



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 Public Lecture



On 4 November 2024, at 15:30 (Kabul time, GMT+4:30), there will be an online lecture titled “**Economic Management, Aid Dependency, and State Failure in Afghanistan.**” This lecture explores contradictions within the liberal approach to state-building that exacerbated aid dependency. In postwar liberal state-building efforts, a market economy is expected to generate sufficient revenue through private sector taxes. Consequently, states become heavily reliant on foreign aid, ultimately undermining the development of the state’s bureaucracy. Join the lecture by clicking [here](#) (passcode: 350702).

Speaker: Dr. Kambaiz Rafi holds a PhD from University College London and author of *Patriarchal Hierarchy: Market Capitalism and Production in Afghanistan* (London, 2022). He has held positions at Durham University and the University of London.

Discussant: Dr. Lutfi Rahimi is a non-resident Research Fellow at ARI. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Exeter and is a co-author of *Surviving the Crisis: A Socioeconomic Assessment of the Middle Class in Kabul*, released in 2023.

All of ARI’s public lectures are available on [UCA’s YouTube channel](#).

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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).

PUBLICATIONS BY ARI RESEARCH & DOCTORAL GRANT PROGRAMMES

December 2022: The Societal and Economic Impact of Reforestation Strategies and Policies in Southeast Asia – A Review. *Forests*.
Authors: Mujib R. Ahmadzai, et al. [LEARN MORE »](#)

September 2023: Sonic Narratives of Resistance and Cultural Memory in Afghanistan. *New Global Politics*.
Authors: Ebtikar, Munazza, and Mejgan Massoumi. [LEARN MORE »](#)

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PUBLICATIONS BY ARI RESEARCH & DOCTORAL GRANT PROGRAMMES

May 2024: A comprehensive AHP Numerical Module for Assessing Resilience of Kabul City to Flood Hazards. Urban Climate.
Authors: Mujib R. Ahmadzai, et al.

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9 July 2024: Socioeconomic Characteristics and Satisfaction Level Across Forest Products and Vegetable Farming of the Agroforestry Community in Khost Province, Afghanistan. Biology and Life Sciences.
Authors: Mujib R. Ahmadzai, et al.

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August 2024: Meteorological Drought Risk Assessment using SPI Numerical Model: A Case Study of the Helmand River Basin, Afghanistan. Planning Malaysia.
Authors: Mujib R. Ahmadzai, et al.

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To date, grant holders have produced 25 publications.

August 2024: Between a Rock and a Hard Place: A Geosocial Approach to Water Insecurity in Kabul. Water Security.
Authors: Mohammad D. Hamidi, et al.

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September 2024: The Role of Logar River in Sustaining Agricultural Production: A Case Study. Journal of Natural Science Review.
Authors: Mujib R. Ahmadzai, et al.

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October 2024: Analysis of Contextual Factors Influence the Development of Unplanned Settlements: The Case of Herat City, Afghanistan. City, Culture and Society.
Authors: Asim, Gh. Mohammad, et al.

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October 2024: Material Transformation Analysis of Mosques in Herat Old City, Afghanistan. Sustainability.
Authors: Asim, Gh. Mohammad, et al.

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PROFILES OF SCHOLARS IN THE DIASPORA



Dr. Nazir Ahmad Yosufi

Nazir Ahmad Yosufi is a visiting fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Yosufi holds a degree in International Relations from the Centre for

European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. In addition to his academic accomplishments, he is proficient in seven languages, which supports his research and cross-cultural work.

Currently, as a postdoctoral researcher, he reassesses European and German development assistance allocated to Afghanistan over the last two decades

Before joining GIGA, Dr. Yosufi was a guest lecturer at the Pashto Department, Centre for Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature, and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. He has made significant contributions to education, establishing the Afghan National High School in Afghanistan and re-establishing Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan High School in India. Currently, he is working alongside colleagues and collaborators to establish the Afghanistan Research Hub in Germany.



Ali Ahmadi

Ali Ahmadi is a geomatics researcher and GIS specialist currently based in Canada, with expertise in spatial data modeling, remote sensing, and Artificial intelligence. He is pursuing a PhD in the Department of Geomatics Sciences at Université Laval, where he is also an active member of the CRDIG and CIRRIIS research centers. His research focuses on geographic information sciences, computer vision, and inclusive mobility. Ali's PhD project involves designing and developing a novel multisensory cross-fusion deep learning algorithm to extract information from fused data to enhance the accessibility of urban areas for individuals with motor disabilities.

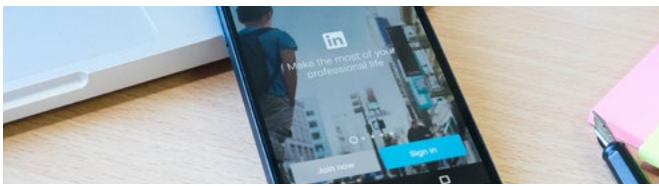
Ali has contributed to a range of international projects, including his role as a GIS expert for UNESCO in Afghanistan and as a GIS specialist at the Directorate for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Kabul. His work focused on spatial data gathering and mapping to preserve historical sites. Ali is passionate about AI-driven solutions for accessibility, having developed models to assist visually impaired individuals with navigation. He also strongly advocates for sustainable urban development and has published research on using AI to monitor wheelchair accessibility in cities.

SONIC RESISTANCE ARCHIVE

Munazza Ebtikar, an ARI grant holder, and Meigan Massoumi's article, "Sonic Narratives and Cultural Memory in Afghanistan," have been awarded the "Best Article in English" by the Afghanistan Law and Political Science Association. Both researchers are leading the Sonic Resistance Archive project, which will be based at Stanford University's Public Humanities Department. This Archive will focus on resistance music and poetry from the Persian-speaking regions of northern and northeastern Afghanistan, serving as a digital repository dedicated to preserving Afghanistan's cultural heritage

For further information, please contact Dr. Meigan Massoumi at mejgan@stanford.edu.

ARI IN SOCIAL MEDIA



To keep Afghan scholars in the diaspora informed about upcoming opportunities, ARI has established a [LinkedIn page](#) that now has over 3,200 followers. This page is a

and documenting artistic expressions of resistance. Developed through a collaborative research effort between Dr. Meigan Massoumi at Stanford University and Munazza Ebtikar at Oxford University, the project aims to integrate anthropological and historical insights to examine the pivotal roles music and poetry play in resistance movements. By investigating the interplay between art, war, memory, and political dissent, the Archive will also explore how factors such as ethnicity, gender, and local interpretations of Islam inform cultural forms of resistance.

valuable resource for sharing information about scholarships, calls for papers, academic events related to Afghanistan, and scholars' gatherings. It provides opportunities for networking and collaboration while delivering timely news feeds relevant to the academic and professional interests of Afghan scholars. Through this platform, ARI effectively connects Afghan scholars worldwide, fostering a sense of community and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and opportunities.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

June 2024: A Widening Moral Rift: The Complex Interactions between EU Externalization and Afghan Border Ecosystems. AAPSS.

Authors: Abdullah Mohammadi, Ruta Nimkar.

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July 2024: Online education: Solutions for Afghan women's mental health and future. Journal of Public Health.

Authors: Rizky Andana Pohan, et al.

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September 2024: Health survey on anxiety, depression, and stress in Afghanistan: A large-scale cross-sectional study amid ongoing challenges. Springer Link.

Authors: Ahmed Neyazi, et al.

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3 October 2024: Afghanistan in Front of the World Court? What can be expected from a legal challenge to the Emirate's violations of women's rights.

Afghanistan Analyst Network.

Author: Rachel Reid.

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13 October 2024: The Daily Hustle: A young women's journey home for the summer holidays.

Afghanistan Analyst Network.

Authors: Rama Mirzada & Roxanna Shapour.

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17 October 2024: The Double Standards of Chauvinistic Leftists Regarding Social Movements. 8AM Daily.

Author: Bahram Aamoniayee.

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UPCOMING EVENT

Herat Security Dialogue

Organizer: Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies

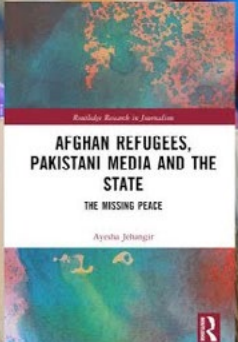
The event plans to bring together the representatives of key Afghan, regional and global stakeholders to exchange views on their respective analysis and more importantly explore synergistic strategies in tackling Afghanistan's multitude of problems.

Date: 8-9 December 2024.

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UPCOMING EVENT



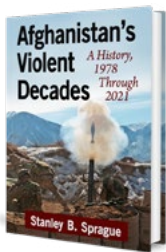
LSE SOUTH ASIA CENTRE
FACT & FICTION
PAKISTAN: Afghan Refugees, Identity-Making & State Policy
Sanaa Alimia
Syed Irfan Ashraf
Omar al-Ghazzi
Ayesha Jehangir
Sonja Kretzschmar
Nilanjan Sarkar
Wednesday, 27 November
3pm UK | 7.30pm Afghanistan

An online panel discussion on media narratives of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the government's recent enforcement of forced repatriation, focused on the recently published book "Afghan Refugees, Pakistani Media and the State: The Missing Peace".

Date: 27 November 2024 | 7:30 pm.

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NEW BOOKS



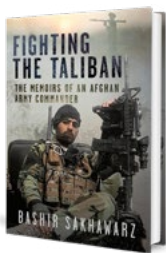
Afghanistan's Violent Decades: A History, 1978 Through 2021

By Stanley B. Sprague

This book examines the key political and military events in Afghanistan from 1978 to August 2021. It covers the Afghan-Soviet war and how that war was followed by an Afghan Civil War that made the country receptive to the rise of the Afghan Taliban.

Publication date: 27 October 2024.

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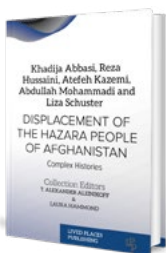
Fighting the Taliban: The Memoirs of an Afghan Army Commander

By Bashir Sakhawar

In 2001, Amir joined the Afghan Army and became an officer, fighting the resurgent Taliban alongside coalition forces. Following several intense operations, including a siege in Helmand, he transferred to Special Forces, eventually becoming a battalion commander as the US withdrew troops.

Publication date: 30 November 2024.

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Displacement of the Hazara People of Afghanistan

By Khadija Abbasi, et al.

The book uses lived experiences to explore the often-neglected facets of migration: that sometimes one can be a migrant without moving, that many migrants are forced to move multiple times, and the experience of migration is often intertwined with that of racism and rejection.

Publication date: 31 December 2024.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Peter Salama MPH Tuition Scholarship for Refugees



Study Level: Graduate.

Fund: Fully funded.

Deadline:

1 December 2024.

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OSAKA UNIVERSITY
MEXT
SCHOLARSHIP
FULLY FUNDED



STUDY IN JAPAN

Study Level: Master's, PhD.

Fields: Robotics, bioengineering.

Availability: Afghans and other nationalities.

Deadline:

15 November 2024.

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GKS GLOBAL KOREA SCHOLARSHIP

StudyinKorea
run by Korean Government

Study Level: Undergraduate.

Availability: Afghans and other nationalities.

Fund: Fully funded.

Deadline: Open.

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Government of Slovakia Scholarships

For International Students

Study Level: Master's, PhD.

Fund: Fully funded.

Deadline:

30 October 2024.

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