

About M. Ahad Hayaud-Din

M. Ahad Hayaud-Din is a political scientist, educator, public scholar, and civic engagement advocate whose work operates at the intersection of democracy, governance, higher education, media culture, and public storytelling. With more than two decades of experience in higher education, he has taught political science, international relations, comparative politics, and government at institutions including Dallas College, the University of Texas at Dallas, Valencia College, Tarrant County College, and St. Petersburg College.

His academic background includes graduate work in Political Science and Higher Education curriculum design at the University of South Florida, where his research focused on U.S. foreign policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan (AF-PAK), political culture, and international relations. As a first-generation American of Pashtun heritage, his intellectual interests are shaped by both scholarly inquiry and lived historical experience involving questions of empire, democratic legitimacy, civic identity, conflict, and institutional power.

Throughout his career, Hayaud-Din has combined teaching with broad civic and institutional leadership. He is the President of the AAUP Dallas College Chapter and has served in a variety of regional, national, and international educational initiatives focused on democratic learning, civic literacy, and globalization of curriculum. His work with the American Political Science Association (APSA) included leadership contributions to the APSA Committee on Two-Year Colleges, where he helped develop national teaching resources, faculty development workshops, conference panels, and instructional infrastructure supporting political science educators across community colleges nationwide.

He also served as the only community college faculty representative on a Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) blue-ribbon advisory panel focused on higher education reform and the globalization of curriculum. In addition, he has served as a CFR education liaison in Texas, an APSA Educate partner, and a Salzburg Global Citizenship Ambassador working on democratic engagement and international civic education initiatives.

At Dallas College, Hayaud-Din founded and directed the Institute for Political Studies (IPS), a public-facing civic and political education initiative designed to connect students and the broader community to contemporary political issues, democratic participation, and public dialogue. His work in civic engagement and public service partnerships has helped connect large numbers of students to internships, leadership development opportunities, and national public service initiatives.

In parallel with his academic work, Hayaud-Din has spent years consulting with major educational publishers and instructional media companies, contributing to online learning systems, political science curriculum development, digital assessment tools, and multimedia

instructional content. His consulting work has included collaborations involving digital learning architecture, educational video content, and civic education media systems.

Today, much of his public scholarship appears under the “Professor Hakawati” platform, where he writes about democratic culture, higher education governance, media narratives, political mythology, institutional legitimacy, and the relationship between power and public life. His current long-form work increasingly explores how democratic societies normalize power through media, institutions, spectacle, and cultural storytelling.

His intellectual framework is deeply informed by a family tradition connected to public service, democratic ethics, and anti-colonial thought in South Asia, including the legacy of Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan). These influences continue to shape his interest in civic responsibility, institutional legitimacy, democratic culture, and the moral obligations of public institutions and citizens alike.

In both the classroom and public sphere, Hayaud-Din’s work remains grounded in a core belief: democracy depends not only on political systems, but on civic courage, historical memory, critical thought, and the ability of citizens to meaningfully engage the stories societies tell about themselves.

Professional Platforms

- [Professor Hakawati Substack](#)
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