

Civil-Military Relations and Democratisation in Pakistan

Dr Zahid Shahab Ahmed, Deakin University

Thursday 15 June: 5 pm for 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm AEST at Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne

Pakistan has had a chequered history with democracy. Since 1947, the country has been under military authoritarian regimes for approximately thirty years, including the most recent led by General Pervez Musharaf from 1999 to 2008.

In 2013, Pakistan achieved a historic milestone when a democratically elected government completed a full five-year term for the first time. However, the military continues to wield influence even outside of military regimes.



The government of Imran Khan in Pakistan has faced criticism for maintaining strong ties with the armed forces. Once removed from power, Khan continues to blame the military for bringing down his government in April 2022. Decades of military rule in Pakistan have allowed the military to retain its influence in politics, resulting in the deterioration of political institutions and the erosion of democracy.

What dynamics are at play in Pakistan's civil-military relations? How do these impact the process of democratisation in Pakistan?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join Dr Zahid Shahab Ahmed, as he discusses the origins of the current political crisis in Pakistan and its implications for the future of Pakistani democracy.



Dr Zahid Shahab Ahmed is a Senior Research Fellow at Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization, Deakin University, Australia. He is also a Non-Resident Research Fellow at Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. During 2017-19, Dr Ahmed was a Non-Resident Research Fellow with the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy. During 2013-16, he was an Assistant Professor at Centre for International Peace and Stability, National University of Sciences and Technology in Pakistan. His work focuses on political developments and groups (e.g. democratization, authoritarianism and political Islam), foreign affairs, peace and security in South Asia and the Middle East. His publications have appeared in prominent journals, such as *Politics and Religion*, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, *Asian Studies Review*, and *Territory, Politics, Governance*. He is the author of *Regionalism and Regional Security in South Asia: The Role of SAARC* (Routledge, 2013). Twitter: @DrZahidShahab

[BOOK ONLINE HERE](#)

AIIA Victoria gratefully acknowledges the Walter Mangold Trust Fund for its ongoing support of our young members

In-person: AIIA Premium and Young Professionals members free. AIIA Members \$20. Non-Members \$30. Student Non-Members \$10

Webinar: Free for all AIIA members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10