

# RAFIUDDIN NAJAM

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## Academic Positions

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jul 2025–present      Assistant Professor of Public Policy

American University

Aug 2024–Jun 2025      Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Public Affairs

## Education

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Ph.D, Public Policy, Oregon State University, 2024

Dissertation: “Empirical Essays on Education and Fragility”

Advisors: Todd Pugatch (Chair), Alison Johnston (Co-chair), Paul Thompson, Patrick Emerson

Master of Public Policy, Oregon State University, 2020

B.A., Public Policy and Administration, Kabul University, 2016

## Research Fields

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Human Capital, Economics of Armed Conflict, Development Economics

## Publications (Peer-Reviewed)

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1. Najam, R., Patrinos, H.A., and Bentaouet Kattan, R. “The Mis-Education of Women in Afghanistan: From Wage Premiums to Economic Losses.” *Journal of Population Economics*, 2026.
2. Najam, R. and Thompson, P. “Impacts of Four-day School Week on Juvenile Crime.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2026.
3. Najam, R. “Closing the Gap: Effect of a Gender Quota on Women’s Access to Education in Afghanistan.” *Economics of Education Review*, 2024.
4. Najam, R. “The Taliban’s Return to Power: An Empirical Analysis of the Afghan Peace Negotiations of 2018–2020.” *Defence and Peace Economics*, 2023.
5. Najam, W., Ibiyemi, T., Aziz, S., Najam, R., Gichohi-Wainaina, W.N., and Oldewage-Theron, W. “Social Determinants of Rural Household Food Insecurity under the Taliban Regime.” *Nutrients* 15(7), 2023.
6. Najam, R. and Johnston, A. “Information Provision and Preferences toward Tuition Introduction in Public Universities: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Afghanistan.” *Education Economics* 31(6): 649–663, 2023.

## Working Papers

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1. “The Sources of Researcher Variation in Economics.” *with Nick Huntington-Klein, Claus Pörtner, and The Many Economists Collaborative on Researcher Variation*

2. “When Violence Strikes: Timing of Exposure and High-Stakes Exam Outcomes in Afghanistan.” *with Olga Shemyakina*
3. “Human Capital Impacts of In Utero Exposure to Armed Conflict in Afghanistan.” *with Erdal Tekin and Erkmén G. Aslím*
4. “Unbundling Community-Driven Development: A Systematic Review.” *with John Ashton Loeser and Marcus Holmlund*

## Invited Seminars

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“When Violence Strikes: Timing of Exposure and High-Stakes Exam Outcomes in Afghanistan.” World Bank, Econ of Education Seminar, 2025

“Human Capital Impacts of In Utero Exposure to War Conflict in Afghanistan.” Dickinson College, Department of Economics, 2025

## Conference Presentations

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“Human Capital Impacts of In Utero Exposure to Armed Conflict in Afghanistan.” SEA Annual Meeting, Nov 2025; ESOC Annual Meeting, Oct 2025.

“Impacts of Four-day School Week on Juvenile Crime.” APPAM Conference, Nov 2024; AFEP Annual Meeting, Mar 2024.; Pacific Northwest Labor Day, Sep 2023.

“Local Violence: Disruptions in Educational Progress.” SEEDS–Georgia Tech, Apr 2024.

“Closing the Gap: Effect of a Gender Quota on Women’s Access to Education in Afghanistan.” SEA Annual Meeting, Nov 2023; Northwest Development Workshop, May 2023; AIME Workshop, Apr 2022.

“The Taliban’s Return to Power: An Empirical Analysis of the Afghan Peace Negotiations of 2018–2020.” APPAM Conference, Nov 2022; PNWPSA Annual Meeting, Nov 2022.

“Information Provision and Preferences toward Tuition Introduction in Public Universities: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Afghanistan.” AAPOR Annual Meeting, May 2022.

## Teaching

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UNC-Chapel Hill	Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy; Global Policy Issues
American University	Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis I; Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis II
Oregon State University	Introduction to Policy Research ×3; Research Methods ×2; Policy Analysis ×2; Public Policy Problems ×2; International Organizations and Global Politics; Politics of Developing Nations ×2; International Environmental Politics

## Professional Associations

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Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)  
American Economic Association (AEA)

## Professional Service

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### *Ad hoc Reviewer*

*Journal of Development Economics, Education Finance and Policy, Education Economics, Journal of Peace Research, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Defence and Peace Economics, PLOS One, Economic Analysis and Policy, Food Security*

APPAM Fall Conference	Discussant: 2023, 2025; Paper Reviewer: 2023, 2024
AEFP Annual conference	Paper Reviewer, 2024
PacDeve Conference	Paper Reviewer, 2023
Pacific Chapter of AAPOR	Student Representative Council, 2020–2021
Oregon State University	Graduate Student Advisory Council, 2020–2021; International Student Advisory Board, 2020–2021

## University Service

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Public Policy  
2025–2026 Co-Chair, Public Policy Research Seminar Series

## Fellowships and Awards

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2025	Anonymous Reviewer Award, <i>Education Finance and Policy</i>
2023–2024	Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program, World Bank
2021	Student Fellow, Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research
2020	Best Student Paper Award, Pacific Chapter of the AAPOR
2018–2020	Fulbright Scholar, Fulbright Foreign Student Program
2017–2018	Young Leaders Forum Fellow, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Kabul

## Other Appointments

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### World Bank

Jul 2024–Jun 2025	Consultant, Education Global
Sep 2023–Jun 2024	Consultant, Development Impact

### Educate!

Jul 2021–Sep 2021	Quantitative Consultant
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### Administrative Office of the President, Kabul, Afghanistan

Oct 2017–Sep 2018	Database and Archive Expert
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## Skills and Languages

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**Programming & Software:** Stata, ArcGIS Pro, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X; R (intermediate), SPSS, and Google Earth Engine (intermediate)

**Languages:** Pashto & Dari/Persian (native), English (proficient)

*Last updated: May 2026*