

FARID SENZAI

Santa Clara University - Tel: (510) 366-6490 – fsenzai@scu.edu

EDUCATION

Oxford University, UK

Ph.D. in Politics and International Relations – February 2009

- Former Co-Editor of the Oxford International Review Journal
- Title of Dissertation: “Promoting Civil Society and Democracy in the Middle East” Dissertation Supervisor: Dr. James Piscatori, Oxford University

Columbia University, NY

M.A. (International Affairs) May 1997, GPA 3.9

- Certificate: Middle East Institute
- Full Department Scholarship

California State University, CA

B.S. (Business Administration and Minor in International Economics)

- Graduated *Cum Laude*, May 1994, GPA 3.83
- Student of the Year in the School of Business, 1993

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Santa Clara University

2005 - present

Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science:

- Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East
- Poli 192: Senior Seminar: Comparative Politics
- Poli 196: Senior Seminar: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
- Poli 128: U.S. Foreign Policy
- Poli 2: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Poli 25: Introduction to International Relations
- Religion 25: Muslims in America

California State University, East Bay

2005 - 2009

Lecturer in the Department of Political Science:

- Introduction to Political Science
- American Foreign Policy
- Politics of the Middle East

Community College of San Francisco

2005 - 2009

Lecturer:

- Introduction to Islam

Oxford University

2001 - 2003

Graduate Student Lecturer

- Politics of the Middle East
- Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Politics since World War II

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Afghan Relief

2022 - present

Founder and President

Afghan Relief provides humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population in Afghanistan. The focus is to provide food assistance, clean water, medical supplies, and emergency assistance to remote villages and rural communities. In addition, Afghan Relief provides empowerment, vocational training, and educational assistance to thousands of vulnerable Afghans in 15 different provinces throughout Afghanistan.

Center for Global Policy (New Lines Institute)

2015 - 2020

Founder and President

The Center for Global Policy's mission is to provide expert analysis, insight, and context to critical foreign policy issues facing our nation, with an emphasis on those issues related to U.S. relations with Muslim-majority countries. As president and Chief Executive responsible for directing the day-to-day operations of CGP, managing its staff, as well as overseeing its budget and the long-term viability of the organization. Working in coordination with the CGP board and senior staff members, develop and implement the strategic plan for the organization's activities.

Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

2002 - 2014

Founder and Director of Research

Conduct research and provide analysis on issues relating to Middle East politics. Conceive, design and implement research projects related to Muslims in the United States. The work entails research and writing for publication, organizing workshops and conferences, and engaging policy makers.

Brookings Institution

1997 - 1999

Research Associate

Researched US foreign policy towards the Middle East. Analyzed the most pressing social, political and economic issues in the Middle East. Key responsibilities included research, analysis, and editing. Advised and gave interviews to the media (CNN, BBC, Washington Post and New York Times) on US foreign policy towards the Middle East. Helped research and edit three books.

Pew Research Center

2006 - present

Researcher and Advisor

- I have served as a researcher and advisor for several Pew studies on American Muslims and Muslims globally. I also provided numerous national interviews to the press once we released the study. In my capacity as an advisor to Pew, I provide insight into all the major studies conducted by Pew on Muslims. This includes *The Worlds Muslims: Religion, Politics, and Society* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, April 30, 2013), *The Worlds Muslims: Unity and Diversity* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, August, 2012), *Religion in Prisons* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, May, 2012 – served as advisor for the national study) *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, May, 2007). I was the lead researcher that conducted the focus groups for the national study. I also provided numerous television, radio and newspaper interviews to the press once we released the study. This study was the first major national study

on American Muslims and remains one of the most often cited studies in the country. It has been cited thousands of times in academic journals, books and national media sources.

Oxford Analytica

2001- 2003

Research Scholar and Analyst

- Provide analysis of Middle East politics and other international affairs issues. Summarize and write reports and daily policy briefs on most relevant political and economic issues in the region. Write regular reports for the World Bank and the IMF.

Council on Foreign Relations

1996-1997

Research Analyst

- Collected and analyzed economic and statistical data pertaining to the Muslim world. Helped edit newsletter on Muslim Politics. Organized conferences and workshops on topics pertaining to US foreign policy toward the Middle East.

Publications:

Books:

- *Political Islam in the Age of Democratization*, Farid Senzai and Kamran Bokhari (Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2013)
- *Educating the Muslims of America*, co-editor with Yvonne Haddad and Jane Smith (Oxford University Press, March 2009)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- Farid Senzai “Towards a Justice Based Foreign Policy” in *Islam and the Drive to Global Justice* (Lexington Books, Spring 2024)
- “The Influence of Religious Identity, Culture, and Values on Practice of American Muslim Physicians” *Social Science* (Fall, 2022)
- Farid Senzai and Kamran Bokhari “‘Contextualising Middle East Foreign Policies Through Sectarianism’ in Robert Mason *Reassessing Order and Disorder in the Middle East* (Roman and Littlefield, 2017)
- Lance D. Laird, Wahiba Abu-Ras, Farid Senzai. “Cultural Citizenship and Belonging: Muslim International Medical Graduates in the U.S.” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* Vol. 33, 3, 2013 (December, 2013)
- Abu-Ras, Wahiba., Senzai, Farid and Laird, Lance. “Muslim Physicians Experiences Post 9/11: Cultural Trauma and the Formation of Islamic Identity” *Traumatology* (Spring 2012)
- Farid Senzai “The Political Incorporation and Mobilization of American Muslims” in Kyle L. Kreider and Thomas J Baldino (eds) *Minority Voting in the United States*, Praeger Press, 2015.

- Juris Pupcenoks and Farid Senzai “Political Participation of American Muslims in Detroit” in Kyle L. Kreider and Thomas J Baldino (eds) *Minority Voting in the United States*, Praeger Press, 2015)
- Farid Senzai and Kamran Bokhari “Defining a Moderate Muslim” in Muqtedar Khan, *Debating a Moderate Muslim: The Geopolitics of Islam and the West* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2007)

Reports:

- *The Bay Area Muslim Study: Establishing Identity and Community* (Washington DC: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, May 2013)
 - This was the first study ever conducted on Muslims in the Bay Area. The study provided the first baseline data on this growing community.
- *Engaging American Muslims: Political Trends and Attitudes* (Washington DC: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, April 2012)
 - This was the first detailed study of Muslim political activity and behavior. The study provided the first baseline data on the community’s political mobilization and incorporation. The data was also used for subsequent academic publications.
- *American Muslim Physicians: Civic and Political Engagement* (Washington DC: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, (Fall 2012)
 - This was the first major study conducted on Muslim physicians. The study provides a detailed assessment on questions of identity, civic and political engagement and the integration of American physicians.
- Pew Report: *The Worlds Muslims: Religion, Politics, and Society* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, April 30, 2013)
 - I served as an advisor for the global study. I also provided numerous national interviews to the press once we released the study. This study was the most extensive global study on Muslims and remains one of the most often cited studies in the country. It has been cited in numerous academic journals, books and national newspapers.
- Pew Report: *The Worlds Muslims: Unity and Diversity* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, August, 2012)
 - I served as an advisor for the global study. I also provided numerous national interviews to the press once we released the study. This study was the most extensive global study on Muslims and remains one of the most often cited studies in the country. It has been cited in numerous academic journals, books and national newspapers.
- Pew Report: *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, May, 2007 – served as researcher and advisor for the national study)

- I was part of the team that conducted the focus groups for the study. I also provided numerous national interviews to the press once we released the study. This study was the first major national study on American Muslims and remains one of the most often cited studies in the country. It has been cited thousands of times in academic journals, books and national newspapers.
- Pew Report: *Religion in Prisons* (Washington DC: Pew Research Center, May, 2012 – served as advisor for the national study)
 - I was part of the academic advisors for this national study on the role of religion and chaplains in US prisons. I also provided numerous national interviews to the press once we released the study. This study was an extensive national look at the role of chaplains in US prisons.
- *The Greater Middle East Initiative: Off to a Shaky Start* (Detroit MI: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, July 2004)
- *The Impact of the US Patriot Act* (Detroit MI: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, July, 2003)

Online publication:

- “American Muslim Demographics” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (2014)
- “Understanding Post-Islamism” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (2015)

Op-Ed Articles:

- “The American Muslim Vote and the 2024 Presidential Election” *Santa Clara Magazine* (Fall 2024)
- “President Biden Shouldn't Punish Afghans for 9/11” *Washington Post* (Spring, 2022)
- “Why a Stable Afghanistan is in Everyone’s Interest”, *Middle East Eye* (Spring 2022)
- “Funding gives US vital leverage with Islamists in Egypt, elsewhere” *Sacramento Bee* (June 26, 2013)
- “The Muslim Swing Vote” *New York Times* (April 3, 2012)
- “Scare Tactics to Garner Votes” *Islamic Monthly* (January 2012)
- “Obama and the Arab Spring” *Islamic Monthly* (August 2011)
- “War or Peace in Afghanistan?” *Islamic Monthly* (February 2011)

- “U.S. Role in the Middle East Peace Process” *The Atlantic Constitutional* (September 5, 2010)
- “Only the U.S. has the Clout to Make Middle East Peace” *Sacramento Bee* (September 2, 2010)
- “The Pew Study on Muslim Americans” with Amaney Jamal *Horizons Magazine* (Chicago IL: ISNA Publication, Fall 2007)
- “Response to the 9/11 Commission Report” in *First Impressions: American Muslim Perspectives on the 9/11 Commission Report* (Herndon VA: IIIT Press, 2005)
- “It’s the Occupation We Should Worry About” *Al-Ahram Weekly* (December, 2003)
- “Rumors of War: Democracy Not Assured in Middle East” *San Francisco Chronicle* (November, 2002)

Books: Research and Editorial Assistance:

- William Quandt, *Between Ballots and Bullets: Algeria's Transition from Authoritarianism* (Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1998)
- Janne Nolan, *An Elusive Consensus: Nuclear Weapons and American Security After the Cold War* (Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1999)
- Yahya Sadowski, *The Myth of Global Chaos* (Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1998)

Book Reviewed:

- Book Review of Steven Emerson’s “American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Amongst US” *American Journal of Islamic Social Science* (Fall Issue: 2003)

Presentations:

- Series of presentations on Israel and Palestine and the war in Gaza. (Oct 2023 – March 2025)
- Invited participant at a conference on “Muslims in the West” at Georgetown University (December 15, 2014)
- Invited discussant to the Brookings Institution’s US-Islamic World Forum in Doha Qatar (June 9-11, 2014)
- “Muslims, the State and Political Participation” presented my research at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) annual conference in New Orleans. This is the

premier association for scholars of the Middle East. The paper was based on my research of Muslims in the Bay Area. (September 2013)

- “American Muslim Political Participation in Detroit Michigan” presented at the International Studies Association (ISA) annual conference in San Francisco. (April 3-6th, 2013)
- “Crossing Borders, Building Bridges: Muslim International Medical Graduates in the U.S.” Laird, L. D., Abu-Ras, W., Senzai, F. Presented our research at the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)/Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) annual conference in Baltimore, MD (March 2012)
- “American Muslim Political Mobilization and Incorporation”, Invited discussant for workshop and presentation at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (March 16-17, 2012)
- “American Muslim Political Participation”, invited conference presenter at Columbia University, New York (October 7, 2011)
- “American–Muslim Physicians' Experiences since 9/11: Cultural Trauma and the Formation of Islamic Identity”, presented at the annual conference of the Council on Social Work Education and its Council on Conferences and Faculty Development (CCFD) in Atlanta Georgia (October 27-30, 2011)
- “Assessing the Arab Spring”, invited presenter at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara CA (May 2011)
- “American Muslim Political participation”, Invited discussant for workshop at Columbia University (October, 2010)
- “U.S. Policy Towards the Middle East”, presented at US State Department, Washington DC (July 2010)
- “American Muslim Political Mobilization and Incorporation”, invited discussant for workshop and presentation at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (March 26-27, 2010)
- “Challenges Facing the New President in the Greater Middle East”, presented at Michigan State University, Lansing Michigan (November 12, 2008)
- “The Political Participation of Muslims” presented at UC Berkeley, Berkeley California (October 20, 2008)
- “Muslims and the Political Process” presented at the Religion Writers Annual Conference, National Press Club, Washington DC (September 17, 2008)
- Invited discussant to the Brookings Institution’s US-Islamic World Forum in Doha Qatar (2007)

- “A Portrait of American Muslims”, presentation at the University of Delaware, Wilmington Delaware (March, 2007)
- Invited discussant to the Brookings Institution’s US-Islamic World Forum in Doha Qatar (2006)
- “U.S Foreign Policy towards the Islamic World”, presentation at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC (December, 2006)
- “US Diplomacy towards the Muslim World”, paper presented at the US Institute of Peace, Washington DC (January, 2005)
- “Democracy Promotion in the Middle East: The Case of Egypt” paper presented at the Annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Francisco (November, 2004)
- “Bridging the Divide with the Muslim World”, presentation at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC (November, 2004)
- “Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law: EU and US Strategies and Instruments”, invited discussant and paper presented at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford Institute for International Studies, Stanford University (October 5th, 2004)
- “Migration and Security”, paper presented at the Social Science Research Council, Washington DC (September, 2004)
- “Winning the War on Terrorism: Response to the 9/11 Commission Report”, paper presented at the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington DC (August, 2004)
- “Civil Democratic Islam”, paper presented at DePaul University, Chicago (July, 2004)
- “U.S. Civil Society Assistance to the Middle East” paper presented at St. Antonys College, Oxford University (May, 2004)
- “Islam in America” paper presented at Wayne State University, Detroit Michigan (April, 2004).
- “U.S. Promotion of Democracy in the Middle East” paper presented at the Center for Study of Democracy, Oxford University (March, 2004)
- “Civil Society in Egypt: the Case of Human Rights Groups” paper presented at the American University in Cairo (November, 2003)
- “Rebuilding Afghanistan: Conflict Resolution,” paper presented at UN Association, Oxford University (April, 2002)

- “Promoting Civil Society in Egypt from Abroad,” paper presented at Oxford University (November, 2001)
- “The Effectiveness of UN Sanctions: The Case of Iraq and Afghanistan,” paper presented at Stanford University, Palo Alto CA (February, 2001)
- “Civil Society and Institution Building in Afghanistan,” paper presented at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC (March, 1998)
- “Democracy in the Middle East,” paper presented at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York (April, 1997)
- “The Role of NGOs in Promoting Tolerance,” paper presented at the United Nation's New York (June 25, 1995)
- “Islam and the West: Clash or Cooperation?” paper presented at the School of International Affairs, Columbia University, New York (September, 1996)
- “Securing Peace and Justice,” Keynote speaker at the United Nation's 50th Anniversary in San Francisco along with Secretary General Boutros-Gali, San Francisco, CA (June 25, 1995)
- US Foreign Policy towards the Muslim World, paper presented at the Council on Foreign Relations, New York (March 1997)
- “The Role of NGOs in Building Civil Society” presenter at the United Nations 48th Annual NGO Conference, New York NY (September 1995)

Other Lectures and Presentations:

- Served as an advice on Pew Global Muslim Attitude survey study. The study is an attempt to assess the attitude of Muslims globally on issues of politics, religion and identity.
- “U.S. Policy Towards the Middle East”, presented at US State Department, Washington DC
- Provided assistance on numerous events and policy briefings in Washington DC organized by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. These events occurred throughout the year.
- Provided assistance on a series of policy papers and events in Washington DC organized by the British Council and the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. These events are part of a series reflecting on a decade after 9/11.
- Gave several presentations and taught a class on “The Arab Spring” as part of a series of lectures put together by the Lehrhaus Jewish Center.
- Requested to give the Harrington Lecture at the Villages in San Jose. The topic was on Middle East since the Arab Spring. (October 30, 2012)

- Invited as keynote speaker on the topic of Muslim political engagement at the Islamic Scholarship Fund. (August, 2012)
- Gave presentation and participated in several roundtable discussions on “Defining and Addressing Islamophobia” The event was sponsored by numerous Jewish and Muslim organizations including the Islamic Network Group, Jewish Community Relations Council, and the ADL. The ongoing dialogue with numerous Jewish and Muslim organizations in the bay area is an effort to build bridges of understanding and work together on join projects.
- Participated in a roundtable discussion and panel discussion on interfaith dialogue among the three Abrahamic traditions. The conference entitled “Building Bridges among Jews, Muslims and Christians” was sponsored by the Eselan Institute and held at Big Sur, California. (August 21, 2008)
- Participated in an ongoing dialogue with numerous Jewish and Muslim organizations in the bay area. The goal is to build bridges of understanding and work together on join projects.
- Invited as keynote speaker on the topic of Muslim education at the Aligarh University annual meeting. (October 15, 2011)
- Presentation on “US – Muslim relations at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church on “Islam and Muslims” (Livermore 1/12/10)
- Conducted several interviews after my NYTimes op-ed article on the “Muslim Swing Vote” appeared in the newspapers. Discussed the need for the United States to be more actively involved in the current peace process. (October, 2012)
- Provide ongoing advice on Pew study on Prison Chaplains. The study is a two-year national study on chaplains in the prison system and the contributions they make to prisoners.
- Provide ongoing advice on Pew Global Muslim Attitude survey study on Prison Chaplains. The study is an attempt to assess the attitude of Muslims globally on issues of politics, religion and identity.
- Gave presentation to State Department officials on US policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. The event was sponsored by the policy planning division.
- Gave presentation to State Department officials on US relations with the Middle East. The event was sponsored by the policy planning division.
- Member of Homeland Security Task force to examine Muslim Radicalization. The three day conference was hosted by the Department of Homeland Security provide

an assessment and recommendations for government officials to deal with radicalization.

- Gave presentation at The Century Foundation on US relations with Iran (Washington DC, October 2012)
- Presentation on US Pakistan relations. The event was sponsored by Congressional Staffers.

Television and Radio Interviews:

I have done numerous interviews for local and national media outlets. Most of my commentary involves U.S. foreign policy and Middle East politics. This includes interviews on *BBC*, *MSNBC*, *CNN*, *FOX News*, *NPR*, *NBC Bay Area News*, *CSPAN*, *VOA*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Jose Mercury* and *Sacramento Bee*.

Board Member and Advisor:

2006 – 2022 Advisor: Pew Research Center and Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

2012 – 2017 Board of Directors: Central Asia Institute

2002 – 2014 Board of Directors: Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

2008 – 2010 Academic Affairs Committee: Zaytuna College

2009 – 2012 Board of Advisors: Islamic Network Group

2011 – 2015 Member of Selection Committee: Islamic Scholarship Fund

Honors and Awards:

Teaching Awards:

- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2024)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2022)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2021)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2020)
- Best Senior Seminar course (Poli 192: Senior Seminar – May 2019)

- Best Upper Division course – (Poli 142: Middle East Politics – May 2018)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2017)
- Best Upper Division course – (Poli 128: U.S. Foreign Policy – May 2016)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2015)
- Best Upper Division course – (Poli 128: U.S. Foreign Policy – May 2014)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2013)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2012)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2011)
- Best Senior Seminar course (Poli 192: Senior Seminar – May 2011)
- Best Upper Division course – (Poli 128: U.S. Foreign Policy – May 2010)
- Best Upper Division course (Poli 142: Politics in the Middle East – May 2009)

Other Awards:

- Selected to be a member of the Ignatian Faculty Forum (IFF) for the 2012-2013 academic year
- Selected by the university to give the Senior Toast to the graduating class of 2014. (June 2014)
- Selected by several graduating seniors as their faculty mentor to attend the Class of 2011 Senior Award Ceremony. (June 2011)
- Selected by Freshman as a faculty mentor to attend the Freshman Class Award Ceremony (May 2012)
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- Received the San Juan STARS Foundation Hall of Fame Award. (October 2012). This award is granted annually to the most distinguished alumni from San Unified School District in Sacramento California.
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- Omar Khatab Foundation - 1999-2004
 - *Award:* Full Scholarship for the Ph.D. at Oxford University
- Presidential Management Fellowship – 1997
 - *Fellowship:* Presidential Management Fellowship
- Columbia University Scholarship – 1997

- *Award:* Full scholarship from Department of International Affairs
- Columbia University – 1997
 - *Award:* Human Rights Department Research Abroad Grant
- United Nations 50th Anniversary Award – 1995
 - *Award:* Grant to Study Issues of Religion and Tolerance
- California State University – 1994
 - *Award:* Academic Scholarship
 - *Award:* Student of the Year: School of Business
- Phi Kappa Phi (Professional/Honor Society – 1993
 - *Award:* *Phi Kappa Phi* Annual Scholarship
- Golden Key National Honor Society – 1992
 - *Award:* Received scholarship and partial tuition.