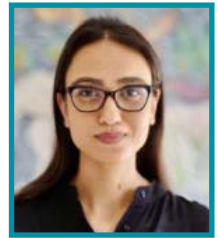


Book Discussion

Domestic Violence in Pakistan: The Legal Construction of 'Bad' and 'Mad' Women

Author: **Dr Daanika Kamal**
(Lecturer in Law at Royal Holloway, University of London)

in conversation with **Professor Samia Bano**
(Professor of Law, SOAS University of London)

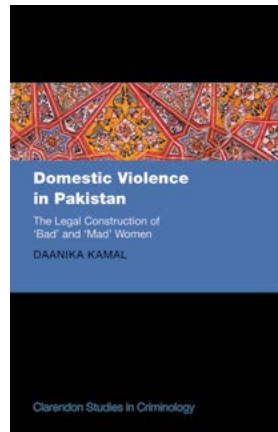


Thursday 5 June 2025 | 1-2.30 pm (BST)
5-6.30 pm (Pakistan Standard Time)
5.30-7pm (Indian Standard Time)

Room S118 (Senate House) | [online - All welcome](#)

Pakistani women are increasingly pursuing legal avenues against acts of domestic violence. Their claims, however, are often dismissed through character allegations that label them as 'bad' women in need of control, or 'mad' women not to be trusted. Dr Kamal's new book, *Domestic Violence in Pakistan* (OUP, 2025), explores why the subjectivities of women victims are constructed in particular ways, and how these subjectivities are captured and negotiated in the Pakistani legal system. (PTO)

Drawing on feminist post-structuralist accounts relating to the use of gendering strategies in institutional and disciplinary settings, and based on an analysis of more than 100 case files and judgments, 72 interviews, and court observations in three cities of Pakistan, this book shadows the experiences of women victims of domestic violence in both criminal law and family law proceedings. It captures and offers empirical insights in relation to gendered subject formation in discursive spaces, ranging from the use of societal narratives that minimize and silence women's harms to the deployment of police mechanisms that assist in maintaining the 'secrecy' of familial violence and the application and enactment of boilerplate lawyerly strategies to present alternative legal 'truths'.



Zoom webinar link:

<https://soas-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/96179774056>

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