

Syed Raafat Gilani

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Personal Profile

Researcher in English literature and Digital Humanities, specializing in computational literary studies, folkloristics, and postcolonial/world literature. Holds an MA in English (dissertation on generative AI and Kashmiri folktales, graded Outstanding) and a BA with distinction. Developed the Word Extractor, a digital humanities tool capable of extracting non-English words from texts, primarily applied to Romanized Kashmiri, and used it to conduct computational analyses of Anglophone Kashmiri literature. Author of a peer-reviewed article and two works of fiction, with expertise in computational text analysis, AI-driven literary and folkloristic research, and digital methodologies.

Education

Master of Arts in English, **Dr B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi** **2022-2024**

Bachelor of Arts in English Honours, **Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi** **2019-2023**

Research Fields

Digital Humanities; Computational Literary Studies; Folkloristics; Postcolonial and World Literature; South Asian and Kashmiri Literature; Medical Humanities.

Dissertation

Application of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Folkloristics: Investigating Select Kashmiri Folktales Using GenAI Chatbots
Grade: Outstanding (O)
Committee: Dr Amit Singh, Dr Diamond Oberoi Vahali

Publications

Books

The Day I Died (2017)
Sure (2019)

Peer-Reviewed Article

“Reflections on an Oriental Nation,” ELA Magazine, Issue 3, 2022

Articles Under Review

“Tse and Cxe: A Digital Humanities Approach to Detecting Orthographic Variation in Romanized Kashmiri within Anglophone Kashmiri Literature” (Digital Scholarship in the Humanities, OUP)

Digital Scholarship

Word Extractor (Streamlit DH tool using custom Romanized Kashmiri dictionaries)
“Computational Analysis of Language, Place, and Sentiment in Anglophone Kashmiri Literature” (preliminary findings, hosted online)

Research, Editorial, and Professional Experience

Editorial & Scholarly Communication

- Editor for South Asian Studies, The Digital Orientalist** **Aug 2025 - Present**
- Commission, edit and publish essays on Digital Humanities and South Asian scholarship; author Editor's Digest on emerging research trends.
- Assistant Development Editor, HarperCollins Publishers India** **Jan 2025 - Jul 2025**
- Developed and edited curriculum for K–8 computer science education, integrating AI literacy and open-source computing and introduced Linux modules into national textbooks while managing authors within the boundaries of pedagogical and editorial coherence.
- Managing Director & Editorial Head, The Jamia Review** **Dec 2019 - Jun 2021**
- Directed editorial policy, publication strategy, and organizational expansion (70+ contributors). Oversaw cross-department collaboration and quality assurance for academic and journalistic content.
- General Secretary & EIC, English Literary Association, Jamia Millia Islamia** **Jan 2021-Jun 2022**
- Led the publication of the department's academic magazine, facilitated academic panels, and peer-review processes for undergraduate research contributions.

Technical Experience

- Video Annotation Specialist & Content Analyst, Turing** **Jul 2024 & Oct 2025**
- Curated, annotated, and quality-controlled large-scale proprietary datasets for training and evaluating frontier LLMs, producing guideline-compliant annotations.

Research Skills

- Working knowledge of Python with experience in processing linguistic data and building small-scale digital humanities tools.
- Familiar with basic data analysis and sentiment exploration in literary and multilingual texts.
- Strong writing and editorial skills developed through experience in content strategy, curriculum design, and academic editing.
- Effective communicator and team collaborator; comfortable leading cross-functional projects and managing creative teams.
- Experienced in blending literary insight with emerging technologies to design learner-centered educational material.

Honours & Achievements

- **Merit Scholarship:** Awarded by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi.
- **Certificate of Merit:** Awarded for excellence in performing the duties of Editor-In-Chief & General Secretary for English Literary Association by Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Languages

- **English:** Near-native proficiency (C2), **Kashmiri:** Native speaker (limited writing skills), **Urdu:** Intermediate proficiency, **Hindi:** Intermediate proficiency.