



Centre for West Asian Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia

(A Central University by an Act of Parliament)

Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Marg, New Delhi - 110025

Profile

The Centre for West Asian Studies (CWAS) was established in July 2004 and was formally inaugurated on January 29, 2005, by the then Prime Minister of India. It was founded as a research centre and as part of Jamia Millia Islamia's research and development programme. The Centre's teaching and research focus on all twenty-two West Asian and North African (WANA) countries, including Turkey.

The Centre aims to promote interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary academic pursuits of the politics,



economics, culture, and international relations of the WANA region. Relations with India constitutes a special focus of the Centre. It aims to serve as a niche for public policy studies by providing a forum for informed exchange of ideas among students, faculty, and outside scholars. It also intends to generate and disseminate resources to help both laypeople and experts understand a region with close ties to India. It also seeks to promote an Indian perspective on regional developments, particularly those that have an impact on



global peace, security, and development.

The Centre offers two postgraduate programmes: a five-year M.Phil./Ph.D. and a two-year M.A. The Center's educational mission is to equip students with specialised knowledge of the region, preparing them for careers in research and education, journalism, business, government and non-governmental organisations, and other fields.

As the importance of West Asia grows in India and the rest of the world, the Centre is expected to excel with newer research and taught courses. It is still committed to broadening its understanding of the region through rigorous teaching, innovative research, and essential language-learning modules.

At the CWAS, we aim to combine world-class scholarship with an excellent teaching and learning environment. We also strive to transcend traditional geographic and subject boundaries, with all of our work grounded in primary source research. Above all, we want to train a knowledgeable group of social scientists and strengthen India's ties with the region.



In addition to teaching and research, CWAS engages in a wide range of academic activities, such as organising national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, and lectures; publishing, and disseminating research findings. Scholars from across the country and around the world frequently stop by the Centre for talks and interactions. The Centre also has a MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry.



Our graduates have been hired as Assistant Professors at the University of Kashmir and Amity University, as well as a Principal at Nowgong Mission High School, Nagaon, Assam; Indiatimes journalist and news editor; and Washington, D.C.-

based energy consultant.

The Centre's faculty members have supervised over 30 PhD theses, with approximately 28 being awarded. Under the auspices of the Centre, more than 90 MPhil dissertations have been submitted and awarded.



Centre's Library

The CWAS has a library of its own. It has more than 3000 books and five volume sets, including the Encyclopaedia of Islamic Economy, History of the Jewish People, Politics of Modern Iran, and Islam and Religious Diversity.

Select National and International Seminars/Conferences

- ❖ National Seminar on “India and Saudi Arabia: The Emerging Socio-Cultural and Economic Dimensions,” March 3, 2015.
- ❖ National Seminar on “West Asia : Between Turbulent Present and Uncertain Future,” CWAS & Academy of International Studies, JMI, March, 18-19, 2015.
- ❖ Under the auspices of GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Network, an MHRD/GOI flagship scheme), Prof. Meir Litvak (Tel Aviv University, Israel) delivered a series of ten lectures on “Religious Fundamentalism in a Global Perspective: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism” from February 8-13, 2016.
- ❖ Under the auspices of the GIAN-MHRD programme, Prof. Gawdat Bahgat (National Defense University, Washington, D.C.) delivered a series of ten lectures on “The Changing Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Dynamics in Contemporary West Asia/Middle East” from January 30 to February 4, 2017.
- ❖ National Research Scholars’ Seminar on “Contemporary West Asia and North Africa: Defining India’s Role,” March 20, 2017.
- ❖ Research Methodology Workshop for MPhil/PhD and PDF Scholars from February 11-21, 2019.
- ❖ International Seminar on “A Decade since the Arab Spring: Perspectives on Turmoil and Stability in West Asia,” January 27-28, 2021.
- ❖ National Seminar on “India’s Interconnection with West Asian Countries: Historical Understanding of Socio-Economic Relations and Future Prospects,” September 18-19, 2021.

Select Faculty Publications

- ❖ Ansari, Shahid. J., Khan, Yasir. Women in the Gulf: Transition from Tradition to Modernity? Rajasthan: Elixir Publications, 2014.
- ❖ Ashwarya, Sujata. Israel’s Mediterranean Gas: Domestic Governance, Economic Impact and Strategic Implications. Abingdon, Oxon: Taylor and Francis, Routledge, UK, 2019.
- ❖ Ashwarya, Sujata., Mujib Alam, eds. Contemporary West Asia: Perspectives on Change and Continuity. Abingdon, Oxon: Taylor and Francis, Routledge, UK, 2019.
- ❖ Ashwarya, Sujata. India-Iran Relations: Progress, Problems and Prospects. Abingdon,

Oxon, UK: Taylor and Francis, Routledge, 2017.

- ❖ Azmi, Rafiullah., Mahmood, Fazal. Foreign Policy of India and West Asia: Change and Continuity. Delhi: New Century Publications, 2014.
- ❖ Khan, Javed Ahmad., Kaleem Alam. Islamic Finance and Venture Capital: Options for the Indian Economy. New Delhi: Genuine Publications and Media Pvt. Ltd., 2018.
- ❖ Nazmi, Hemayun A. ed. Contemporary West Asia and North Africa: Defining India's Role. New Delhi: Global Books Organisation, 2019.
- ❖ Nazmi, Hemayun A. ed. India and Saudi Arabia : The Emerging Socio-Cultural & Economic Dimension. Delhi: M/S Scholar Publishing House, 2017.

International Fellowships Awarded

- ❖ Dr. Sujata Ashwarya, Associate Professor, CWAS, was awarded the Academic Fellowship by the Schusterman Centre for Israel Studies for the Summer Institute of Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA, June 15, 2015–July 10, 2015.
- ❖ Dr. Sujata Ashwarya, Associate Professor, CWAS, was awarded the Asia Studies Visiting Fellowship from East West Centre in Washington D.C., USA, 30 June-30 September, 2019.

Faculty Members

1. Dr. Shahid Jamal Ansari, Professor & Officiating Director
2. Dr. Sujata Ashwarya, Associate Professor
3. Dr. Rafiullah Azmi, Research Associate (Lecturer Grade)
4. Dr. Javed Ahmad Khan, Professor
5. Dr. Hemayun A. Nazmi, Associate Professor



Visiting Professors

Professor Gulshan Dietl
Ambassador Jitendra Nath Misra
Ambassador Mahesh Kumar Sachdev

Post-Doc Researchers

Dr. Atiqullah
Dr. Shahnawaz Abbas
Dr. Shabnam Akhtar
Dr. Mukhtar Bhatt
Dr. Ghazala Shabana
Dr. Shafika Sheikh



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