

ASU Tempe Campus

School for the Future of Innovation in Society

Innovations Talk

Faheem Hussain

Beyond Bullets: Challenges and Aspirations of Rohingya Refugees in the Digital Space

Monday, March 26, 2018

12-1 p.m.

Coor 5536

RSVP: bit.ly/SFIS_Hussain

Faheem Hussain, a new faculty member at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society, will reflect on his recent visit to the Rohingya refugee camps in the bordering region between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Rohingyas are one of the most persecuted populations in the world today. Some 655,000 of them have crossed into Bangladesh in the past six months to escape systematic violence. In the camps, the absence of internet access and other Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) infrastructures threaten to keep the Rohingyas cut off from the rest of the world. They are also not allowed to legally access local SIM cards, aggravating inequality and vulnerability, especially among women and adolescents.

In this presentation, Hussain will highlight the potential of using low-power FM, GSM phones, and a barefoot social network to address the barriers to accessing information in the refugee camps. He will also talk about the scopes of (1) refugee empowerment using ICT enabled education and (2) an inclusive Needs Assessment Framework for displaced populations worldwide.



Faheem Hussain is a teaching faculty member of the M.S. in Global Technology & Development program in SFIS, ASU. Before joining ASU, he worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Technology and Society at State University of New York (SUNY), Korea. He holds a PhD in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University. His research interests encompass ICT for Development, Digital Rights, Social Media, and Women's Empowerment. In addition, Dr. Hussain has been working as a Technology Policy and Development Specialist for United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (UN-APCICT).

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