

# Nausheen Husain

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I am a journalist and professor, currently teaching journalism with an emphasis on data analysis, underreported communities and civil liberties at Syracuse University. My academic research focuses on the news coverage of War on Terror defendants, policies and infrastructure after 9/11. I also work as a freelance reporter, and have published pieces in The Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and Oakland North. My reporting focuses on civil liberties issues, incarceration and security, and inequities, and is grounded in perspectives on the Muslim experience in the U.S.

## Teaching interests

My aim as a professor is to help produce journalists who want to participate in collaborative, data-driven, investigative work. I aim to shape my curricula in data and investigative journalism to emphasize numeracy, FOIA literacy, basic programming concepts universal to most languages, strategies to learn new skills quickly in an ever-changing field and, most importantly, the limits of using data to shape journalism.

## Research/creative interests

My research and investigative work focuses on Muslim communities and civil liberties issues, data literacy and underreported communities. I use data analysis to bolster my reporting and the reporting of colleagues. I prioritize research that is collaborative and open-sources newly compiled data on marginalized communities.

## Languages

Urdu: Native or bilingual

Hindi: Native or bilingual

Spanish: Limited working

Arabic: Limited working

Persian: Limited working

## Education

- 2012 - 2014 **M.J. Data Journalism**, UC Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley, CA, United States
- Voted to be one of two commencement student speakers.
  - Master's project: [IslamForReporters.com](http://IslamForReporters.com), in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project. Advisors: Jeremy Rue, Hussein Rashid, Hatem Bazian.
- 2007 - 2011 **B.A. Journalism and Middle Eastern Studies**, New York University

## Academic positions

2021 - Present **Assistant Professor**, Syracuse University

- Teaching a newly required course called Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism ([https://nausheehusain.github.io/data\\_foundations/](https://nausheehusain.github.io/data_foundations/)), which includes spreadsheets and numeracy, data visualizations and web development. My course includes FOIA, data ethics and building your own dataset, as well as Google Sheets, Data wrapper, HTML/CSS and GitHub.
- Co-taught Investigative Reporting from a print and data perspective. My part of this course uses story-based inquiry to show students how to create a hypothesis, find the data and documents to disprove or prove their hypothesis, and then report out the story for an investigative piece. I cover data analysis for investigative work, as well as writing about your findings.

## Professional positions

2014 - 2021 **Senior Reporter and Developer**, Chicago Tribune

- Advocated for more consistent coverage of underrepresented communities and civil liberties issues, including investigative and document-based reporting on special prison units in the Midwest, effects of Covid-19 in state and federal prisons, and surveillance in Muslim American areas of Chicago.
- Contributed data analysis and cross-media visual storytelling for stories on disinvestment in Chicago communities, racial differences in Covid-19 effects, seclusion rooms in Illinois schools, pharmacy deserts, refugee arrivals to Illinois. Developed the ability to quickly grow knowledge of Python, R, JavaScript, React and Github, as needed. Restructured and re-documented elections publishing rigs.
- Served as a consistently available resource and consultant for colleagues.

2013 - 2014 **Reporter and Producer**, Islam For Reporters

- Obtained FBI data on anti-Muslim hate crime incidents in the U.S. and reported on how data is flawed and incomplete.
- Traveled the Northeast to interview scholars on camera.
- Helped produce ideas for comics to explain Islam-related terms and stories of Islamophobia. Designed and built website to host project.

2012 - 2014 **Assistant Editor and Reporter**, Oakland North

- Covered Oakland school board and education issues. Document-based investigation of AIMS charter school fraud and eventual revocation of charter.
- Produced multimedia projects, and advised first-year students on data reporting.
- Co-directed coverage and edited stories on the 2013 BART strike.

## Professional memberships

2021 - Present **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication**. (September 2021 - Present).  
[aejmc.org](http://aejmc.org)

2021 - Present **Religion News Association**. (September 2021 - Present).  
<https://rna.org/>

- 2014 - Present **Investigative Reporters & Editors.** (March 2014 - Present).  
<https://ire.org/>
- 2014 - Present **South Asian Journalists Association.** (January 2014 - Present).  
<https://saja.org/>

## Awards and honors

### Nominated

- 2020 Reporting Excellence, Religion News Association

### Received

- 2023 Faculty Fellow, Lender Center For Social Justice
- 2019 Best Graphics, Lisagor Award
- 2019 Jones-Beck Award for Outstanding Performance, Chicago Tribune
- 2015 Digital Innovation Award, Graphics Team, Chicago Tribune
- 2014 Winner, International Reporting Grant: India, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

## Peer-reviewed publications

### Invited Encyclopedia Entry

Husain, N. ***National and Transnational Security Regimes in North America.***

In the years before and after Sept. 11, Muslim women around the globe have been othered by American media and foreign policy in ways that put them at the receiving end of pity or fear. When their families and the men in their lives are targeted by securitization, often ending up incarcerated or deported, they also become primary breadwinners, advocates, and emotional support for father- or brother-less youth. But many Muslim women have also become the faces and voices of dissent against the securitization that Muslim communities face, nationally and transnationally.

[EWIC\\_Entry\\_ACCEPTED-1.pdf](#)

### Contributed Journal Article

Husain, N. **Beyond Datawrapper: What dynamic data visualizations in award-winning journalism tell us about data education.** *Global Investigative Journalism Network.*

This paper aims to analyze award-winning investigative journalism pieces that contain at least one 'dynamic' data visualization element. The authors' working definition of dynamic is any visualization whose main takeaway is displayed through movement, either on its own and via the reader's influence; 'scrollytelling' is a popular example of this kind of dynamic data visualization. These dynamic data visualizations tend to defy categorization into just one traditional static chart type (bar chart, line chart, pie chart, etc.) and their accompanying best practice rules, as taught in both data journalism and math communication. This analysis aims to be tool-agnostic, looking across various code libraries and platforms like D3, ArcGIS, Tableau, and Adobe Illustrator. The authors will rely on their own knowledge and study of best practices traditionally taught in data education to assess whether and how these pieces break the rules that educators, including the authors, normally teach in journalism, mathematics and statistics courses.

[GIJN\\_DynamicDataviz\\_ACCEPTED-1.pdf](#)

## Publications

### Accepted Newspaper Article

Abdelaziz, R., Husain, N. (2023). **The FBI Says This Man Is A Terrorist — But He Says They Set Him Up.** *The Huffington Post*. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/fbi-labels-man-terrorist-court-wants-longer-sentence\\_n\\_648ccc35e4b04ee51a9b84ab](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/fbi-labels-man-terrorist-court-wants-longer-sentence_n_648ccc35e4b04ee51a9b84ab)

Adel Daoud was sentenced to 16 years in prison over a faked 2012 bomb plot, despite questions of entrapment and mental competence. Now an appeals court wants to hit him harder.

Abdelaziz, R. (2022). **Trump's Travel Ban Forever Changed the Lives of Muslims Around the World.** *The Huffington Post*. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-travel-ban-muslims-changed-lives\\_n\\_61e86498e4b01f707dabbdcd](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-travel-ban-muslims-changed-lives_n_61e86498e4b01f707dabbdcd)

Worked on the data analysis for this story. Involved three students from my fall 2021 data journalism courses to do data analysis and build charts for this piece.

More news stories here: <https://nausheehusain.github.io/work.html>

## Peer-reviewed/refereed/juried presentations

### Accepted Paper

Husain, N. (Author), Global Investigative Journalism Network Conference, "**Beyond Datawrapper: What dynamic data visualizations in award-winning journalism tell us about data education,**" Global Investigative Journalism Network, Gothenburg, Sweden. (September 20, 2023).

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Z1h7H-ndBD6TGQ1LQtmv1a5Q75x3PP-J2HzDQY-bFOU/edit#slide=id.p>

This paper analyzed award-winning investigative journalism pieces that contain at least one 'dynamic' data visualization element. The authors' working definition of dynamic is any visualization whose main takeaway is displayed through movement, either on its own and via the reader's influence; 'scrollytelling' is a popular example of this kind of dynamic data visualization. These dynamic data visualizations tend to defy categorization into just one traditional static chart type (bar chart, line chart, pie chart, etc.) and their accompanying best practice rules, as taught in both data journalism and math communication. The authors will rely on their own knowledge and study of best practices traditionally taught in data education to assess whether and how these pieces break the rules that educators, including the authors, normally teach in journalism, mathematics and statistics courses.

## Presentations

### Volunteered Panel

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "**Beyond 'skills-based': contextualizing data journalism for students,**" Investigative Reporters & Editors, Nashville, TN, United States. (March 1, 2023 - March 5, 2023).

75 minutes

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1qAGgHuaddgr4d47Nx4bdpzzWj-keUpPaROy3upZVy-E/edit>

I spoke on a panel with Meredith Broussard, Lam Thuy Vo and Mago Torres about how to move beyond just skills in data journalism courses at the college-level. I spoke about Teju Cole's idea of constellational thinking and how that applies to data journalism.

Husain, N., Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), "**Expanding data journalism beyond state-centric narratives**," Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Detroit, MI, United States. (August 3, 2022 - August 6, 2022).  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gbuDeihNF0777bMjftnBQPB8wPmozxSykl6EJO\\_odE0/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gbuDeihNF0777bMjftnBQPB8wPmozxSykl6EJO_odE0/edit#slide=id.p)

This was my first AEJMC conference -- I spoke on a panel about using nontraditional data to expand data journalism education beyond U.S.-centric narratives.

Husain, N., National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), "**Using nontraditional data to expand data journalism education**," Investigative Reporters & Editors, Atlanta, GA, United States. (March 3, 2022 - March 6, 2022).

75 minutes

I spoke on a panel with Lam Thuy Vo and Lisa Waananen Jones about using nontraditional data to expand data journalism education beyond U.S.-centric narratives.

### Invited Workshop

Husain, N., International Summer Studies Institute, "**Storytelling With Data**," Mario Einaudi Center For International Studies, Cornell University, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, United States. (June 27, 2023). 90 minutes

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1\\_osG42O12XFet55sXSPjOqj5EarQrZaCJYDtTe8jLUI/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_osG42O12XFet55sXSPjOqj5EarQrZaCJYDtTe8jLUI/edit#slide=id.p)

For Cornell's International Summer Studies Institute, I ran a session on 'Storytelling With Data' in which we created our own data storybooks, inspired by Rahul Bhargava's post on DataBasic.

Husain, N., NewsTrain, "**Developing a data mindset**," News Leaders Association, Zoom. (September 23, 2022).

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BL4cQc4ik\\_zdci23Z4z7qWhpOQ54wh11edAQL2KeNE/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BL4cQc4ik_zdci23Z4z7qWhpOQ54wh11edAQL2KeNE/edit#slide=id.p)

I spoke to journalists in the region about how to develop a data mindset in their day-to-day journalism jobs, including beat reporting. I went over some basic data and context building blocks and then I had the participants "interview" some regional migration data.

## Teaching experience

### Fall 2023

Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	16
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	15
Independent Study	MND 690	1
Public Communications First Year Seminar	COM 100	16

### Spring 2023

Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	15
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	15

### Fall 2022

Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	14
Reporting	MND 305	12
Topics in Media, Diversity and Inclusion - News Media & Diversity	COM 350	28

### Spring 2022

Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	13
Topics in Specialized Reporting - Investigative Reporting	JNL 530	5
Topics in Specialized Reporting II - Investigative Reporting	BDJ 530	4

### Fall 2021

Course Name	Course Code	Enrollment
Foundations of Data and Digital Journalism Foundations of Data	JNL 221	12
and Digital Journalism	JNL 221	13

## Faculty development activities

### Conference Attendance

- 2023 "Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Orlando, FL, United States. (June 21, 2023 - June 25, 2023)
- 2022 "Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication" Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Detroit, MI, United States. (August 3, 2022 - August 6, 2022)
- 2022 "Investigative Reporters and Editors Conference" Investigative Reporters and Editors, Denver, CO, United States. (June 23, 2022 - June 26, 2022)

### Professional Development Training

- 2023 "Faculty Success Program" National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. (June 2023 - August 2023)

## University service

### University

- 2023 Moderator, (April 21, 2023)  
Approx. 6 hours  
I hosted a talk with Georgetown faculty member Shenila Khoja-Moolji, called "Spiritual Placemaking: Shia Ismaili Muslim Women's Seva in the Aftermath of Displacement," in collaboration with Maxwell and the South Asia Center.

### College

- 2022 - 2023 Member, Hiring committee, CDJC Cluster Hire (August 1, 2022 - January 1, 2023)  
Approx. 40 hours  
I served as part of the hiring committee for two positions at Newhouse's new DC program.
- 2022 Moderator, (October 12, 2022)  
Approx. 4 hours  
Last academic year, I moderated a panel with Minneapolis Star Tribune crime reporter Liz Sawyer and Los Angeles Times LAPD reporter Libor Jany, who spoke to students and faculty after a Frontline screening of "Police On Trial," about the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd.
- 2022 Coordinator, (September 12, 2022)  
Approx. 20 hours  
Last academic year, I helped organize an event at Newhouse with two South Asian newsroom leaders based in India. They run the all-female news outlet, Khabar Lahariya, which was the subject of the recent documentary, "Writing With Fire." For this event, me and two other Newhouse faculty members, worked hard to get sponsorships to be able to bring these two women to Syracuse, and organized all logistics involved with the event.

## Professional service

- 2014 - Present Member, Advisor, and Speaker, IRE/NICAR
- Data advisor for IRE fellowship recipient Rowaida Abdelaziz. Advised Abdelaziz on FOIA, data collection, analysis and cross-media visualization for her 2021 project for the Huffington Post on the long-term effects of the Muslim Ban.
  - Invited trainer and panelist on data journalism-related topics, including:
    - "Covering Undercovered Communities" ([https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18sxiui\\_AV69boRMd1iqiBBo\\_-13z9jVuAAtlhhtqVI/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18sxiui_AV69boRMd1iqiBBo_-13z9jVuAAtlhhtqVI/edit#slide=id.p))
    - "Covering Immigration With Data" ([https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Cu6L\\_NdbRsxbrdw2sUB8hfRriLnTUiT9QoLt0Z15I\\_A/edit#slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Cu6L_NdbRsxbrdw2sUB8hfRriLnTUiT9QoLt0Z15I_A/edit#slide=id.p))
    - "Introduction To Python" (<https://github.com/kceciyeyes/nicar-2018-python>)
    - "Using Nontraditional Data To Expand Data Journalism Education"

## 2021 Speaker, League of Women Voters

- Invited to speak on a panel at LWV's annual conference about demographic and COVID-related data, and how COVID disproportionately affects Black and Hispanic populations.
- Invitation came as a result of a story about historical disinvestment in Chicago's south and west sides for which I was the lead reporter:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/living/health/ct-life-inequity-data-policy-roots-chicago-20200726-r3c7qykvvbfm5bdjm4fpb6g5k4-story.html>

## 2015 Speaker, Social Science Research Council

- Invited to speak about data skills and using csvkit in the newsroom.
- Led the group through analyzing FBI hate crime data from 2001 to 2013 using csvkit with a step-by-step tutorial that I wrote for this group.

<https://nausheehusain.github.io/SSRC-data/>

## Community service

## 2021 - Present Committee Member, Rochester Ismaili community, Rochester, NY United States

In 2021, I was appointed to be part of a committee that could set up a prayer and community center in Rochester for the Ismaili Muslims there; the community has grown to be almost 150 people, many of whom are young children. Over the past two years, our committee has met regularly over Zoom and in person to scout out locations in Rochester and to gather the new Afghan community for prayers about once a month. As the youngest member of this committee, it has been my role to engage with the youth, many of whom have had traumatic experiences, and many of whom are ambitious for their futures.

## 2021 - Present Facilitator, ITREB

- Served as a facilitator, which included brainstorming resources, activities and lecture and discussion topics about American Muslim history, identity, media representation and involvement with American civil rights movement.
- Helped design programming on Islam and social justice during high-intensity political events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the genocide in Gaza.
- Ran sessions on representation of Muslims in the media, including the availability (and lack thereof) of data on minority groups.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11bUuom-YIPXwUvarGjS-oERV9dxh6b-ZQAuNjYzsi4/edit#slide=id.p>

## 2016 - 2018 Program Organizer, Code Camp

- Built curriculum for a Code Camp, covering HTML/CSS, programming concepts like data structures and flow, and Python syntax for 15-20 Isma'ili Muslim kids aged 8-12 in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago.
- Recruited and mentored college-aged Code Camp teachers, brainstormed and supported teaching techniques, games and lesson plans for classes.
- Juggled this with several other projects, including a speaker series for underrepresented careers, as an appointed member of an education board for the Midwest Isma'ili community. Mentored Isma'ili college students who served as project managers for these programs.

<https://github.com/icodecamp/icodecamp.github.io>