

SANA MALIK (she/her)
Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology
<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-8624-5223>
Phone: +1 832 340 8375 • E-mail: sana.malik@binghamton.edu
October 2026

Department of Anthropology
Binghamton University
Science Building 1, Room 135a
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

Research Interests: Women's rights and social justice; digital rights and activism; gender and sexuality; political and feminist anthropology; social generation, social capital, and kinship; feminist and postcolonial theory; South and Southeast Asia; Islam, Muslim world

EMPLOYMENT

2026-present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, State University of New York (SUNY)
2025-2026 Adjunct Faculty, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver
Adjunct Faculty, Office of Internationalization, University of Denver

EDUCATION

2025 Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Emory University
Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS)
Dissertation Title: Gender and Generation: The Politics of Women's Rights Activism in Pakistan
2018-2021 M.A. in Cultural Anthropology, Emory University
2007-2008 M.A. in Social Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK
2003-2007 B.Sc. in Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, and Development Studies), Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications

2025 "Coming of (R)age in Pakistan: The Event and Everyday Life." *Feminist Theory*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14647001251371972>.
Accepted "Anthropology that Breaks your Heart: An Intergenerational Account of Cancer." *American Ethnological Society (AES) Digital*.

Editor Reviewed Publications

2026 "[Tales from the Field](#): Notes on Homecoming." In "Emergent Conversation 28: Solidarity for Anthropologists." *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review Online*.
2025 "[Introduction](#)" in "Emergent Conversation on First Responders: Crises, Indeterminacies, and (Joyful) Determination in the Global South." *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review Online*.

- 2025 “[Mothers in the Middle](#): Exploring Female Friendships in Urban Pakistan” in “Emergent Conversation on First Responders: Crises, Indeterminacies, and (Joyful) Determination in the Global South.” *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* Online.
- 2024 “[The Rise of Aunties in Pakistani Politics](#).” *Sapiens*.
- 2024 “[Comics as a Medium for Women’s Rights](#).” *Sapiens* Podcast.
- 2013 Khan, Ali, Sana Malik, and Manal Ahmad. “‘Skill vs. Scale’: The Transformation of Traditional Occupations in the *Androon Shehr*.” In *Urban Pakistan: Frames for Imagining and Reading Urbanism*, edited by Khalid W. Bajwa. Oxford University Press.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- In preparation Book Manuscript. *Gender and Generation: Activist Assemblages and Women’s Rights in Urban Pakistan*
- In preparation (*Gender & Society*). “The ethics and politics of ‘My Body, My Choice’ in Pakistan.”

HONORS AND AWARDS

External Fellowships and Grants

- 2024-2025 American Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- 2021-2022 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF), Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
- 2021-2022 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research

External Training Fellowships

- 2026 Travel Grant, American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)
- 2025 Write to Change the World Workshop, The Op-Ed Project, sponsored by the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2023-2024 *Sapiens* Public Scholars Training Fellowship, John Templeton Foundation
- 2023-2024 Digital Editorial Fellowship, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*

Internal Fellowships

- 2024-2025 Rose Libraries Fellowship, Emory University
- 2024-2025 Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Emory University (Declined)
- 2019 Professional Development Grant to support language training and pilot research in Pakistan, Emory University
- 2018-2024 Laney Graduate Student Fellowship, Emory University

Academic Awards

- 2025 Dissertation Award, Marjorie Shostak Award for Excellence and Humanity in Ethnography, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
- 2025 First Prize, Studies in Sexualities (SIS) Graduate Essay Competition, Emory University
- 2021 Honorable Mention in Studies in Sexualities (SIS) Graduate Essay Competition, Emory University

2007-2008 Goldsmiths Country-specific Scholarship, Goldsmiths, University of London

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2026 “Coming of (R)age in Pakistan: The Aurat March and its Afterlives”, Symposium: The Excessive Politics of Feminist Rage and Resistance, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK
- 2026 “Coming of (R)age in Pakistan: The Aurat March and its Afterlives”, Asia Studies Annual Symposium, University of Colorado, Boulder
- 2026 “Gender and Generation: The Politics of Women’s Rights Activism in Urban Pakistan” Ethnography Lab, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver

Papers Presented

- 2026 (Forthcoming) “Friendship in Transition”, 125th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2026 (Forthcoming) “Oral History and Public Anthropology”, 125th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2025 “Aurat March 2022: an Experiential Essay”, Media Ethnography Research in South Asia (MERISA) Workshop, New York University (NYU)
- 2025 “(Invisible) Leadership in Women’s Activist Spaces in Urban Pakistan”, 124th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2024 “The Limits of Friendship: ‘Studying Up’ in Urban Pakistan”, 123rd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2024 “A ‘passive’ generation of ‘active’ mothers: Exploring women’s agency across generation in urban Pakistan”, 52nd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2023 “Friendship, Motherhood, and Affective Labor: Reflections from Urban Pakistan”, 122nd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2023 “Coming of (R)age: Three Generations of Women’s Rights Activists in Urban Pakistan”, 51st Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2023 “Women in the ‘middle’: Everyday activism and the public sphere in urban Pakistan”, American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference, Princeton University
- 2022 “Sisterhood and Solidarity: Exploring transgenerational friendship in the Pakistani women’s rights movement”, 121st Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2022 “Rethinking social generations in urban Pakistan through the lens of the women’s movement”, International Urban Symposium - Institute of Urban Studies (IUS), Tuscany, Italy

- 2020 “Buzzfeed Feminism: Popular discourses of women’s rights activism in Pakistan”, 119th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

Panels Organized

- 2026 “Rough and Tumble: Urban Life and Politics in South Asia”, Association of Asia Studies (AAS) Conference, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2026 “Friendship in Times of Crisis: Reflecting on Relationality in Anthropology’s Contemporary Lifeworlds”, 125th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2025 “Hidden Figures: ‘Political’ That Hide in Space in Time”, 124th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2024 Noteworthy Session “Friendship as Praxis in Anthropology and Beyond”, 123rd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2024 “Inheriting the Political: Gendered Intimacies in Urban South Asia”, 52nd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2023 “Anthropology and Friendship: Reflections on Relatedness in Transitions”, 122nd Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2023 “Coming of Age in South Asia: Exploring the Event and the Everyday”, 51st Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 2023 “Everyday Indeterminacies in the Global South”, American Ethnological Society (AES) Spring Conference, Princeton University
- 2022 Invited Panel “Towards an Anthropology of Friendship”, 121st Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2020 “Gender, Sexuality, and Pluralism in the Muslim World: Perspectives from Shariah Courts and Everyday Life”, Inter-Disciplinary Seminar at The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Atlanta, Georgia

Discussant

- 2025 “Friendships that Haunt: On the Relationships that Hide Within Ethnographic Texts”, 124th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 2022 “Women in Academic Writing”, Ananke Women in Literature Festival, Pakistan
- 2022 “Fireside Chat: Is Graduate School For You?”, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan

Guest Lectures

- 2026 “Gender and Generation: Coming of Age in Urban South Asia”, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and Marshall College
- 2025 “Oral History and Ethnographic Interviews”, Department of History, Emory University

- 2023 “Urban South Asia: Exploring Women’s Movements in South Asia”, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and Marshall College
- 2020 “Foucault’s Discipline and Punish”, ANT 391 Law, Discipline, and Social Justice, Emory University
- 2019 “Sex and Gender”, ANT 101 Introduction to Anthropology, Emory University
- 2019 “Kinship and Belonging”, ANT 101 Introduction to Anthropology, Emory University

Workshops and Symposiums

- 2026 “Friendship: Intimacy, solidarity, and political transformations in South Asia and the Middle East” Villanova University Symposium, November 13-14
- 2026 Dissertation to Book Workshop, American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin Madison, October 28

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2026 ANTH 111 Introduction to Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, State University of New York (SUNY)
- 2026 ANTH 2010 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver
- 2025-2026 INTZ 2501 Exploring Global Citizenship, Office of Internationalization, University of Denver
- 2025-2026 ANTH 1010 Humankind in Context, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver
- 2023 ANT 285W Gender Politics in the Muslim World, Department of Anthropology, Emory University
- 2017 ANT 101 Introduction to Anthropology, Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Hostos Community College, City University New York (CUNY)
- 2013-2015 Anthropology of Rights, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan
- 2012 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Research Methods and Writing, Department of Liberal Arts, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture (IVS), Pakistan
- 2008-2011 Research Methods and Writing, Department of Musicology, National College of Arts (NCA), Pakistan
- 2008-2010 Pakistan Studies: Culture and Heritage, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan

Teaching Assistantships

- 2020 ANT 391 Law, Discipline, and Social Justice, Dr. Michael Peletz, Emory University
- 2019 ANT 101 Introduction to Anthropology, Dr. Justin Hosbey, Emory University
- 2019 ANT 101 Introduction to Anthropology, Dr. John Lindo, Emory University
- 2005-2007 Arabic 101; Pakistani Diaspora; Gender, Politics, and Media; Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2025-present	Media Ethnography Lab, Binghamton University Setting up a media lab in the Anthropology Department to support multimodal, public-facing and community engaged ethnographic research
2025-present	Ethnographic Research in Pakistan Ongoing hybrid research with women's rights activists across urban Pakistan
2021-2022	Dissertation Fieldwork in Lahore, Pakistan Completed 12 months of in-person and virtual field research with women's rights activists, NGO workers, and political actors in urban Pakistan
2020	Market Research in Pakistan, The Bear Architects Conducted data analysis and interview transcription for a market research project based on youth preferences of beverages in urban Pakistan
2017-2018	Pilot Research in Lahore, Pakistan Preliminary interviews and participant observation in urban Lahore with women's rights activists, NGO workers, and university professors
2008	Research Associate, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pakistan Conducted research and report writing for the Pakistan Wetlands Project on forest and natural ecosystems conservation
2006	Field Researcher, Research Information Systems for Earthquakes Pakistan (RISEPAK) Field Course Conducted research on vulnerabilities and safety nets of female-headed households affected by humanitarian crises in northern Pakistan

SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

2026	Reviewer, Journal <i>Fabrications: The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i>
2025	Reviewer, Journal <i>Commoning Ethnography</i>
2024	Graduate Fellow, Emory Oral History Program Series "Underrepresented Voices"
2020	Co-organizer and Chair, Emory Anthropology Colloquium "Unsettling the Syllabus: A Decolonial Feminist Intervention"
2020	Chair, Emory Anthropology Teaching Roundtable Session "Redesigning Syllabi: Thinking about Racial and Social Justice in the Current Moment"
2020-2021	Graduate Student Mentor, Emory International Students Mentorship Program
2020	Co-organizer, "Decanonizing Anthropology" Emory Graduate Student Reading Group

Department Service

2026	Organizer, Guest Lecture with Graduate Researcher (CU Boulder) Kelsey Armeni, University of Denver
2026	Organizer, Guest Lecture with Dr. Christina Kreps, Museum of Anthropology, University of Denver
2025	Organizer, Guest Lecture with Dr. Chip Colwell, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver
2020-2021	Student Representative, Emory Anthropology Teaching Roundtable Committee
2019-2020	Student Representative, Emory Anthropology Colloquium Committee

2019, 2023 Student Representative, Graduate Recruitment Weekend, Department of Anthropology, Emory University

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

United States

2024-present Co-organizer and Coordinator, AAUW Dissertation Fellows Writing Group
2024-present Participant, Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA) Writing Group
2022-2026 Member and Performer, Mudra Dance Studio, Colorado

International

2023 Mentor, Rehman-Marshall Scholarship for Highschool Students in Pakistan
2022 Volunteer Editor, *Bayaan*: Socio-Legal Journal Published by Simorgh Women's Resource Center, Pakistan
2022 Volunteer for Security and Outreach, Annual Women's March, Pakistan

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

2026 AI research, Mercor.io Corporation
2025 Writing for the Public, The Op-Ed Project
2024-2025 Life History Interviewing, Archiving and Transcription, Emory Oral History Program, Emory University
2024 Podcast Scriptwriting, Recording, Interviewing, *Sapiens* Podcasts
2023 Academic Writing for the Public, *Sapiens*
2023 Emory College Online Teaching Strategies (ECOTS) Training Program
2023 Grant Completion Workshop, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
2022 Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) Field and Training School Research Seminar in Urban Ethnography and Theory, Tuscany, Italy
2020 UX Market Research, The Bear Architects
2019 Graduate Workshop in Experimental Ethnography, Emory University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016-17 Coordinator, Writing and Literacy Program, City University of New York (CUNY)
2011-2012 Academic & Co-curricular Coordinator, The City School, Pakistan

LANGUAGES

English Native level proficiency
Urdu Native level proficiency
Hindi Conversational proficiency
Punjabi Conversational proficiency
Arabic Basic reading, writing, and conversation skills (one-year undergraduate training)
French Basic reading skills (one-year undergraduate training)

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Brightspace; Canvas; Microsoft Office Software; Google Drive Software; Social Media Proficiency of X (Twitter), Bluesky, Instagram; MAXQDA; Descript; Riverside; Generative AI; Qualitative Research Methods; Participant Observation; Interview Design; Survey Design; Focus Group Design; Oral History; Data Management; Data Analysis; Community Event Planning

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Association for Feminist Anthropology (AFA)
Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA)
American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)

REFERENCES

Michael G. Peletz - Dissertation Committee Chair

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology
Emory University
+ 404-727-0484
mpeletz@emory.edu

Bruce Knaft – Dissertation Committee Member

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology
Emory University
+ 404-727-2736
bruce.knaft@emory.edu

Scott Kugle – Dissertation Committee Member

Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of South Asian and Islamic Studies
Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (MESAS)
Emory University
+ 404-727-2916
skugle@emory.edu

Naveeda Khan – Dissertation Committee Member (External)

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Department Chair
Johns Hopkins University
+ 410-516-7274
nkhan5@jhu.edu

Chip Colwell – Mentor

Program Director for Public Anthropology
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
+ 303-710-5557
chip@sapiens.org

Jonathan Coulis – Supervisor/Mentor

Director, Emory Oral History Program

Emory University

+ 404-727-3550

j.e.coulis@emory.edu