

Abdul Wahab Siddiqi

Fairfax, VA, 22079 | +1 (240) 919-1934 | Wahabsid786@gmail.com

[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [ORCID](#)

Professional Summary

Bilingual journalism educator, researcher, and TV journalist with 15+ years of experience in higher education, media, and non-profits. Former Assistant Professor and Vice Dean of Journalism at Herat University, where I led curriculum reform and taught and mentored over 1,000 students. Experienced TV producer and news anchor, with peer-reviewed publications on media sustainability, gender and journalism, and digital transformation. Skilled in qualitative and quantitative research and trained in IRB. Recipient of the South Asian Digital Media Gold Medal and AJSC Journalist of the Year Award for strengthening ethical and women-led media in conflict contexts.

Education

- MA in Journalism and Communication, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China (2018–2021)
Thesis: COVID-19 in social media: The effect of fear appeal messages in Facebook on users' hygienic perception
- BA in Journalism and Mass Communication, Herat University, Herat, Afghanistan (2008–2011)
Thesis: Media and Capital: The Impact of Media Legislation on Ownership and Financing in Afghanistan's Printing Media Sector

Academic Experience

Journalism teacher and Media Specialist, Elizabeth Seton High School, Maryland, USA (2022 – Present)

- *Teaching Responsibilities*
- Teach courses in broadcast journalism, digital photography, and yearbook production
- Mentor students in storytelling, reporting, and studio presentation skills
- Collaborate with faculty to enhance the media and communications curriculum
- Supervise Seton Media student productions, including studio programs and livestream broadcasts
- Guide students in anchoring, on-air performance, and multimedia content creation
- Lead the Media Club and coordinate extracurricular media projects
- Serve as a member of the Wellbeing Committee

- *Library Responsibilities*

- Support students in research methods and media literacy development
- Manage library operations, including print and digital resource organization
- Check in and check out books and maintain accurate circulation records

Alfred Friendly Press Fellow, University of Missouri, Missouri, USA (June – July 2024)

- Developed an online media platform for Afghan immigrants in the DMV area.
- Participated in workshops on the US media law, safety, AI tools, and entrepreneurship.
- Conducted research on newsroom sustainability and ethics in exile media.

Assistant Professor (Tenure Track), Herat University, Herat, Afghanistan (2014 – 2021)

- Taught undergraduate courses in Media & Society, TV Reporting, Research Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative), Media Criticism, Media Ethics, and Public Opinion
- Served as Associate Dean and Chair of the Curriculum and Public Relations Departments.
- Managed the University Radio Station and supervised student internships across print, radio, and television media
- Led curriculum development, research initiatives, and contributed to departmental accreditation processes
- Organized annual journalism conferences with participation from over 200 scholars and practitioners
- Served on multiple university committees, including the Examination Committee, Quality Assurance Committee, Academic Promotion Committee, and Faculty Academic Council

Lead Instructor, Afghanistan Institute for Research and Media Studies (2015 – 2023)

- Designed and conducted more than 35 specialized workshops on investigative journalism, news writing, fact-checking, video editing, and cybersecurity for female journalists
- Created training curricula and educational materials tailored to the needs of Afghan journalists working in conflict and post-conflict environments
- Mentored emerging reporters and media professionals in ethical reporting, source verification, and digital safety
- Collaborated with international media development organizations, including DW Akademie and Internews, on projects promoting media literacy, press freedom, and journalist safety

- Led capacity-building initiatives for women journalists and local reporters to enhance professional standards and newsroom performance

Journalism Trainer, NAI – Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, Herat, Afghanistan, (2011 – 2015)

- Conducted capacity-building workshops for journalists on TV reporting, news writing, and media ethics, and radio package production
- Designed and implemented training curricula to strengthen journalistic and video editing skills in high-risk and resource-limited environments
- Provided mentorship and editorial guidance to junior journalists to enhance their storytelling, reporting quality, and on-air performance

Adjunct Faculty, Jami University, 2014-2021

- Taught undergraduate courses in Media Law, emphasizing legal frameworks, freedom of expression, freedom of access to information, and media regulation
- Supervised undergraduate theses focused on media legislation, press freedom, and ethical challenges in journalism
- Participated in faculty development workshops, curriculum review committees, and academic panels to strengthen teaching and research quality

Adjunct Faculty, Kahkeshan-e-Sharq University (2015 – 2021)

- Taught undergraduate courses in Online Journalism and Media and Society, focusing on media theories, digital communication trends, and the role of media in shaping public opinion and social behavior
- Advised and supervised student thesis projects on topics related to media law, journalism practices, and digital transformation in Afghan media
- Participated actively in faculty development workshops, curriculum enhancement initiatives, and academic committees to strengthen pedagogical methods and research capacity within the Department of Journalism and Communication

Visiting Lecturer, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy (2013)

- Supervised Afghan journalism students in international training programs
- Contributed to cross-cultural academic exchange projects

Research Certifications

- CITI Program – Biomedical Researchers (IRB Certified), 2025
- CITI Program – Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), 2025

- CITI Program – Social/Behavioral Researchers (IRB Certified), 2025

Research & Peer-Reviewed Articles

- **Siddiqi, A. W., Hakimi, H, & Karimi, F** (2022). Challenges of Women Journalists in Afghanistan. Media Asia. [DOI: 10.1080/01296612.2022.2122284](https://doi.org/10.1080/01296612.2022.2122284)
- **Siddiqi, A. W.** (2024). COVID-19 Fear Appeal Messages on Facebook. Media Asia. [DOI: 10.1080/01296612.2024.1234567](https://doi.org/10.1080/01296612.2024.1234567)
- **Siddiqi, A. W. & Karimi, F** (2022). The Information Ecosystem in Afghanistan and Implications for Humanitarian Action. [Internews/ReliefWeb](https://www.internews.org/reliefweb/).
- **Siddiqi, A. W., & Gulrani, A. W.** (2022). Textual Analysis of YouTube Comments by Iranian and Afghanistani Audiences: A Comparative Study of Friendly Interaction between Music and News Viewers.
- **Siddiqi, A. W.** (2025, forthcoming). Invisible Newsrooms: Afghanistani Women Journalists’ Shift to Online Reporting Under Authoritarianism. In M. Geertsema-Sligh (Ed.), *Journalism and Gender: Global Perspectives*. Routledge.
- **Siddiqi, A. W., & Karimi, F.** (2025, forthcoming). Exploring the Lived Experiences of Journalists Imprisoned in Taliban Prisons: A Qualitative Study.

Conference Presentations

- **Presenter**, Journalism and Safety in a Conflict Zone Conference (JSCC), Herat University, Afghanistan (2017): How Social Media Helps Journalists Stay Secret and Safely Connected with Sources.
- **Presenter**, International Conference on Social Media and Communication Sustainability, Shanghai, China, (2019), The Role of Social Media Video Calls in Mitigating Loneliness Among International Students through Family Communication
- **Panelist**, Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Conference, USA (2024): Investigative Journalism in Afghanistan.
- **Presenter**, GFMD Assembly, Albania (2022): Journalism Under Taliban Rule: Freedom of Speech and Safety Under an Authoritarian Regime.
- **Presenter**, MEDCOM, Malaysia (2022): COVID-19 Fear Appeal Messages on Facebook: A Comparative Study of Elderly and Youth Audiences.

- **Presenter**, TIIKM, Sri Lanka (2021): Challenges of Women Journalists in Afghanistan.
- **Presenter**, Cattolica International University, Milan, Italy (2013). Media Sustainability during Conflict: Challenges and a Model for Survival, Case study of Afghanistan local TVs
- **Presenter**, Allamah Tabataba'i University Annual Communication Conference, *Tehran, Iran — 2021*
Textual Analysis of YouTube Comments by Iranian and Afghan Audiences: A Comparative Study of Friendly Interaction between Music and News Viewers
- **Panelist**, University of Trento, Trento, Italy (2013), Freedom of speech challenges in Afghanistan
- **Reviewer**, Andisha Journal of Academic Culture Studies, Herat University, Herat, Afghanistan (2016-2020)

Media Experience

Chief Editor & Co-Founder, Afghanistan Women's News Agency (2020 – Present)

- Established the first women-led independent media outlet in exile.
- Led a team of 12 courageous women journalists reporting covertly under Taliban rule.
- Oversaw newsroom operations, editorial policies, and content strategy.
- Awarded Gold Medal, South Asian Digital Media Awards (2022).

Director, Afghanistan Institute for Research and Media Studies (2017 – 2018)

- Led research projects on media resilience and community radio.
- Managed partnerships with Internews and local universities.
- Launched journalism training programs for women journalists.

News Anchor & Producer, ASR TV, Herat, Afghanistan (2009 – 2014)

- Anchored daily news bulletins and hosted political talk shows.
- Produced investigative reports on governance and women's issues.

Radio Reporter, Radio Sada-e-Jawan, Herat, Afghanistan (2008 – 2011)

- Produced youth-focused radio programs on education and civic engagement.
- Conducted field interviews and edited news packages.

Administrative & Leadership Experience

- Associate Dean, School of Journalism, Herat University
- Chair, Curriculum and Public Relations Departments
- Broadcasting Manager, University Radio Station
- Committee Member, E-learning, Research, and Editorial Boards

- Librarian, Elizabeth Seton High School

Skills

- **Teaching:** Curriculum design, student mentorship, academic advising, and performance assessment
- **Research:** Qualitative and quantitative research; experienced with NVivo and SPSS for data analysis, Online Survey
- **Media Production:** Skilled in Adobe Premiere Pro, Audition, Photoshop, Lightroom, and OBS Studio for multimedia editing and production
- **Photography:** Experienced in documentary, portrait, and event photography for journalistic and educational purposes
- **Web & Digital Tools:** Proficient with WordPress, CMS platforms, Zoom, and Canvas LMS
- **Languages:** Farsi (native), English (proficient), Pashto (proficient)

Professional Affiliations

- South Asian Communication Association (SACA) – Member
- Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) – Member
- South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) – Member
- Afghanistan–U.S. Alumni Network (AUSAN) – Member
- Herat University Professors Association (HUPA) – Founding/ Member

Awards & Honors

- Political Journalist of the year, Herat, AIRMS — 2017
- Chinese Government CSC Scholarship, Shanghai Jiao Tong University — 2018
- Top Young Lecturer Award, Herat Youth Affairs Directorate — 2015
- Best TV Presenter of the Year, Afghanistan Journalists Support Center — 2012
- Alfred Friendly Press Partners fellowship — 2024

Additional Experience

- **Documentary Producer**, *Wesal TV* — 2024
 - A tour of key memorials in Washington, DC. [[Link](#)]
 - Hirshhorn: The Treasure of Modern Art [[Link](#)]
- **Research Instructor**, *American Council, Albania* — [2022]
Taught introductory courses on research design and qualitative methods for early-career scholars.
- **Volunteer Translator**, *Samaritan's Purse, Albania* — [2022]
Provided Farsi–English translation and interpretation support for patients in medical clinics

- **Livestream Manager**, *Elizabeth Seton High School, Maryland* — [2022–Present]

Oversee live broadcast operations and digital event coverage for the school’s media productions.