

Dr Shainool Jiwa
sjiwa@iis.ac.uk

Associate Professor. Seasoned scholar with over 40 years of academic and teaching experience, longstanding affiliation with The Institute of Ismaili Studies, and with several UK based and international higher education institutions. Have lived in East Africa, Pakistan, Canada, and the UK, and speak the following languages: English, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic, Swahili.

EDUCATION

- **PhD, Islamic Studies**, University of Edinburgh, UK, 1984-89. Thesis title: “A Study of the Reign of the fifth Fatimid Imam-caliph al-Aziz billah (972-996 CE).”
- **MA, Islamic Studies**, Joint IIS-McGill University programme, Montreal, Canada, 1982-84. Dissertation title: “The Initial Destination of the Fatimid Imam-caliph Abd Allah al-Mahdi’s state: Yemen or North Africa?”
- **Mlitt, Islamic Studies, Year 1**, University of Edinburgh, 1981, followed by 6-month Arabic immersion programme at The University of Jordan, Amman. Part funding, IIS.
- **BA, Political Science and Philosophy**, University of Karachi, Pakistan, 1979.
- **Advanced Diploma, Counselling**, Edinburgh College, 1998.
- **Postgraduate Certificate, Academic Practice**, University of London; Fellow, Higher Education Academy, 2018.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The Institute of Ismaili Studies (1999 – Present):

- **Head of Constituency Studies Unit** (2012-to date): Provide leadership to fulfil the Unit’s mandate to undertake textual and field-based research and develop accessible educational resources on key issues that impact Ismaili communities and those amongst whom they live across various geographies and cultures.
- **Founding Series Editor, *World of Islam*** series: Direct this first dedicated IIS accessible series to broaden its scholarly reach to a broad and diverse non-specialist, Muslim and non-Muslim 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. <https://www.iis.ac.uk/ru/series/world-of-islam>
- **Founding Series Editor, *Living Ismaili Traditions*** series: Conceptualise and lead this bespoke series for the Jamat to inform and inspire them regarding the community’s diverse traditions, history, heritage and lived experience. <https://www.iis.ac.uk/news/coming-soon-living-ismaili-traditions-series>
- Have contributed to two Board appointed committees: **Jamati Programmes Committee** and **Human Resources Committee**. Have also served at **Heads of Department Committee** as the DARP representative for 3 years.

- Directed the **IIS international conference on the Fatimids** titled, *Fatimid Cosmopolitanism: History, Politics, Material Culture and Religion* (Online, 6-9 December 2021). Select conference papers slated for publication in 2024.
- **Head, Department of Community Relations** (2005-12). Provided leadership to three main areas of IIS work: Commissioning of community related research; training of community leadership and educators, and development and dissemination of educational resources.
- **Head, Department of Graduate Studies** (2004-05). Provided one-year interim stewardship to IIS Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities.
- **Founding Coordinator, Quranic Studies Unit** (2001-2004). Drafted the Quranic Studies Strategy and initiated the multivolume *Anthology of Tafsir Literature*. Led the Unit's first publication titled, *Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Quran*, ed. Suha Taji Farouki, (2004), and an international conference titled *Word of God, Art of Man*; part of the events commemorating IIS' 25th anniversary celebrations, at which Mawlana Hazar Imam gave the opening address.
- Joined the IIS in September 1999 as a **Research Associate and Programme Coordinator and Academic Counsellor** for the Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities (GPISH).

Saheliya (1991 – 1999):

- Established and managed the first community based mental health project for Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) women in Scotland. Based in Edinburgh, it provides a wide range of services including counselling, complementary therapies, befriending, and group work. Organised the first BAME Women's Counselling training programme in Scotland and taught a wide range of mental health related sessions in the National Health and Social Welfare sectors. Secured permanent Scottish Executive and National Lottery funding for the project, which continues to thrive.
- On the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen, served on the **Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland** (1998-2002).

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- *The Fatimids II The Rule from Egypt* (IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2023).
- *The Fatimids I: The Rise of a Muslim Empire* (London, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2018). This work has been translated & published in Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Russian and Urdu. <https://www.iis.ac.uk/news/iis-launches-world-islam-series-fatimids-rise-muslim-empire>
- *The Fatimid Caliphate: Diversity of Traditions*, Ed, F Daftary and S Jiwa (London, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2017) <https://www.iis.ac.uk/publication/fatimid-caliphate-diversity-traditions>
- *The Shi'i World: Pathways in Tradition and Modernity*, Ed. F Daftary, A Sajoo and S Jiwa, (London, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2015). <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/shii-world> This work has been translated into Portuguese.

- *The Founder of Cairo: An Ismaili account of the reign of the Fatimid Imam-caliph al-Muizz li Din Allah.* (London, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2013) <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/founder-cairo-fatimid-imam-caliph-al-muizz-and-his-era>
- *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, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2009) <http://iis.ac.uk/publication/towards-shi-i-mediterranean-empire-fatimid-egypt-and-founding-cairo>

Journal Articles & Book Chapters:

- “Penning the Foundations: A Comparative Reading of Fatimid Origins Narratives with Abbasid and ‘Ibadi texts,” in *Essays in Honour of Carole Hillenbrand*, ed. Ali Ansari (April 2022)
- “The Baghdad Manifesto: A Re-examination of Fatimid-Abbasid Rivalry,” in Daftary & Jiwa, (Ed.) *The Fatimid Caliphate*, IB Tauris, London, (2017)
- “Kinship, Camaraderie and Contestation Fatimid Relations with the Ashraf in the fourth AH / tenth CE century.” *Al-Masaq, Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*, (2016)
- Introduction, *People of the Prophet’s House: Artistic and Ritual Expressions of Shi’i Islam*, with F Suleman. (London, IIS in association with IB Tauris, 2015)
- “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)
- “Governance and Pluralism under the Fatimids (909-996 CE)”, in *The Shi’i World: Pathways in Tradition and Modernity*, Ed. F Daftary, A Sajoo and S Jiwa, IB Tauris in association with the Institute of Ismaili Studies (2015)
- “Al-‘Aziz bi’llah, the first Fatimid Caliph of Egypt.” *The Encyclopedia Islamica*. Ed. W Madelung & F Daftary, Brill (London, 2011)
- “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)
- "Inclusive Governance: A Fatimid illustration”, in *Companion to the Muslim world*, Ed, A Sajoo, 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”. Published proceedings of the International Conference on the Fatimids and the Mediterranean, Palermo, Italy (1999)
- “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)
- “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) “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)

Articles in progress:

- Articles on the Fatimid Imam-caliphs al-Mansur billah, al-Mu‘izz li-din Allah and al-Aziz billah (forthcoming, in the Encyclopaedia of Ismailis, Ed. F Daftary)
- Articles on the Fatimid Imam-caliphs al-Mahdi billah and al-Mustansir billah, as well as Da‘i al-Mu‘ayyad fi-din al-Shirazi in an encyclopaedia volume edited by Mustafa Shah.
- Article on Imam-caliph al-Qa‘im bi Amrillah (forthcoming, in the Encyclopaedia Islamica, 3rd edition)
- “The Role of Arab Ismailis in Mediating Fatimid Legitimacy in 4th/10th Century North Africa.” (Forthcoming IIS publication of the proceedings of the Ismaili Studies conference, 2019)
- “The Kalbids of Sicily: Stalwarts of Fatimid Ifrīqiya” (Forthcoming, in a volume on Muslim Sicily, with EUP)
- “Historiographical Approaches to the Reign of al-Hākīm bi-Amr Allāh.” (Presented at the IIS conference on the Fatimids in Dec 2021; to be published in the volume proceedings in 2024)

TEACHING & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Have taught and developed curricula across a wide range of themes, at undergraduate and graduate level at several institutions of higher learning including:

- **The Institute of Ismaili Studies** (1999-to date) teach on several modules at GPISH, Secondary Teacher Education Programme (STEP), Short Courses, and Jamati programmes, as well as at ITREB initiatives. **Annual teaching time averages 50+ hours.** Over several years, have been involved in **drafting and review of Secondary Curriculum** modules.
- **International Baccalaureate** programme. Served as their **Chief Examiner for Islamic History** (2001-08) and spearheaded the integration of the Islamic History module into the History programme, to broaden its reach and impact.
- Have taught on several courses at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, **University of Edinburgh** (1989-2009).

ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS:

- **Board of Governors, Edinburgh Napier University** (ENU): Over the past nine years (2012-2021), have been a Board member at ENU. During this period, have been involved across various aspects of university governance including the recruitment of the Chairman of the Board of Governors (2019), as well as the University Chancellor (2020).
- **Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Education:** Have been an Associate Assessor for Muslim schools in Scotland (2005-09).
- **The Aga Khan Academy** (AKA): Have contributed to the review of the AKA programme in Mombasa (2005-7).
- Contributions to civic initiatives related to mental health and higher education has led to a listing in the *Who’s Who in Scotland* since their 2000 edition, to date.

PhD theses examined:

- Steven Matthew Gertz, “Inter-Religious Relations in a Sectarian Milieu: Fāṭimid Rulers in Relationship to their Melkite Christian Subjects in Palestine and Egypt.” Georgetown University (August 2020). Published as *Shi‘ite Rulers, Sunni Rivals and Christians in between: Muslim-Christian Relations in Fāṭimid Palestine and Egypt* (Gorgias Press, 2023)
- Mathew Andrew Barber, “Fatimid historiography and its survival. A case study of the vizierate of al-Yazuri (r. 442-450/1050-1058).” University of Edinburgh (March, 2021).
- Kirsten Thomson, “Politics and Power in Late Fatimid Egypt: The Reign of Caliph al-Mustansir.” University of Edinburgh (July 2014). Published by I B Tauris, 2016.

Masters by Research:

Adnan Mustafa Husain, “The Bedouin of the Fatimid Empire: Faith vs. Politics in a Medieval Islamic Empire, University of Wales (December 2023).