

# 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.

ARI announces two programmes to support:

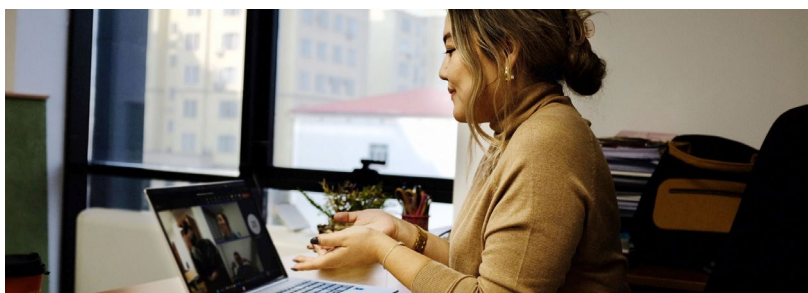
- Afghan students in doctoral programmes, especially those facing funding challenges in completing their dissertation research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and biological, earth and environmental sciences that are important in understanding the impact of climate change and food security issues. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to eligible candidates ([click here](#)).
- Afghan scholars in the diaspora or non-Afghan scholars holding university or research positions conducting research in the above-mentioned fields 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](#)).

Applications involve a two-step process:

1. Statement of intent;
2. Full application.

Deadline for the Statement of Intent: 10 February 2023.

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



## University Preparatory Courses

In October 2022, ARI began the second course of the Online Graduate Studies Preparatory programme: Statistical Reasoning & Data Analysis. The course gives students an

understanding of statistical methods and probability used in data analysis. The course is developed and taught by Dr. Marzhan Aikimbaeva, an economist and research fellow at UCA's Institute for Public Policy and Administration, Graduate School of Development.

The course will be offered again in 2023. To apply, write to [ari@ucentralasia.org](mailto:ari@ucentralasia.org) (subject header: courses).

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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)).



### Dr. Hussain Etemadi

Hussain Etemadi, Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, has over 15 years of experience in urban environmental sanitation management, environmental impact assessment, climate change, and water resource management. Hussain worked in the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe and USA for government, private sector, and prestigious organizations.

As a researcher, project manager and environmental engineer, Hussain completed feasibility studies of the Helmand River Basin Development, Andkhoy Water Irrigation Project-Amu Darya River Basin, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of Kajaki Hydro-power Dam, and similar projects. Hussain is the author of publications on sanitation, water resource management, and climate change. He is the General Manager and CEO of Omran Geotechnics, USA.



### Dr. Kambaiz Rafi

Kambaiz Rafi is an Economic and Social Research Council (UK)

postdoctoral fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. He holds a Ph.D. in development policy from University College London (UCL), where he worked as a postgraduate teaching assistant. He is the author of *Patriarchal Hierarchy, Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. His articles appeared in the Indian Journal of Human Development, Journal of Perspectives on Terrorism, Global Security Review, Eurasia Review, and online outlets such as The Conversation, Foreign Policy, BBC (Persian), Asia Times, The Diplomat Magazine and Hasht e Sobh. He holds an MA in International Political Economy from King’s College London. He was an adviser to the Minister of Economy of Afghanistan. He worked at the Economic and Social Council, UN, headquarters and think tanks in Washington, D.C. Kambaiz has a strong interest in the fine arts and has lectured at the Arts Students League of New York, UCL Arts Society and most recently at Université Populaire Européenne in Strasbourg, France.



### Dr. Zahra Nazari

Dr. Zahra Nazari is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta, Canada. She holds a Ph.D. in Intradisciplinary Intelligent Systems Engineering (Data Science) from the University of the Ryukyus, Japan, where she studied on a scholarship from the Mitsubishi

Corporation. Her main research areas were machine learning, statistical data analysis, data mining, and knowledge discovery. Her publications are available on her [Google Scholar](#) profile.

In January 2019, she started her career as an Assistant Professor at Kabul Polytechnic University. In October 2019, she became the Director of Digital Skills Development at the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

In addition to her official duties, she was the chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Afghanistan Subsection. She also chaired the EQUALS Afghanistan project initiated by the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority in partnership with the International Telecom Union (ITU) to help Afghan women become digitally empowered. She is the Afghanistan Chapter Ambassador of the Women in Tech organization that aims to digitally empower Afghan women under Taliban rule.

## PUBLICATIONS

11 November 2022: ICC Afghanistan Investigation Re-Authorised: But will it cover the CIA, ISKP and the forces of the Islamic Republic, as well as the Taliban?

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12 October 2022: Afghanistan's Political Settlement Puzzle: The Impact of the Breakdown of Afghan Political Parties to an Elite Polity System (2001–2021)

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

12 July 2022: Determinants of Customer Satisfaction in Kabul: Evidence from the Restaurant Industry

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## UPCOMING EVENT

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE on Strengthening Higher Education in Afghanistan

12-14 February 2023, Kabul University

Kabul University and the Ministry of Higher Education call for papers on various issues related to improving higher education in Afghanistan. Experts in higher education and managers of public and private institutions are encouraged to apply.

Submit abstracts as soon as possible to: [kuvca2020@gmail.com](mailto:kuvca2020@gmail.com)  
Contact number: **+93202500238**.



## NEW BOOKS



### Good Happens in Wazirabad on Wednesday

*Jamaluddin Aram's* debut novel, masterfully depicts into the colourful characters in the early 1990s in Wazirabad, a district of Kabul. In this brilliantly kaleidoscopic, darkly funny, and wholly captivating novel about peace in a time of war, Jamaluddin Aram breathes life into the families

and friends, lovers and loners, neighbours and sworn enemies who wander the winding alleys of Wazirabad.

Publication date: June 2023.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

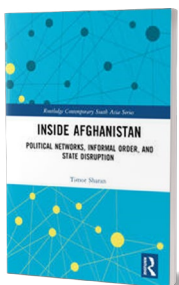
### Inside Afghanistan: Political Networks, Informal Order, and State Disruption

by *Timor Sharan* maps out how political networks and centres of power, engaged in patronage, corruption, and illegality, effectively constituted the Afghan state, often with the complicity of the US-led military intervention and the internationally directed state-building project. It argues that politics and statehood in Afghanistan in the last two decades are best understood in terms of

the dynamics of internal political networks, through which warlords and patronage networks came to capture and control critical sectors within the state and economy.

Published: October 2022.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### AFGHAN CHALLENGE FUND

#### Call for Proposals

Applicants must seek out a host institution, and host institutions must seek applicants to apply.

**Deadline:** 15 January 2023.

**Study level:** fellowships in 2 categories:

1. The Higher Education Fund (e.g., universities, research institutes, and think tanks).
2. The Civil Society Fund (e.g., NGOs, artistic, journalistic, and cultural institutions).

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



### KAUST GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Postdoctoral fellowships in several fields with an annual stipend of \$75,000 and other benefits.

**Deadline:**

15 January 2023.

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### TOEFL GRANT FOR AFGHAN GIRLS



A 3-month TOEFL preparatory programme in Kabul organized by Awareness Brokers Foundation in collaboration with IBB is offered free of charge for females aged 18-30.

**Deadline:**

10 December 2022.

[APPLY NOW](#)

### RUSSIAN FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIPS for Afghan Students

**Study level:** Undergraduate and graduate for 500 Afghan students.

**Covers:** Partial funding; several fields of study.

For further information, go to: [www.education-in-russia.com](http://www.education-in-russia.com) for a step-by-step guidance.