Stanford



Seema Yasmin

Clinical Assistant Professor, Medicine - Primary Care and Population Health

Bio

BIO

Seema Yasmin is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, poet, medical doctor and author. Yasmin served as an officer in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where she investigated disease outbreaks and was principal investigator on a number of CDC studies. Yasmin trained in journalism at the University of Toronto and in medicine at the University of Cambridge.

Yasmin was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news in 2017 with a team from The Dallas Morning News for coverage of a mass shooting, and recipient of an Emmy award for her reporting on neglected tropical diseases and their impact on resource poor communities in the U.S. She received multiple grants from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting for coverage of gender based violence in India and the aftermath of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. In 2017, Yasmin was a John S. Knight Fellow in Journalism at Stanford University investigating the spread of health misinformation and disinformation during public health crises. Previously she was a science correspondent at The Dallas Morning News, medical analyst for CNN, and professor of public health at the University of Texas at Dallas. She teaches crisis management and crisis communication at the UCLA Anderson School of Management as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

She is the author of 12 non-fiction, fiction, poetry and childrens books, including: Can Scientists Succeed Where Politicians Fail? (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2025) which was co-authored with Nobel laureate Dr. Peter Agre; What the Fact?! Finding the Truth in All the Noise (Simon and Schuster, 2022); Viral BS: Medical Myths and Why We Fall For Them (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021); Muslim Women Are Everything: Stereotype-Shattering Stories of Courage, Inspiration and Adventure (HarperCollins, 2020); If God Is A Virus: Poems (Haymarket, 2021); Unbecoming: A Novel (Simon and Schuster, 2024); Djinnology: An Illuminated Compendium of Spirits and Stories from the Muslim World (Chronicle, 2024); and The ABCs of Queer History (Workman Books, 2024). Her writing appears in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, WIRED, Scientific American and other outlets.

Yasmin's unique expertise in epidemics and communications has been called upon by the Vatican, the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, the Aspen Institute, the Skoll Foundation, the Biden White House, and others. She teaches a new paradigm for trust-building and evidence-based communication to leadership at the World Health Organization and CDC. In 2019, she was the inaugural director of the Stanford Health Communication Initiative.

Her scholarly work focuses on the spread of scientific misinformation and disinformation, information equity, and the varied susceptibilities of different populations to false information about health and science. In 2020, she received a fellowship from the Emerson Collective for her work on inequitable access to health information. She teaches multimedia storytelling to medical students in the REACH program.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Assistant Professor, Medicine - Primary Care and Population Health
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Finalist, Pulitzer Prize (2017)
- Reporting award, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (2017)
- Emmy, National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (2016)
- John P. McGovern Award in Health Promotion, University of Texas at Austin (2016)
- Mayborn Award for Literary Non-Fiction, Mayborn School of Journalism, University of North Texas (2016)
- Physician Excellence in Reporting, Texas Medical Association (2016)
- Mayborn Award for Literary Non-Fiction, Mayborn School of Journalism, University of North Texas. (2015)
- National Health Journalism Fellowship Award, Center for Health Journalism, University of Southern California (2015)
- Public Health Award for Media Excellence in Print Media, Texas Public Health Association (2015)
- Reporting award, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (2015)
- Unit Commendation, United States Public Health Service (2014)
- Westfield Trust Prize for Academic Excellence, Queen Mary University of London (2005)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Faculty Director, Stanford Program in Health Equity (2024 - present)
- Faculty Fellow, Stanford Center for Asian Health Research and Education (2021 - present)
- Committee member: Engaging a Trusted Scientific Network in Southeast Asia to Counter Misleading Information about Biological Threats, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) (2022 - 2023)
- Committee member: Addressing Inaccurate and Misleading Information about Biological Threats through Scientific Collaboration and Communication, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) (2021 - 2022)
- Expert advisor, The Health Knowledge Monitoring and Response System, National Institutes of Health (2023 - present)
- Global Health Faculty Fellow, Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health (2020 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- MD, University of Cambridge
- Journalism, University of Toronto
- Biochemistry, Queen Mary University of London

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Health Equity Scholars: Foundations: INDE 233 (Win)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Muslim Mavericks Volume II: Mo Farah, The Boy Who Ran to be Free**
  Yasmin, S.
  Simon & Schuster.2026
- **Muslim Mavericks Volume I: Maysoon Zayid, The Girl Who Can Can**
  Yasmin, S.
  Simon & Schuster.2026
- **Can Scientists Succeed Where Politicians Fail?**
  Yasmin, S.
  Johns Hopkins University Press.2025
- **Unbecoming: A Novel**
  Yasmin, S.
  Simon and Schuster.2024
- **The ABCs of Queer History**
  Yasmin, S.
  Workman.2024
- **Djinnology: An Illuminated Compendium of Spirits and Stories from the Muslim World**
  Yasmin, S.
  Chronicle.2024
- **What the Fact?! Finding the Truth in All the Noise**
  Yasmin, S.
  Simon and Schuster.2022
- **Viral BS: Medical Myths and Why We Fall for Them**
  Yasmin, S.
  Johns Hopkins University Press.2021
- **If God Is A Virus: Poems**
  Yasmin, S.
  Haymarket.2021
- **Muslim Women Are Everything: Stereotype-Shattering Stories of Courage, Inspiration and Adventure**
  Yasmin, S.
  HarperCollins.2020
- **The Impatient Dr. Lange: One Man's Fight to End the Global HIV Epidemic**
  Yasmin, S.
  Johns Hopkins University Press.2018
- **Restoring trust in public health: communications lessons from person-centered health care.** *European journal of public health*
  Steiner, R., Yasmin, S.
  2025; 35 (Supplement_2): ii9-ii10
- **Communication in the infodemic: building communication competencies for effective public health leadership.** *European journal of public health*
  Yasmin, S.
  2025; 35 (Supplement_2): ii17-ii18
- **The Dengue Debacle.** *Scientific American*
  Mukerjee, M., Yasmin, S.

2019; 320 (4): 38

- **The BreakBeat Poets Vol. 3: Halal If You Hear Me**
  Yasmin, S.
  Haymarket.2019

- **Ebola's Second Coming.** *Scientific American*
  Yasmin, S.
  2016; 315 (1): 40-5

- **Outbreak of Botulism After Consumption of Illicit Prison-Brewed Alcohol in a Maximum Security Prison--Arizona, 2012.** *Journal of correctional health care : the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care*
  Yasmin, S., Adams, L., Briggs, G., Weiss, J., Bisgard, K., Anderson, S., Tsang, C., Henke, E., Vasiq, M., Komatsu, K.
  2015; 21 (4): 327-34

- **Alcohol Production, Prevention Strategies, and Inmate Knowledge About the Risk for Botulism From Pruno Consumption in a Correctional Facility--Arizona, 2013.** *Journal of correctional health care : the official journal of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care*
  Adams, L. E., Yasmin, S., Briggs, G., Redden, K., Silvas, S., Anderson, S., Weiss, J., Tsang, C. A., Henke, E., Francies, J., Herrick, K., Lira, R., Livar, et al
  2015; 21 (4): 335-42

- **Rocky mountain spotted fever characterization and comparison to similar illnesses in a highly endemic area-Arizona, 2002-2011.** *Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*
  Traeger, M. S., Regan, J. J., Humpherys, D., Mahoney, D. L., Martinez, M., Emerson, G. L., Tack, D. M., Geissler, A., Yasmin, S., Lawson, R., Hamilton, C., Williams, V., Levy, et al
  2015; 60 (11): 1650-8

- **Risk factors for fatal outcome from rocky mountain spotted Fever in a highly endemic area-Arizona, 2002-2011.** *Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*
  Regan, J. J., Traeger, M. S., Humpherys, D., Mahoney, D. L., Martinez, M., Emerson, G. L., Tack, D. M., Geissler, A., Yasmin, S., Lawson, R., Williams, V., Hamilton, C., Levy, et al
  2015; 60 (11): 1659-66

- **Community-acquired invasive GAS disease among Native Americans, Arizona, USA, Winter 2013.** *Emerging infectious diseases*
  Harris, A. M., Yazzie, D., Antone-Nez, R., Dinè-Chacon, G., Kinlacheeny, J. B., Foley, D., Yasmin, S., Adams, L., Livar, E., Terranella, A., Yeager, L., Komatsu, K., Van Beneden, et al
  2015; 21 (1): 177-9

- **Healthcare-Associated Pertussis Outbreak in Arizona: Challenges and Economic Impact, 2011.** *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*
  Yasmin, S., Sunenshine, R., Bisgard, K. M., Wiedeman, C., Carrigan, A., Sylvester, T., Garcia, G., Rose, K., Wright, S., Miller, S., Huerta, R. D., Houser, H., D'Souza, et al
  2014; 3 (1): 81-4

- **Chryseobacterium indologenes in a woman with metastatic breast cancer in the United States of America: a case report.** *Journal of medical case reports*
  Yasmin, S., Garcia, G., Sylvester, T., Sunenshine, R.
  2013; 7: 190

- **Use of an online survey during an outbreak of clostridium perfringens in a retirement community-Arizona, 2012.** *Journal of public health management and practice : JPHMP*
  Yasmin, S., Pogreba-Brown, K., Stewart, J., Sunenshine, R.
  2013; 20 (2): 205-9

- **Female sex workers in Africa: epidemiology overview, data gaps, ways forward.** *SAHARA J : journal of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance*
  Ngugi, E. N., Roth, E., Mastin, T., Nderitu, M. G., Yasmin, S.
  2012; 9 (3): 148-53

- **Human papillomavirus vaccination programs and human immunodeficiency virus epidemics.** *Clinical infectious diseases : an official publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*
  Yasmin, S., Gerberry, D. J., Blower, S.

2011; 53 (8): 845-6

PRESENTATIONS

- Get Smart, Stay Calm: Ebola in Dallas