



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 Programme Grant Recipients

PhDs completed by ARI's doctoral support programme grant recipients:

1. Ramazan Ahmadi, Department of Sociology, Akendiz University, Antalya, Turkey.
2. Mohammad Hamid Hamdard, Water Energy and Environmental Engineering Research Unit, Faculty of Technology, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland.
3. Mohammad Haroon Hairan, Faculty of Forestry and Environment, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Salangor, Malaysia.
4. Benafsha Yaqoobi, Department of Political Science, Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India.

PUBLICATIONS BY ARI RESEARCH & DOCTORAL GRANT PROGRAMMES



Articles

2024: The impact of INGOs and governmental assistance on women entrepreneurs' financial performance.

Authors: Rahmatullah Pashtoon, Noorihsan Bin Mohammad, Zarinah Hamid.

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2023: Physical features and social analysis of Gozar: The case of Quzzat quarter of Herat Old City.

Authors: Gulam M. Asim, Hajime Zhumizu.

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2022: Determinants of poverty among urban households in Afghanistan: Case study of Mazar-e-Sharif. *Journal of Economics and Political Economy.*

Authors: Ahmad Walid Barlas, Mohammad Ehsan Sadiq, Ajmal Haidari.

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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

Op-ed and Blogs

February 2024: The Silent Erosion of Afghanistan's Urban Middle Class: A Neglected Crisis. The Diplomat.
Author: Lutfi Rahimi. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

March 2023: Deportation of Afghanistan citizens: Back to a hopeless country.
Author: Ahmad Walid Barlas.

September 2022: Afghanistan: Conflict and internal displacement under the Taliban regime.
Author: Ahmad Walid Barlas. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

June 2022: Unusual and Miserable Ways to Fight Poverty and Hunger in Afghanistan. (In Dari)
Author: Ahmad Walid Barlas. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

April 2022: Continued Migration of Afghans: Examining Five Key Factors. (In Dari)
Author: Ahmad Walid Barlas. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

September 2022: One year of Taliban rule: How many years have the economic indicators gone back? (In Dari)
Author: Ahmad Walid Barlas. [LEARN MORE >>](#)

PROFILES OF SCHOLARS IN THE DIASPORA



Latifa Jafari Alavi

Latifa Jafari Alavi is a research fellow at Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Her research interests include accountability for international crimes, international humanitarian law, environment law, and minority women's rights.

Dr. Alavi holds an LLM in European Private International Law from Dundee University and a master's degree in International and European Law from Toulouse 1 University Capitole. She obtained her PhD in international law from Strasbourg University, with a dissertation titled "Impunity for International Crimes in Afghanistan, the Failure of Complementarity, and the Need for Alternatives." Her post-doctoral research focused on human rights and environmental justice at SAGE at the University of Strasbourg.

Currently, as a research fellow in RWI, she is conducting research on intersectionality and access to human rights for minority women in Afghanistan. Latifa has previously worked for various international legal organizations including the International Criminal Court and International Development Law Organisation. In addition, she has collaborated with several local and international NGOs in Afghanistan, Iran, and France.



Mujib Abid

Mujib is an Australia-based Afghan scholar of modern Afghan history, peace studies and political theory.

Mujib's work foregrounds critical traditions that self-locate in the Global South, including postcolonial

and decolonial approaches, as well as other subalternised traditional and Islamic knowledge perspectives. Mujib's PhD thesis interrogated Afghan encounters with colonial modernity, examining the concomitance of modernist hegemony and local dissentic politics. The work is also an attempt at theorising local embodied and representational agency against coloniality from the geohistorical location of Afghanistan.

Mujib is currently developing a project that will study the social and cultural dimensions of post-2001 Australian involvement in the 'war on terror' and statebuilding regimes in Afghanistan. He is also involved with community initiatives that emphasise Afghan dialogue facilitation, peace research and advocacy. Mujib holds a Ph.D. from the University of Queensland, a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney and a B.A. from the American University of Afghanistan. He currently teaches as a sessional lecturer at two institutions, the Southern Cross University and Australian Catholic University.

ARI PUBLIC LECTURES

ARI's monthly online public lecture series features experts who present new research on Afghanistan. The

March, April, and May lectures, summarized below, are posted on [UCA's YouTube channel](#).

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28 March 2024 **National Budgeting and Revenue Collection under the Taliban**

Waheedullah Hamoon

Former Head of the Public Investment Management Unit at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Finance

Ahmad Omid Tawakkoli

Former Director of Policy Analysis at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Finance

In August 2021, the Taliban seized power and established a theocratic state. Due to the sanctions, the current government in Afghanistan is unable to receive international aid that played such an essential role in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Watch the full lecture [here](#).

25 April 2024 **The Status of Individuals with Disabilities in Afghanistan under the Taliban Regime**

Benafsha Yaqoobi

Human rights activist, honoured with the US State Department’s 2024 International Women of Courage Award for advocating for women’s rights and the rights of people with disabilities in Afghanistan, recognised as one of the 100 influential women by BBC World in 2021.

In Afghanistan, under the current regime, individuals with disability, particularly girls/women face various challenges. The lecture looks at the impact of government policies in education, employment, and healthcare on people with disabilities. It offers perspectives from the speaker’s experience as an advocate in this field.

Watch the full lecture [here](#).

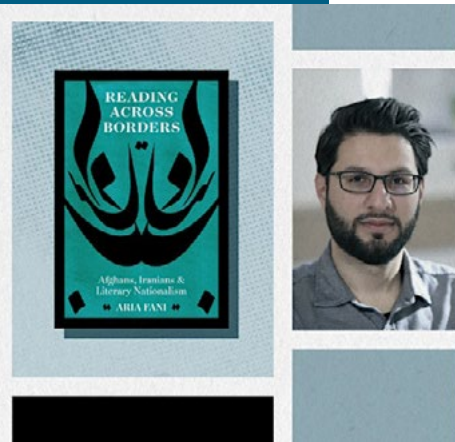
31 May 2024 **Higher Education Landscape: Before and After the Taliban Rule in Afghanistan**

Ahmad Barlas

Researcher at Greifswald University, Germany

The lecture outlines the historical shifts and contemporary challenges that Afghanistan’s higher education sector encountered. It analyses the evolution of higher education institutions, policies, and accessibility in 2021, contrasting these developments under the Taliban rule.

UPCOMING EVENTS



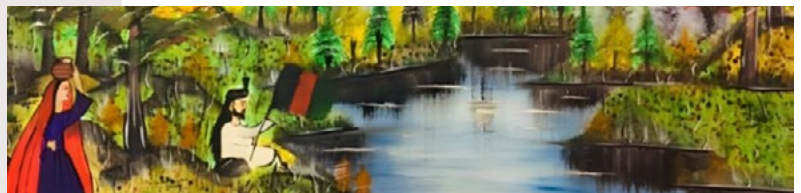
Organizer: Third Place Books

ARIA FANI

will be discussing his new book, **Reading across Borders: Afghans, Iranians, and Literary Nationalism**, which demonstrates how the cultural forms of Iran and Afghanistan as nation-states arose from their shared Persian heritage and cross-cultural exchange in the twentieth century. This event is free and open to the public.

Date: Tuesday, 28 May 2024. **Time:** 7:00 pm PDT.

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We are thrilled to announce an essay writing competition for Afghan women! This is an opportunity for women to practice their English writing skills, share their stories and opinions, and get their work published and shared internationally.

We welcome all Afghan women to participate and share their voice! The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2024, 11:59 pm Afghan time. To submit your essay or if you have any questions, please email us at amplifyafghanwomen@gmail.com

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UPCOMING EVENT



AFGHAN WOMEN'S NARRATIVES THROUGH ART: EXPLORING THEMES OF IDENTITY & HOME

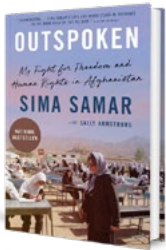
Organizer: International Festival of Arts & Ideas

This unique exhibit showcases the artistic creations from two expressive arts initiatives by CRIW. The Collective for Refugee and Immigrant Women's Wellbeing, which allowed mostly preliterate women from rural Afghanistan who are often unheard due to barriers of language, gender, poverty and education, to tell their own stories through their photographs and hand sewn "story cloths".

Date: Friday, 21 June 2024. **Time:** 3.00 pm EDT.

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NEW BOOKS



Outspoken: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan

By *Simar Samar, Sally Armstrong*

The impassioned memoir of Afghanistan's Sima Samar: medical doctor, public official, founder of schools and hospitals, thorn in the side of the Taliban, nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and lifelong advocate for girls and women.

Published: 27 February 2024.

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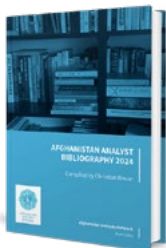
In the Name of my Father: Struggling for Freedom in Afghanistan

By *Ahmad Massoud*

In this compelling and insightful work, Ahmad Massoud reflects on the struggle for freedom and democracy in Afghanistan. He articulates a vision for a liberated Afghanistan, free from the grasp of the Taliban and other terrorist groups.

Published: 14 May 2024.

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Afghanistan Analyst Bibliography 2024

Compiled by *Christian Bleuer*

This online book provides information about books, journal articles and other publications on a vast range of topics to do with Afghanistan.

Updated: 3 May 2024.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Study Level: PostDoc.
Fields: Research.
Fund: Living and mobility allowance, long-term leave and special needs allowances.

Deadline:
11 September 2024.

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BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CALL FOR PROPOSAL for Ukraine Cultural Heritage Response Initiative

Fund: \$1,000,000.

Eligibility: Organizations from both the U.S. and abroad can apply.

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UNIVERSITY OF PADUA
SCHOLARSHIPS ITALY
FULLY FUNDED

Research Fellowships for Scholars at Risk

Study Level: Research.

Fields: Various.

Deadline:
31 October 2024.

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STUDENT
GRANTS
for International
Students

Study Level: Bachelor's, Master's, & PhD.

Fields: Various.

Fund: Partially funded.

Deadline:
4 August 2024.

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