

Gul-i-Hina Shahzad

Gul-i-Hina Shahzad is a [Research Fellow](#) at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden, Netherlands working on the *New Silk Roads* programme directed by Dr. Richard Griffiths. She is currently working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project at the institute while pursuing her doctoral research in Political Studies program at the University of Milan, part of the Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies (NASP) in Italy.

Gul-i-Hina's research is aimed at analyzing China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its domestic political implications in the participating BRI countries, focusing on two specific aspects, namely its impact on the processes of democratization and regime change in the countries involved. Specifically, she focuses on the case of Pakistan to examine the variation as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is regarded as the flagship project of the BRI with its huge investment and infrastructure development.

During her fellowship at IIAS, she participated in organizing the event for the Chinese delegation of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) where she also presented her preliminary work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and discussed the pertinent opportunities and challenges for Pakistan. Moreover, she held a recent [IIAS Webinar on CPEC](#). Also, recently, she authored an article on the status of the [Asian Studies in Pakistan](#).

Gul-i-Hina has a strong background in research, teaching, and writing with a rigorous training in methodology. Prior to joining the doctoral program in Milan, she spent a couple of months at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China and had the opportunity to interact and develop a deeper understanding of the Chinese thought, its political system, culture, and foreign policy. She participated in various workshops, seminars, and lectures in Beijing at Tsinghua University, Peking University, and the United Nations office during her stay in China. During her doctoral program, she has continued to work on understanding China's enhanced role in global governance and development under BRI, and eagerly participated in training programs and conferences at European University Institute (EUI), Academy of Global Governance in Florence, Ca' Foscari University, Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections in Venice, Italy and the International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS) at Leiden University.

Furthermore, Gul-i-Hina has diverse previous experiences of working in the corporate, non-profit, and education sectors in Pakistan and Hungary. Previously, she spent four years in Budapest, Hungary where she obtained her master's degree in Political Science from Central European University (CEU), and later worked at an international firm. Her Master's research involved an examination of the prospects of ethnic federalism in Pakistan coupled with the analysis of (de)nationalization of political parties and party systems in the country. She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Lahore, Pakistan where she was involved in several research projects while working as a research assistant as well as teaching assistant at LUMS.

At IIAS, her current research on the CPEC and the regional political dynamics will contribute towards the comparative and interdisciplinary research on the BRI. She can be reached at:

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