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 American Institute of Afghanistan Studies Country Office
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

American University of Afghanistan 2019- present
 Assistant Professor of Social Sciences and Humanities.

American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS) 2008-2013, 2019- 2020
 Country Director, Kabul
 The American Institute of Afghanistan Studies is the premier interdisciplinary association for scholars in Afghanistan. My responsibilities as the country director included: engagement and provision of substantive and logistical support to foreign and Afghan senior and junior scholars conducting research across a range of social scientific and humanities disciplines in Afghanistan; initiation, organization and hosting of academic lectures, policy-oriented discussions, and cultural events related to Afghanistan; establishment of collaborative relationship with Afghan and international research and academic institutions.

Islamic Cooperation for Peaceful Afghanistan Initiative March 2011-2013
 National Coordinator, Kabul (partners: AIAS, George Mason University, Boston University, Al Azhar, and Marmara University)
 This initiative aimed to foster cooperation among national, regional and international Islamic institutions and academic centers in support peace and non-violence. As the national coordinator, I coordinated the efforts between the Afghan government, civil society and Ulema councils with relevant international Islamic organizations with four conferences in Istanbul and Kabul.

Open Media Fund for Afghanistan (OMFA) June 2005-2006
 Country Director, Kabul
 Established a network of independent Afghan media for international partnership, training,

Foundation for Culture and Civil Society 2003-2005
 Head of the Research and Evaluation Unit, Kabul
 We supported independent research efforts by Afghan educational institutions and cultural organizations.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University of Afghanistan, Social Science Department, Kabul 2019-Present
 HIS 120 "History of Afghanistan," Professor
 POL 220 "Comparative Politics," Professor
 POL 346 "Islam and Politics," Professor
 POL 437 "Islamic Political Thought," Professor

SOC 310 “Social Science Methodology,” Professor

Boston University, Anthropology Department 2018
AN 347 “Afghanistan” (Professor Thomas J. Barfield), Teaching Fellow

Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences 2015, 2016, 2018
CC 101 “Core Humanities I: Ancient Worlds,” Teaching Fellow

Gowharshad University, Social Sciences Department, Kabul 2012
“History of Modern Afghanistan,” Professor

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

[“Hail Mary of Power Sharing in Afghanistan”](#) with Michael O’Hanlon, *The National Interest* (2021)

[“Adapting Solidarity, Navigating Uncertainty: Conflict and Covid-19 in Urban Afghanistan”](#) with Annika Schmeding in *American Ethnologist* (2020)

[“Afghanistan’s Strongman Democracy”](#) with Dipali Mukhopadhyay in *Foreign Policy* (2018)

[“The State of State-Building in Afghanistan”](#) with Dipali Mukhopadhyay in *Lawfare* blog, (Brookings Institution: 2017)

“Language, Poetry and Identity in Afghanistan: Poetic Texts, Changing Contexts,” in M. Nazif Shahrani (ed), *Modern Afghanistan: The Impact of 40 Years of War* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2018).

[“Taliban and Al-Qaeda, the Blurred line between Insurgency and Terrorism”](#) (Aspen Institute, 2016)

[“Afghanistan–Pakistan Relations and Quest for Peace”](#) (Aspen Institute, 2014)

[“Bhutto’s Assassination and War on Terror”](#) *The Huffington Post* (2007)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Boston University Dean’s Fellowship award for PhD program	2013- 2019
Rumsfeld Foundation Fellowship award	2010
United States Department of State, Fulbright Program Scholarship	2006-2008
Open Society Foundation, Anthropology Research Fellowship award	2004-2005

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Open Society Foundation Afghanistan, Advisory Board Member	2020-Present
Afghanistan 1400 Movement, Founding Member	2012
Civil Society Development Center (CSDC)	2011-2013

Afghan Alumni Association (ALA), Board Member	2011-2014
Asia Society Fellows, Young Leaders Forum	2011
Fulbright Association of Afghanistan, Founding Member	2008- present

EDUCATION

Boston University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology <i>Nauroz as a Social Site: Understanding Faith, Ethnicity, and Nation-ness in Afghanistan</i> Thomas J. Barfield (Chair), Betty Anderson, Shahla Haeri, Adam Kuper, & Charles Lindholm	2013-2019
Johns Hopkins University Visiting Scholar, Paul. H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies	Spring 2010
Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences M.A. in Anthropology (Fulbright Scholarship)	2006-2008
Kabul Medical University M.D. in General Medicine	1996-2003

SELECT CONFERENCES, PANELS AND TALKS

2021 Paul Mellon Lecture, "Afghanistan: Cultural Heritage and the Forever War" World Monuments Fund, New York	2021
"In Search of Peace for Afghanistan: Historical Perspectives" United States Institute of Peace, Washington	2021
"New Voices from Afghanistan" Brookings Institution, Washington	2021
"After the Taliban: Implications for India-Afghanistan Relations" Hudson Institute, Washington	2020
"The Future of NATO Presence in Afghanistan" Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin	2020
"What Afghanistan Means to Me" TedX Darulaman, Kabul	2020
US Special Operations Command, Florida Invited panelist	2018
Conference on Contemporary Identities in Afghanistan Yale University, Invited panelist	2018

Afghanistan the Next Generation Scholars Columbia University, Invited speaker	2018
<i>Afghanistan Post-2014</i> , Russia Oriental Studies Institute in Moscow, Invited Panelist	2016
Afghanistan – Pakistan Track II Dialogue, Pakistan Invited speaker	2015 – 2016
Afghanistan Scholars Conference, Indiana Indiana University, Invited speaker	2014
<i>From Sufis to Taliban</i> , Los Angeles University of California Los Angeles, Invited speaker	2014
<i>Imam Abu Hanifa and Hanafi School of Jurisprudence</i> , Tajikistan Government of Tajikistan, Invited participant	2012
Meeting with Afghanistan’s Public Opinion Makers, UAE NATO-ISAF Mission to Afghanistan, Invited panelist	2012
“Towards a Sovereign Afghanistan,” Germany Princeton University’s Liechtenstein Institute, Invited Panelist	2011
Heart of Asia Diplomatic Conference, Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Afghanistan, Invited Speaker	2011
<i>NATO Long-term Engagement in Afghanistan</i> , Belgium NATO Headquarters, Invited Participant	2011
Afghanistan – India Track II Dialogue, India Delhi Policy Group, Invited Participant	2009-2011

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Al-Arabiya, BBC World News, Chinese Central Television, Tolo News Afghanistan

LANGUAGES

English: Fluent (speaking, writing, and reading)

Pashto: Fluent (speaking, reading and writing)

Persian: Fluent (speaking, writing and reading)