



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.

Online Preparatory Courses

The University of Central Asia instructors delivered two ARI online graduate studies preparatory courses to 117 Afghan students, of whom 74 were females. The courses, English for Academic Purposes and Statistical Reasoning and Data, were taught to two cohorts of students in three sessions per week over 24 weeks starting August 22 and ending August 23. The programme was designed to develop the capacity of students looking to pursue either a master’s or a Ph.D. Several students in the programme published articles, see below:

- Taliban’s Takeover: Assessing Crucial Implications for the People of Afghanistan [LEARN MORE »](#)
- An Ongoing War Without Bombs Inside Afghanistan: The Radicalization of the Current Education System by The Taliban [LEARN MORE »](#)
- Extreme Poverty in Afghanistan: Selling Girls to Survive [LEARN MORE »](#)
- The Doha Peace Talks: Bringing Peace or Increasing the Conflict in Afghanistan? [LEARN MORE »](#)
- Why Humanitarian Aid is Vital to Afghanistan [LEARN MORE »](#)

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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).

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ERASMUS MUNDUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Study Level: Graduate.

Availability: In EU.

Fund: Fully funded.

Deadline:

15 January 2024.

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CHINESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Study Level: Master’s & PhD.

Availability: For internationals.

Fund: Fully funded.

Deadline:

15 February 2024.

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UTRECHT UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS

Study Level: Master’s.

Availability: International students.

Fund: Tuition fees.

Deadline:

1 February 2024.

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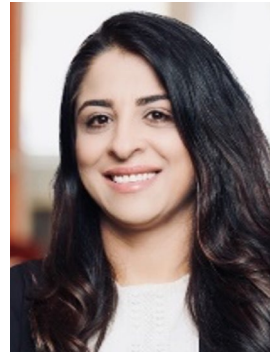


Dr. Fahim Fayaz

Dr. Fahim Fayaz is a post-doctoral researcher at Tampere University, Finland. He specializes in hydrogen and synthesis gas production from methane and ethanol dry reforming over catalysts. Dr. Fayaz completed his master's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia, in 2014 and 2019.

Dr. Fayaz has published numerous articles noted academic journals, such as *Materials Today*, *Communications*, and the *International Journal of Energy Research*. Recently, he presented his research findings at the European Biomass Conference & Exhibition 2023 international conference in Bologna, Italy. Dr. Fayaz has been honored with the Extraordinary and Tremendous Academic Achievements Award from the Afghanistan Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2018). He is the recipient of gold and silver medals from the Creation Innovation Technology and Research Exposition (CITREX–2015, 2016, 2017, 2018), the Malaysia International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX–2016), and International Trade Fair Ideas-Inventions New Products, Nuremberg, Germany (IENA–2016). His postdoctoral fellowship at Tampere University is supported by the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund and the Finnish National Agency for Education.

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Dr. Nilofar Sakhi

Dr. Nilofar Sakhi is a professorial lecturer of International Affairs at Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. She is also a senior non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of security, geopolitics, and peace. Her research interest focuses on the nexus between traditional and nontraditional security and insecurity.

A former Fulbright scholar, Sakhi has also written on various aspects of traditional and nontraditional security, the geopolitics of peace, and human security. She is the author of *Human Security and Agency: Reframing Productive Power in Afghanistan* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020). Currently, she is working on regional security issues in Afghanistan-South and Central Asia, exploring the domestic and external incongruences that impact regional diplomacy.

She is a former visiting research fellow at Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, Keough School of Global Affairs, Notre Dame University, the National Endowment for Democracy, Columbia University, and a fellow at the Asia Society and International Center for Tolerance Education. Dr. Sakhi has facilitated many programs about democracy, development, peacebuilding, and peacemaking.

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Dr. Zubeda Jalalzai

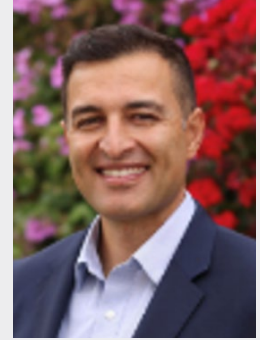
Dr. Zubeda Jalalzai, Professor of English at Rhode Island College in Providence, Rhode Island, was born in Quetta, Pakistan in 1968 and immigrated to the US with her family in 1970. An ethnic Pashtun whose family hails from the Killa Saifullah and Loralai regions of Baluchistan, her parents maintained close connections to their subsets of the Kakar tribe. Having grown up in the United States, however, Professor Jalalzai's work was as shaped by American history as by a global perspective. She received her Ph.D. in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo, specializing in Early American and Postcolo-

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Dr. Qais Alemi

Dr. Qais Alemi is a dedicated behavioral scientist interested in understanding the social and psychological challenges faced by populations affected by political violence, with a specific focus on refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan. His research has contributed to expanding knowledge regarding the psychosocial needs and adjustment challenges experienced by resettlement communities in the United States and internationally. The primary objective of his research is to promote mental health and enhance clinical practices by identifying culturally competent and acceptable strategies that foster resilience and alleviate distress among Afghans residing in their home country and diaspora communities. He is a research methods professor at Loma Linda University (California) Department of Social Work and Social Ecology.



PUBLICATIONS

07 November 2023: Survival and Stagnation:
The State of the Afghan economy

Author: Kate Clark

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31 October 2023: Finding Business Opportunity
after Conflict: Shopkeepers, civil servants and
farmers in Andar district

Author: Sabawoon Samim

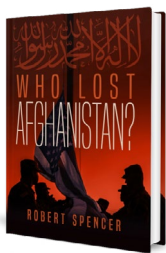
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30 October 2023: Women's Secret War:
The inside story of how the US military sent
female soldiers on covert combat missions
to Afghanistan

Author: Jennifer Greenburg, University of Sheffield

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NEW BOOKS



Who Lost Afghanistan?

By Robert Spencer

The U.S. military began its 20-year incursion in Afghanistan because of the jihadist attacks on New York on September 11, 2001, in which nearly 3,000 people were killed.

Published: September 2022.

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Hand On My Heart: A Canadian Doctor in Afghanistan

By Mayhew Maureen

When Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) offered to send Maureen Mayhew to Taliban-occupied Afghanistan, she refused. Fearing she would be forced to give up her independence to preserve her safety, it was the last place on earth she

wanted to volunteer medical expertise.

Published: May 2023.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Afghanistan Ambassador Sir Laurie Bristow on UK-Afghanistan Relations



Join us for an event with Sir Laurie Bristow, discussing his diplomatic career and current political events. He is known for his leadership of British efforts to evacuate thousands of at-risk Afghans and British citizens.

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24 November 2023
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM (GMT)



11 December 2023
8:15 PM – 11:00 PM (GMT)

A FILM BY JAMES GLANCY, KHYBER KHAN, MARTY STALKER AFGHANISTAN

On the 20th anniversary of America's longest war a team of filmmakers (James Glancy, Khyber Khan and Marty Stalker), two of whom served as Royal Marines in Afghanistan, return to the country to find out what has been achieved, and if the conflict was it worth it?

SONY

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Public Lecture, Zoom

IRRIGATION AND INSURGENCY: Can Public Infrastructure Mitigate Climate-Induced Conflict in Afghanistan?

Organizer: OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan

Speaker: Dr. Pengshan Pan,
University of Pittsburgh

Date/Time: 7 December 2023
at 10:00 am (Bishkek).

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