Sameena V. Azhar

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018 – Present **Associate Professor, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service**
Affiliated Faculty & Advisory Board Member, Master's in Science in Health Administration (MSHA), Fordham Gabelli School of Business/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences/Graduate School of Social Service, Fordham University
Affiliated Faculty, Consortium on Global Studies, Fordham University
Affiliated Faculty, Consortium on Digital Scholarship, Fordham University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2018)	University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration *HIV Stigma and Gender: A Mixed Methods Study of People Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India*
M.A. (2018)	University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration
M.S.W. (2007)	University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy & Practice
M.P.H. (2007)	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine
B.A. (2002)	University of California, Berkeley, College of Arts and Sciences

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (02014 - Present)
California Board of Behavioral Sciences (01/2014 - Present)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Gender, Sexuality & HIV; Addiction & Mental Health; Sex Work; International Social Development

HONORS AND AWARDS

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Feminist Manuscript Award (2025): "Applying transnational feminism to international social work: Advocacy via decolonial practices in social work education, research, and practice."

Top 10 articles from *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health* (2024)
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/global-mental-health/global-mental-health-10th-anniversary

Best Paper Award, *Journal of Cultural and Ethnic Diversity in Social Work* (2024)
"Experiences of racist encounters among Asian Americans: analysis of #thisis2016"

Best Poster Presentation: International Conference for Gender Research, University of Aveiro, Portugal (2022); "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Khwaja Sira Communities in Swat, Pakistan"

***Affilia* Award for Distinguished Feminist Scholarship and Praxis in Social Work (2021)**

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Doctoral Fellows Award (2018)

Otto & Gertrude Pollak Scholarship (full merit scholarship), University of Pennsylvania (2004-2006)
Combatting American Racism Award, Black Men at Penn School of Social Work (2007)
California Alumni Association Leadership Scholarship (1997-98, 2001-2002)
Kiwanis International Service Scholarship (1997-98)
Skirball Cultural Association Writing Award (1997)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES (* indicates student author)

1. **Azhar, S.**, Ahmad, I., Alamgir, A., *Acharya, A., *Islam, Md. S., *Azari, L., *Akter, A., Arshid, M. & Shah, S. (2026). "No one touches them": access to gender-affirming care for khwaja sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *International Journal of Transgender Health*, 1–17. https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2026.2736094

2. Alamgir, A., **Azhar, S.** & Urooj, N. (2026). Heteronormativity, Institutional Norms and Pedagogical Challenges Facing Lesbian Students in Higher Education in Pakistan. *Scientific Reports*, Oct. 6, 2026. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-69900-w

3. Alamgir, A., **Azhar, S.**, *Ahmad, I. (2026). "If I stop dancing, I will cease to be myself": Postcolonial perspectives on hijra dance. *Development in Practice.* https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2026.2733755

4. **Azhar, S.**, *Ahmad, I., Alamgir, A. *Acharya, A., *Islam, M.S., & *Shah, S. (2026). "More Dangerous Than Cocaine": Bacha Bazi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Journal of Sex Research*, 1-12. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2026.2666371

5. **Azhar, S.,** *Acharya, A., *Ahmad, I., *Arshid, M., *Islam, M. S. & *Malik, D. (2026). Religious Leaders' Perspectives on the Rights of Khwaja Sira in Pakistan. *Health and Human Rights*, Feb. 26, 2026. https://www.hhrjournal.org/2026/02/26/religious-leaders-views-on-rights-of-khwaja-sira-in-pakistan/

6. Alamgir, A., & **Azhar, S.** (2025). Belonging Beyond Margins: Relocation, Housing Insecurity, and Naming Politics of Young Transgender People in Pakistan. *Belonging 1*(4), December 2025, 350-363. https://doi.org/10.1177/30290805251398411

7. Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.**, *Acharya, A., Keller, E., Weed, J., Acevedo, G. & Ross, A.M. (2025). "You have to budget within the money you have": Intersections of Immigration, Health, and Food Insecurity in

the South Bronx. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Oct. 2025, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2025.2570744

8. *Acharya, A. & **Azhar, S.** (2025). "I was scared that he might kill me or stab me if I said no": Violence against Sex Workers in Kolkata, India. *Violence against Women*, 2025, Aug. 11. https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012251362233

9. **Azhar, S.,** *Ahmad, I., *Gaudio, L., *Les, S., *List, A., *Herrera, M. M. G., & *Tariq, N. (2025). 'We Are Raising Our Voices': Coping Strategies Used by Khwaja Sira in Swat, Pakistan. *International Journal of Psychology*, *60*(2), e70026. https://doi.org/10.1002/ijop.70026

10. Alvarez, A.R.G., **Azhar, S**., Parchment, T.M., Perrigo, J., Farina, A.S.J., Paredes, T., Edwards, J.P. & Klumpner, S. (2025). "We Are Still Here": Intersectional Collaborations in Research, Practice, and Resistance Among MFP Scholars." *Journal of Social Work Education*, 1-13. https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2024.2413411

11. Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.,** *Ahmad, I. (2025). 'We Don't Have any Honor Because We Are Khwaja Sira': Police Violence and Discrimination Against the Khwaja Sira Community in Swat, Pakistan. *Journal of Human Rights Practice 17*, 58–77. https://doi.org/10.1093/jhuman/huae034

12. *Acharya, A. * & **Azhar. S.** (2024). "'We are treated as outsiders in our own city': Lived experiences of stigma against sex workers in Kolkata, India." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, Oct. 2024.

13. **Azhar, S.**, Ross, A.M., *Acharya, A., *Lerner, R., Tripathi, S., Keller, E., Weed, J. & Acevedo, G. (2024). "The little I receive is not enough": A Qualitative Study of Food Insecurity in the South Bronx. *Food, Culture and Society.* https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2024.2406081

14. Alvarez, A. R. G., Mehrotra, G. R., **Azhar, S.,** Farina, A. S. J., & Trinidad, A. M. O. (2024). Exploring the Radical Potential of Queer AZN and Pasifika CRT for Clinical Social Work Praxis. *Studies in Clinical Social Work: Transforming Practice, Education and Research*, 1–26. https://doi.org/10.1080/28376811.2024.2378713

15. **Azhar, S.,** Ross, A., Keller, E., Weed, J. & Acevedo, G. (2024). A Community-Based Participatory Research Approach to Identifying Facilitators and Barriers to Social Service Utilization for Food Pantry Clients in the South Bronx. *Journal of Nonprofit Education & Leadership*, *14*(3), 47–68. https://doi.org/10.18666/jnel-2024-11763

16. **Azhar, S**., *Ahmad, I., *Herrera, M. M. G., *Tariq, N., & *Lerner, R. (2024). "I would prefer to be dead than to live this way": Lived experiences of stigma and discrimination against khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan. *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health* 11, e60, 1–12. https://doi.org/10.1017/gmh.2024.53

17. *Tripathi, S., Zhai, F., & **Azhar, S.** (2024). Unpaid Care Work Time and Women's Employment Status: Evidence from India. *The British Journal of Social Work*, bcae108, 1-15. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcae108

18. **Azhar, S.**, *Dean, C., *Lerner, R., Gardham, S., Organdy, G. & Yolandi, Y. (2024). Labor pains: The impact of work environments on access to health services for cisgender women and hijra living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services, 54*(3), 260-271. https://doi.org/10.1177/27551938241234223

19. **Azhar, S**., *Ahmad, I. & *Tariq, N. (2024). "One by one, they raped me": Sexual violence against khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan. *Psychology of Violence, 14*(3), 184-194. https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000506

20. *Herrera, M.M.G., **Azhar, S.,** & Fisher, C. B. (2024). "I am denied comfort and safety": Barriers to participation in HIV prevention research and services among sexual and gender minorities of colour. *Psychology and Sexuality*, 1-1 https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000506

21. **Azhar, S.** (2023). "Too weak to fight, too scared to scream": Understanding experiences of sexual coercion of Black female adolescents through digital storytelling. *Sexualities,* 1-20. https://doi.org/10.1177/13634607231212841

22. **Azhar, S**., *Herrera, M.M.G. & *Ahmad, I.*(2023). "The hardest and most difficult days of my life": Mental health of khwaja sira in Swat, Pakistan during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health 28*(4), 1-23. https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2023.2239737

23. Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S.** (2023). "Exploring police officers' perceptions of their female colleagues in Uttar Pradesh, India: A phenomenological analysis." *Global Crime, 24*(4), 263-283. https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2023.2250992

24. **Azhar, S.**, Ross, A., Keller, E., Weed, J. & Acevedo, G. (2023). Predictors of Food Insecurity and Childhood Hunger in the Bronx During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 40*(2), 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-023-00927-y

25. Rahman, R., **Azhar, S.,** Wernick, L. J., Huang, D., Maschi, T., *Rosenblatt, C., & *Patel, R. (2023). COVID-19 stigma and depression across race, ethnicity and residence. *Social Work in Health Care*, *62*(2-4), 121142. https://doi.org/10.1080/00981389.2023.2193263

26. *Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S.** (2023). Associations between HIV stigma and social support for people living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, *32*(4), 534-546. https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12567

27. **Azhar, S**., *Ahmad, I., *Tariq, N. & *Herrera, M.M.G. (2022). "Having a guru is like having a license": analysing financial relationships between *khwaja sira* gurus and *chelas* in Swat, Pakistan. *Culture, Health and Sexuality, 25*(11), 1449-1464. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2022.2160015

28. **Azhar, S.,** Rahman, R., *Cohen, M., *Hopwood, S., Wernick, L. & Maschi, T. (2022). Race, masks, residency and concern regarding COVID-19 Transmission. *Journal of Community Psychology*, *51*(4), 1716-1735. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22953

29. *Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.** & Zhai, F. (2022). Unpaid care work among women in South Asia: A systematic review. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, *16*(3), 275-289. https://doi.org/10.1111/aswp.12268

30. **Azhar, S.,** *Jokhakar, V., Vaudrey, J. Gardham, S., Oruganti, G. & Yolandi, V. (2022). Associations between HIV stigma, gender and depression among people living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *Journal of Community Psychology*, *51*(3), 1060-1077. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22934

31. Hudson, K., **Azhar, S.,** Rahman, R., Matthews, E. & Ross, A. (2022). Dual pandemics or a syndemic? Racism, COVID-19, and opportunities for antiracist social work. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, *31*(3-5), 198-211. https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2022.2070895

32. **Azhar, S.**, *Jokhakar, V., Wyatt, L., Patel, S., Raveis, V.H., Kwon, S.C., & Islam, N. (2022). Associations between Spiritual Health Locus of Control, Perceived Discrimination and Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening for Muslim American Women in New York City. *Clinical Breast Cancer*, *22*(4), e586-e596. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clbc.2021.12.012

33. Rahman, R., **Azhar, S.**, Wernick, L., *Cohen, M., *Hopwood, S., Maschi, T. & DeVylder, J. (2022). Mask mandates, race, and protests of summer 2020. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, *31*(3-5), 280291. https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2022.2070896

34. **Azhar, S.**, Flores, A.F, Alvarez, A., & Klumpner, S. (2022). Asian in the Time of COVID-19: Creating a Social Work Agenda for Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities. *Social Work,* 67(1), 58–68. https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swab044

35. **Azhar, S.**, *Jokhakar, V., *Tao, X. & Fisher, C. (2021). Barriers and Facilitators to Participation in Long-Acting Injectable PrEP Research Trials for MSM, Transgender Women, and Gender-Nonconforming People of Color. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 33(6), 465–482. https://doi.org/10.1521/aeap.2021.33.6.465

36. Farina, A. Klumpner, S., A., Alvarez, A. & **Azhar, S**. (2021). Experiences of racist encounters among Asian Americans: Analysis of #thisis2016. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, *32*(5), 235-246. https://doi.org/10.1080/15313204.2021.1984356

37. **Azhar, S.** & DeLoach McCutcheon, K. (2021). How Racism Against BIPOC Women Faculty Operates in Social Work Academia. *Advances in Social Work*, *21*(2/3), 396-420. https://doi.org/10.18060/24118

38. **Azhar, S.** & Gunn, A. J. (2021). Navigating Intersectional Stigma: Strategies for Coping Among Cisgender Women of Color. *Qualitative Health Research*, *31*(12), 2194-2210. https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323211025249

39. *Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S.** (2021). "No one blames men in our society": Indian police officers' perceptions of female complainants. *The British Journal of Criminology, 61*(5), 1225-1242. https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab021

40. **Azhar, S.**, Alvarez, A., Flores, A.F. & Klumpner, S. (2021). "You're So Exotic Looking": An Intersectional Analysis of Asian American and Pacific Islander stereotypes. *Affilia*, 36(3), 282-301. https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099211001460

41. **Azhar, S.**, Gandham, S., Vaudrey, J., *Burr, S., Oruganti, G., & Yeldandi, V. (2021). Secret lives and gender fluidity of people living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *Journal of Community Psychology*, *50*(1), 221237. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22541

42. **Azhar, S.,** Dasgupta, S., Sinha, S., & Karandikar, S. (2020). Diversity in Sex Work in India: Challenging Stereotypes Regarding Sex Workers. *Sexuality & Culture*, *24*(6), 1774-1797. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-020-09719-3

43. *Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S**. (2020). A Systematic Review of Intimate Partner Violence Interventions Impacting South Asian Women in the United States. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse, 23*(2), 523- 540. https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838020957987

44. **Azhar, S.**, Gandham, S., Vaudrey, J., Oruganti, G., & Samuel, R. S. (2020). "They Kept Away": Social Isolation of Cisgender Women Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, *48*(1), 64-76. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10615-019-00736-w

45. Ezell, J. E., Pasquale, D. Poudyal, S., **Azhar, S.**, Monk, E., Vidula, M., Yeldandi, V., Laumann, E., Chuanhong Liao, C. & Schneider, J.A. (2019). Are skin color and body mass index associated with social network structure? Findings from a male sex market study. *Ethnicity and Health*, *26(*6), 863-878. https://doi.org/10.1080/13557858.2019.1590537

46. *Aziz, A. & **Azhar, S.** (2019). Social exclusion and official recognition of hijra in Bangladesh. *Journal of Research on Women and Gender*, *91*(91), 3-19.

47. *Satyanarayan, S., Kapur, **Azhar, S.**, Yeldandi, V., & Schneider, J. (2015). Women Connected to at Risk Indian Men Who Have Sex with Men: An Unexplored Network. *AIDS and Behavior, 19*(6), 1031-1036. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-014-0946-1

48. **Azhar, S.V.**, *Berringer, K. R., & Epperson, M. W. (2014). A Systematic Review of HIV Prevention Interventions Targeting Women with Criminal Justice Involvement. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research (JSSWR), 5*(3), 253- 289. https://doi.org/10.1086/677394

49. Rich, J. D., Wohl, D. A., Beckwith, C. G., Spaulding, A. C., Lepp, N. E., Baillargeon, J., Gardner, A., Avery, A., Altice, F.L., & Springer, S. (2011). **On behalf of the Centers for AIDS Research—Collaboration on HIV in Corrections (CFAR-CHIC) Working Group (Member).** HIV-related research in correctional populations: now is the time. *Current HIV/AIDS Reports 8*(4), 288-296. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11904-011-0095-3

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Alamgir, **Azhar, S.** & *Lerner, R. (In Press). "We dress up like women because we do not consider ourselves men": Understanding gender and sexual identities of khwaja sira in Peshawar, Pakistan using Photovoice." In. M. Gil Poisa & D. Madrid Brito (Eds). *Queer bodies in Speculative Fiction and Visual Arts.* De Gruyter.

2. Malik, D., Ahmad, I. & **Azhar, S.** (2026). Child Vulnerability Among Afghan Refugee and Forced Migrant Families in Pakistan. In J. Twikirize & K. Frimpong-Manso. (Eds.), *Children and Family Social Work*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-3440-1_73-1

3. Alamgir, A., Ahmad, I. & **Azhar., S.** (2026). Queer Precarity: Understanding the Lived Experiences of Young Hijra in Pakistan. In J. Twikirize & K. Frimpong-Manso. (Eds.), *Children and Family Social Work*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-3440-1_49-1

4. Alvarez, A. R. G., Mehrotra, G. R., **Azhar, S.,** Farina, A. S. J., & Ouanesisouk Trinidad, A. M. (2026). Queer AZN CRT: Radical possibilities for Social Work. In S. Nakaoka, S. Ault, N. Vazquez, & L. Ortiz (Eds.), *Critical Race Theory in Social Work*. Cambridge University Press.

5. Alvarez, A.R.G, **Azhar, S.** & Deschants, J. (2026). Chapter 3. Values, Ethics and Social Justice: A Decolonizing Approach. Cambridge University Press. In (Eds.) C.A. Daniel, M. Spencer, V. Ramseyer Winter. *Decolonizing Quantitative Methods: AntiOppressive Approaches to Social Work Research.* Cambridge University Press.

6. **Azhar, S.** (2025). Applying transnational feminism to international social work: Advocacy via decolonial practices in social work education, research, and practice. In P. Pentaris & J. Walker (Eds). *The Routledge International Handbook of Glocal Social Work*. Routledge.

7. **Azhar, S.,** Tripathi, S., Jokhakar, V., Vaudrey, J., Gandham, S., & Yeldandi, V. (2025). Resilience against HIV Stigma of Third Gender People Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. In N. Pant (Ed.), *Psychology of Sexuality & Mental Health Vol. 2 –Modern Approaches.* Springer Nature.

8. **Azhar, S.**, Tripathi, S., Rudes, A.* & Schefer, J.* Gender, Equity, and Corporate Transformation. (2024). In S. Chama (Ed.), *Social Justice through a Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Fairness Framework.* (pp. 98-111). Cognella Publishing.

9. Farina, A., **Azhar, S.** & Cristofalo, M. (2024). Resilience-Building Skills to Enhance Anti-Oppressive Social Work Learning. In W. Ashley (Ed.*) Merging Clinical Social Work Practice & Antiracist Positioning.* (pp. 37-54). Peter Lang Publishing.

10. **Azhar, S.** & Buckhout, M.* (2024). Contemporary Global Issues Impacting LGBTQ Youth. In E. Congress (Ed.), *Children Around the World: The Future of Our Earth.* (pp. 87-102). Information Age Publishing.

11. Millner, U.C., **Azhar, S.** & *Jokhakar, V. (2022). Ch. 5.: Intersectional Perspectives on the Mental Health of South Asians in the United States. In S. Bandari, (Ed.) *South Asians in the US*. NASW Press.

12. **Azhar, S.**, & Vaudrey, J. (2022). Exploring the Psychosocial Needs of Third Gender People Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. In Transgender India: Understanding Third Gender Identities and Experiences (pp. 141-155). Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96386-6_9

13. **Azhar, S.** & *Alarshi, R. (2022). Striving for Taqwa: Spiritual health in Muslim communities. *Behavioral Science in the Global Arena, Volume II* (pp. 95-106). (Eds.) E. Congress & H. Takooshian Information Age Publishing.

14. **Azhar, S.** & *Soi, S. (2022). In Pursuit of Moksha: Spiritual health in Hindu communities. *Behavioral Science in the Global Arena, Volume II*. (Eds.) (pp. 107-120). In E. Congress & H. Takooshian, Information Age Publishing.

15. Abu-Ras, W. & **Azhar, S.** (2020). Practice with Arab American families. *Multicultural Perspectives in Working with Families: A Handbook for the Helping Professions*, 4th Edition (pp. 227-249). Ch. 14. In E.P. Congress & M. J. Gonzalez (Eds.), Springer Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1891/9780826154156.0015

16. **Azhar, S.** Islamic processes of managing grief and loss. (2020). In B. Counselman-Carpenter & A. Redcay. (Eds.), *Working with Grief, & Traumatic Loss: Theory, Practice, Personal Reflection & Self-care for Clinicians*. Ch. 4: Religion and Culture (pp.187-197). Cognella Publishing.

BLOGS, BOOK REVIEWS & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

12. **Azhar, S.** Book Review: "Remaking a Life." *Affilia* 39 (1), 189-90. https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099221107Jun. 2022

13. **Azhar, S.** & DeLoach McCutcheon, K. (2022, April). Reflections on racism against women of color faculty in academia. In *ICGR 2022 5th International Conference on Gender Research*. Academic Conferences, University of Aveiro, Portugal, 1-8. https://doi.org/10.34190/icgr.5.1.185

14. **Azhar, S.,** Alvarez, A., Farina, A., & Klumpner, S. (2021). "You're So Exotic Looking": Analyzing Intersectional Violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander Women. *Sage Perspectives.* https://perspectivesblog.sagepub.com/blog/youre-so-exotic-looking-analyzing-intersectional-violenceagainst-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-women

15. **Azhar, S.** (2019, April). Recent changes in gender and sexuality policy in India: A postcolonial analysis. In *ICGR 2019 2nd International Conference on Gender Research*, 51-58. Academic Conferences, Roma Tre University.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

16. Alamgir, A. & **Azhar, S.** Fragmented Justice System and Policing: Police using violence against khwaja sira in Pakistan. *Journal of South Asia Research.*

17. **Azhar, S.,** Tripathi, S., Chen, D., Weed, J., Acevedo, G., Ross, A.M. Food Insecurity and Social Determinants of Health in the South Bronx. *Social Work.*

18. **Azhar, S.,** Arshid, M. Ahmad, I., Gaudio, L, Rudess, A. Islam, M.S., Shah, S. & Ahmad, S. "They think we are aliens": Religious views regarding gender nonconformity and homosexuality in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy.*

19. Malik, D., Ahmad, I. & **Azhar, S.** "When the British Came to India": Oral Histories of Postcolonialism's Impact on Khwaja Sira in South Asia. *Contemporary South Asia.*

20. Qazi, H.A., **Azhar, S.,** Z., Ahmad, I. & Arshid, M. "I'm still suffering": Tracing the Life-Course Accumulation of Stress and Trauma Among Khwaja Sira in Pakistan. *Transcultural Psychiatry.*

21. **Azhar, S.** & Rudess, A. "They" don't exist: Gender Research in the Era of Antiscience. *Affilia.*

22. Ahmad, I., Malik, D., **Azhar, S.** & Alamgir. "The Politics of Hookah Pani Band System in the Khwaja Sira Communities in Swat, Pakistan." *Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies (BAST).*

EXTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED

2024 - 2026 **Bronx Research Institute for Community Solutions (BRICS)**
Food insecurity in the South Bronx. Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $50,000. Funded evaluation of impact of fresh produce incentives on food insecurity.

2023 - 2024 **American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Post-Doctoral Fellowship**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $15,000. Covers research costs for study examining gender based violence (GBV) amongst khwaja sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

2022 **Faber Residency of the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, Olot, Catalunya, Spain**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: ~$7,000. Covered accommodations for writing residency in Spring 2022. Faber creates a space for writers, translators, artists of diverse disciplines, scholars to work on projects under a residency on migration and refugee movements.

2021-2023 **Fordham Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL)**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $18,000. This grant supported community-engaged research on predictors of food insecurity in the South Bronx.

2021-2022 **Bronx Community Foundation**
Role: Co-Principal Investigator; Total: $3,000. This grant provided funds for research incentives for a community-based, participatory research project examining whether food pantries serve as a point of entry to wraparound services.

2019 - 2021 **HIV and Drug Abuse Prevention Research Ethics (RETI) Training Institute**
Center for Ethics Education, Fordham University. Role: Principal investigator; Total: $25,000. Received training grant through the National Institute on Drug Abuse (#1R25DA031608), providing early career investigators in the social, behavioral, medical and public health fields with an opportunity to gain research ethics training.

INTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED

2026 **Fordham University Disability Research Studies Award**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $2,000.
Funded study for 40 in-depth interviews of third gender people living with HIV in Bangladesh

2025 **Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF), Fordham Graduate School of Social Service**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $4,000. Funds supported research project, examining the impact on violence on khwaja sira (third gender people) in northwestern Pakistan.

2025 **Fordham Faculty Research Abroad Program (FRAP)**
Gender-Based Violence against Khwaja Sira in Pakistan. Role: Principal investigator; Total: $3,000. Covered cost of international travel expenses for social work collaboration in Pakistan/Japan.

2024 **Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF), Fordham Graduate School of Social Service**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $2,562. Funds supported research project, examining the impact on violence on khwaja sira (third gender people) in northwestern Pakistan.

2022 **Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF), Fordham Graduate School of Social Service**
Role: Principal Investigator; Total: $4,000. Funds supported research project, examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on khwaja sira (third gender people) in Swat, Pakistan.

2021-2022 **Interdisciplinary Research Award, Fordham University**
Role: Co-Principal Investigator; Total: $7,000. This interdisciplinary collaboration between the Graduate School of Social Service and the community-based organization, BronxWorks examined the degree to which food pantries impact food insecurity

2019 **International Travel Grant, Fordham University**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $2,000. Covered costs of attendance and presentation at the "Endangered Theories: Standing by Critical Race Theory in the Age of Violence." (July 2022), Centro Estudos Sociais (CES), Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal.

2019 **Faculty Research Grant (FRG), Fordham University**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $5,000. Provides pilot funding for exploratory research on HIV/Hep-C risk of female injection drug users & sex workers in Gangtok, Sikkim, India.

2019 **Fordham University-NYU Research Fellow Award**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $4,000. Established collaborative research partnership with Dr. Nadia Islam, NYU Langone Health to analyze data from MARHABA,

a breast/cervical cancer screening intervention for Muslim American women in NYC. Additional funding provided by CDC Special Interest Projects Competitive Supplement U48DP001904-01, U58DP005621; National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities U54MD000538; National Cancer Institute P30 CA16087.

2019 **Fordham Faculty Research Abroad Program (FRAP)**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: ~$3,000. Covered cost of international travel expenses to London. Funding for research collaboration with Birkbeck College, University of London for critical approaches to digital scholarship and decolonizing third gender identities.

FELLOWSHIPS

2017 – 2018 **Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality,**
University of Chicago Dissertation Writing Fellowship
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $68,960. Supports PhD candidates in the areas of gender and sexuality studies.

2015 – 2018 **Minority Fellowship Program (MFP), Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) & Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $75,000. Supports SAMHSA's mission to increase racial/ethnic minority individuals trained to work with underserved populations.

2017 – 2018 **Urban Doctoral Fellows Program (UUDF), University of Chicago**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $1,000. Fellowship provides intensive, peer-centered writing experience and conference travel for doctoral students focusing on urban issues.

2017 **Scholarship and Travel Grant Recipient, Postdoctoral Preparation Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH)**. Total: $1,500. Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Covered cost of registration, travel, accommodations.

2017 **Faber Residency of the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, Olot, Catalunya, Spain**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: ~$7,000. Covered housing and food for writing residency. Faber created a space for writers/artists under a collective residency themed on feminisms.

2014 – 2017 **Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS), University of Chicago**
Pre-Dissertation Research & Travel Grant. Role: Principal investigator; Total: $32,000. Funded the completion of dissertation research in Hyderabad, India.

2014 – 2015 **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) (Urdu) Fellowship**
University of Chicago, U.S. Department of Education
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $67,750. Fellowship for full coverage of tuition, fees, and stipend for language (Urdu) instruction and area studies for dissertation research.

2014 – 2015 **Boren Fellowship, Institute of International Education (IIE)**
Role: Principal investigator; Total: $22,000. *Declined due to funding redundancy*. Funded by National Security Education Program for language study in critical regions.

2013 – 2015 **Ford Scholars Program, South Side Stories**
Ford Foundation, UChicago Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health. Role: Principal investigator; Total: $1,000. Funding provided for analysis of a collection of digital stories of African American youth in Chicago.

2012 – 2017 **Doctoral Fellowship, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago**
Role: Fellow. Covered the cost of tuition, fees, and stipend for first five years of doctoral study. Recipients were expected to complete research/teaching apprenticeships.

2006 – 2007 **Foreign Language and Area Studies (Urdu) Fellowship**
University of Pennsylvania/U.S. Department of Education
Role: Fellow. Total: ~$77,980. Fellowship provided tuition, fees, stipend for foreign language (Urdu) instruction for research regarding IPV among South Asian Americans.

2004 – 2006 **Otto & Gertrude Pollack Scholarship**
University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice
Role: Scholarship Recipient. Total: ~$130,000. Full merit scholarship for tuition, fees, and stipend for graduate study with a concentration in global mental health services.

VIDEOS, WEBINARS & ONLINE RESOURCES

1. Malik, A., Mack, M., & **Azhar, S.** (2022, May 3). Drug Policy, Pregnant People, and Mandated Reporting Laws for Social Workers. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrydY1ReQfc

2. **Azhar, S.** (2022, Mar. 22). The Workplace Worldwide: The Experiences of LGBTQI+ People. Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68Q4jtjvQHo&list=LL&index=11

3. **Azhar, S.** & Poses, D. (2021, Nov. 4). The Weight of Air: A Conversation with Addiction Expert David Poses. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jG6CTk0FSc&t=2030s

4. Tripathi, S.*, **Azhar, S.** & Zhai, F. (2021). Unpaid care work among women in South Asia: A systematic review. National Institute for Health Research. International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO). https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?RecordID=244667

5. **Azhar, S.,** Dresner, A. & Schrank, J. (2020, Nov. 5). "My Fair Junkie: In Conversation with Amy Dresner and Joe Schrank, hosts of the podcast 'Rehab Confidential.' Hosted by Fordham GSS. https://youtu.be/TNCj-CmNAbU

6. **Azhar, S.** (2019). The third gender. Fordham University. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFnn-9Fgcpo

7. **Azhar, S.** (2019). Understanding gender issues in the international context. Video in SWGS 6040: Human Rights and Social Justice, Fordham GSS. https://bulletin.fordham.edu/gss/courses/#text

8. **Azhar, S.** (2019). Què és la pau per Sameena Azhar? (What is peace?) ICIPTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFdFzT_ykLk

9. Tripathi, S.* & **Azhar, S.** (2019). A systematic review of intimate partner violence among South Asian women living in the United States. International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO). https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=128431

10. **Azhar, S.** (2017). MSM Implementation Toolkit. Module 2: Violence against Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have Sex with Men. MPact Global Action (previously Global Forum on Men who have Sex with Men and HIV). Oakland, CA. http://bit.ly/2tOumZ5

11. **Azhar, S.** (2017). Promoting the Health of Men who have Sex with Men Worldwide. Module 3: Barriers to Health: Stigma and Discrimination. MPact Global Action.. Oakland, CA. https://mpactglobal.org/

12. **Azhar, S.** (2017). Promoting the Health of Men who have Sex with Men Worldwide. Module 5: Mental Health. MPact Global Action. Oakland, CA. https://mpactglobal.org/

13. **Azhar, S.V.**, Berringer, K.R. & Epperson, M.W. (2014). A Meta-analysis of HIV Prevention Interventions Targeting Women with Criminal Justice Involvement. International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO). Registry #: CRD42014008674.

14. **Azhar, S.** (2011). Integrating an evidence-based behavioral intervention, CLEAR, into Comprehensive Risk and Counseling Services (CRCS). California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (Webinar). http://www.stdhivtraining.org/recorded_webinars.html

15. **Azhar, S.** (2010). SNIFFER: *Adapting Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions*. SNIFFER: HIV risk reduction intervention for injection drug users. (Original intervention developed by Don Des Jarlais, Beth Israel Medical Center. (Webinar). Los Altos: Sociometrics.

NON-REFEREED ARTICLES

1. **Azhar, S.** (2001). Sex Trafficking in South and Southeast Asian on the Rise. *Hardboiled* 51(1). http://hardboiled. berkeley.edu/issues/51/51-01-sextrafficking.htm

2. **Azhar, S.** (2001). Sola Singhar: Beauty Myths in South Asia. *Hardboiled* 51(2).

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (* indicates student author)

1. **Azhar, S.**, Tripathi, S., Ali, S. & Ghose, T. (2026). Gender-Based Violence in the Global South: Intersectional Challenges in Research on Sexual Violence Against Women and Sex Workers in South Asia. Roundtable, *Society for Social Work and Research*, Washington, D.C.

2. **Azhar, S.**, Weed, J., Acevedo, G. & Ross, A.M. (2026). Social Determinants, Food Insecurity and Health Outcomes for South Bronx Residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Society for Social Work and Research*, Washington, D.C.

3. **Azhar, S.** (2025, Oct.) Applying transnational feminism to international social work: Advocacy via decolonial practices in social work education, research, and practice. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting.

4. Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.**, & Ross, A.M. (2025, Oct.). "You have to budget within the money you have": Intersections of immigration, health, and food insecurity in the South Bronx. American Public Health Association.

5. **Azhar, S.,** *List, A., *Ahmad, I., & *Herrera, M.M.G. (2025, Jan.). Techniques for Building Community and Increasing Resilience Amongst Khwaja Sira (Third Gender People) in Swat, Pakistan. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Seattle, WA.

6. **Azhar, S**., *Ahmad, I. & *Tariq, N. (2024, Jan.). "One by one, they raped me": Sexual Violence against Khwaja Sira in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, D.C.

7. **Azhar, S., ***Ahmed, I. & Vaudrey, J. (2023, Jan.). Social and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Khwaja Sira (Third Gender) Communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

8. **Azhar, S.**, Ross, A., Keller, E., Weed, J. & Acevedo, G. (2023, Jan.). Food Insecurity and Childhood Hunger Among Food Pantry Recipients in the Bronx. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

9. **Azhar, S.,** Rahman, R., *Tripathi, S., Wernick, L., *Cohen, M., Maschi, T., DeVylder, J. (2023, Jan.). Race, Masks, Residency and Concern Regarding COVID-19. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

10. Rahman, R., **Azhar, S**., Wernick, L., Huang, D., Maschi, T, *Rosenblatt, C. & *Patel, R. (2023, Jan.). COVID-19 stigma and depression. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

11. *Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.,** & Zhai, F. (2023, Jan.). Time Spent on Unpaid Care Work and Women's Employment Status: Evidence from India. Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Phoenix, AZ.

12. *Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S.** (2022, Nov.) Associations between HIV Stigma & Social Support for People Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM).

13. **Azhar, S.**, *Arshid, M. & *Ahmad, I. (2022, Nov.). Perspectives of Mullahs/Ulamas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan on Khwaja Sira Identities. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) APM.

14. **Azhar, S.,** Ross, A., Keller, E., Weed, J. & Acevedo, G. (2022, Nov.). Predictors for Food Insecurity and Childhood Hunger for Food Pantry Recipients in the Bronx. American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference. *Accepted but unable to attend.*

15. **Azhar, S.**, *Ahmad, I. & Vaudrey, J. (2022, Nov.) Impact of COVID-19 on Khwaja Sira. American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference. *Accepted, unable to attend.*

16. *Herrera, M.M.G. & **Azhar, S.** (2022, Jul.) Sexual, Gender and Racial Minority Stigma as Barriers to HIV Prevention Services and Research. International AIDS Conference, Montreal, Canada. (Virtual attendance).

17. *Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.** & Zhai, F. (2022, Jun.) Time Spent on Unpaid Care Work and Women's Employment Status: Evidence from India. International Association for Feminist Economics, Geneva, Switzerland. (Virtual attendance).

18. *Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.** & Zhai, F. (2022, Jun.) Time Spent on Unpaid Care Work and Women's Employment Status: Evidence from India. Gender, Work and Organization Conference, Universidad Santo Tomas, Bogotá, Colombia. (Virtual attendance).

19. **Azhar, S.** & DeLoach McCutcheon, K. (2022, Apr.). Reflections on Racism Against Women of Color Faculty in Academia. Fifth International Conference on Gender Research (ICGR), April 2022, University of Aveiro, Portugal (Virtual attendance).

20. **Azhar, S.,** *Ahmad, I., Vaudrey, J., *Douglas, A., & *Jokhakar, V.* (2022, Apr.) Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Khwaja Sira (Third Gender) Communities in Swat, Pakistan. Fifth International Conference on Gender Research (ICGR), University of Aveiro, Portugal. (Virtual attendance).

21. *Tripathi, S., **Azhar, S.** & Zhai, F. (2022, Jan). Unpaid care work among women in South Asia: A systematic review. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, D.C. (Virtual attendance).

22. Rahman, R., **Azhar, S.**, Wernick, L., Cohen, M.*, Hopwood, S.*, Maschi, T. & DeVylder, J. (2022, Jan). Predictors for Participation in Racial Justice Protests over the Summer of 2020. Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR), Washington, D.C. (Virtual attendance).

23. **Azhar, S.**, Flores, A.F, Alvarez, A., & Klumpner, S. (2021, Oct.). "Asian in the time of COVID-19: Creating a Social Work Research Agenda for Asian American Communities." American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, Denver, CO. (Virtual attendance).

24. *Tripathi, S. & **Azhar, S.** (2021, Oct.). "Associations between HIV stigma and social support for people living with HIV in Hyderabad, India." American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, Denver, CO. (Virtual attendance).

25. Rahman, R., **Azhar, S.,** Wernick, L., *Cohen, M., *Hopwood, S., Maschi, T. & DeVylder, J. (2021, Oct.). "Mask-wearing, race, and attitudes towards the racial justice protests of summer 2020 from New York City residents' perspectives." American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, Denver, CO. (Virtual attendance).

26. DeLoach McCutcheon, K. **& Azhar, S.** (2021, Oct. – *accepted; unable to attend conference due to pandemic.* How racism against women of color faculty operates in social work academia. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Annual Program Meeting (APM). Orlando, FL.

27. **Azhar, S.** The Value of Dead Brown Bodies: Applying Intersectionality to Evaluate Global COVID-19 Fatalities. ICFLTGE 2021: International Conference on Feminist Legal Theory and Gender Equality, Athens, Greece. (2021, Apr. - *accepted; unable to attend conference due to pandemic*).

28. **Azhar, S.**, *Jokhakar, V., Islam, N. & Wyatt, L. (2021, Jan.). "Associations between spirituality, perceived discrimination and breast/cervical cancer screening for Muslim American women in New York City." Society for Social Work and Research Conference, San Francisco, CA. (Virtual attendance).

29. **Azhar, S.**, *Tao, X., & Fisher, C. (2021, Jan.). "Facilitators and Barriers to Long-acting Injectable PrEP Utilization for MSM and Transgender Women of Color in the US." Society for Social Work and Research Conference, San Francisco, CA. (Virtual attendance).

30. Farina, A., **Azhar, S.,** Alvarez, A. & Klumpner, S. (2021, Jan.) "'Boss Called Me His China Doll': Utilizing Intersectionality to Analyze Gender & Sexuality Stereotypes of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the #thisis2016 Hashtag." Society for Social Work & Research Conf. (SSWR), San Francisco. (Virtual attendance).

31. **Azhar, S.**, *Tao, X., & Fisher, C. (2020, Nov.). "Injectable PrEP for MSM and Transgender Women of Color in the US." Sexuality & Social Work Conference, Mumbai, India. (Virtual attendance).

32. **Azhar, S.**, *Jokhakar, V., Islam, N. & Wyatt, L. (2020, Nov.). "The impact of spiritual health locus control on breast/cervical cancer screening for Muslim American women in New York City." Sexuality & Social Work Conference, Mumbai, India. (Virtual attendance).

33. **Azhar, S.**, *Jokhakar, V., Islam, N. & Wyatt, L. (2020, Oct.). "Perceived discrimination and breast/cervical cancer screening for Muslim American women in New York City." American Public Health Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. (Virtual attendance).

34. **Azhar, S.**, Farina, A., Alvarez, A. & Klumpner, S. (2020, Jan. 18) "Microaggressions Against Asian Americans: Utilizing Critical Race Theory to Analyze Racial Stereotypes in the #ThisIs2016 Hashtag." Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, D.C.

35. **Azhar, S.**, Vaudrey, J. & *Jokhakar, V. (2019, Nov. 5) "Associations between HIV Stigma and Depression for People Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India." American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

36. **Azhar, S.** (2019, June 3). "Decolonizing Notions of Third Gender and Transgender Identities in the Digital Archive." International Symposium on Digital Scholarship. Fordham University London Centre & Birkbeck, University of London.

37. **Azhar, S.** (2019, Apr.) "Recent Changes in Gender and Sexuality Policy in India: A Postcolonial Analysis." International Conference on Gender Research, Ipazia, the Scientific Observatory on Gender Issues at Roma Tre University, Roma, Italia.

38. **Azhar, S.** (2019, Jan.) "Examining Diversity in Sex Work in India." Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

39. Farina, A., Alvarez, A., **Azhar, S.** & Klumpner, S. (2018, Nov.) "Experiences of racism, discrimination, and microaggressions among Asian Americans: Analysis of #ThisIs2016." Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Conference, Orlando, FL.

40. **Azhar, S.** (2018, Jan.) "Challenges in Providing Social Services to the South Asian American Community." Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, D.C.

41. **Azhar, S.** (2018, Jan.) "Depression and Social Exclusion of Third Gender People in Hyderabad, India." Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) Conference, Washington, D.C.

42. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Apr). "State, Structures, and Stigma: Policy Implications: Postcolonial Feminist Interpretations of HIV Stigma among Hijras/Transgender Women Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India." Engendering Change Conference, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.

43. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Mar). "Addressing Intersectionality in the Study of HIV, Gender and Stigma." Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Conference, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD.

44. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Jan). "HIV Stigma and Depression for Cisgender Women and Hjira/Trans Women in Hyderabad, India." Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) Conference, New Orleans, LA.

45. **Azhar, S.** (2016, Nov). "HIV Stigma for Hijra in Hyderabad, India." HIV & Women Research Symposium. Center for AIDS Research, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL.

46. **Azhar, S.** (2016, Oct). "HIV Stigma and Gender Inequity of Cisgender and Transgender Women Living with HIV/ AIDS in Hyderabad, India." American Public Health Association Conference, Denver, Colorado.

47. **Azhar, S.** (2016, Aug). "Aurath: HIV Stigma of Hijra Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India." Summer Seminar for Sexualities, Cultures and Politics. IPAK Research Center for Cultures, Politics and Identities, Belgrade, Serbia.

48. **Azhar, S.** (2016, July). "HIV Stigma of Hijra and Transgender Women Living with HIV in Hyderabad, India." International AIDS Conference. International AIDS Society, Durban, South Africa.

49. **Azhar, S.** (2016, May). "Postcolonial Impacts on Hijra and Transgender Women in India. Gender Equality Norms and the Politics of Development Corporation. Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark.

50. **Azhar, S.** (2016, May). "A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Gender & Sexuality Nonconformity Stigma in Hyderabad." Sexuality Studies Association Conference. Congress on the Humanities and Social Sciences, Calgary, Canada.

51. **Azhar, S.** (2016, Jan). "Gender Power Dynamics and Sexual Coercion Among Female African American Adolescents." Society for Social Work & Research Conference, Washington, D.C.

52. **Azhar, S.** (2015, June). "HIV Issues Facing the Hyderabadi Hijra Community." Social Exclusion Seminar on Cross- National Perspectives. TATA School of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

53. **Azhar, S.** (2014, Jan). "A Meta-Analysis of HIV Prevention Interventions for Women with Criminal Justice Involvement." Society for Social Work & Research Conf., San Antonio, TX.

54. **Azhar, S.** (2011, May). "The Best Kept Secret in Best Practices: The Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions." HIV/AIDS & Social Work Conference, Main Conference Plenary, Atlanta, GA.

55. **Azhar, S.** (2011, Oct). "Innovative Initiatives Integrating Medical Care, Mental Health Care and Psychosocial Support." APA's Institute for Psychiatric Services, San Francisco, CA.

56. **Azhar, S.** (2009, Oct). "Stigma and Discrimination of People Living with HIV in Delhi, India." United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), San Francisco, CA.

57. **Azhar, S.** (2006, Feb). "Qualitative Experiences of HIV Stigma in Delhi." National Association of Social Workers Regional Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

58. **Azhar, S.** (2005, Oct). "Discriminatory Practices against People Living with HIV in New Delhi, India." International Conference on Urban Health, Toronto, Canada.

59. **Azhar, S.** (2007, Nov). "Substance Abuse Treatment Compliance of Drug Offenders in Philadelphia." American Public Health Association Conference, Washington D.C.

60. **Azhar, S.** (2003, Feb). "HIV among Youth of Color." Ryan White National Youth Conference on HIV/AIDS, Dallas, TX.

61. **Azhar, S.** (2002, Dec). "HIV & Substance Abuse among Women of Color." Nat. Harm Reduction Conference, Seattle, WA.

62. **Azhar, S.** (2002, Apr). "The Reddy Case: Sex Trafficking of Indian Women in the SF Bay Area." API Issues Conference, San Francisco, CA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

1. **Azhar, S.** (2023, Dec.) Lived Experiences of Stigma and Discrimination Against Khwaja Sira in Swat, Pakistan. Fordham Research Forum on Global Studies, New York, NY.

2. **Azhar, S.** (2022, Apr.). Mental Health in South Asian Communities. Institute of Global Leadership's South Asian Regional Committee (SARC). Tufts University.

3. **Azhar, S.** (2022, Dec.). Panel: Sexuality and Race Research in Sexuality Studies: Promises and Pitfalls. Department of Critical Sexuality Studies, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA.

4. **Azhar, S.** (2022, Mar. 23). "Access to Work during the COVID-19 Pandemic for Khwaja Sira (Third Gender) Communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan." Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association at the United Nations. https://www.uua.org/international-justice/events/lbtiq-workforce-struggles

5. **Azhar, S.** (2022, Feb.) "An Introduction to the Khwaja Sira Community in Khyber Pakhtunkwa, Pakistan." Faber Residency of the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, Olot, Catalunya, Spain.

6. **Azhar, S.** (2021, July). Intersectional stereotypes of Asian American and Pacific Islander women. Centering Women's Voices: An Approach for Claiming Rights and Justice. Forever Fordham Alumni Block Party.

7. **Azhar, S.** (2021, May 13). Sameena Azhar on Seeing Her Research on Racism Come to Life. Council on Social Work Education Minority Fellowship Program. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yDrf12lKZA

8. **Azhar, S.** (2020, Nov. 18). "Associations between spirituality, perceived discrimination and breast/cervical cancer screening for Muslim American women in NYC." Fordham GSS.

9. **Azhar, S.** (2020, Sept. 8). Ward 86 Cultural Humility Series. "In conversation with Dr. Sameena Azhar." San Francisco General Hospital, Ward 86, Positive Health Program/UCSF.

10. **Azhar, S.** (2020, May – *canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic*). Plenary Speaker, "Women on the Frontlines of Change: A Symposium on Media Activism, Environmental Justice, and Career Development." Fordham University.

11. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Dec.) "HIV along the India-China Border." U.S.-China Forum: Innovation on the Urban-Rural Continuum. Hong Kong University.

12. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Nov). "Sex Work, HIV and Neocolonialism in South Asia." Seminaris Interdisciplinaris, Unitat d'Historia de la Medicina. Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB), Barcelona, Spain.

13. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Nov). "Third Gender Identities in Hyderabad." Faber Residency of the Arts, Sciences and Humanities, Olot, Catalunya, Spain.

14. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Feb). "The Secret Lives of Hijra: How Gender-nonconforming People in Hyderabad, India are Defining and Redefining Themselves." Gender & Sexuality Studies Working Group, University of Chicago.

15. **Azhar, S.** (2017, Jan). "Working with South Asian Americans in Social Services." Niles Family Services, MSW Graduate Student Interns Educational Workshop, Niles, IL.

16. **Azhar, S.** (2016, Oct). "Aurath: HIV Stigma of Cisgender and Transgender Women in Hyderabad, India." Doctoral Theory and Teaching Workshop, University of Chicago.

17. **Azhar, S.** (2015, Feb). "Teaching on Issues of Race and Gender in Social Work," Doctoral Theory and Teaching Workshop, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, Chicago, IL.

18. **Azhar, S.** (2014, March). "A Meta-Analysis of HIV Prevention Interventions for Women with Criminal Justice Involvement." Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Chicago, IL.

19. **Azhar, S.** (2002, May). "Asians and the Sex Trade." UC Berkeley Asian American Association Panel, Berkeley, CA.

20. **Azhar, S.** (2000, Apr). "Sex Trafficking of South Asian Women." API Issues Conference, San Francisco, CA.

21. **Azhar, S.** (2000, Apr). "Forced Prostitution in South Asia." Human Rights Conference, Berkeley, CA.

22. **Azhar, S.** (2000, Mar). "AIDS, Prostitution, and Domestic Violence Amongst South Asian Women." Indus Intercollegiate Conference Berkeley, CA.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Ranjha, W.A. (2026). 'Women's unpaid care work sustains economies.' *DAWN,* Apr. 3, 2026. https://www.dawn.com/news/1988002

White, C. (2026). GSS Partners with BronxWorks to Address Food Insecurity in the South Bronx. *Fordham GSS News,* Jan. 20, 2026. https://gss.news.fordham.edu/faculty/gss-partners-with-bronxworks-to-address-food-insecurity-in-the-south-bronx/

Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education Awards, Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). (2025). https://www.cswe.org/events-meetings/2025-annualconference/awards/commissions-councils/council-on-the-role-and-status-of-women-in-social-work-education-awards/

Fordham GSS. (2025). Azhar Study on Gender Nonconformity Stigma in Pakistan Featured in Cambridge Prisms Anniversary Collection. *Fordham GSS News*, Feb. 18, 2025.

Sameena Azhar Receives Grant Funding to Study Gender-Based Violence Against Khwaja Sira in Pakistan. (2023, Sep. 27). *GSS News; Fordham News.*

Sameena Azhar Wins 2021 Feminist Scholarship Award. (2022, Jan. 14). *GSS News; Fordham News.*

Dionne, K.Y., Hayes, S. & Turkmen, F.F. (2021, Apr. 19). There's a long, global history to today's anti-Asian bias and violence. *Washington Post.* (Citation of research).

Marshall, M. (2021, Mar.) A year in review: COVID reflections. *Chilled Magazine.*

Stoelker, T. (2020, Nov. 18). Addiction in the time of a pandemic: Social work students hear from Rehab Confidential podcasters. *Fordham News.*

Gosier, C. (2020, Aug. 13). Exclusion Happens Everywhere, Even in LGBTQ Spaces. [Coverage of "Exclusion in queer spaces" event. Fordham Alumni Association, Rainbow Rams Panel.]

Billuni, K.L. (2018). Like a Queen: Interview with Sameena Azhar. *Sexy Grammar Blog.*

RESEARCH CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

08/2021 – 02/2022 ***Intervention Curriculum Consultant***
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS), University of California, San Francisco

- Review curriculum for *Healthy Divas*, an HIV & gender-affirming care for transgender women
- Make modifications to worksheets/intervention materials for usability by trainers and participants

09/2015 – 12/2016 ***Research and Curriculum Consultant***
MPact (previously Global Forum on Men who have Sex with Men and HIV), Oakland

- Adapted training modules for MSM Implementation Toolkit on stigma, violence, mental health

11/2012 – 06/2015 ***Ford Scholar,*** **University of Chicago**
Study: Sexual Coercion among African American Female Adolescents on the South Side of Chicago

- Attended seminar on sexual/reproductive health issues and meetings with youth advisors
- Qualitatively analyzing themes from digital stories from Black youth in South Side Chicago

09/2013 – 08/2014 ***Graduate Research Assistant***
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Study: NIH R34 feasibility study - Substance abuse prevention of youth in Kazakhstan

- Developed questionnaires/tools for data collection for substance abuse prevention intervention

09/2012- 08/2013 ***Graduate Research Assistant***
School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Study: NIJ-funded mixed methods study - Experiences of probationers with mental health systems

- Coded interviews for study on mental health services for people on probation/parole in Chicago
- Completed meta-analysis on HIV prevention interventions for women w/criminal legal involvement

10/2009 – 04/2010 ***Research Consultant***
Sociometrics Corporation, Los Altos, CA
Study: *NIH SBIR-funded project - HIV prevention program replication & adaptation*

- Developed storyboards and curricula for trainings on program replication and adaptation
- Collaborated with research staff on the development of grant proposals and project reports

09/2003 – 06/2004 ***Health Research Service Corps Fellow***
American India Foundation, New Delhi, India
Study: *UNAIDS-funded project: Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Delhi*

- Worked as program assistant for Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child
- Created capacity-building assistance program for NGOs working on HIV care in Delhi

08/2000 – 06/2003 ***Research Assistant/HIV Prevention Counselor***
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco Department of Public Health
Study: *STI prevalence in low-income neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area*

- Conducted in-home interviews for research study on STIs of men in low-income neighborhoods
- Coordinated prevention efforts in bars, cafes, clubs, public sex venues for men at risk for HIV

2002 – 2003 ***Research Grants/Contracts Manager***
AIDS Community Research Consortium, Redwood City, CA

- Managed research contracts and grants, ensure administration of study protocols
- Worked with principal investigators for IRB/CHR/Dept. of Public Health compliance

GRANT WRITING/REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

2026 Grant Reviewer, Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI)
PCORNet- Individual Award: Up to $15 Million; Total Award: up to $120 Million

2025 Grant Reviewer, Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI)
PCORNet- Individual Award: Up to $12 Million; Total Award: $60 Million

2018 Grant Reviewer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
SEP-19-001: Injury Control Research Centers; Total Award: $37,812,870

2017 Grant Reviewer, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
Cycle 3 Merit Review: Improving Healthcare Systems; Average Award: $1.7 Million (2017-2022)

2015 Grant Reviewer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention PS15-1502 Comprehensive High-Impact Prevention for Community-Based Organizations; Average Award: $400,000 (2015-2020)

2014 Grant Reviewer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention PS14-1403; Capacity Building Assistance for High-Impact HIV Prevention; Average Award: $1.5 million (2014-2019)

2014 Grant Writer, "Developing an Integrated Family-Based Mental Health Prevention Program for Institutionalized Children in Azerbaijan"
Funded by: Center for Health Administration Studies, University of Chicago; Award: $20,080

2007 Grant Writer, "HIV Care Services," Ryan White HIV Prevention and Care Act Funding
Funded by: Philadelphia AIDS Activities Coordinating Office
Funded to: Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia; Award: $235,000

CLINICAL/PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

04/2026 - Present **Psychotherapist, Private Practice**
Philadelphia, PA

06/2016 – 07/2018 **Hindi/Urdu-Speaking Mental Health Therapist**
Niles Family Services, Niles, IL

- Wrote and implemented social service policies impacting Village of Niles residents
- Provide therapy and case management to monolingual Hindi/Urdu speaking residents of Niles, including applying for financial benefits, food stamps, housing, employment

07/2011 – 08/2012 **Clinical Social Worker II, Ward 86**
University of California San Francisco/San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, CA

- Conducted therapy and benefits assistance for clients living with HIV
- Managed Ward 86's Women's Clinic, manage case conferences & treatment team meetings

07/2008 – 06/2011 **Behavioral Intervention Trainer/Capacity Building Assistance Provider**
University of California San Francisco/California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center
California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch, Oakland, CA

- Facilitated trainings and developed curricula on CDC behavioral interventions for STI/HIV prevention & contact tracing for HIV medical providers, social workers, disease investigation specialists (DIS) throughout the United States and US territories
- Conducted capacity-building assistance for health departments and community-based organizations

10/2008 – 10/2010 **Crisis Intervention Counselor**
San Francisco Suicide Prevention, San Francisco, CA

- Conducted crisis intervention on suicide prevention hotline, HIV, and Mental Health Access line

03/2008 – 6/2008 **Clinical Social Worker I, Acute Inpatient Psychiatry**
UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, CA

- Conducted crisis intervention & assessment of suicidal, homicidal, and gravely disabled clients
- Collaborated with County Conservators for discharge planning

09/2007 – 02/2008 **Clinical Case Manager Supervisor**
Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, San Francisco, CA

- Conducted psychotherapy with Asian clients living with HIV with limited English proficiency
- Facilitated weekly substance abuse therapy group and supervised Ryan White case managers

09/2004 – 08/2007 **Addictions/Mental Health Therapist**
Northeast Treatment Centers, Philadelphia, PA

- Completed psychological assessments, treatment plans, and discharges for caseload of 35 clients
- Conducted therapy for clients in intensive outpatient treatment for co-occurring disorders

05/2006 – 09/2006 **HIV Intensive Case Manager**
BEBASHI (Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues), Philadelphia, PA

- Managed caseload of 20 African American clients with HIV and mental illness/addiction
- Offered counseling and case management services for food access, welfare, health care, housing

05/2005 – 05/2006 **HIV Education & Prevention Specialist**
Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia, PA

- Carried out HIV counseling and testing and outreach for Spanish speakers using harm reduction
- Completed grant applications and requests for proposals for government/foundation funders

08/2005 – 06/2006 **Child & Adolescent Therapist**
Joseph J. Peters Institute, Philadelphia, PA

- Offered therapy to children/adolescents who are juvenile sex offenders or survivors of sexual abuse
- Utilized cognitive-behavioral and play therapy techniques to facilitate behavioral modification

08/2004 – 05/2005 **Behavioral Therapist**
Girard Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA

- Engage in behavioral therapy for court-mandated residential substance misuse treatment
- Carry out daily CBT groups and weekly individual therapy sessions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Fordham University, Graduate School of Social Service

Courses taught: Forced Migration; International Social Development (SWGS 6624); Practice with Substance Use Disorders (SWGS 6417); Advanced Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis; Incorporating Human Rights and Social Justice into Practice

Instructor, Fordham University, Gabelli School of Business, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Introduction to Health Administration (HADM 5075) - Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration

Research Methods for Social Work (SSAD 302) - Winter 2017; Data for Policy Analysis and Management (SSAD 485) Winter 2016; Social Intervention: Direct Practice (SSAD 301) -Winter 2015

SKILLS AND TRAINING

Fluent in Hindi/Urdu; Proficient in Spanish; Proficient in reading Arabic

Seminar participant: "Endangered Theories: Standing by Critical Race Theory in the Age of Violence." (July 2022). Centro Estudos Sociais (CES), Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal.

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Research Mentorship with Luis Zayas, PhD, Dean, University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work (2019-2020)

Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) (2019-21)

Summer Seminar for Sexualities, Cultures and Politics

IPAK Research Center for Cultures, Politics and Identities, Belgrade, Serbia (Aug. 2016)

Gottman Couples Counseling Training, Gottman Institute, Chicago (2018)

Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA), Univ. of Michigan School of Social Work (2016)

JOURNAL EDITOR/REVIEWER CONTRIBUTIONS

Consulting Editor, *Stigma and Health* (2024 – Present)
Associate Editor, *Journal of Community Psychology* (2019 – 2025)
Ad hoc Reviewer: *Qualitative Health Research, Current Sociology, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, Journal of Technology in Human Services, Health Education Research Journal*, *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, *Plos One.*
Book Reviewer. Ife, J. Soldatić, K. & Briskman, L. (2022). *Human Rights and Social Work, 4th ed.* Cambridge.
Book Proposal Reviewer. Houvenagle, D. & John Schmanski. *A Clinician's Handbook to Admission and Emergency Assessments*. Rowman Publishing.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Committee Member, Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation Award Review
Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) (2025 - 2027)
Public Health Social Work Section, American Public Health Association (APHA)
(Section Councilor: 2019 – 2022; Member: 2007 – Present)
Member, Special Interest Group (SIG), Critical Feminisms, Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) (2021–Present)
Member, SIG, Research on Muslim Americans, Society for Social Work & Research (SSWR) (2014 – Present)
Member, South Asian Social Work Faculty Task Force, Council on Social Work Education (2015 – Present)
Member, Psi Chi, International Honors Society for Psychology (2020 – Present)
Member, National Association of Social Workers (NASW) (2007 – Present) Member,
International AIDS Society (2016 – Present)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Penn Alumni Ambassador, University of Pennsylvania (2022 - Present)
Board of Governors Member, SEEK (Social Empowerment through Education and Knowledge),
Mansehra, Pakistan (2024 – Present)
DSW Dissertation Committee Member, Shannon S. Thomas, NYU Silver School of Social Work (2026)
PhD Dissertation Committee Member, Saumya Tripathi, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service (2022)
Doctoral Examiner, PhD Thesis: "Beyond Binaries: An Ethnographic Study of Hijra in Dhaka, Bangladesh."
Rezwana Karim Snigdha, Auckland University of Technology, Australia (2021)
Interviewer for applicants, University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts and Sciences (2018-19)
Interviewer, Boren Foundation Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Chicago (2016-17)
Board of Directors Member, AIDS Services in Asian Communities (ASIAC) Philadelphia, PA (2005-07)
Board of Directors Member, San Francisco Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Women's Advisory (2001-03)

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Fordham Faculty Fellowship Advisory Committee (FFAC) (2026-27)

- Complete evaluations of fellowship applications under review for Fordham Office of Research
- Make recommendations to Vice Provost, Provost, and President regarding faculty fellowship applications

Doctoral Examiner, Urdu Language Competency Exam, Fordham Univ. Eng. Department (2022-26)

Member, Master's in Health Administration Studies Faculty Advisory Board
Fordham Gabelli School of Business, Fordham Graduate School of Arts/Sciences (2021 – present)

- Participate in advisory board meetings with faculty, industry leaders, alumni, students

Member, President's Human Resources Considerations Task Force, "Fordham Forward" (2020-2021)

- Helped draft "Fordham Forward" Reopening Plan for faculty/staff during the pandemic
- Provided public health recommendations regarding testing, contact tracing, HIPAA confidentiality

Member, Salary and Benefits Committee Member, Fordham Faculty Senate (2019-2025)

- Advocate for salary and benefits for faculty members

Member, Committee on Student Experience, Fordham Faculty Senate (2020-2026)

- Collaborated with Student Affairs, Provost's Office on anti-racism efforts at Fordham
- Helped cowrite student university mental health crisis intervention policies and recommendations

Symposium Planning Committee Member, Mapping (In)Justice: Digital Theory + Praxis for Critical Scholarship, Fordham University (Nov 2019)

SERVICE TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Member, Committee for the Advancement of Research and Scholarship (CARS) (2018 – present)

Member, Faculty Research & Development Fund Committee, Fordham GSS (2020 – present)

Member, Action Committee for Racial and Social Justice, Fordham GSS (2020- present)

Member, International Committee (2018 – 2020)

Member, Faculty Committee on Race (2018 – 2020)

Member, Policy Domain (2018 – present)

Member, Practice with Individuals and Families Domain (2019 – present)

Evaluator, GSS Doctoral Comprehensive Exam (2020 – present)

Organizer, "Exclusion in Queer Spaces" Fordham Alumni Association (August 2020)

Conference Chair, 70th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Fordham GSS (2018)