

Lutforahman Saeed, LL.M., Ph.D.

Afghanistan Research and Consulting Center, LLC — Utah, United States
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Founder & President, Afghanistan Research and Consulting Center | Islamic Law, Human Rights & Gender Studies. My work bridges rigorous scholarship and applied policy analysis on Islam, law, and society, with a focus on Afghanistan and the broader Muslim world. My research interests span Islamic law and jurisprudence, comparative constitutional law, international human rights, gender and women's rights, governance and constitutionalism, and the role of religion in public life. Drawing on classical Islamic scholarship together with contemporary comparative and empirical methods, I examine how Islamic legal and intellectual traditions shape debates over law, ethics, governance, and social justice, and how evidence-based research can inform courts, governments, international organizations, and civil society.

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. in Islam and Human Rights (Summa Cum Laude)
<i>Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany</i>
Dissertation: The Role of Sharia in the Afghan Courts' Decisions: A Study of Criminal Cases after the 2004 Constitution (December 2019). Recipient, STAEDTLER Foundation Award for Outstanding Dissertation (Oct. 2020). | 2020 |
| LL.M., Asian Comparative Law
<i>University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington</i> | 2010 |
| B.A. in Islamic Studies
<i>Kabul University, Sharia Faculty, Kabul, Afghanistan</i> | 1991 |

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

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| Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), Lund, Sweden
Research on Islam and human rights. | Current |
| Visiting Research Scholar & Visiting Assistant Professor
<i>International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University Law School, Provo, UT</i>
– Taught Islamic Law and Law.
– Co-taught Law and Religion Seminar with Prof. Brett Scharffs. | 2022–Jan. 2026 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Over three decades of undergraduate and graduate teaching across Afghan and U.S. institutions, spanning course design and curriculum development, thesis and research supervision, classroom and online instruction, and student assessment.

Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies (Sharia Faculty) <i>Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan</i> – Graduate program: Master’s in Islamic Law (Fiqh) — taught courses and supervised theses and research projects. – Undergraduate program: Islamic Theology, Islamic Philosophy, Comparative Religion, History of Islamic Theological Sects, and History of Islamic Jurisprudence (Tarikh al-Tashri’); supervised student research. – Cross-department course: Islamic Culture and Civilization (obligatory across the History & Social Science, Language & Literature, Philosophy, and Journalism departments).	1994–2021
Adjunct Professor, Law School <i>Kardan University & Tabish University, Kabul</i>	2012–2015

ADVISORY & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Consultant <i>Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Bergen, Norway</i> Advised on Islam, gender, and women’s rights in Afghanistan.	2023–2025
Consultant <i>Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and Rule of Law, Heidelberg, Germany</i> Provided expertise on Islam and human rights.	2021–2024
Volunteer Expert <i>Geneva Center for Dialogue and Progress (CDP-G), Geneva, Switzerland</i> Provide expertise on Islamic political theory and constitutionalism from an Islamic perspective.	2023–present
Advisory Board Member (volunteer) <i>American University of Afghanistan</i> Advise on academic programs and institutional strategy.	2023–present

LEADERSHIP & INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & President <i>Afghanistan Research and Consulting Center, LLC — Utah, USA (national & international scope)</i> – Founded and lead a U.S.-based research and consulting center producing evidence-based research, policy analysis, training programs, and advisory services on Islamic law, human rights, governance, gender, education, culture and the arts, peacebuilding, and global policy. – Direct interdisciplinary research and advisory engagements for universities, research institutions, governments, international organizations, foundations, and civil society partners. – Building a network of Afghan scholars to advance rigorous, policy-relevant scholarship on Afghanistan and the Muslim world.	2026–present
Co-founder & Member (volunteer) <i>Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Association</i> Legal research and human rights and gender studies from an Islamic-law perspective.	2024–present
Co-founder & Member (volunteer) <i>Afghanistan Constitutional Law Team of Experts</i> Research and study on constitutionalism in Afghanistan.	2022–present

Editor-in-Chief <i>Journal of Afghan Legal Studies (JALS)</i> The first peer-reviewed, trilingual (English, Dari, Pashto) scientific law journal in Afghanistan.	2017–2022
Founding Member & Chair <i>Afghanistan Constitutional Studies Institute (ACSI)</i> Directed research projects on constitutional law and governance.	2017–2021
Founder & Director <i>Afghanistan Legal Research and Development Organization (ALRDO)</i> Led legal research initiatives and organizational development.	2019–2021
Vice President & Member <i>Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC)</i> Appointed by President Hamid Karzai with the approval of Parliament; oversaw constitutional implementation.	2013–2017
Founder & Director <i>Kabul University Legal Clinic</i> Founded and directed the first legal clinic providing pro bono legal services to women affected by domestic violence.	2011–2014

BOOKS

- Islam, Custom, and Human Rights: A Legal and Empirical Study of Criminal Cases in Afghanistan after the 2004 Constitution. Springer, 2022 (English).
- Women’s Civil and Political Rights in the Light of Sharia and Laws (co-author). Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 2021 (Dari).
- Commentary on the Afghan Penal Code (co-author). The Asia Foundation, 2019 (Dari).
- Green Book: Citation Styles for Legal Writing in Afghanistan (co-author), 2018.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Women’s Right to Freedom of Movement in Islamic Law and Under Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.” *Fordham International Law Journal* 49, no. 3 (2026).
- “Ulama (Islamic Scholars) as Providers of Restorative Justice in Afghanistan: A Case Study of Women Forced Marriage” (forthcoming). *The International Journal of Restorative Justice*.
- “Membership of Women in Afghanistan’s Supreme Court According to the Afghan Constitution and Hanafi Jurisprudence” (Dari). *Journal of Afghan Legal Studies (JALS)*.
- “The Role of Sharia in the Judicial System of Afghanistan.” *Islam and Civilizational Renewal* 11, no. 1 (2020): 39–59.

BOOK CHAPTERS & SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

- “Constitutionalism in Islam and the Interpretation of Sharia by the Taliban.” In *Status of Constitutionalism and Rule of Law in Afghanistan*. Geneva Center for Dialogue and Progress, 2025.
- “Human Dignity in the Primary Sources of Islamic Law and its Application by Muslim Jurists.” Forthcoming chapter in edited volume, *International Center for Law and Religion Studies*, Brigham Young University.

OTHER SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH REPORTS

- “Women’s Right to Communal Prayers in Islamic Law and Under Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.” *Canopy Forum*, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University (Sept. 20, 2025).

- “Art. 130 of the 2004 Afghan Constitution: Implications for Trial Judges.” Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, 2020.
- “Legal Pluralism in Afghanistan: Constitutional Law in Theory and Practice; A Companion for an Afghan Dialogue.” Max Planck Foundation, 2020.
- “Towards a Constitutional Court in Afghanistan: A Proposal” (co-author). Afghanistan Constitutional Studies Institute, 2019.
- “Religious Affairs Strategy for Afghanistan: Focused on Women Empowerment, Security, Poverty Reduction.” Afghanistan National Development Strategy, UNDP, 2008 (Dari).
- “Street Law Clinical Program in Afghanistan.” Kabul University Sharia Faculty Journal, 2008.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- “Can Women Become Members of the Supreme Court in an Islamic State? Yes, according to Hanafi Jurisprudence.” BBC Persian, 2019.
- “International Rule of Law Assistance: Learning from Failures in Afghanistan.” Peace Lab Blog, 2019.
- “Human Rights and Islam.” Max Planck Foundation Handbook on Rule of Law Assistance, 2020.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Human Dignity from the Islamic Perspective (co-editor). Book project, International Center for Law and Religion Studies.
- Theological Principles of the Mu‘tazila, the Most Rationalist Sect (Dari). Book.
- “Women’s Rights to Healthcare Services in Islamic Law and Under the Taliban De Facto Government.”
- “God’s Law, Man’s Rule: Debating Women’s Right to Healthcare Services from Sacred Texts to the Taliban.”
- “Between Islamic Law and Taliban Rule: Women’s Right to Education in Afghanistan.”
- “Womanless Judiciary: Women’s Judgeship in Islamic Law and Under the Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan.”
- “Whose Islam, Whose Rights? Women’s Political and Civil Rights Under Taliban Rule in Afghanistan.”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “The Architecture of Illegitimacy: A Maqasid al-Shariah Analysis of the Taliban’s Law on the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.” MESA Virtual Workshop, May 21, 2026.
- “God’s Law, Man’s Rule: Debating Women’s Right to Healthcare Services from Sacred Texts to the Taliban.” University of California, Los Angeles, March 2, 2026.
- “Women’s Right to Freedom of Movement in Islamic Law and under the Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan.” University of Chicago Law School, January 14, 2026.
- “Women’s Right to Healthcare Services in Islamic Law and under the Taliban-Ruled Afghanistan.” MESA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 22–25, 2025.
- “Weaponization of Religion by the Taliban and its Consequences for Afghanistan.” United Nations Side Event, September 26, 2025.
- “The Concept of Salvation in Islam.” International Center for Law and Religion Studies, BYU, July 23, 2025.
- “Women’s Right to Movement in Islamic Law and Under the Taliban Government.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 2025.
- “Constitutionalism in Islam: The Medina Charter and Religious Coexistence.” Global Summit on Constitutionalism, University of Texas at Austin, March 2025.
- “Muslim Women’s Rights Under God’s Law: The Taliban’s Perspective Toward Women.” Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway, August 2024.

“Religious Freedom in Afghanistan Under the Taliban.” Religious Freedom Annual Review, BYU, June 2024.

“Madina Charter as a Foundation for Coexistence.” Building Bridges in a Divided World Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia, May 2024.

“Human Dignity in Islam: Focus on the Right to Life.” Doha Conference on Human Dignity, Qatar, December 2023.

Additional invited lectures and conference presentations in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

LANGUAGES

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