

Dr Shainool Jiwa

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SPECIALIZATION

Discipline: Islamic Studies particularly Islamic History and Thought

Specialization: Shia Islam, Ismaili History and Thought, The 10th-12th Century Mediterranean world.

Languages: English, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Kutchi

EDUCATION

PhD in Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh, UK, 1989

Thesis: A Study of the Reign of the fifth Fatimid Imam-caliph al-Aziz billah.

MA in Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 1984

Dissertation: The Initial Destination of the Fatimid Imam-caliph Abd Allah al-Mahdi's state: Yemen or North Africa?

BA in Political Science and Philosophy, St. Joseph's College, Karachi, Pakistan, 1979.

Vocational qualifications:

Advanced Diploma in Counselling, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), 1998.

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, leading to a fellowship in the Higher Education Academy, 2018.

TEACHING:

I have taught a range of courses and seminars on Islamic history (from Pre-Islamic Arabia to contemporary times), Shia Islam, Fatimid history and thought, classical texts, Sufism, Elementary Arabic at University of Edinburgh, at undergraduate and graduate levels, for over 20 years (1989-2009).

At the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS), I have designed and taught a range of courses related to the above themes for the graduate programmes in humanities and Islamic studies as well as for the Secondary Teacher Educator Programme GPISH since 1999 to date. I also teach on the various adult education programmes at the IIS.

Most recently, I developed an FHEQ Level 7 term-long graduate course titled *Prophet Muhammad and Imam Ali in the discourses of Muslim Communities*, for which I serve as the Module leader and lecturer. On average, I teach 100+ hours per year.

I have been involved with the International Baccalaureate programme since 1998 and was their Chief Examiner for Islamic History from 2001 to 2008.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Towards a Shii Mediterranean Empire: Fatimid Egypt and the Founding of Cairo. The reign of the Imam-caliph al-Muizz li Din Allah from the *Ittiaz al-Hunafa* by al-Maqrizi (London, IB Tauris, 2009) <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/towards-shi-i-mediterranean-empire-fatimid-egypt-and-founding-cairo>

The Founder of Cairo: An Ismaili account of the reign of the Fatimid Imam-caliph al-Muizz li Din Allah. (London, IB Tauris, 2013) <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/founder-cairo-fatimid-imam-caliph-al-muizz-and-his-era>

The Shi'i World: Pathways in Tradition and Modernity, Ed. F Daftary, A Sajoo and S Jiwa, (London, IB Tauris, 2015). <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/shii-world>

The Fatimid Caliphate: Diversity of Traditions, Ed, F Daftary and S Jiwa (London, 2017)

The Fatimids: The rise of a Muslim Empire (London, 2018). This work has now been translated & published in Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese and Russian. The Urdu translation is in progress.

Articles & book chapters:

I have published several articles in various academic and community based journals. Select citations include:

“The initial destination of the Fatimid Caliphate: Yemen or the Maghrib?” *Bulletin of the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)*, vol.13, no.1, pp. 15-26. (1986)

“The genesis of Ismaili da‘wa activities in the Yemen.” *Bulletin of the British Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)*, vol.15, no.1, pp. 50-63. (1988)

“Fatimid-Buyid diplomacy in the reign of the Fatimid Imam-caliph al-‘Azīz billāh” *Journal of Islamic Studies, Oxford University*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp.55-71. (1992)

“Historical representations of a Fatimid Imam-caliph: Exploring al-Maqrizis’ and Idris’ writings on al-Muizz li Din Allah”. Published proceedings of the International Conference on the Fatimids and the Mediterranean, Palermo, Italy (1999)

"Inclusive Governance: A Fatimid illustration", Sajoo, A, (Ed.) *Companion to the Muslim world*, IB Tauris in association with The Institute of Ismaili Studies (2009)

“Historical representations of a Fatimid Imam-caliph: Exploring al-Maqrizis’ and Idris’ writings on al-Muizz li Din Allah”. In Published proceedings of the International Conference on the Fatimids and the Mediterranean, Palermo, Italy (2009)

“Al-‘Aziz bi’llah, the first Fatimid Caliph of Egypt.” *The Encyclopedia Islamica*. ed. Wilferd Madelung & Farhad Daftary, Brill (London, 2011)

“From Slaves to Supporters: The role of the Slavs in the Fatimid Mediterranean Empire in the Fourth/Tenth Century CE.” Pontifical Institute, *Journal of Medieval Studies* (2015)

Introduction to *People of the Prophet’s House: Artistic and Ritual Expressions of Shi’i Islam*, with F Suleman. (2015)

“Kinship, Camaraderie and Contestation Fatimid Relations with the Ashraf in the fourth AH / tenth CE century.” *Al-Masaq, Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*, (2016)

“The Baghdad Manifesto: A Re-examination of Fatimid-Abbasid Rivalry,” in Daftary & Jiwa, (Ed.) *The Fatimid Caliphate*, IB Tauris, London, (2017)

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Saheliya: Established and managed Saheliya, a community based mental health project in Edinburgh, funded by the Scottish Executive. In that capacity, I supervised 15+ staff members and oversaw a budget of £200,000 (1991-1999).

The Institute of Ismaili Studies: I joined the Institute of Ismaili Studies in 1999 as a Research Associate and Academic Counsellor for the graduate students. I was also assigned the responsibility of coordinating the teaching of Arabic on its graduate programme.

I served as the *Coordinator of the Quranic Studies Unit* (2001-2004). As the founding coordinator, I was involved in the shaping of the Quranic Studies Strategy and in initiating the multivolume Anthology of Tafsir Literature. I also oversaw the first publication of the unit titled, *Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Quran*, ed. Suha Taji Farouki, 2004 and the conference titled *Word of God, Art of Man* which was part of the commemoration of the Institute's 25th anniversary celebrations.

I then served as the *Head of the Department of Community Relations* (2005 – April 2012). In this role, I provided oversight to three main areas work: Commissioning and dissemination of community related research; development and delivery of training and orientation for community leadership and educators, and development and dissemination of educational resources that are of particular interest and purpose for the community educators and the leadership.

Since 2012 to date, I serve as the *Head of Constituency Studies Unit*, which is responsible for undertaking research and developing educational resources on key issues that impact Ismaili communities and those amongst whom they live across various regional geographies and cultural spheres.

I am also the founding editor for the *World of Islam* series, through which the IIS seeks to broaden its scholarly reach to a wider and more diverse readership. To date, three titles have been published in the series, in text, audio and e-book formats. The books have been translated in various languages: Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Russian and Urdu.

I also serve as the series editor for the *Living Ismaili Traditions* series, a bespoke series developed for the Ismaili community to inform and inspire them regarding the community's diverse

OTHER EDUCATIONAL INVOLEMENT:

My involvement with the *International Baccalaureate Programme* began in 1998 when I became an Assistant Chief Examiner for their diploma level course on Islamic History. In 2002, I became their Chief Examiner for Islamic History and served in that role until 2009. In that capacity I was actively involved in the integration of Islamic History within the broader curriculum on history, where it now resides. I continue to remain connected to the organisation as their consultant on Islamic history.

I have also served as an Associate Assessor for Muslim schools in Scotland with *Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education* from 2005 to 2009.

Since 2012 to date, I serve as a member of the *Board of Governors at Edinburgh Napier University*.

VOLUNTARY WORK:

On the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen, I have served on the *Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland* from 1998-2002.

I have been a volunteer counsellor with the *Edinburgh Mental Health Association* from 1992-1999.

Over the past twenty five years, I have also been involved in a variety of community based voluntary initiatives and have taken on various leadership roles within them. Typically, each of these commitments has ranged from one to seven years.