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International Center for Law and Religion Studies
Brigham Young University, 452 JRCB Provo, UT 84602

Education

Ph.D. *Summa Cum Laude*, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen, Nürnberg, Germany (2020)
Dissertation: The Role of Sharia in the Afghan Courts' Decisions: A Study of Criminal Cases after the 2004 Constitution. (December 2019) STAEDTLER Foundation Award for Outstanding Dissertation (Oct 2020)

LL.M, Asian Comparative Law, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington (2010)

B.A. in Islamic Studies: Kabul University Sharia Faculty, Kabul, Afghanistan (1991)

Faculty Positions

Brigham Young University: Visiting Research Scholar, International Center for Law and Religion Studies, and Visiting Lecturer at Brigham Young University Law School (2022 - Present)

- ***Courses Taught:***
- Islamic Law
- Law and Religion (co-taught with Prof. Brett Scharffs)

Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan: Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies at Sharia (Islamic Studies) faculty, Adjunct Professor of Islamic Culture and Civilization (1994-2021)

- ***Courses Taught at Islamic Law (Sharia) Faculty:***
- *Graduate Program:* Master's degree program in Islamic Law (Fiqh), and supervising candidates in their master's theses and research projects.
- *Undergraduate Program:* Islamic Theology; Islamic Philosophy; Comparative Religion; History of Islamic Theological Sects: The history of Islamic Jurisprudence (Tarikh al-Tashri')
- ***Courses Taught at other Departments:*** Kabul University; The History & Social Science department, the Language and Literature department, the Philosophy department, the Journalism Department)
- *Islamic Culture and Civilization (an Obligatory Course at All Departments at Kabul University)*
- ***Courses Taught at Kardan Private University and Tabish Private University Law Schools, Kabul, Afghanistan***
- *Islamic Culture and Civilization,*
- *The history of Islamic Jurisprudence (Tarikh al-Tashri al-Islami)*
- *Founder and Director of Kabul University Legal Clinic (Providing free legal services for women who were victims of domestic violence)*

Other Academic and Professional Experience

Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC), Vice President and Member, appointed by President Hamid Karzai with the approval of the Parliament of Afghanistan (September 2013–September 2017)

Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Organization (ALRDO), Founder and Director, (August 2019–August 2021)

Afghanistan Constitutional Studies Institute (ACSI), Founding Member and Chair, volunteer (March 2017–May 2021)

Geneva Center for Dialogue and Progress--Geneva (CDP-G), Member, Constitutional Law Team of Experts for Afghanistan, volunteer (2022–present)

Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Association, Co-founder and member, volunteer (Sep 2024–present)

American University of Afghanistan, Member, Advisory Board (2023–present)

CMI (Chr Michelsen Institute) (Bergen, Norway), Consultant on Islam, Gender, and Women's Rights in Afghanistan (2023–present)

Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and Rule of Law (Heidelberg, Germany), Consultant, Islam and Human Rights (September 2021–June 2024)

Languages

Pashto (native), Dari/Persian (native), English (fluent), Classical/Academic Arabic (fluent reading, writing, and understanding), Urdu (fair reading and comprehension)

Publications

Books

- *Islam, Custom, and Human Rights: A Legal and Empirical Study of Criminal Cases in Afghanistan after the 2004 Constitution* (Springer: January 2022) (English)
- *Women's Civil and Political Rights in the Light of Sharia and Laws* (Co-author) (GIZ [Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit]: 2021) (Dari)
- *Commentary on Afghan Penal Code* (Co-author) (Asia Foundation: December 2019) (Dari)
- Green book (Co-author) Citation styles for Legal writing in Afghanistan (2018)

Articles in Academic Journals and Book Chapters in Refereed Books

- *Women's Right to Communal Prayers in Islamic Law and Under Taliban-ruled Afghanistan* (Published by the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, available at <https://canopyforum.org/2025/09/20/freedom-of-communal-prayer-in-the-primary-sources-of-islamic-law-and-under-the-taliban-ruled-afghanistan/>) (Sept. 20, 2025)
- *Constitutionalism in Islam and Interpretation of Sharia by the Taliban*, (A chapter on Constitutionalism in Islam and Interpretation of Sharia by the Taliban, available at <https://cdpg.ch/wp-content/uploads/Status-of-Constitutionalism-and-Rule-of-Law-in-Afghanistan.pdf>) (August 2025)

- *Women's Right to Freedom of Movement in Islamic Law and Under Taliban-ruled Afghanistan* (forthcoming in *Fordham International Law Review*) [Link to SSRN https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5749184](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5749184)
- *Human Dignity in the Primary Sources of Islamic Law and its Application by Muslim Jurists* (Chapter submitted and under review for book project for *Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS)* at *BYU Law School*)
- *The Role of Sharia in the Judicial System of Afghanistan*, *Islam and Civilizational Renewal* (International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies, Malaysia) 11.1: 39-59 (June 2020) (English) <https://icrjournal.org/index.php/icr/article/download/21/14/62>
- *Art. 130 of the 2004 Afghan Constitution: Implications for trial judges*, an article published with the support of the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law (MPFPR), November 2020.
- *Legal Pluralism in Afghanistan: Constitutional Law in Theory and Practice – A companion for an Afghan Dialogue*, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law (MPFPR), December 2020.
- *Legal Pluralism in Afghanistan: Constitutional Law in Theory and Practice – A companion for an Afghan Dialogue*, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law (MPFPR), December 2020.
- *Towards a Constitutional Court in Afghanistan: A Proposal* (Co-author), a strategy paper published by Afghanistan Constitutional Studies Institute, (November 2019) (English translated to Dari/Persian and Pashto Languages)
- *Judgement of Women in Islamic Sharia and Afghan Law: Can a woman be a member of the high council of the Supreme Court?* *Journal of Afghan Legal Studies* (2019) (Dari)
- *The Criminalization of Wife Beating in Light of Sharia and the Criminal Code of Afghanistan*, *Journal of Sharia Faculty, Kabul University* (2017) (Dari)
- *Introduction to the Legal System of Afghanistan*, *Journal of Sharia Faculty, Kabul University* (2014) (Dari)
- *Islamic Education in Afghanistan: The Path from Māwarā' al-Nahr to India*, *Journal of Sharia Faculty, Kabul University* (2012) (Dari)
- *Nationalism and Islam*, *Kabul University Journal of Social Science* (2009) (Dari Language)
- *Religious Affairs Strategy for Afghanistan*, *Afghanistan National Development Strategy (UNDP)* (2008) (Dari)
- *Street Law Clinical Program in Afghanistan* (*Kabul University Sharia Faculty Journal*, 2008).

Blog Posts, Op-Eds, and Other Public Scholarship

- *Can Women Become Members of the Supreme Court?: Yes, according to Hanafi Jurisprudence*, *BBC Persian News* (2019) (Persian) <https://www.bbc.com/persian/blog-viewpoints-49099652>
- *Human Rights and Islam* in the *Handbook of the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law and Afghanistan Legal Research Development Organization* (2020)
- *International Rule of Law Assistance: Learning from Failures in Afghanistan*, *PEACELAB* (May 2019) <https://peacelab.blog/2019/05/international-rule-of-law-assistance-learning-from-failures-in-afghanistan>

Works-in-Progress

Books

- *Human Dignity from the Islamic Perspective (Co-Editor), A book Project by the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at BYU Law School*
- *Theological Principles of the Mu`tazila Sect (Dari)*

Articles and Book Chapters

- *Freedom of Religion in Islam* (discussing freedom of Religion in the primary sources of Islamic Law and from the perspective of classical and modern Muslim Scholars)
- *Women's Right to Healthcare Services in Islamic Law and under the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan*
- *Women's Right to Education in Islamic Law and Under the Taliban De facto Regime in Afghanistan* (discussing the concept of knowledge and education and its status in the primary sources of Islamic law, and under the Taliban de facto government)
- *Womanless Judiciary: (discussing the role of women judges in Islamic Law and under the current Taliban government in Afghanistan).*

Selected Presentations

- *Presentation at UN Side Event (Weaponization of Religion by the Taliban and its Consequences on Afghanistan and beyond) UN Web TV available at <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wc51d4f7> (September 26, 2025)*
- *Practicing Islam in the US, Interview, BYU Radio (July 30, 2024),*
- *The Concept of Salvation in Islam; International Center for Law and Religion Studies and Brigham Young University Law School, Provo, Utah (July 23, 2025)*
- *Women's Right to Movement in Islamic Law and under the Taliban de facto government, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, (May 22-25, 2025)*
- *Constitutionalism in Islam: Historical Perspective on the Madina Charter as a Path for Co-existing between Muslim and Non-Muslim, The Global Summit on Constitutionalism at the University of Texas, Austin, (March 20–22, 2025)*
- *Muslim Women's Rights Under God's Law: The Taliban's Perspective Toward Women; Conference on Law, Power, and Gender in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan; CMI, Bergen, Norway; August 26-27, 2024*
- *The Relationship between Faith and Practice in Different Islamic Sects; International Center for Law and Religion Studies, BYU Law School; Provo, Utah; July 24, 2024*
- *Religious Freedom Situation in Afghanistan Under the Taliban; 2024 Religious Freedom Annual Review, International Center for Law and Religion Studies and Brigham Young University; Provo, Utah; June 19-21, 2024*
- *Madina Charter as a foundation for coexistence; Building Bridges in a Divided World: Diplomacy of the Heart Through Dialogue and Understanding; Tbilisi, Georgia; May 5-6, 2024*
- *Dignity in Diversity: Why Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Matter; University of Nevada, Las Vegas, March 18, 2024*
- *Human Dignity in Islam: with focus on Right to Life; Conference on Human Dignity from an Islamic Perspective; Doha, Qatar; December 13-14, 2023*

- Human Dignity Initiatives: Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Religious Freedom Summit; June 30, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkdF3bfwSL4>
- *Lecture on the Role of Islam in the Afghan Constitution*; University of Milan Law School; Milan, Italy; March 11, 2022
- *Constitutionalism and the Taliban's Vision of Sharia: Is There a Middle Ground?* Second Conference on National Dialogue: Role of Civil Society, Women, and Future of Afghanistan; Antalya, Türkiye; March 16 and 17, 2022
- *Freedom of Religion in Light of Islamic Law: Theory and Practice*, Lecture at the Center for Islam and Law in Europe (EZIRE) FAU; November 2021; <https://www.ezire.fau.eu/2021/11/24/lecture-invitation-freedom-of-religion-in-light-of-islamic-law-theory-and-practice/>
- *Women's Right to Freedom of Movement in Islam*; Conference on Islam vs Rights: The Taliban's Negotiation Agenda for Law and Justice (online); November 17, 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbO0uAfnZt0>
- *Human Rights and Islam*; Afghan Supreme Court Women Judges Association Workshops Conference; August 2020
- *Constitutional Law of Afghanistan*; Afghan Supreme Court Women Judges Association Workshops; October 2020
- *Judicial Review in Afghanistan*; Sharif Hedayatullah University; Jakarta, Indonesia; October 2018
- *Interpretation of the Constitution in Afghanistan*; Sunan Kalijaga University; Yogyakarta, Indonesia; October 2018
- *Legal Clinical Education in Afghanistan*; Ninth Worldwide Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) Conference; Puebla and Tlaxcala, Mexico; December 5-12, 2017
- *Islam in the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan*; Presentation for the Afghan Ministry of Justice, Prosecution and Law Enforcement Departments; April 2015

References