



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 re-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
(subject header: grants).

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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

27 December 2022:

Why is Syria a War but Not Afghanistan? Nationality-based Aid and Protection in Turkey’s Syria Refugee Response

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28 December 2022:

Strangers in Our Own Country: How Afghan Women Cope with Life Under the Islamic Emirate

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02 January 2023:

Understanding Shifts in US Policies towards the Taliban: A Critical Analysis

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Dr. Mojtaba Salem

Dr. Mojtaba Salem is a post-doctoral researcher at the Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD). He was previously a post-doctoral researcher in the

Chair of Research and Science Management at Technical University of Munich. He completed his PhD studies at Kühne Logistics University under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Maria Besiou and Prof. Dr. Niels Van Quaquebeke with summa cum laude. His PhD dissertation on “Leadership in Humanitarian Operations” earned the 2021 Honorary Mention Award from the Board of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Research Institute at Hanken School of Economics.

Dr. Salem’s research is interdisciplinary using organizational behavior theories to understand and improve critical outcomes in the context of humanitarian operations. He presented his research findings at various scientific and practitioners conferences in Europe, United States, and Africa. In 2020, his paper on authoritarian leadership has won Best Paper Award in POMS College of Humanitarian Operations and Crisis Management. He has published papers in Journal of Organizational Behavior, Organizational Psychology Review, and Production and Operations Management.



Dr. Mahdi Mohaqiq

Dr. Mahdi Mohaqiq is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher in the chronic disease program at The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute of University of Ottawa. He got trained

as a post-doctoral research fellow in the male fertility program at the Institute of Regenerative Medicine of Wake Forest University in the US 2019-2020. He received a Ph.D. in Anatomical Sciences in 2018 from the Medical Sciences Faculty of Tarbiat Modares University in Iran. While working at Kateb University in Afghanistan as a full-time Assistant Professor of Medicine Faculty, he also served as the Director of the Scientific Research Center from 2017 to 2019. Over 30 of his papers have been indexed in ISI (IF>3) and he has presented abstracts at more than 15 international conferences in Canada, the United States, Spain, Australia, Iran, India, and Afghanistan. Additionally, he published four books (translations) in Dari by Kateb University Publications in Afghanistan. He is an active member of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society since 2020 and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine since 2018.

His research interest is reproductive medicine, calcium signaling, stem cell biology, organoids, in vitro transplantation, and tissue engineering.



Sweeta Akbari

Sweeta Akbari is a postdoctoral researcher at Tampere University, Finland. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Jawzjan University. She holds a master’s (2016) and Ph.D. (2021) in the same

field from University Malaysia Pahang (UMP). She has served as academic research advisor to the Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan in 2019 and from 2017

to August 2021 as the Editor-in-Chief of International Journal of Innovative Research and Scientific Studies. Sweeta is the author of many scientific articles and book chapters published in international academic journals. Her research works have achieved several gold and silver medals from Malaysia Technology Expo, Creation Innovation Technology and Research Exposition and International Festival of Innovation on Green Technology. In 2018, she received the Extraordinary and Tremendous Academic Achievements Award from the embassy of Afghanistan based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her current research interests include emulsion sciences, emulsion-based biomaterials, surfactants, plant based bioactive compounds and rheological studies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATO ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'OTAN




SPEAKERS

**Reflections on Afghanistan:
Between War and Peace**

Ben Rowswell



Lt. Gen. (Ret.)
Steve Bowes

18 JAN 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM EST
In-Person and Online

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WEBINAR

**Chasing Unicorn:
Norway's Taliban Diplomacy**

Friday January 20, 2023 | 15:00 - 17:00 GMT | 19:30 - 21:30 Kabul Time




LIVE



Please Scan to
Register for
Participation:



MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVALS

**Afghani Women Artists:
Freedom of Expression Through Art**

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Sunday, 12 March 2023, 14:00 – 15:30 GMT



**THE
DECLINE OF
EMPIRES
IN SOUTH ASIA**

SPEAKER
HEATHER CAMPBELL
School of History at
Queen Mary University of London

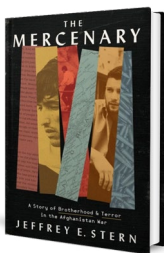


The
BRITISH
in INDIA

18 April 2023, 18:30 – 20:00 BST

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NEW BOOKS



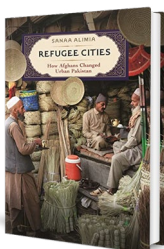
**The Mercenary: A Story of Brotherhood
and Terror in the Afghanistan War**

By Jeffrey E. Stern

A thrilling and emotional story about the bonds forged in war and good intentions gone wrong. In the early days of the Afghanistan war, Stern was scouring the streets of Kabul for a big story.

Publication date: March 2023.

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**Refugee Cities: How Afghans
Changed Urban Pakistan**

By Sanaa Alimia

Situated between the 1970s Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan and the post – 2001 War on Terror, *Refugee Cities* tells the story of how global wars affect everyday life for Afghans who have been living as refugees in Pakistan. This book provides a

necessary glimpse of what ordinary life looks like for a long-term refugee population, beyond the headlines of war, terror, or helpless suffering.

Published: September 2022.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**AFGHAN WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP
in Scotland, United Kingdom**

Study Level: Postgraduate.

Awards: Full tuition fee waiver,
monthly living allowance.

Access Mode: Online.

Deadline:

26 March 2023.

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**HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM
EMERGING SCHOLAR AWARDS**

Study Level: PhD candidates.

Awards: Natural and social sciences
or allied disciplines.

Deadline:

1 February 2023.

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**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'
Response to the Afghanistan Crisis**

Awards: Natural and social sciences
or allied disciplines.

Amount: \$50,000 – \$90,000.

Deadline: Unspecified.

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Shafia Fund

REMOTE

COMMUNICATION ASSISTANCE

Study Level: Postgraduate.

Awards: Grants are to support study
in Afghanistan.

Deadline: Open.

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**TÜRKİYE
SCHOLARSHIPS
BURSLARI**

**GOVERNMENT OF TÜRKİYE
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Study Level: Master's and PhD

Deadline:
20 February 2023.

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