

# Acknowledgements

This book started life as a PhD thesis and I owe my thanks to many people who contributed to this project over the years, not all of whom can be listed here. Particular thanks go to my PhD supervisor, Dr Patrick Guinness, who has been remarkably supportive throughout my journey. From reading my drafts promptly, to giving me constant, constructive feedback, he has been an incredible mentor. He pushed me to think critically about every aspect of this work and has offered endless theoretical and analytical insights that have shaped my arguments in this book. His vast knowledge of modern states, social movements and conflict in societies has significantly enriched my understanding of my research topic. It is because of Dr Guinness's exceptional confidence in me that I have been able to revise my PhD thesis into a book and win the CASS PhD Publishing Prize for 2020. I am grateful to the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) at The Australian National University for funding the editing and final production of this book. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the rest of my supervisory panel—Professor Francesca Merlan, Professor Chris Gregory and Dr Joyce Das—who shared their expertise and critical insights, which were vital to refining my PhD thesis. In revising my thesis into this book, I was guided by the remarkably detailed and valuable reviews by my three anonymous examiners to whom I shall always remain indebted. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from incredible academic mentors and improve my work under their guidance. Any errors, omissions and inadequacies remaining are entirely my own.

This book would not have been possible without the trust of the people who shared their lives and experiences with me. Many of these people cannot be identified but have my absolute gratitude; I am eternally obliged to them. Many organisations and individuals facilitated my access to the research participants and archival materials. In particular, I would like to thank Engage Pakistan, Pakistan for All, Centre for Legal Aid Assistance

and Settlement Pakistan (CLAAS), Centre for Justice and Peace (CJP) and Voice Society Pakistan for their cooperation. I would specifically like to mention Joseph Francis, Peter Jacob and Napoleon Qayyum for their unending support. I would further like to acknowledge the assistance of lawyers from both sides who generously let me study their cases and interact with their clients. Additionally, several people at my alma mater, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), have aided my research by providing patronage, support and facilities. I am grateful to all of them.

The process of writing my PhD thesis was made bearable (and sometimes even enjoyable) by my colleagues and friends at The Australian National University and beyond. The anthropology thesis writing group was a source of moral support and intellectual enhancement throughout 2017. Dr Caroline Schuster, the convener of our thesis writing group, provided immense encouragement and invaluable mentorship to kickstart the long journey of writing that culminated in this book. Since 2017, I have been a part of many other writing groups that made writing on evenings, and even weekends, fun in a positive community environment. I would especially like to thank my constant writing companions and affectionate friends, Lina Koleilat and Joowhee Lee, for enriching my PhD journey with their love and care. I would also like to thank my friends Areeba Nabeel, Farhana Bashir, Becky Gidley and Bec Heland, who have been constant pillars of support over the past few years. I am thankful to them all for having been there for me whenever I needed them and for keeping me sane.

In the end, I would like to thank my family and my partner for their unshaking faith and confidence in me even when I was steeped in self-doubt and could not see myself ever crossing the finish line (of the PhD and then of the book). My parents and my siblings have stood by my side (and put up with me) while I prioritised my research over their important life events. It was their trust and unconditional love that kept me going. I can never thank my parents enough for encouraging me to follow my dreams even in the face of criticism from people around them who deemed my pursuit of a PhD a useless venture. Finally, I owe infinite gratitude to my husband, William Baldwinson, who has played multiple roles in bringing this book to fruition. In addition to providing unwavering emotional support, he has read and edited several drafts of this book, helped me get through mind blocks by patiently listening to me and advised me on how to organise and structure my ideas. I could not have asked for a better companion through the most crucial years of my life as a researcher.

This text is taken from *Finding the Enemy Within: Blasphemy Accusations and Subsequent Violence in Pakistan*, by Sana Ashraf, published 2021 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.