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.

Programme to Support Doctoral Students

ARI announces the second round of calls for applications to this programme that supports Afghan students in doctoral studies. Recently, ARI made five awards in the first round of the call. The programme will continue to help students facing funding challenges in completing their dissertation research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and biological, earth and environmental sciences. Grants of up to $10,000 will be awarded to eligible candidates (click here).

The deadline for applications: 30 June 2023.

For further information, contact: arri@ucentralasia.org (subject header: Doctoral programme).
Dr. Hosai Qasmi

Dr. Hosai Qasmi is the co-founder and research director of HOSA Research and Counselling. She has a Ph.D. in Feminist and Gender Studies and a Master of Arts in Communication from the University of Ottawa. Her research interests are postcolonial feminism, media studies, and gender representation in the global south media. She has been actively engaged in women’s empowerment, media, immigration, resettlement, reintegration and equality, diversity and inclusion. Her areas of research expertise include Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+), international development, and immigrant and refugee communities. She has over 14 years of experience as a researcher and developmental professional in Canada and Internationally.

Dr. Qasmi is involved in the Afghan diaspora community in Canada and internationally, including academics and researchers.

Dr. Qasim Wafayezada

Dr. Qasim Wafayezada is currently, a professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at the School of International Studies of Kanazawa University, Japan. He served as Minister of Information and Culture, head of the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority. He received his doctorate in international relations from Kanazawa University. His research focus has been on state building, nation building, ethnic politics, democratization and peacebuilding in post-conflict multiethnic societies. He has authored several books including Ethnic Politics and Peacebuilding in Afghanistan: The Root Causes of Political Conflicts and the Problems of Democratic Transition (2013).


Dr. Abbas Farasoo

Dr. Abbas Farasoo is a casual academic at La Trobe University and worked as a Subject Coordinator and Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Melbourne and Deakin University in Australia. He has worked as a researcher, lecturer, policy analyst, and diplomat for more than 15 years, with extensive experience in management, leadership, and diplomacy. His work on international relations, foreign policy, ethnic conflict, and proxy wars have been published in high-profile journals, including International Studies Review, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, and Annals of Japan Association for Middle East Studies journals.

Dr. Farasoo holds a Ph.D. from Deakin University and a Master of Arts from the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies on ethnic conflict in Afghanistan. He is also interested in the philosophy of social sciences with a focus on critical realism and post-structuralist philosophy.
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March 2023: Employment in Afghanistan in 2022: A rapid impact assessment

9 March 2023: Against All Odds - Supporting Civil Society and Human Rights in Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan

25 March 2023: Back to the Village: Afghan city dwellers go home for a long-over-due visit

NEW BOOKS

Afghanistan 1979–88: Soviet Air Power Against the Mujahideen
By Mark Galeotti
The Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan was fought as much in the air as on the ground. From the high-level bombing raids that blasted rebel-held mountain valleys, to the Mi-24 helicopter gunships and Su-25 jets that accompanied every substantial army operation, Soviet control of the air was a crucial battlefield asset. Published: February 2023.

Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices from the Afghanistan War
By Svetlana Alexievich
From the winner of the Nobel Prize for work that stands as “a monument to suffering and courage in our time” (Swedish Academy). Before the United States’ invasion, a million Soviet troops fought a devastating war in Afghanistan that claimed 50,000 casualties and the youth and humanity of many tens of thousands more. Published: February 2023.

Afghanistan: The End of the US Footprint and the Rise of the Taliban Rule
By Hollie S. McKay
Overnight, Afghanistan dramatically transformed. One chapter – a twenty-year epoch heralded by the attacks of September 11, the U.S. invasion and propping up an ailing government – shuttered on August 15, 2021. Another entirely new – albeit old – chapter flipped open under the stringent ruling of the Taliban. Publication date: Spring 2023.