



# AFGHAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## Afghanistan Research Initiative

The University of Central Asia’s Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI) aims to help sustain the research and capacity gains made over the last decade and continue producing knowledge critical to the country’s present and future. ARI, a programme of the University’s Graduate School of Development, is supported by a three-year grant from Canada’s International Development Research Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. ARI is based at the University’s main office in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

## Research Grants Programme

ARI announces the second round of calls for applications to the Research Grants Programme. This programme supports Afghan scholars in the diaspora or non-Afghan scholars holding university or research positions conducting research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and biological, earth and environmental sciences and who can engage Afghan students as assistants in their projects. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded to eligible candidates ([click here](#)).

The deadline for applications: 15 July 2023.

For further information, contact: [ari@ucentralasia.org](mailto:ari@ucentralasia.org) (subject header: Research grants).



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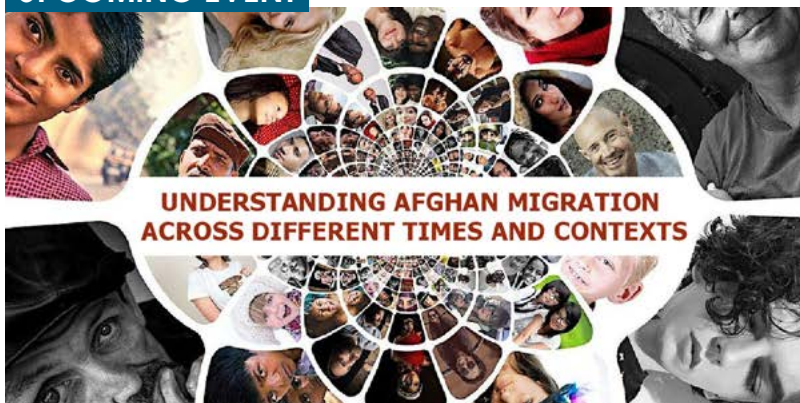
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The University of Central Asia is a private, not-for-profit, secular, regional university founded in 2000 through an International Treaty signed by the Presidents of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and His Highness the Aga Khan, ratified by their respective parliaments and registered with the United Nations. The Graduate School of Development is the home for multi-disciplinary research on Central Asia’s social, economic, and cultural development conducted by five entities ([www.ucentralasia.org](http://www.ucentralasia.org)).

### UPCOMING EVENT



Research and Postgraduate Office

Our talk presents findings of our research project on Afghan migration in the UK. We address the narratives of Afghans who arrived in the UK at different times and through different routes.

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11 May 2023  
8:00 – 10:00 PDT



## Dr. Azeta Hatef

Dr. Azeta Hatef is an Assistant Professor of Journalism Studies at Emerson College. She is a media researcher and award-winning instructor. Dr. Hatef's research explores questions related to

identity, belongingness, and representation, with a specific focus on media and Afghanistan. She has conducted research in Afghanistan examining the complex global beauty industry, as well as the development of independent media in the country. Hatef was the recipient of a Fulbright Research Scholarship in the Czech Republic. Her research examined minority media production and social media engagement among Romani activists to better understand the contextualized dynamics of these mediated spaces in providing marginalized groups spaces to negotiate identities, build communities, and experience feelings of belongingness. Dr. Hatef's current research focuses on the Afghan diaspora and representation of Afghans within U.S. news media and popular culture in the aftermath of the War on Terror campaign, where her work examines the complicated nature of media visibility.



## Dr. Shamshad Pasarlay

Dr. Shamshad Pasarlay is a visiting lecturer of law at the University of Chicago. He was a columnist (2022) for the Blog of the International Journal of Constitutional Law (I·CONnect).

Previously, Dr. Pasarlay was a lecturer at Herat University School of Law and Political Science in Afghanistan and a visiting research fellow at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore. He teaches and researches in the areas of comparative constitutional studies, law and religion; institutional engineering in divided societies; Islamic law and courts; and Islamic constitutionalism. His forthcoming book (under contract with Cambridge University Press) explores how conflict-prone deeply divided societies may adopt a workable constitutional design under unsteady political conditions. Dr. Pasarlay has worked in the area of legal reform in Afghanistan with many international rule of law organizations. He received his BA in Islamic studies from Kabul University and an LLM and PhD in comparative constitutional studies from the University of Washington School of Law.



## Dr. Orzala Nemat

Dr. Orzala Nemat is an Afghan scholar, a women's rights and a think tank leader. She is an expert in political ethnography, holding a PhD in Development Studies from the School of

Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and an MSc in Development Planning from the University College London (UCL). Dr. Nemat founded and is currently leading Development Research Group Limited (DRG), which aims to promote the multi-disciplinary concept of development studies in the developing world through research and evaluations, academic debates and

discussions, open-access teaching, and mentorship. Dr. Nemat served as the director of Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) from 2016–2022. Dr. Nemat has also taught courses on development and conflict, development practice, gender, democracy, and human rights at various universities in Afghanistan and internationally.

Dr. Nemat assisted and helped the most marginalised members of society through educational programs, building schools, protecting female victims of violence through shelters and peacebuilding for children and leading advocacy for legal reform. She also supported various grassroots, national and international organisations for over 23 years of her professional life in different capacities. Dr Nemat was acting chairperson of the Open Society Foundation's Afghanistan until July 2021, and currently, she serves on Afghanaid, a British Charity working in Afghanistan, as a trustee.



## UPCOMING EVENT

This exhibition is a portrait of Afghanistan before the Taliban regained control of the country in 2021.

27 April 2023  
6:00 PM AEST

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A PEACE IMAGINED: A PORTRAIT OF AFGHANISTAN

## PUBLICATIONS

*March 2023: Competing Interests and Priorities – Why Political Settlement Failed in Afghanistan*

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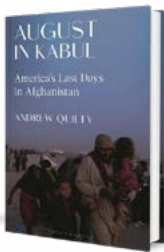
*25 March 2023: Simple Pleasures Amidst Great Frustrations: An essentially outlawed Nawruz in Taleban-ruled Afghanistan*

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*16 April 2023: Bans on Women Working, Then and Now: The dilemmas of delivering humanitarian aid during the first and second Islamic Emirates*

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## NEW BOOKS



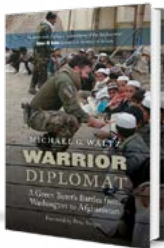
### **August in Kabul: America's Last Days in Afghanistan**

*By Andrew Quilty*

Told through the eyes of witnesses to the fall of Kabul, Walkley award-winning journalist Andrew Quilty's debut book offers a remarkable record of this historic moment.

Publication date: May 2023.

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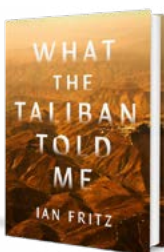
### **Warrior Diplomat: A Green Beret's Battles from Washington to Afghanistan**

*By Michael G. Waltz, Peter Bergen*

Grappling with centuries-old feuds, defeating a shrewd insurgency, and navigating the sometimes paralyzing bureaucracy of the U.S. military are issues that prompt sleepless nights for both policymakers in Washington, DC and soldiers at war, albeit for different reasons.

Publication date: June 2023.

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### **What the Taliban Told Me**

*By Ian Fritz*

When Ian Fritz joined the Air Force at eighteen, he did so out of necessity. He'd too often slept through his classes as he worked long hours at a Chinese restaurant to help pay the bills for his trailer-dwelling family in Lake City, Florida.

Publication date: August 2023.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### **Flinders International Postgraduate Research SCHOLARSHIP**

**Study Level:** Masters & Ph.D.

**Access Mode:** In-person in Australia.

**Coverage:** \$33,000 per annum.

**Deadline:**

4 August 2023.

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Study in the UK

### **Edinburgh Global Online Distance Learning SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Study Level:** Masters.

**Access Mode:** Online.

**Availability:** For international students.

**Coverage:** Full tuition fees.

**Deadline:**

5 June 2023.

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### **HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP for Foreign Postgraduates and Academics**

**Study Level:** Masters & PhD.

**Fields:** Various (fully funded).

**Availability:** For Afghans in Pakistan.

**Deadline:** Open.

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