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Dr. Shah holds a PhD in Political Science from Columbia University and an M Phil in International Development from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He has been a Hewlett Research Fellow at the Center for Development, Democracy and the Rule of Law at Stanford University and a post-doc fellow at the Society of Fellows, Harvard University.

Having previously taught at Dartmouth and Princeton, he offers courses on comparative democratization, civil-military relations, the politics of developing countries & South Asian International Relations. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Shah was a policy advisor in the Asia-Pacific Governance Program of the United Nations Development Program, and a senior analyst in the South Asia office of the International Crisis Group.