



# 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.

## Research Grants Programme

ARI reannounces the second round of calls for applications to the Research Grants Programme. This programme supports Afghan scholars in the diaspora or non-Afghan scholars holding university or research positions conducting research in the social sciences, humanities, gender studies, and biological, earth and environmental sciences 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](#)).

The deadline for applications: 15 July 2023.

For further information, contact: [ari@ucentralasia.org](mailto:ari@ucentralasia.org) (subject header: Research 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](http://www.ucentralasia.org)).


## UPCOMING EVENT

**Afghan  
Pro Bono  
Initiative**

**Immigration Routes Available  
for Afghans to the UK**

**4 July 2023**  
**2:30 – 4:30 PM** (Kabul time)

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The session is divided into a presentation followed by a Questions & Answers session.



## Dr. Nahid Nasrat

Dr. Nahid Nasrat is a psychologist and full professor in the Doctoral Clinical Psychology Program at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Washington, D.C. She is currently

serving as the International Visiting Professor at Leeds Beckett University, UK.

Dr. Nasrat received her Master's and the Doctorate degree in clinical psychology from Alliant International University, California. In addition to teaching and mentoring students for 22 years, Dr. Nasrat is a diversity expert providing training and conducting research on diversity issues in clinical psychology. She was the recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award, which was a clinical manual for mental health professionals working with Afghan refugee women. She has frequently appeared on international TV and radio talk shows discussing the impacts of acculturative stress on immigrants' and refugees' mental health, and published book chapters and numerous articles on the status of Afghan women's mental health and human rights. Her areas of expertise are: Immigrants and Refugee wellbeing; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access; and Psychosocial issues in conflict and post-conflict.



## Dr. Yahia Baiza

Dr. Yahia Baiza, PhD in Education (Oxford University), is a senior research associate at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, UK. He specializes in education, Islamic, Central Asia, and Af-

ghanistan studies, as well as in the study of refugee and diaspora communities in Europe, and Persian manuscript analysis. Dr. Baiza also serves as Bloomsbury Education and Childhood Studies Regional Editor for Afghanistan. He is a member of the Academic Council of Hazara Encyclopaedia. Dr. Baiza is also President of the Executive Council of Hazara National Congress, an independent, inclusive, non-factional institution that aims to foster solidarity and unity among the Hazara people.

Dr. Baiza is the author of more than 80 academic articles on various subjects, published in book chapters, academic journals and online media in English, German, Persian, French, and Norwegian languages. He is also the author of a forthcoming book, *The Hazara Ismailis of Afghanistan and their History*. He is fluent in Persian, Pashto, English, German, and Slovak/Czech, and has advanced knowledge of Arabic, Russian and Urdu.



## Dr. Najib Amin

Dr. Najib Amin is an Afghan lawyer and a development practitioner. He studied law at Kabul University and earned a master's degree in Law and Economics from Bologna University, Italy.

He just completed his PhD and published a book "State-building, Lawmaking, and Criminal Justice: A case study of prison system's legal mandate and the rehabilitation programme in Pul-e-charkhi prison". As for his work background, Dr. Amin began his career as an assistant lecturer of law at Kabul Law School, in 2001. From 2002 to 2004, he led the research and analysis department of the Afghan Constitutional Drafting and Constitutional Review Commissions and later served as Chief Rapporteur and Academic

Coordinator for the Afghan Constitutional Loya Jirga, which adopted the Afghan constitution in 2004. In addition, he played a substantive role in all other Jirgas and Loya Jirgas held from 2002 to 2021.

During 2004, 2006, and 2007, Dr. Amin also assisted the Asia Foundation with the design and implementation of Afghanistan's largest public opinion surveys. From 2010–2014, he served as Undersecretary for the Cabinet and from 2017–2020 as a Commissioner for the Civil Service Commission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In 2021 Dr. Amin advised the Afghan government on the situation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at the International Criminal Court (ICC). As the government's focal point, Dr. Amin liaised with the ICC and facilitated inter-governmental coordination, mainly within domestic justice institutions. After the fall of the Republic in 2021, he remained engaged in several research and teaching activities at Leiden University. He currently teaches Law, Governance, and Development at the Leiden University College in the Hague.

## PUBLICATIONS

*21 April 2023:* Diplomatic Engagement with the Taliban: A Path Forward or a Black Hole?

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*05 May 2023:* A Ban, a Resolution and a Meeting: A look at the May 2023 meeting in Doha and the reactions to it

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*22 May 2023:* Women's Secret War: The inside story of how the US military sent female soldiers on covert combat missions to Afghanistan

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*22 May 2023:* Promoting Community Resilience through the Humanitarian, Basic Needs, and Conflict Sensitivity Nexus

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## NEW BOOKS



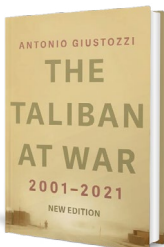
### The Secret Gate

By Mitchell Zuckoff

The incredible true story of a breathtaking rescue in the frenzied final hours of the U.S. evacuation of Afghanistan and how a brave Afghan mother and a compassionate American officer engineered a daring escape.

Published: April 2023.

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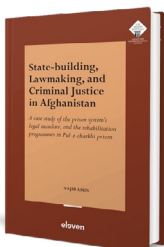
### The Taliban at War: 2001–2021

By Antonio Giustozzi

The Taliban's external sources of support include foreign governments and non-state groups, both of which have affected the Taliban's military campaigns and internal politics. Secondly, this is the first full-length study of the Taliban to acknowledge and discuss in detail the movement's polycentric character. Here not only the Quetta Shura, but also the Haqqani Network and the Taliban's other centers of power, are afforded the attention they deserve.

Published: May 2023.

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### State-building, Lawmaking, and Criminal Justice in Afghanistan

By Najib Amin

The book is a case study of the prison system's legal mandate, and the rehabilitation programmes in Pul-e-charkhi prison. This study is part of the Law School's research programme 'Criminal Justice: Legitimacy, Accountability and Effectivity' and research programme 'Effective Protection of Fundamental Rights in a pluralist world'.

Published: June 2023.

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## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Yunus Center AIT

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Application Deadline: 25 July 2023



American University of Paris Scholarship in France



AUP

[scholarships.af](#)



[scholarship for Afghanistan](#)

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS 2023-24

#### Study Level:

Undergraduate & postgraduate.

**Fund:** Partially funded.

**Availability:** For internationals.

#### Deadline:

1 October 2023.

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Association for Asian Studies

### Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences and

Supporting Under-represented Scholars of Asia

With support from Sweden, the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) will coordinate a new \$2.68-million project to support scholars located in economically disadvantaged regions of South and Southeast Asia.

This initiative includes travel grants and research grants that may be relevant for students connected with the ARI.

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