



ACADEMIC DIASPORA CONFERENCE

THE AFGHAN DIASPORA'S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN'S SOCIAL,
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

1ST SEPTEMBER 2019
SUNDAY | 8:15AM - 9:30PM

Resource for London | 356 Holloway Road | London | N7 6PA

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SPEAKERS |



Rahela Sidiqi is the Founding Director of Farkhunda Trust for Afghan Women's Education. She is the former Senior Advisor of Afghanistan Civil Service Commission and Senior Social Development Advisor of UN-Habitat Afghanistan. Since 1993, she has worked as a women's rights activist at the grassroots and policy levels in Afghanistan.

She completed her BSc in Agriculture from Kabul University and her MA in Social Development Sustainable Livelihood from Reading University UK.



Said T. Jawad is currently the **Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United Kingdom**. He has previously served as **Chief of Staff to the President** of Afghanistan (2001 to 2003), **Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States, Mexico, Brazil,**

Columbia and Argentina (2003-2010), the **Senior Political and Foreign Policy Advisor** to the Chief Executive of Afghanistan (2015-2017), the **Chief Executive Officer** of Capitalize LLC, a global strategic advisory firm headquartered in Washington, DC (2010-2017), the **Chairman** of the Foundation for Afghanistan (2004-2014); and as a **Global Political Strategist and Senior Counselor** at APCO Worldwide (2010-2017).



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SPEAKERS |



Shinkai Karokhail has been a Member of Parliament for 11 years at Lower House in Afghanistan. She is long life women right activist. Mrs Karokhail was Ambassador of Afghanistan in Canada, Director of AWEC, and initiator of Campaign “lets fight against Cancer” along with other activists, established Women Parliamentary Caucus, that led to development of NAPWA. She was part of the team for drafting several laws that affect women rights i.e. Elimination of Violence Against Women Law. Miss Karokhail received several national international prestige’s’ awards. Presently she is member of Parliament for third time.



Kamini Paul Kamini Paul is a development professional with 20+ years international experience in the formulation and implementation of development and environmental policy. She has worked as an EU Diplomat, UK Deployable Civilian Expert, International Adviser and Consultant for the European Commission, Department for International Development, World Bank, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, OCHA, UNAMA, and USAID and **Chair of Farkhunda Trust.**



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MODERATORS |



Gloria Moss PhD is a Professor of Management and Marketing at Buckinghamshire New University and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (FCIPD). She has a background as a Training and Development Manager for Courtaulds and Eurotunnel and has undertaken funded research on Inclusive Leadership in industry and in Higher Education as well research examining the impacts of nationality, personality and gender on leadership and marketing decisions. She is the author of six books, over thirty peer-reviewed journal articles and has been keynote speaker at several major international conferences. She has conducted consultancies on leadership, the talent pipeline and Design for large organisations including M&S, Ford, Allen and Overy solicitors and Fujitsu. Farkhunda Trust Honorary Member.



Dr. Althea Rivas: Lecturer in International Relations and Global Development Studies and Co-Director of the Centre for Postcolonial Studies at the University of Sussex. Areas of focus include gender, conflict, development and humanitarian intervention. **Althea is also a Farkhunda Trust Trustee,** and provided editorial support to the researchers of Diaspora Conference.



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Sana Safi is a Senior Presenter for the daily BBC News Pashto TV news programme, BBC Naray Da Wakht (BBC World Right Now). Sana joined BBC World Service – of which BBC News Pashto is part – in 2006 as a field reporter in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad. She then worked as a BBC Pashto radio and TV producer and presenter, based in London.

As presenter of the BBC Pashto TV news programme, Sana was the first broadcast journalist to interview Afghanistan's First Lady, Rula Ghani, after her husband, Ashraf Ghani, took office in 2014. In 2015, Safi was given rare access to some of Afghanistan's rising super rich class in Dubai as well as Kabul, reporting on the flow of capital between Kabul and the Gulf countries, corruption, and investment opportunities for Afghanistan. As a multilingual she has been reporting on issues such as Afghan interpreters either being rejected or left behind by the British and American forces, female participation in Afghanistan's security forces, maternal mortality, migration, the refugee crises and other social and political issues facing the country and the world in English, Pashto and Persian.

Before joining the BBC, Sana worked as the only female journalist in Jalalabad's state-run radio and television station, RTAJ. She also headed an educational institution in Jalalabad, Nangarhar, which provided literacy and numeracy classes for



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women and children deprived of education under the Taliban regime.

Apart from her journalistic work, Sana is known as the author of a children's book and a collection of short stories, "On the Banks of the River Thames", in Pashto. She is a passionate advocate for education in Afghanistan.

Sana holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Media and a master's degree in Political Science. As well as Pashto and English, she speaks Dari, Persian and Urdu.

Nearly 1.5 million people connect with Sana on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).



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CONTRIBUTORS |



Prof. Naysan Adelparver is a Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer at Yale University and a Farkhunda Trust Honorary Member Prof. Adelparver provided editorial support to several researchers of the Diaspora Conference.



Marika Theros is a researcher at the Conflict and Civil Society Research Unit at the London School of Economics, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute for State Effectiveness. She also directs the multi-year Afghanistan Engagement Project sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to support grassroots networks advancing security and new generation Afghan leaders across geographies, sectors and backgrounds. Her current research focuses on the design of civil society inclusion mechanisms in peace-making processes and examines local peace agreements and how they relate to national settlements. Prior, she has designed research and multi-level dialogue processes in Afghanistan, Lebanon, the Gulf and the Balkans for academic institutions, NGOs, governments, and the private sector. She is currently a board member of the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia) and Women for Peace and Participation (London/Kabul).



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Liz Mermin has directed documentary films on international topics for BBC, PBS, Netflix, CNN, and many other global broadcasters. Her 2004-film *The Beauty Academy of Kabul* told stories of women and families immediately after the fall of the Taliban, and was broadcast around the world and released in cinemas across the US. She will be relaying her experiences and the messages of those she has come across with an Afghan narrative, with what the international media and humanitarian community has achieved for Afghanistan.



Mariam Safi is an academic researcher, Founder and Director of Organisation for Policy Research and Development Studies www.drops.org

She is member of several influential Groups such as Gender, Peace & Security Building. She is Co director of Afghanistan Pakistan Forum for peace and democracy. She has gained several national and international award. Ms. Safi writes regularly for regional & International Journals.

Title of Speech: The role of diaspora in the peace-building process in Afghanistan Post-2001.



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Dr Seley Gharanei is an academic research professional with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused in Molecular Biology in relation to Diabetes and neurodegeneration from The University of Birmingham. Specialties: Diabetes, Obesity, Endocrinology, Reproduction Biology, Neurodegeneration Cancer, Inflammation, Immunology, Epigenetics, Cellular Metabolism and Stem Cell Biology.

Abstract:

Placental structural and functional adaptation to a diabetic environment

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) can affect up to 18% of the pregnancy worldwide and its prevalence is increased by 64% in the past 2 decades due to continuous rise in obesity.

GDM is a metabolic disease characterised by impaired glucose tolerance, with the first recognition during pregnancy. GDM is associated with maternal and foetal/neonatal complications such as birth trauma, respiratory distress syndrome, intrauterine growth restriction, preeclampsia, macrosomia and neonatal hypoglycaemia. Neonates born to GDM pregnancies are at an increased risk of developing diabetes, hypertension and other metabolic disorders later in life, contributing to the



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already alarming increase in obesity and diabetes. Similarly, neonates of pregnancies complicated by GDM tend to have a higher proportion of fat mass and a higher birth weight. Higher placental weight as well as increased placental nutrient transport will contribute to the enhanced foetal fat accumulation in GDM.

The placenta is a heterogeneous organ and yet nutrient exchange between mother and foetus occur specifically in the exchange surface called syncytiotrophoblast (STB). The human placenta is sensitive to the hyperglycaemic milieu and responses with adaptive alterations of its structure and function. To better understand GDM-related changes of fetoplacental angiogenesis and epigenetics, we are investigating the placental structural, functional and epigenetic changes in diabetic and normal pregnancies, using samples from a large cohort of GDM and control placentae.



Sarajuddin Isar is a PhD candidate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). His research focus is on political economy of taxation and state building in post Bonn Afghanistan. Isar is a Political Economy researcher with extensive experience in banking, finance, taxation and state building.

Isar serves as a researcher with two old London-based magazines –the Accountant and the International Accounting Bulletin and a research consultant with Open University in London. He worked as a visiting scholar with Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) in Kabul as well as with Oliver Wyman and BBC in London.



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Abstract:

This research focuses on the fiscal dimension of state-building in Afghanistan. It aims to examine the relationship between state-building and taxation in post Bonn Afghanistan comparing Karzai's and Ghani's administrations, but whilst also scrutinizing this relationship in relation to earlier periods of Afghan history. It aims to first explore how taxation was negotiated/decided in post Bonn era, second what factors have influenced these negotiations and finally what impacts they consequently had on the extractive capacity of the state. These negotiations and policies will be located within a wider historical perspective through a mapping of the historical emergence of the state-building and taxation, which dates back to the reign of Durrani's in 1947.

CONTRIBUTORS |



Farid Rahimi is the representative of sustainable development at the University of Oxford. Rahimi has an MBA from LSC and a BA Honours in Politics and Development Studies from University of London. He has considerable experience of social and political activism and community involvement in the London Borough of Brent. His current writing focuses on housing crisis with an emphasis on sustainability of the people in Greater London Area (GLA).



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Abstract

Armed conflicts and ethnic tensions have dominated the situation in Afghanistan for more than 30 years, which have produced a large scale migration, as well as destroyed the livelihoods of many men, women and children. Since the Bonn Agreement (2001), whilst Afghanistan is experiencing some amelioration, of course, with ongoing challenges, settled Afghan diasporas in the western world may contribute to the general realm of girls education and women empowerment in Afghanistan. This paper is the analysis of the complexity of diaspora, ethnicity, as well as Afghan diaspora in the UK and their role in promoting education for girls and women empowerment in Afghanistan. It brings insights from academic resources including primary data collected from both the UK and Afghanistan which provides a clear picture of the issue and explains the challenges and obstacles. In Afghanistan, between January and February 2019, three interviews have been conducted with Afghan citizens, primarily high profile governmental officials. In the UK, among Afghans from different socioeconomic, ethnic and political backgrounds, covering age ranges from mid-20s to the mid-60s, the research has involved six interviews between March and April 2019. Additional data is collected from six informal interviews. Whilst the research found a kind of fragmented Afghan diaspora in the UK, nevertheless, their role is significant and their contribution towards girls education and women empowerment in Afghanistan is pivotal.



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Walid Halimi is a PhD student reading politics and globalization at the Brunel University, holding an MSc in International Security and Global Governance from Birkbeck College the University of London, with a BA (Hons) in International Studies, Kingston University (London). He will be

discussing Afghan Women in Governance - The story of success and challenges.

Abstract

Afghanistan - a conservative Muslim society governed in a traditional way for many centuries has attempted to change and grasp the tapping of modernity several times. Commencing with King Amanullah Khan's first attempt in the early 20th century, and the recent endeavours post-2001, the woman her prestige and rights have played a crucial role in determining the outcome of these transformations. This research, therefore, is designed to pinpoint what are the contemporary obstacles in the way to Afghan women's development and their active participation in the socio-political affairs of the country. Religion, culture and underdevelopment, as three prominent social factors will be studied and analysed. Considering the scope of this research paper, and living in the diaspora, it seems practical to conduct a conceptual approach and mainly rely on a desk review of the existing qualitative researches performed by the Afghan scholars and major organisations such as the USAID and the UN. Particularly, scrutinising academic writings and scriptures pertaining to the rights of women in Islam will construct a bigger part of this



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study. Similarly, the achievements of the Afghan Women in diaspora provides the opportunity to back up theoretical arguments that the Afghan Woman – given the opportunity – could be equally significant and active as many other successful women around the globe.

CONTRIBUTORS |



Fereshta Omar: Head of diverse workforce - MoJ UK. HR professional working for the ministry of justice & leading on the Diverse Workforce strand of the departments D&I strategy. Previously worked in the private sector, within financial services delivering end-to-end HR (Performance management, succession planning, rewards, mergers & acquisition, employee relations and talent).

Presentation: Comparative analysis of the recruitment process opportunities in the case of the UK and Afghanistan.

Abstract

Through a Human Resources lens, this paper looks to compare the recruitment processes between the United Kingdom and Afghanistan. The focus is on key steps which are undertaken within recruitment, the reasons behind why these steps are undertaken and how it benefits an organisation. The different stages of the recruitment process are discussed in depth, i.e



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advertising job roles, attraction, screening, interviewing and hiring. The paper concludes by highlighting recommendations, which can be undertaken within organisations in Afghanistan to strengthen the overall recruitment processes, as well as improve transparency and build employee capability.



Hogai Aryoubi is a third year PhD candidate at Cambridge University and is a part of the

Cambridge Peace and Education Research Group. She is currently the Deputy Editor of the Cambridge Open-Review Educational Research e-Journal and the President of the Cambridge University Afghan Society. Hogai was a Fulbright, Teach for America corps member, American Association of University Women Fellow, and Leadership for Educational Equity Policy Fellow. She is currently a Farkhunda Trust Ambassador and supports through fundraising

Abstract

A significant issue with studies conducted by large global organizations, external consultants, members of the Afghan diaspora- who can be considered outsiders by the locals, and other academic investigators who conduct research in Afghanistan, is the neo-colonial attitude that tends to still come with the 'subject to object' quantitative research orientation. Moreover, non-quantitative neo-colonial research



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is created, conducted, produced, and owned by outsider investigators, though knowledge and experiences come from the subjects. A decolonizing response to the dehumanising and colonial history of research is Indigenous methodology. The Indigenous paradigm is informed by indigenous and tribal knowledge systems (Chilisa 2012), therefore, Kovach (2016) argues that the dismissal of Indigenous methodologies is the dismissal of certain knowledges, and thus, a form of neo-colonialism. There is a necessity for studies in Afghanistan to be co-created, co-conducted, co-produced, and co-owned, with the participants and communities that are involved for research to be ethical and just.

CONTRIBUTORS |



Mustafa Edries Amiryar (PhD) BSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Kabul University, Afghanistan), MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering (Kansas State University, USA) and PhD in Energy Engineering (City, University of London, UK). Mustafa has previously served as a Lecturer in Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department at Kabul University. He has also worked as a consultant and Senior Electrical Engineer with different construction companies in Afghanistan. He has recently achieved the status of Associate Fellow of Higher Education Academy in the UK and is currently a Visiting Lecturer in MSc Renewable Energy and Power Systems



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Management programme at City University of London. His main research interests are in renewable and distributed generation systems, energy storage systems and electrical power systems.

Abstract

Energy storage systems (ESS) are key devices to balance between electrical energy supply and demand by improving the quality, efficiency and stability of electrical systems. They can enhance the flexibility electrical systems by mitigating electrical supply intermittency, which has always been a major problem in developing countries and has recently become problematic in developed countries, due to the increased penetration of renewable generation. The subject of this research is flywheel energy storage systems (FESS), a technology that is gathering great interest due to technical and environmental benefits offered over alternative energy storage solutions.

This research describes the assessment of a small-scale energy systems incorporating FESS with solar photovoltaic (PV) and a diesel generator for use in islanded residential premises with highly intermittent or non-existing electrical grid infrastructure. In this application, incorporation of FESS is shown to be beneficial in comparison to a system without storage or one with the alternative storage technology, such as chemical batteries. The model of flywheel system is developed and combined with the model of an islanded residential power system incorporating a diesel genitor and solar PV system. Such a system would be particularly useful for off-grid applications



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or those with weak grids as occurs in developing countries such as Afghanistan.

FACILIATORS & PARTNERS |



Kudsia Kaker is the President of Afghan Professionals Network. Kudsia is the co-founder of an international corporate events company Qatalyst Global in London.



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