

KASHIF RUSTAMANI

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(Last updated: August 2026)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Cultural Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Aug 2022 – present

Dissertation: Saving Land, Losing Culture: Hope, Resilience and Dynamics of Environmental Change in Coastal Louisiana

Committee: Sarah Franzen (Anthropology, Major Professor), Helen Regis (Anthropology), & Linda Hooper-Bui (Environmental Sciences), David Chicoine (Archaeology)

- GPA (4.10)

Masters., Design of Sustainable Tourism Systems, University of Florence, Italy

Sep 2020 – July 2022

Thesis: Role of Photography in Tourist Experiences: Framing Historical Centre of Florence in Tourist Gaze Perspective

– Grade [105/110]

Study Abroad: Wageningen University and Research (WUR), the Netherlands. 2012

MPhil., Development Studies, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics PIDE, Islamabad

Aug 2016 – April 2019

Thesis: Locating Livelihood Patterns of Wahi Pandhi within Three Interpenetrating Modes of Production: A Marxist Analysis.

– CGPA [3.66/4.00]

MSc., Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Aug 2014 – July 2016

Thesis: Education, Language and Identity: A Case Study of Wahi Pandhi

– Merit [69.1%]

B.A., International Relations, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan Jan 2012 – Feb 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA** Spring 2026
Instructor of Record
 - ANTH 1003 – Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (Sp26)
- **Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge** Fall 2022 – Present
Teaching Assistant
 - ANTH 2051 – Intro to World Ethnographies (F22, F26)
 - GEOG 4045 – Human Geography (Sp23)
 - ANTH 1001 – Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (F23, Sp24, Sp25)
- **Iqra University, Karachi, Pakistan** Fall 2020
Visiting Faculty, Social Sciences
 - Introduction to Development Studies (Undergraduate course)
- **Sohail University, Karachi, Pakistan** Aug 2019 — Nov 2020
Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences
 - Introduction to Sociology (Undergraduate course, Sp20)

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Rural Confluence Scholar, Louisiana State University

June 2024 – present

- Selected as a Rural Scholar for a \$6 million NSF EPSCoR-funded Rural Confluence initiative focused on advancing rural resilience and sustainability.
- Led qualitative research across Southeast Louisiana, building partnerships with coastal communities, business leaders, policymakers, and levee district executives to co-develop a community-driven resilience framework and strengthen connections between academic research and communities.

Research Assistant, Louisiana State University

Aug 2024 — May 2025

- Worked on Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASC) funded interdisciplinary research project: “Assessing the Needs and Adaptation Practices of Small-Holding and Minority Farmers Facing Extreme Weather Events in Louisiana.”
- Contributed to interview data cleaning and organization. Analyzed and coded qualitative research data in collaboration with PI.

Summer Internship, Louisiana State University

June 2023 — July 2023

- Worked as Summer Intern at Coastal Ecosystem Design Studio (CEDs), under funding of Developing Engineering Practices for Ecosystem Design Solutions (DEEDS) project, a partnership between LSU and the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center.
- Conducted archival research and obtained spatial data to design green infrastructure master plan for LaPlace in collaboration with St. John the Baptist Parish Government, Louisiana.
- Edited and produced a video for St. John Parish’s Planning and Zoning department which helped them win “the Greater New Orleans Foundation’s Next 100 Years Challenge Grant.” Award: \$100,000.

Independent Research Consultant

June 2018 — Jan 2026

- **UNICEF:** Conducted formative research to understand knowledge and vaccine uptake behaviors in Sindh province for HPV vaccine rollout for the first time Pakistan in 2024.
- **All-Story, Pakistan:** Conducted formative research on evidence-led campaign strategy for the project: “Production of Social Media Awareness Campaign Materials for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)” in 2019.
- **Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA):** Conducted qualitative and observational research on social and behavior change communication for Pakistan Agriculture Technology Transfer Activity (PATTA) project. Conceptualized findings, and recommendations for technology uptake among farmers in 2018.
- **Center for Communication Programs Pakistan:** Led qualitative, quantitative, and observational surveys in Sindh for NTU International and Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded National Road Safety Project based at the Federal Ministry of Communications in 2018.

Communication Specialist

Precision Health Consultants (PHC) Global, Pakistan

Sep 2019 — Dec 2019

- Managed internal and external communication with donor agency and implementing partners such as Govt of Sindh, UNICEF, Extended Program on Immunization (EPI) Sindh and Civil Society Organizations
- Leading social and behavior change communication component in Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) Catch Up Campaign, 2019

Monitoring Officer

June 2019 — Aug 2019

Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Coordination Organization, Sanghar

- Monitoring of the activities and intervention in field and reporting of field-based implementations of a drought mitigation project titled: “Provision of livestock fodder, WASH and cash assistance in district Sanghar” funded by Concern world-wide and USAID. Designed baseline and end line research surveys to measure effectiveness of the project.

Internship at Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad

Oct 2017 — April 2018

Standing Committee on Communications

- Contributed to digitalization of Senator’s biographies for the Senate Museum of Pakistan.

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript Submitted or in Preparation

1. Rustamani, K. Embodied Observations: A Photo-essay. Manuscript submitted to Visual Anthropology Review
2. Rustamani, K. Tailgating Commitments: Learning SEC festivity through ethnographic film. In preparation for Anthropology and Humanism Journal.
3. **Rustamani, K.**, Aldrighetti, J., & Hooper-Bui, L. M. The Cast Net Methodology: A Field Guide for Collaborative Research and Building Community Partnerships in Climate Risk Areas. In preparation for Humanities and Social Science Journal.
4. Noshad Ali, Maliha Fatima, Noor Sabah Rakhshani, Sohail Raza Shaikh, Farzana Muhib, Ashley Latimer, Ali Turab, Sarbuland Khan, M. Muhammad Mossavir Ahmed, **Kashif Rustamani**, M. Imran Khan. Community-Based Organization Engagement to improve Vaccine Uptake During a Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) Campaign in Sindh, Pakistan. Manuscript Submitted to BMC: Public Health

Peer-reviewed Articles

1. Rustamani, K. (2026) Cultural Outsider, South of South: Bayou Communities at the Crossroads. *Anthropology Now*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19428200.2026.2708608> In press
2. Rustamani, K. (2021). An ethnographic explanation of the changing livelihood of Agro-Pastoral communities in Sindh, Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, 3(1), 57–65.

Books Reviewed

1. (2026) Hard Luck and Heavy Rain: The Ecology of Stories in Southeast Texas, Joseph C. Russo, in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. In Press (forthcoming)

Other Published Work

1. Rustamani, K. (2020). Market Economy and Educational Marginalization of Women in Pakistan: Implications for Development (3rd ed., Ser. IHSR Occasional Paper Series, pp. 1–26). Karachi, Pakistan: [Institute of Historical and Social Research](#).
2. Rustamani, K. (2020). Coronavirus crisis and economic meltdown on farmers in Pakistan. Retrieved from https://ihsr.jmc.edu.pk/covid-reports/#dearflip-df_724/5/
3. Rustamani, K. (2019). Oldest Sport of the Indus. [The Friday Times](#).
4. Annual photo-blogs: <https://kashifrustamani.com/blogs-2/>

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2024 – Climate Change Interest Group (CCIG) **Student Prize winner** for significant contributions and potential in climate change research for my PhD research. CCIG is an interest group within American Anthropological Association (AAA) | Award: \$250
- 2023 – Graduate Student Association **Travel Award** by the Graduate School, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, Department of Geography and Anthropology, LSU to present at AAA annual meeting in Toronto, Canada | Award: \$1100
- 2019 – **Winner (1st Place)** of photography competition on “Climate Change vs US” during National Consultation Conference on Impact of Drought in Pakistan organized by Islamic Relief Pakistan | Award: PKR 150,000

GRANTS

- 2024 – Received Robert C. West Graduate **Student Field Research Award** from the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University in 2024. To conduct preliminary research abroad. | Award: \$2500.

INVITED GUEST LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- 2026 – “*Community Engaged Research in Coastal Louisiana*” for the LSU Gulf Scholars Program
- 2026 – “*Losing Land, Losing Culture: Ethnographic study among Bayou Communities*” at Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, College of Art & Design, LSU
- 2025 – “*Fieldwork among Bayou Communities*” for ANTH 4082 course, LSU
- 2025 – “*Understanding Community Resilience in Coastal Louisiana*” for the LSU Gulf Scholars Program
- 2024 – “*Education, Language, and Identity: A case study of Wahi Pandhi, Pakistan*” for ANTH 1001 course, Dept of Geography and Anthropology, LSU
- 2023 – “*Focus on Photography*” led workshop for the Cultural Historic Collective, LSU
- 2023 – “*Agriculture and Development Paradox: Global Farmers Movement and Climate Change*” for GEOG/ANTH 4048 course, LSU
- 2022 – “*Monsoon Floods in Pakistan: Evaluating Scale of Impact on People and their Livelihoods*” for GEOG 2050 course, LSU

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 – **Saving land, losing culture: politics and planning of levee systems in Louisiana** at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in St. Louis, USA (forthcoming)
- 2025 – **Ghosts of Hurricane Ida: Resilience and Renewal in Five Finger Bayou Communities, Southeast Louisiana** (*poster presentation*) American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, USA
- 2025 – **Climate Change and Rural Resilience: A Group Discussion on (Un)certainty, Displacement and Risk** (*panelist*) at State of the Coast Conference in New Orleans, LA, USA
- 2025 – **Professional Strangers in Rural America: A Redux** (*panelist*) at Society of Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, USA
- 2024 – **Re-examining Neoliberal Framings within Conversations on Agroecologies in the Climate Crisis** (*organizer and panelist*) at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida, USA
- 2024 – **Social Change in a Pakistan Village** (*panelist*) at International Conference on Exploring the Impact of Urbanization, Disasters, and Protection Strategies on Folk Medicine and Cultural Heritage in Jamshoro, Pakistan.
- 2023 – **Anthropology in the Age of AI** (*oral presentation*) at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada
- 2023 – **Dancing a Life: Katherine Dunham** (*poster presentation*) at Southern Anthropological Society 56th Annual Meeting, Valdosta, GA, USA
- 2017 – **Educational Marginalization of Women by Market Economy in Perspective of Pakistan** (*oral presentation*) at International Conference on Marginalization and Social Exclusion in the Perspective of Market Economy, Nathia Gali, Pakistan

ACADEMIC FILMS

- 2025 – **Visualizing Resilience**, Film screening at Rural Renewal Symposium, Woodward, OK, USA
- 2024 – [College Football Tailgating at LSU](#), Film Screening at Ethnografilm Festival, Paris, France; Southern Anthropological Society 56th Annual Meeting; Southwestern Social Science 103rd Annual Meeting. 13,000 views on YouTube.
- 2024 – **Hodge Podge: Senior Year Art Project**. (in production)
- 2023 – [“I don't mind cleaning, but dust bothers me”](#) Independent film.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Grant Reviewer**, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2026
- Film Reviewer**, Ethnografilm Festival, Paris 2023 – present
- Film Reviewer**, Society of Visual Anthropology Film & Media Festival 2024 – 2025

STUDENT MENTORING

Lily Breaux (Undergraduate student, Summer 2026 Gulf Scholars Program)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Reviewer & Judge , Final Studio Presentations of LA-2002 course, LSU	2026
Secretary , Geography and Anthropology Society (GAS), LSU	2024-25
Judge , Graduate Research Conference (GRC), LSU	2023
President , Pakistani Students Association (PSA) at LSU	2023-24
Finance Secretary , Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Wageningen, the Netherlands	2021
Joint Secretary , Anthro Club, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan	2014-15

MEDIA COVERAGE

LSU News: [Bridging The Gap: Rural Scholars Make an Impact in Coastal Community](#), 2025

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Technical & Research Applications: GIS (ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS StoryMaps); SPSS; Dedoose; Microsoft Office Suite (particularly Word, Excel, PowerPoint); Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator); Final Cut Pro; WordPress (website management).

Editorial style guides: APA style (7th edition), MLA, grant writing, & report writing.

Management: Event planning, organizing, and budgeting; social media advertisement and marketing; stakeholder meeting management; & curating photography exhibitions.

Language skills:

Fluent	Basic to Intermediate
1. English	1. Italian
2. Urdu/Hindi	2. Seraiki
3. Sindhi (native)	3. Punjabi
4. Balochi (native, mother tongue)	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

○ American Geophysical Union (AGU), Student Member	2026 – Present
○ Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), Student Member	2025 – Present
○ American Anthropological Association (AAA), Student Member	2023 – Present
○ Lambda Alpha, National Anthropology Honor Society, Member	2023 – Present