

# Md Obaidullah

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

**University of Southern Mississippi**, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

M.A. in Political Science, 2024–2026

- Thesis: *Diversionsary Repression in Electoral Autocracies: Crisis Onset, Loss-Domain Conditions, and State Escalation*
- Committee: [Joe Weinberg](#) (Chair), [Marek Steedman](#), and [Maggie K. Martin](#)

**University of Barishal**, Barishal, Bangladesh

M.S.S. in Public Administration, 2020–2021

**University of Barishal**, Barishal, Bangladesh

B.S.S. in Public Administration, 2017–2020

- Monograph: *Factors Shaping Citizens' Satisfaction with Local Governance: Evidence from Barishal Sadar, Bangladesh*

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

*Substantive:* International relations; conflict and security; foreign policy; great-power competition; middle-power diplomacy; borders and territorial politics; migration and refugees.

*Methodological:* Causal inference; generalized linear models; survey experiments; text-as-data; machine learning/NLP; process tracing; mixed methods.

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- [14] **Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [Delivering Attraction? How BRI Implementation Shapes China's Soft Power in Bangladesh and Pakistan](#). *China Report*, 0(0).
- [13] **Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [Choosing not to choose: Qatar's hedging in the U.S.–China rivalry](#). *Journal of Countries Studies*, 4(2), 335–371.
- [12] **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [CPEC's Afghan push poses a new challenge for India](#). *East Asia Forum*.
- [11] **Obaidullah, M.**, Howlader, M. R. (2025). [Assessing geopolitical and socio-economic consequences of India-Bangladesh water disputes](#). *Discover Global Society*, 3(1).
- [10] Sohel, M. S., Sifullah, M. K., Zaman, N. T., Hossain, B., **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Beyond borders: Mapping out the difficulties, stress, and coping strategies in transnational irregular \(illegal\) labor migration from Bangladesh](#). *International Journal of Community Well-Being*.
- [9] Sifullah, M. K., Sohel, M. S., Jamil, S., Ahmad, B., Hossain, M. A., **Obaidullah, M.**, Zaman, N. T., Faruk, O., Islam, M. T., & Ali, N. (2025). [WASH service accessibility and satisfaction among street informal workers in Dhaka City: A cross-sectional study](#). *Discover Social Science and Health*, 5(45).
- [8] **Obaidullah, M.**, Hossain, M., Raihan, M. S., Hossen, M. S. (2024). [From humanitarian crisis to burden: understanding the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh](#). *SN Social Sciences*, 4(8).
- [7] Sohel, M. S., Sifullah, M. K., Hossain, B., Sarker, M. F. H., Zaman, N. T., **Obaidullah, M.** (2024). [Exploring risky health behaviors and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases among transnational undocumented labor migrants from Bangladesh: a qualitative study](#). *BMC Public Health*, 24(1).

- [6] Begum Mamy, M. M., **Obaidullah, M.**, Zaman, N. T., Saifullah, M. K., Sohel, M. S., Hossen, M., Horaira, G. A. (2024). [Navigating vulnerabilities: The untold story of informal households in Dhaka, Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, 26(2), 75–98.
- [5] Sohel, M. S., Alam, S., Rahman, M. M., **Obaidullah, M.**, Towhidul, A. a. S. M., Hossain, M. B., Hossain, M. A. (2024). [Exploring the multifaceted vulnerabilities of female street child labor in the capital city of Bangladesh](#). *Heliyon*, e37302.
- [4] Sohel, M. S., Jamil, S., **Obaidullah, M.**, Hossain, B., Ali, H. M., Hossen, M. S., Uddin, M. S., Ahsan, T., Eva, N. F. (2024). [Healthcare challenges in disaster-prone riverine islands: A study of Sirajgonj, Bangladesh](#). *International Journal of Community Well-Being*.
- [3] Sarker, M. F. H., Ahmed, S. F., Kawser, U., Hossen, M. S., **Obaidullah, M.**, Khan, S., Sifullah, M. K., Sohel, M. S. (2024). [Is e-business breaking down barriers for Bangladesh’s young female entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic? A qualitative study](#). *SN Social Sciences*, 4(6).
- [2] Jamil, S., **Obaidullah, M.**, Alam, M. (2023). [Unusual increase of cesarean section delivery in Bangladesh: correspondence](#). *Annals of Medicine and Surgery*, 85(5).
- [1] **Obaidullah, M.**, Jamil, S., Mohammad A. H., Akhter, A. (2023). [Burning up: How heatwaves pose a threat to public health](#). *International Journal of Surgery – Short Report*, 8(3).

BOOK CHAPTERS

- [7] **Obaidullah, M.**, Hossain, M. (2025). [China’s Soft Power Strategy in the Middle East and East Asia: A Comparative Analysis](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [6] **Obaidullah, M.**, Begum, R. (2025). [The Rohingya Crisis and Its Effect on Bangladesh-Myanmar Bilateral Relations: A Historical Analysis](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [5] Hossain, M., **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [China’s Diplomatic Approach to the Rohingya Crisis: Balancing Economic Interests and Humanitarian Concerns](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [4] Sohel, M. S., Hossain, M. A., Sarker, M. F. H., Sifullah, M. K., **Obaidullah, M.**, Ullah, A. A. (2025). [Bangladeshi Undocumented Migration Crisis in Europe: Implications of Security, Human Rights, and Policy](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [3] Sohel, M. S., Sifullah, M. K., Sarker, M. F. H., Hossain, M. A., **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Security questions explained: Irregular migrants to Europe](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [2] **Obaidullah, M.**, Hossain, M. (2024). [Major Powers’ Approaches to the Rohingya Crisis and Their Impact on Bangladesh](#). In Ullah, A. A. (Ed.), *Handbook of Migration, International Relations and Security in Asia*. Springer.
- [1] **Obaidullah, M.**, Raihan, M. S. (2024). [Soft Power Competition: A Comparative Analysis of China and the US in South Asia](#). In Zreik, M. (Ed.), *Soft Power and Diplomatic Strategies in Asia and the Middle East*. IGI Global.

BOOK REVIEWS

- [3] Hossain, M., **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Power of Bonding and Non-Western Soft Power Strategy in Iran: Comparing China and India’s Engagement](#). *Contemporary South Asia*, 33(1), 145–146.
- [2] Hossain, M., **Obaidullah, M.** (2024). [We had the Watches. They had the Time: A Witness Account of the War in Afghanistan](#). *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 1–3.

[1] **Obaidullah, M.,** Hossain, M. (2023).

[Book review: Kudret Bulbul, Md. Nazmul Islam and Md. Sajid Khan \(Eds.\), Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Myanmar: Ethnic Conflict and Resolution. \*Society and Culture in South Asia\*.](#)

WORKING PAPERS

**Obaidullah, M.** (2026). *Regime Collapse without Civil War: Explaining Bangladesh's July 2024 Uprising*. In Process.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). *India's Influence on Authoritarianism in South Asia: The Case of Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh (2009–2024)*. Under Review.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). *Saudi Arabia's Energy Diplomacy as Strategic Hedging: Balancing Ties with the United States and China*. In Process.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). *Between Liberty and Order: A Machiavellian–Hobbesian Analysis of Democratic Decline in Bangladesh, 2009–2024*. Review and Resubmit.

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2026

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2025

POLICY & PUBLIC  
COMMENTARY  
(SELECTED)

**Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [What if Iran's Next Target is the Gulf's Water Supply?](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [China Quietly Eclipsing a Weakened Russia in Central Asia](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** & **Zobayer, A.** (2026). [Bangladesh First: BNP's Path to a Winning Foreign Policy](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [Why EU-India Trade Deal Could Be Bad News for Bangladesh](#). *The Diplomat*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2026). [Why China and Russia blinked as US moved on Venezuela](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Turkey-Bangladesh air defense deal jolts South Asia's skies](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Trump's Bagram gambit is all about China](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Rohingya crisis demands more than paper promises](#). *New Age*.

Hossain, M., & **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [India and Bangladesh in a crucial test of trust over the border](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Bangladesh-Pakistan reset carries big risks for India](#). *Asia Times*.

**Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [India's Opposition to Bangladesh's Defense Modernization Is a Self-Defeating Strategy](#). *The Diplomat*.

Mahmud, K. U., & **Obaidullah, M.** (2025). [Will Trump 2.0 end the liberal international order?](#). *The Daily Star*.

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi**  
*Teaching Assistant*

2024–2026

- Fall 2025 – PS 380 *Introduction to Law in American Society*, Dr. Troy Gibson
- Fall 2025 – PS 480 *US Constitutional Law*, Dr. Troy Gibson
- Fall 2025 – SSGS 400 *Research Methods*, Dr. Troy Gibson
- Fall 2024–Spring 2025 – PS 101 *American Government*, Dr. Bob Press
- Fall 2024–Spring 2025 – PS 306 *Race & Ethnic Politics*, Dr. Bob Press
- Fall 2024–Spring 2025 – PS 453 *Politics & Protests*, Dr. Bob Press

	<b>Daffodil International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> <i>Lecturer (Tenure Track)</i>	<b>2024</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Spring 2024 – Introduction to Bangladesh Studies</i></li> </ul>	
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<b>E-International Relations, United Kingdom (Remote)</b> Commissioning Editor	2024–2025
	<b>BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Remote)</b> Research Assistant	2022–2023
	<b>Centre for Advanced Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> Research Assistant	2021–2022
POLICY EXPERIENCE	<b>Bangladesh High Commission to the Maldives, Malé, Maldives (Remote)</b> Public Affairs & Consular Intern	2025–Present
	<b>Youth Policy Forum (YPF), Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> Policy Research Intern	2021
SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Analysis: R/RStudio, SPSS, NVivo</li> <li>• Online Teaching Tools: Canvas, Zoom, Google Meet</li> <li>• Document Markup: <math>\LaTeX</math></li> <li>• Bibliography Management: Zotero, Mendeley, Bib<math>\TeX</math></li> <li>• Writing &amp; Office: MS Office, Google Workspace</li> <li>• Languages: Bangla (native), English (fluent), Arabic (basic), Hindi (conversational)</li> </ul>	
SCHOLARLY SERVICE	Reviewer for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>SN Social Science</i></li> <li>• <i>International Journal of Community Well-Being</i></li> <li>• <i>PLOS ONE</i></li> <li>• <i>International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Southeast Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal</i></li> <li>• <i>International Journal of Water Resources Development</i></li> <li>• <i>BMC Public Health</i></li> </ul>	
TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND CERTIFICATIONS	<b>Statistical Research Consultants in Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> Data Analytics with R for Data Science, 2024	
	<b>Centre for Advanced Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> Qualitative Data Analysis Using NVivo, 2021	
AWARDS & FUNDING	<b>School of Social Science and Global Studies, USM, USA</b> Outstanding Graduate Student in Political Science, 2024–2025	
	<b>Center for Zakat Management (CZM), Bangladesh</b> CZM Genius Scholarship Recipient, 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded \$600 in merit- and need-based funding</li> </ul>	

LEADERSHIP &  
VOLUNTEER  
EXPERIENCE

**Bangladesh Youth Writers' Forum, Bangladesh**

Joint General Secretary 2021– 2022

**National Human Rights Society Bangladesh, BU Chapter, Bangladesh**

Vice President 2019–2023

**International Conference on Social Sciences and Law, University of Barishal, Bangladesh**

Volunteer 2019

**Youth Society for Research and Action (YSRA), Bangladesh**

Campus Ambassador 2020– 2022

**Department of Public Administration, University of Barishal, Bangladesh**

Class Representative 2018

REFERENCES

Available upon request.