

# RELIGION EDUCATION AND SOCIETY IN AFGHANISTAN

DEC 10<sup>TH</sup> 2022

FREIBURG & ONLINE



گروه کاری افغانستان  
WORKING GROUP AFGHANISTAN  
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION FREIBURG



Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg  
Université des Sciences de l'Éducation · University of Education

## Welcome to this year's Conference on Religion, Education and Society in Afghanistan

December 10th, 2022

In Freiburg and online

Many images and opinions about religion, education, and society in Afghanistan circulate unquestioned around the world and produce and reproduce stereotypes. However, only rarely is an attempt made to analyze the role of religion and education in Afghanistan more deeply, to understand it better, and to be able to classify developments more adequately. Afghan society is far too complex to be described briefly.

In this conference, we will look at the role of religion, education and society and their mutual influences.

- What is the role of religion in Afghanistan?
- What is the significance of gender in Islam?
- What are the current developments in the education sector in Afghanistan?
- What role does religion play in the education sector?
- What is the significance of Afghan-German cooperation in this context?
- How can we support newly arrived Afghans in Germany better?
- And many others...

We will explore these and other questions in keynotes, workshops, and panel discussions.

Will you join us and enrich the conference?

Here you find the **Program**: [Afghanistan\\_Conference 2022](#)

Here you find further information about our [keynote speakers](#).

Do you want to inform yourself about the **workshops** and get the links – please take a look at the [workshops](#).

Please register [here](#).

You want to participate on-site? Please find our instructions about arrival at the conference venue: [Arrival and Map](#)

This conference is organized by the working group Afghanistan, led by Prof. Dr. Uwe Bittlingmayer, and financially supported by the German Academic Exchange Services through means of the German Federal Foreign Office.

## Keynote Speakers

We proudly announce our keynote speakers.

Keynote 1

### Gender and Islam

*Dr. Fatima Tofighi, University of Religious Pardisan, Qom, Iran & Research Fellow, University of Bonn*

Keynote 2

### Islam and Democracy in Afghanistan

*Prof. Dr. Mohammad Jawad Salehi, University of Education Freiburg, Germany*



served as the former chancellor of Gawharshad University. He holds a BA, MA and PhD in political science. Dr. Salehi served in various positions and governmental positions in Afghanistan. He served as a senior advisor of curriculum development for the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education and was the founder and vice-chancellor for academic affairs at Kateb University. He also served as dean of the department of political science at Avicenna University before starting his career at Gawharshad University. He has contributed to many manuals used in Afghanistan's higher education institutes, including manuals on human rights, peace education, gender and politics and democracy. Dr. Salehi has taught human right courses in Afghanistan for over 12 years and worked with various national and international NGOs on these issues.



Keynote 3

### Recent Developments in Higher Education in Afghanistan

*Naqeebullah Jafari, Gawharshad University, Afghanistan*

studied for his bachelor's (2009-2012) and master's (2014-2015) in International Relations and has studied for his second bachelor's (2016-2019) in Philosophy. He, in addition to political and civic activities, has been active in higher education for a decade in different universities as a lecturer and administrative cadre. After the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2021, he as Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs played a vital role in managing the crisis and maintaining the achievements of Gawharshad University. Currently, he works as Vice Chancellor for Scientific Researches at Gawharshad University and principal investigator for the DAAD-funded German-Afghan-University Collaboration with the University of Education Freiburg.

## Keynote 4

### Education and Religious Radicalization in Afghanistan

Dr. Mohammad Baqer Zaki, University of Education Freiburg, Germany



is a political sociologist and his research interest include education, informal institutions, peace, conflict resolution and media. He obtained his PhD in 2017 from the Tarbiat Modares University with a thesis on the political role of the Loya Jirga in Afghanistan. In 2011, Zaki participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program which is a professional program for current and emerging international leaders and funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

From 2020 to 2021 he was an assistant professor and vice-chancellor for research at Gawharshad University in Kabul, where he worked on different projects including peace, peace education, local councils and Jirgas, and media campaign on Covid-19 in Afghanistan. He has supervised over 10 research projects and academic thesis. Zaki was the deputy director for policy at the office of the President of Afghanistan (2017-2020).

## Workshops

Here you can find an overview of the workshop.

We warmly invite you to read the short descriptions and join the one you are interested in.

*„Afghanistan at a second glance“*

Politics, media, and academia in Germany and Europe have long since turned away from Afghanistan and moved on to other regions and „problems“. Our publishing house „edition-tethys“ continues to publish scientifically sound knowledge and texts from and about Afghanistan and Central Asia. In this panel, we would like to present some of the texts that have been published so far. The focus here is on the country's cultural and religious complexity and the lifeworlds of its people.

Dr. Olaf Günther and Dr. Thomas Loy

Meeting ID: 639 0267 1618 Passcode: 943319 [Link](#)

### *Online Learning in Afghanistan: Case of Gawharshad and the American University of Afghanistan*

We first present a brief history of online learning in Afghanistan. Then we introduce and discuss the online learning approaches exercised by Gawharshad University and the American University of Afghanistan.

With COVID still around and the Taliban in power, online learning is a massive option for education for many the only in the country. We hope that the discussions in the workshop result in a set of recommendations and solutions for addressing the challenges we face.

Dr. Asadullah Jawid (Institute for the World Economy and the American University of Afghanistan), Mr. Abdul Rashid Ahmadi, Mr. Ahmad Zia Borhani, Mr. Abdul Khalil Matin

Meeting ID: 625 6226 6010 Passcode: 252097 [Link](#)

### *Liberal Peace and Effects of the Intervention in Afghanistan*

Since the nineties of the last century *liberal peace* is an integral part of the international community policy. This concept is critically discussed among social scientists. In our panel, we will focus on impacts of the intervention in Afghanistan and question key points of the normative *liberal peace* approach, due to its limitations e.g. regarding its practicability. Furthermore, we will beg the question, if alternative ways of development or even *post development* approaches offer alternative ways.

Dr. Omar Kahled Sahrai

Meeting ID: 635 4094 5196 Passcode: 462508 [Link](#)

### *Peace in times of conflict transformation (in Afghanistan)*

By participating in this workshop, you will get an overview over different understandings and approaches to peace, violence, and conflict theories. The workshop intends to combine these theories and will interactively work out their application on the Afghanistan peace and conflict contexts, prior to the Taliban takeover and nowadays. Against this background, we would like to jointly reflect, discuss, and work out possibilities on how to ameliorate the current situation in Afghanistan and how to transform a conflict situation into peace in our daily life in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fereshta Sahrai and Mr. Nasrullah Shojaee

Meeting ID: 675 1435 0403 Passcode: 116470 [Link](#)

## Arrival and Map

Your trip to the University of Education Freiburg

### By train

From Freiburg main station

- Either take the **regional train** in the direction of Titisee (or Kirchzarten or Villingen) to the station Freiburg-Littenweiler (the station is located directly at the University of Education, total travel time is about 10 minutes, the train leaves at least every 30 minutes)
- Or take **tram line 1**, from the tram bridge at the central station to its final stop Lassbergstrasse / Littenweiler. From there, walk about 200 m on Lindenmattenstrasse to the University of Education Freiburg (in total, about 20 min).

### By car from Karlsruhe or Basel (Autobahn A 5)

Leave the motorway at the exit Freiburg-Mitte in the direction of Freiburg and follow the signs „Titisee-Neustadt / Donaueschingen“ (B 31). After approx. 10 km, shortly after the Ganter brewery, you will reach a tunnel entrance.

Directly before the tunnel entrance, you have to change to the left lane and pass the tunnel on the left. Now follow the tram tracks until you reach the intersection at the terminal stop. Turn right at this intersection (sign PH Freiburg). The first street on the right after the railroad crossing is Kunzenweg. After approx. 200 m, second crossroad on the right, you will find the parking lot of the University of Education Freiburg.

### By car from the direction of Titisee-Neustadt

Arrival on the B31 from the direction of Titisee / Neustadt. Shortly before Freiburg, however, leave the B31 in the direction of Littenweiler. Stay on Kappeler Strasse until you reach the intersection with Volksbank (on the right) and Badische Beamtenbank (on the left). Turn left, the first street on the right after the railroad crossing is Kunzenweg. After approx. 200 m, second crossroad on the right, you will find the parking lot of the University of Education Freiburg.

### *Conference Venue*

The main sessions will take place in the building KG 5, Lindenmattenstraße 18, 79117 Freiburg



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|---------------------------------------|---|
| ① KG 1: Library                       | ⑩ Arts and Cafeteria                              |
| ② KG 2: Administration                | ⑪ Auditorium Maximum                              |
| ③ KG 3                                | ⑫ Gym and KG7A                                    |
| ④ KG 4: Workshops A&B                 | ⑬ Pavillons                                       |
| ⑤ KG 5: Registration, Plenary, coffee | ⑭ Organic garden                                  |
| ⑥ KG 6                                | ⑮ Kunzenweg 15 (International Office, Institutes) |
| ⑦ KG 7: Health/Culture                | ⑯ Parking lot                                     |
| ⑧ KA: Auditorium                      |   |
| ⑨ Mensa: lunch / public function      |   |