paper no 13**, University of Manchester, UK
- 2011 S. Nazneen, N. Hossain and M. Sultan, 'National Discourses on Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh: Continuities and Change', **IDS working paper 368**, Brighton, Sussex, UK