

# SYED IMRAN ALI, Ph.D.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Fellow in Global Health and Humanitarianism** 11/2017 - present

*Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research, York University*

Bridging the academic and humanitarian sectors to solve critical operational challenges in emergencies.

**Research Consultant, Independent** 03/2013 – 11/2017

Design and implementation of operational research and program development projects for humanitarian and academic sector clients including Médecins Sans Frontières, UNHCR, University of Toronto, and Humanitarian Innovation Fund at work sites including South Sudan, Jordan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Canada.

**Lecturer and Postdoctoral Fellow** 11/2013 – 12/2015

*University of California Berkeley*

Cross-appointed as lecturer in the International and Area Studies Program and as postdoctoral fellow in the Development Impact Lab and the Blum Center for Developing Economies. My research at Berkeley dealt with developing evidence-based guidelines for emergency water treatment in collaboration with UNHCR and MSF. In the IAS Program, I taught two undergraduate classes on *WASH in Emergencies* and on the *Ethics, Pragmatics, and Methods of International Development*.

**Water and Sanitation Specialist** 08/2010 – 05/2013

*Médecins Sans Frontières*

Served in emergency responses for Maban County refugee crisis, South Sudan (2012-2013) and Indus River floods crisis, Pakistan (2010). Key responsibilities included: safe water and sanitation development, strategic response and coordination, staff training and management; lobbying and advocacy; and operational research.

**Project Coordinator** 05/2007 – 11/2011

*University of Guelph & IIT Madras*

Established and ran an international research collaboration with the University of Guelph, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, and Queen's University on safe water in low-income urban and peri-urban communities in India. Awarded \$330k research grant from IDRC (Ottawa, Canada). Directed team of 12 local and expatriate staff in field and laboratory research activities.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, University of Guelph** 11/2008 – 05/2012

*Dissertation Title:* Design and case study application of a participatory decision-making support tool for appropriate safe water systems design in marginalized communities of the Global South (Supervisor: Prof. Kevin Hall).

**B.Sc.(Eng.) in Geological Engineering, Queen's University** 09/2002 – 05/2006

Environmental stream; graduated First Class Honours.

## RESEARCH FUNDING

<b>MSF Transformational Innovation Capacity (PI)</b>	2017
Development of a machine learning enabled safe water optimization tool	€145,608 EUR
<b>Humanitarian Innovation Fund (PI)</b>	2015-2016
Development of evidence-based emergency water treatment guidelines	£19,275 GBP
<b>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (PI)</b>	2014-2015
Development of evidence-based emergency water treatment guidelines	\$40,000 USD
<b>Médecins Sans Frontières (PI)</b>	2013
Chlorine decay in refugee camp water supplies, South Sudan	€11,000 EUR
<b>International Development Research Centre (Co-PI)</b>	2009-2012
Alternative safe water systems for South Asian slums	\$332,000 CAD

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Professional Development Fund for Lecturers, University of California, Berkeley	2015
DIL Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley	2013-2015
Dean's Scholarship, University of Guelph	2009-2011
Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology	2010
Doctoral Research Award (awarded), International Development Research Centre	2009
EcoHealth Graduate Training Award, CoPEH-Canada	2009
Walkerton Clean Water Centre Scholarship	2009-2010
Students for Development Award, AUCC/CIDA	2007-2008
Graduate Award, Queen's University	2006-2008
Faculty of Applied Science Dean's Award, Queen's University	2005
Millennium Scholarship, World Petroleum Congress	2005
O'Connor Associates Scholarship in Geological Engineering	2004
J. J. Denny Memorial Scholarship in Geological Engineering	2004
Entrance Award, Queen's University	2002
CAW/TCA Cesar Chavez Memorial Scholarship	2002

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ali, S. I.** and J. Fesselet. Preserving water safety: Hygienic water handling practices in refugee camps in South Sudan, Jordan, and Rwanda. (In preparation).
2. **Ali, S. I.**, S. S. Ali, and J. Fesselet, 2017. Evidence-based guidelines for centralized chlorination in emergencies. *PLOS One*. (Under review).
3. MacDonald, M. C., L. Juran, S. Srinivasan, J. Jose, **S. I. Ali**, P. Rajagopalan, and K. Hall, 2017. Assessing participant compliance with point-of-use water treatment: An exploratory investigation. *Public Works Management and Policy* (December 9, 2017). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1087724X17745083>.

4. Branz, A., M. Levine, L. Lehmann, A. Bastable, **S. I. Ali**, K. Kadir, T. Yates, D. Bloom, and D. Lantagne, 2017. Chlorination of drinking water in emergencies: Systematic review of knowledge, recommendations for implementation, and research needed. *Waterlines* 36 (1): 4-39. Available at: <http://www.developmentbookshelf.com/doi/abs/10.3362/1756-3488.2017.002>
5. **Ali, S. I.**, S. S. Ali, and J. Fesselet, 2015. Effectiveness of emergency water treatment practices in refugee camps in South Sudan. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 93 (8): 550–558. Available at: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/8/14-147645/en/>
6. MacDonald, M. C., L. Juran, J. Jose, S. Srinivasan, **S. I. Ali**, K. Aronson, and K. Hall, 2015. The impact of rainfall and seasonal variability on the removal of bacteria by a point-of-use drinking water treatment intervention in Chennai, India. *International Journal of Environmental Health Research*, 26 (2). Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09603123.2015.1089532>
7. MacDonald, M. C., **S. I. Ali**, and K. Hall, 2012. “Collaborative innovation for the development of contextually appropriate water treatment technology in a marginalized, low-income South Asian community.” *International Journal on Knowledge, Technology and Society* 8 (3): 105-20. Available at: <http://ijt.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.42/prod.862>
8. **Ali, S. I.**, M. MacDonald, J. Jincy, K. A. Sampath, G. Vinothini, L. Philip, K. Hall, and K. Aronson, 2011. “Efficacy of an appropriate point-of-use water treatment intervention for low-income communities in India utilizing Moringa oleifera, sari-cloth filtration, and solar UV disinfection.” *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development* 1 (2): 112-23. Available at: <http://washdev.iwaponline.com/content/1/2/112>
9. **Ali, S. I.**, 2010. “Alternatives for safe water provision in urban and peri-urban slums.” *Journal of Water and Health* 8 (4): 720-34. Available at: <http://jwh.iwaponline.com/content/ppiwajwh/8/4/720.full.pdf>
10. **Ali, S. I.**, K. R. Hall, K. J. Aronson, and L. Philip, 2009. “Humanitarian engineering in Mylai Balaji Nagar: An integrated water, environment and public health project for slums in the Indian subcontinent.” *Desalination* 248: 418-27. Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0011916409006146>

## PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Médecins Sans Frontières Watsan Working Group Meetings – Paris, France; Geneva, Switzerland	2016
UNHCR Global WASH Partner Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland	2016
Médecins Sans Frontières Scientific Days Conference – London, UK	2013, 2014, 2016
Water and Health: Where Science Meets Policy – UNC Chapel Hill, NC, USA	2010, 2015
Emergency Environmental Health Forum – Nairobi, Kenya	2015
Humanitarian Technology: Science, Systems and Global Impact – Cambridge, MA, USA	2015
International Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Symposium – UC Berkeley, CA, USA	2014
Unite For Sight: Annual Global Health & Innovation Conference – Yale University, CT, USA	2013
Tech4Dev International Conference – École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland	2012
National Conference on Cost-Effective Sustainable Sanitation – New Delhi, India	2010
International Workshop on Water and Sanitation in International Development and Disaster Relief – 2008 University of Edinburgh, Scotland	

N.B.: I have also been invited as a guest lecturer or panellist on multiple occasions at University of Victoria, York University, University of California, Berkeley; Presidio Graduate School (San Francisco, USA), International Water Association; USAID 2015 Technical Convening (San Francisco, USA); United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment, and Health (Hamilton, Canada); University of Guelph; and University of Toronto.

## CONSULTING AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

1. **Ali, S. I.**, 2016. “Evidence-based guidelines for centralized chlorination in emergencies.” *Consultancy Report*, Médecins Sans Frontières: Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Available at: <http://fieldresearch.msf.org/msf/handle/10144/618836>
2. **Ali, S. I.**, 2016. “How research universities can help the refugee crisis.” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, April 13, 2016. Available at: [http://ssir.org/articles/entry/how\\_research\\_universities\\_can\\_help\\_the\\_refugee\\_crisis](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/how_research_universities_can_help_the_refugee_crisis).
3. **Ali, S. I.**, and K. Kadir, 2016. “WASH in emergencies problem exploration report: Water treatment.” *Consultancy Report*, Humanitarian Innovation Fund: London, UK. Available at: <http://www.elrha.org/hif/innovation-resource-hub/innovation-links/wash-innovation-research/>.
4. **Ali, S. I.**, 2015. “Engineering in solidarity: Hybridizing knowledge systems in humanitarian and international development work.” *Procedia Engineering* 107: 11-17. Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877705815010061>.
5. **Ali, S. I.**, 2014. “Building the evidence base for humanitarian safe water supply: Free residual chlorine decay in Azraq refugee camp, Jordan.” *Consultancy Report*, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Geneva, Switzerland. Available at: <http://wash.unhcr.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Decay-of-Chlorine-Research-Study-to-build-evidence-base-for-emergency-safe-water-guidelines-UNHCRBerkeley-University-2014.docx>.
6. **Ali, S. I.**, 2014. “Humanitarian water at risk: Chlorine decay in refugee camp safe water supply in South Sudan.” *Consultancy Report*, Médecins Sans Frontières: Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Technical Consultant (*pro bono*)

Médecins Sans Frontières OCA 2016 – present

### Technical Reviewer

Environmental Science & Technology 2016

Hydrogeology Journal 2015

Water Science and Technology 2012 – 2013

### Curriculum Committee Member

Global Poverty and Practice Minor Curriculum Committee, University of California, Berkeley 2014

APSC 190 Curriculum Committee, Queen’s University 2007, 2009

## LANGUAGES

*English:* native proficiency spoken and written  
*Urdu:* native proficiency spoken, beginner written  
*Hindi:* fluent spoken, none written  
*Spanish, French, and Arabic:* beginner spoken and written