

## ELORA SHEHABUDDIN

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Rice University**, Houston, TX

Professor of Transnational Asian Studies, July 2020–

Associate Professor of Humanities and Political Science, July 2010–

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Political Science, July 2001–2010

**Harvard Divinity School**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Research Associate and Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies in Religion Program, 2004–2005

**University of California, Irvine**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Program in Women's Studies, 2000–2001

Acting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Program in Women's Studies, 1999–2000

### EDUCATION

**Ph. D. in Politics, Princeton University, 2000**

Dissertation: "Encounters with the State: Gender and Islam in Rural Bangladesh"

Dissertation advisors: Atul Kohli, Lynn T. White, and Amrita Basu

Dissertation received American Political Science Association's 2002 Aaron Wildavsky Award for best dissertation on religion and politics

**B. A. Magna cum Laude in Social Studies, Harvard University, 1991**

Senior honors thesis: "Empowering Rural Women: The Impact of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh"

Thesis advisor: Juliet B. Schor

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books (monographs)

*Reshaping the Holy: Development, Democracy, and Muslim Women in Bangladesh* (Columbia University Press, 2008)

*Empowering Rural Women: The Impact of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh* (Grameen Bank, 1992)

"Sisters in the Mirror: A History of Muslim Women and the Global Politics of Feminism" (University of California Press, 2021)

"From Third World to Muslim: A Transnational History of Women's Activism in East Bengal" (in progress)

#### Edited books

Associate Editor for Suad Joseph, ed. *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures II*, 8 vols., print edition (in production, E. J. Brill, 2020)

Co-editor, with Ebru Kongar and Jennifer Olmsted, *Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities: Critical Feminist and Postcolonial Analyses* (Routledge, 2018), with foreword by Inderpal Grewal  
 Associate Editor for Suad Joseph, ed. *Women and Islamic Cultures: Disciplinary Paradigms and Approaches, 2005–2015* (E. J. Brill, 2013)

### Journal special issue

Guest Co-Editor (with Ebru Kongar and Jennifer Olmsted), *Feminist Economics*, Special Issue on “Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities” (2014)

### Ongoing projects

Associate Editor (South and Central Asia), *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (Brill), 2008– (EWIC publishes two online supplements annually; each supplement has 15–20 articles that are 5000+ words in length)

### Refereed articles and book chapters

- “Feminism and Nationalism in Cold War Pakistan,” *Südasiens-Chronik* [South Asia Chronicle, published by Humboldt University] (March 2015)
- “Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities: A Critical Feminist and Postcolonial Analysis,” co-authored with Ebru Kongar and Jennifer Olmsted, *Feminist Economics*, Special Issue on “Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities” (2014)
- “Gender and the Figure of the ‘Moderate Muslim’: Feminism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” in *The Question of Gender: Engagements with Joan W. Scott’s Critical Feminism*, edited by Judith Butler and Elizabeth Weed (Indiana University Press, 2011)
- “Bangladeshi Civil Society and Islamist Politics” in *Political Islam and Governance in Bangladesh*, edited by Ali Riaz and Christine Fair (Routledge, 2010)
- “The Jamaat-i Islami in Bangladesh: Women, Democracy, and the Transformation of Islamist Politics,” *Modern Asian Studies* 42 (March/May 2008), 577–603  
 Reprinted in *Islamic Reform in South Asia*, edited by Filippo Osella and Caroline Osella (Cambridge University Press, 2013)
- “‘Development’ Revisited: A Critical Analysis of the Status of Women in Bangladesh,” *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* (Dec. 2004), 1–19  
 Reprinted in *Development Issues in Bangladesh–III*, edited by M. Faizul Islam and Syed Saad Andaleeb (University Press Limited, 2007), 135–167
- “Contesting the Illicit: The Politics of *Fatwas* in Bangladesh,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* Special Issue, “Institutions, Regulation, and Social Control” (Summer 1999), 1011–1044  
 Reprinted in *Gender, Politics, and Islam*, edited by Therese Saliba, Carolyn Allen, and Judith A. Howard (University of Chicago Press, 2002), 201–234
- “Beware the Bed of Fire: Gender, Democracy, and the Jama’at-i Islami in Bangladesh,” *Journal of Women’s History* Special Issue, “Women and Twentieth-Century Religious Politics: Beyond Fundamentalism” (Winter 1999), 148–171

### Selected invited publications

- “Muslim Women’s Religious and Social Activism in South Asia,” in *Oxford Handbook of Islam and Women*, edited by Asma Afsaruddin (Oxford University Press, submitted)
- “Rokeya in the World: Feminism and Islam in South Asia Today,” in *Arab Feminisms: Gender and Equality in the Middle East*, edited by Jean Said Makdisi, Noha Bayumi and Rafif Rida Sidawi (I. B. Tauris, 2014)
- “Gender and Democratic Politics in Bangladesh,” in *Handbook on Gender in South Asia*, edited by Leela Fernandes (Routledge, 2014)

- Review of *Visible Histories, Disappearing Women: Producing Muslim Womanhood in Late Colonial Bengal* by Mahua Sarkar (Duke University Press, 2008), in *H-Asia* (2011)
- “Fatwa: An Overview,” 3000–word entry in *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, vol. 2: *Family, Law and Politics*, edited by Suad Joseph (E. J. Brill, 2004), 171–174
- “Competing Discourses in Development and Modernity,” in *Eye to Eye: Women Practicing Development Across Cultures*, edited by Susan Perry and Celeste Schenck (Zed Books, 2002), 50–70

#### ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Humanities Research Center, Rice University, Faculty Teaching Release Award, Fall 2018, for project “From Third World to Muslim”
- Participant (as expert/trainer), Muslim Women and the Media Training Institute (Luce Foundation-funded project of *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*; PI Suad Joseph), 2018–2019
- National Endowment for Humanities 2016 Summer Stipend. \$6,000 for project “Visions of Progress: Entangled Histories of Feminisms, Empire, and Muslim Women”
- Carnegie Scholar Award, 2007–2009. \$89,000 for project “Women at the Muslim Center: Islamist Ideals and Democratic Exigencies”
- United States Institute of Peace Grant, 2007–2009. \$35,000 for project “Women at the Muslim Center: Islamist Ideals and Democratic Exigencies”
- Harvard Divinity School, Research Associate in Women’s Studies in Religion Program, 2004–2005. Residential fellowship with \$40,000 plus research expenses for book project “Reshaping the Holy: Muslim Women’s Activism in Bangladesh”
- American Political Science Association’s Aaron Wildavsky Award (for best dissertation on religion and politics), 2002
- Social Science Research Council Collaborative Grant, Fall 2001. \$3,500 for collaborative research with Zakir Hossain of Nagorik Uddyog (Citizen’s Initiative), a Dhaka-based NGO, for research on 2001 parliamentary elections in Bangladesh
- Presidential Award, School of Humanities, Rice University, 2001–2010
- Humanities Research Center Grant, University of California, Irvine, Summer 2001 (declined)
- Research and Travel Grant, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine, 2000–2001
- Christabel Pankhurst/Miss Ella Baker Award for Women and Politics Research, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, September 1998
- Woodrow Wilson Foundation Dissertation Grant in Women’s Studies, 1997–1998
- Andrew W. Mellon Post–Enrollment Grant, Princeton University, 1997–1998
- Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University 1992–1997
- Social Science Research Council Dissertation Research Grant, 1995–1996
- Council for Regional Studies Dissertation Grant, Princeton University, 1995–1996
- Center for International Studies/World Order Studies Dissertation Grant, Princeton University, 1995–1996
- Social Science Research Council Pre–Dissertation Grant, Spring 1995
- Council for Regional Studies Grant to study Hindi, Princeton University, Summer 1994
- American Association of University Women International Fellowship, 1992–1993

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### 2019

- “BEFORE Muslims were Racialized: US-Pakistan Interactions in the Early Cold War Period,” Workshop on “Feminist Approaches to Understanding Anti-Muslim Racism,” UCLA, December
- “Promises of Progress: US and Pakistani Women’s Encounters in the Early Cold War,” Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, Yale University, September

Member, Organizing Team, and Participant, “Bangladesh in The Next 30 Years: Challenges and Prospects,” Bangladesh Development Initiative Conference, Yale University, March  
 “Between the Waves: US and Pakistani Women’s Activism in the Early Cold War Period,” Arab-American Cultural Center, University of Illinois, Chicago, March  
 “Muslim Women and Politics in South Asia,” Muslim Women and the Media Institute II, University of Illinois, Chicago, March  
 “Women’s Activism in Cold War Pakistan: A Transnational History,” Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley, February

### **2018**

Roundtable organizer and participant, “Covering Muslim Women: Working with Journalists for Accurate Representation,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November  
 “Gender and Modernization in Cold War Pakistan: A Transnational History,” Watson Institute, Brown University, Providence, RI, November  
 “Helping ‘Women Take Their Rightful Place in the World’: US–Pakistan Encounters During the Cold War,” Annual Meeting, Association of Asian Studies, Washington, DC, March, and Annual Meeting, Organization of American Historians, Sacramento, CA, April  
 “Transnational Feminist Analysis,” Muslim Women and the Media Institute I, University of California, Davis, February

### **2017**

“Teaching the Responsibilities of “Living in a Free Society”: US–Pakistan Encounters During the Cold War,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October  
 “Global Politics and Women’s Activism in East Pakistan, 1952–1965,” New York University, April  
 Panelist, “Bridging the Gender Gap: Female Politicians in Asia and the United States,” Asia Society, Houston, January

### **2016**

“Global Politics and Women’s Activism in Bangladesh,” Department of History, Dhaka University, July

### **2015**

Chair, “Opening Session”; chair and discussant for panel on “Strengthening Health and Reproduction in Bangladesh,” at conference organized by Bangladesh Development Initiative on “Development and Democracy in Bangladesh,” University of California, Berkeley, November

### **2014**

Roundtable participant, “Revisiting the Postcolonial at the Crossroads of the Local, National, and the Global,” International Studies Association–Midwest, St. Louis, Missouri, November  
 “Political Islam in Bangladesh and Worldwide,” Bangladesh Forum Germany, Berlin, November  
 “The Impact of Religious Movements on the Social Fabric of Bangladesh and on Governance and Rights,” European Parliament, Brussels, November  
 “Between East Lansing and Comilla: Negotiating the Modernization of Rural Bengali Women,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October  
 “Feminism and Nationalism in Cold War East Pakistan,” BRAC University, Dhaka, August  
 “Purdah, Piety, and Progress: Competing Notions of the Modern Woman in Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century East Bengal,” AAS-In-Asia Conference: “Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation,” Singapore, July  
 “Feminism, Nationalism, and Cold War Politics in East Bengal,” Annual Meeting, American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January

**2015**

- Workshop participant, “Bangladesh: Contested Pasts, Competing Futures,” University of Texas, Austin, October
- Invited participant, “Bangladesh: Changing Times—Policy Considerations to Promote Stability,” Woodrow Wilson International Center, Washington DC, July
- “Purdah, Piety, and Progress: Competing Notions of the Modern Woman in Cold War East Bengal,” Workshop on “Situating Bangladesh in South Asian Studies,” Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin, May
- “Developing the Modern Woman: Feminism, Nationalism, and Cold War Politics in East Bengal,” Brick Lane Circle Annual Conference on “Story of Bangladesh & Bangladeshi People, at Home and in the Diaspora,” London, April
- “Modernizing Muslim Women: Local and Global Negotiations with Development Discourses in Late 20th–century East Bengal,” Conference on “Movements & Exchanges in and Unequal World: International Comparative Studies at 40,” Duke University, March

**2012**

- Invited participant at workshop, “Exchanges on Gender Stories, Investigations and Theories,” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, November
- Co-organizer, “Gender and Economics in Muslim Communities” Workshop, International Association for Feminist Economists Conference, Barcelona, June

**2011**

- “Feminism, Empire, and Muslim Women,” Houston Community College, Spring Branch, October.
- “Rokeya Redux: Feminism, Empire, and Muslim Women,” Sawyer Seminar on “Framing Women’s Rights: Globalization and Political Discourse,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, September
- “Feminism, Empire, and Muslim Women: A Brief History,” University of Houston—Downtown, March
- “The Many Lives of Begum Rokeya: Feminism and Islam in an Age of Empire,” University of Houston, Main Campus, April

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, Netherlands**

*External examiner, Doctoral Committee*

Shuchi Karim, “Living Sexualities: Negotiating Heteronormativity in Middle Class Bangladesh.” Successfully defended in December 2012

**Rice University**

*Doctoral committees*

Helena Zeweri, Anthropology

“Between Islamic Feminism and Domestic Piety: New Horizons in Family Violence Advocacy Among Muslim Australian Migrant Women”

Successfully defended in January 2020

Margaret Harvey, English

“A Woman’s Worth: Gendered Concepts of Value in Victorian Literature and Culture”

Successfully defended in August 2016

Sravana Varma, Religion

“In the Tea Light of Tantra: An Ethnographic Study of Kundalini in the Bodies of Women.”

Successfully defended in March 2016

Shani Roper, History

Dissertation title: “‘A Almshouse Ting Dat’: Development in Poor Relief and Child Welfare in Jamaica during the Interwar Years”

Successfully defended August 2012

*Graduate courses*

Feminist Debates

Gender, the Disciplines, and Interdisciplinarity

*Undergraduate courses*

Advanced Seminar in Poverty, Social Justice and Capabilities

Feminist Knowledges

Gender and Islam

Gender and Politicized Religion

Introduction to Asian Civilizations

Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Islam and Politics

Islam in South Asia

Muslim Women, Feminism, and Global Politics (First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar)

Perspectives on Modern Asia

Producing Feminist Knowledge: Methodology and Visual Culture

Seminar and Practicum in Engaged Research

Sex, Money, and Power Around the World (*aka* International Political Economy of Gender)

Transcultural Encounters: From the Ancient World to Contemporary Globalization

**Harvard Divinity School**

*Graduate course*

Gender, Islam, and Party Politics in Comparative Perspective

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Elected Member, South Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies, 2019–

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*, 2019–

Trainer, Muslim Women and the Media Training Institute (Luce Foundation–funded project of *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*), 2018–

Member, Advisory Committee, Women’s Studies in Religion Program, Harvard Divinity School, 2014–

Associate Editor, *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, 2008–

Member, Bangladesh Development Initiative, 2006–

Member, Woodrow Wilson Women’s Studies Fellowship Final Selection Committee, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2017–2020

Peer Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships Competition, 2019

External reviewer, Duke University Islamic Studies Center (DISC), Spring 2013 (invited but unable to participate because of scheduling difficulties)

Member, Dissertation Award Committee, Religion and Politics Section, American Political Science Association, 2007–2008, 2011–2012

Member, Dissertation Award Committee, Women and Politics Section, American Political Science Association 2004–2005

Occasional manuscript reviewer for *Asian Journal of Political Science*; *Asian Survey*; *Critical Asian Studies*; *Feminist Economics*; *Journal of Bangladesh Studies*; *Mobilization*; *Modern Asian Studies*; *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights*; *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*; *Politics & Gender*; *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*; *Women & Politics*; Brill; Harvard University Press; Rutgers University Press; University of California Press; University of Kentucky Press; University of Texas Press; University of Washington Press; Women and International Development Working Papers Series, Michigan State University

External reviewer for tenure and promotion, Amherst College and University of Massachusetts, Boston

Grant proposal reviewer for National Science Foundation

#### **UNIVERSITY AND NON-DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (Rice University)**

Elected Humanities Representative, Faculty Senate, 2020–

Dean of Humanities Advisory Committee on Strategic Planning, 2018–

Faculty Advisory Panel, Humanities Research Center, 2016–

University Committee on Research, 2014–

Dean of Humanities Search Committee, 2009–2010

University Committee on Benefits, 2009–2010

University Committee for President's Lecture Series, 2003–2004, 2007–2008

Conference Chair, "Women in the Middle East: A Contemporary Assessment" Conference, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, Houston, TX, 2006–2007

Divisional Advisor for the Humanities, Jones College, 2005–2007

Hindi Lecturer Search Committee, Center for the Study of Languages, Fall 2007

Organizer, Gender in Islamic Societies Lecture Series, Center for the Study of Cultures, 2003

Planning Committee for Globalization Section, Rice Women's Conference, 2002–2003

Feminist Reading Group Steering Committee, Center for the Study of Cultures, 2001–2002

#### *Departmental service: Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality*

Steering Committee, 2001–

Steering Committee, Program in Poverty, Social Justice, and Human Capabilities, 2007–

Interim Director, 2011–2012

Associate Director, 2009–2011

Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee, 2009–2010, 2013–2014, 2017–2018

Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee, Fall 2007

Feminist Research Group Coordinator, Fall 2007

Member, Search Committee, CSWGS Director, 2005–2006

#### *Departmental service: Chao Center for Asian Studies*

Chair, Search Committee, Chao Endowed Chair in Transnational South Asia, 2018–2019

Executive Committee, 2007–2009, 2017–2019

Asian Studies Major Task Force, Fall 2014

Advisory Council, 2013–2014

Center Director Search Committee, 2007–2008, 2013–2014

South Asia Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee, 2007–2008, 2009–2010 (chair), 2013–2014 (chair)

Associate Director, 2009–2012

Advanced Undergraduate Research Award Committee, 2006–2012

**SELECTED COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Invited speaker, "Feminism, Muslim Women, and Global Politics," The Discussion Group, February 2018

Invited speaker, "Rethinking Christianity in a Multi-Faith World," Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, February 2014

Invited speaker, Society of Rice University Women, November 2011

Invited speaker, Pink Iftar Women's Interfaith Dinner, Christchurch Cathedral, Houston, August 2011

Invited speaker, Women's Interfaith Ramadan Dinner, Christchurch Cathedral, Houston, August 2010

Invited speaker, "Are Our Gods the Same God?" Rothko Chapel, Houston, February 2009

Invited moderator, "Crisis in Pakistan: A Panel Discussion," Asia Society, Houston, January 2008

Invited guest, panel on Bapsi Sidhwa's *Cracking India* and Deepa Mehta's film "Earth", Stages Repertory Theatre, March 2007

Invited speaker, "Women in the Middle East: Problems and Issues," The Discussion Group, February 2007

Invited speaker, "Encounters with Islam" (two lectures), "Come and Learn" Series, Congregation Beth Israel, Houston, February and March 2006

Invited guest, "Roundtable on Islam and Women," Border Crossings, KPFT (Houston Pacifica Radio), March 2004

Invited discussant, Daya Film Festival, Houston, September 2003

Invited guest, "The Connection," Channel 8 (PBS Houston), March 2003

Interviewed for and quoted in articles in *Superinteressante* (Brazil), *Boston Globe*, *Houston Chronicle*, abcnews.com, and *Ms. Magazine*