

Neshat QUAISER, Professor Dr.

Former Professor and Head
 Department of Sociology,
 Jamia Millia Islamia, Central University,
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Ph. D.; M. Phil.; M. A.; (Sociology): Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

Ph. D. Dissertation deals with **Nationalism, Religion and Peasant Politics in Post-colonial India, Pakistan and Bangladesh** against the backdrop of colonial experiences. 1992. Updated version is to be ready for publication soon.

Teaching:

Have taught Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Jami'a Millia Islamia, Central University, New Delhi, since August 1985.

Designation: Professor (superannuated in October 2017)

Research Interest:

- **Muslims, Islam and Communalism in Indian sub-continent;**
- **Historical sociology/social history of medicine and health with reference to encounter and exchange between Unani/indigenous and western medical practices and public sphere during colonial India and the Muslim politics, culture and society;**
- **Religion, Nationalism and Peasant Politics in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh with reference to Muslim politics and society in the backdrop of colonial experiences;**
- **Inter-religious public debate during colonial period;**
- **Colonialism and colonial politics;**
- **Critical Social Theory; Post-colonial Law and Legal Theory; Literature and Culture.**

Recent Lectures/work in progress:

Muslim Personal Law: Canon, Juridical Conceptions and Everyday Practice, invited paper presentation at the Two-day International Conference on "Making Sense of Muslim Personal Laws in Post-Independence India", organised by The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE - Hyderabad) and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS-Delhi), IPE Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad, on September 20, 2019

Invited paper on the **Entangled Contours of the 'Included' Muslim Middle Classes**, in the International Workshop on Globalisation and the Muslim Middle Class in India organised by UPE 2 Project on 'Muslim Middle Class in India: Globalisation, Identity and Politics' and Centre for Political Studies, JNU March 25-26, 2019

Lecture on **Beyond the Canon: Everyday Sharia Practice and Politics in India** at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, 20th March 2018, as visiting fellow.

Lecture on **“From Political Islam to Political Muslim: Questions of Citizenship and Pluralist Turn”**, at the Department of Sociology, MANUU, Hyderabad, 10th September, 2018 (earlier in February 2015 at Aarab Centre, JMI, Delhi)

Manufactory, Market and Medicine - Unani and Ethico-Cultural Logic of Resistance and Negotiation: Colonial and Post-colonial Experiences invited paper presentation at panel on Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals at the 9th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines (ICTAM IX), University of Kiel, 6-12 August 2017.

Academic Affiliations

- Associate Researcher, Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH-Delhi).
- Visiting Fellow at the Department of Sociology, Hyderabad Central University, March 2018
- Visiting Fellow at the Department of History, University of Calcutta. March 2012
- Research Associate at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London, May-July 2003.
- Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Scholar, June-July 2001
- Visiting Scholar at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford between the 6th of June and the 15th July 2001.
- Research Associate at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London on Wellcome Research Travel Grant, October-November 2000.
- Was conferred the title Honorary Research Fellow in the Human Resource Department of the University College of London – April-July 2003.

Citations: Cited and discussed in more than 130 Books and Journals papers; Work included in the syllabus seven universities internationally.

Chapters in Books

- **‘Shari’a, politics, ‘ulamā and Laity Ijtihād: fields of normativity and conviviality**’ in Manisha Sethi edited *Communities and Courts: Religion and Law in Modern India*. Routledge. Forthcoming, 2022, January.
- **Parallel Praxis: History-domination-resistance-ideology-theory** in K. V. Cybil ed. *Social Justice: Inter-disciplinary Inquiries From India*. London, Routledge India. 2019.
- **Unani Medical Culture: Memory, Representation, and the *Literate Critical Anticolonial Public Sphere***, in Poonam Bala ed. *Contesting’ Colonial*

Authority: Medicine and Indigenous Responses in 19th and 20th-century India. Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland. 2012.

- **Tension, Placation, Complaint: Unani and Post-Colonial Medical Communalism** in V. Sujatha and Leena Abraham edited *Medical Pluralism in Contemporary India*. Orient BlackSwan. 2012.
- **Science, Institution and Colonialism: Tibbiya College of Delhi –1889-1947** in Uma Das Gupta Ed. *Science and Modern India: An Institutional History, c.1784-1947*. Pearson Longman. 2010.
- **Politics, Culture and Colonialism: Unani's Debate with Doctory.** In Pati, B and Harrison, Mark (ed) *Health, Medicine and Empire: Perspectives on Colonial India*, Orient Longman. 2001.
- **Labour in India**, in *India-50 Years*, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, 1997.
- **Reasons for Under-utilisation of Health Services – A Case Study of a PHC in a Tribal Area of Bihar** (co-author), in D.N Kakker et al. (ed.) *Child Health, Nutrition and Family Planning*, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. 1984.
- **Seven chapters** in the book, *Post-'47 Youth Movement in India*, International Youth Centre, New Delhi, 1981.
- **Comments on Post-colonial State and Urdu Theatre**, in *Urdu Theatre: Yesterday and Today (in Urdu)*, Urdu Academy, New Delhi, 1995.

Papers in Journals

- "Shari'a Politics, 'ulamā and Laity Ijtihād: Fields of Normativity and Conviviality", *South Asian History and Culture*, 2019. DOI: 0.1080/19472498.2019.1609263
- **Aag ka Darya: Another Perspective.** May 22, 2020. <https://cafedissensusblog.com/2020/05/22/aag-ka-darya-another-perspective/1/5>
- **Consuming Leisure not so Leisurely: Political Economy of Leisure and Desire.** *Explorations*, ISS e-journal, Vol. 2 (2), October 2018, pp. 22-38 http://app.insoso.org/ISS_journal/Repository/Article_2.pdf
- **Choreographic Occultation and Petrification of Meaning: Post-colonial Law and Alternative Subject** in *Society and Culture in South Asia*, Vol 2, Issue 1, (Jan 2016). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2393861715609819>

- **Essentialising the Body: Locating Medical Domination and Resistance.** *The IAS' The Newsletter*. Autumn 2013.
- **Locating the 'Indian Muslim' Mind: An Incomplete Conversation,** in *History and Sociology of South Asia*, 5(1) 49–68, 2011.
- **Critical Reflections on Delhi Rape Incident -**
<http://kractivist.wordpress.com/2012/12/26/critical-reflections-on-delhi-rape-incident-3vaw/> - 2012
- **Review article on Andrew Sartori's book *Bengal in Global Concept History: Culturalism in the Age of Capital*,** Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008, in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, n.s., Vol.XXXIV, no.1, April 2011.
- **Revisiting 1857,** review of the edited volume *Facets of the Great Revolt: 1857*, in *History and Sociology of South Asia*, 4(2) 2010
- **On Reading the Indian 'Muslim' Mind: An Incomplete Conversation.** June 2009, at <http://radicalnotes.com/content/view/105/1/>
- **Religion and Modernism in the Late Modern World,** review of Grace Davie's *The Sociology of Religion*, *The Book Review*, Vol. Xxxiii, No. 4, April 2009.
- **Colonial Politics of Medicine and Popular Unani Resistance,** *Indian Horizons*, Vol. XXXXVII, No. 2. May-June 2000.
- **Medicine and Public Sphere in Colonial India,** *Summerhill* (Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla), December 1998.
- **Reasons for Under-Utilization of Health Services – A Case Study of a PHC in a Tribal Area of Bihar** (co-author), *Demography India*, Vol. XVI, No. 2 1987.
- **Some Reflections (on Parallel Practice),** *Seminar*. No. 423, November 1994.
- **Theory and Politics of Representation of Islam. Review article** on Hastings Donnan ed. *Interpreting Islam*. *The Book Review*, October 2002.
- **Review of 'Situating Social History of Orissa'** by B. Pati. *Social Scientist*, Vol. 31, Nos. 11-12, November-December 2003.

- **The Story of Partitioned Self.** Review of M. Umar Memon ed. An Epic Unwritten. Penguin Books. *Indian Horizons*, Vol. Xxxvii, No. 4, October-December 2000.
- **Historiography of Colonial and Postcolonial India.** (Review of Tandon, P, et. al. (ed.) Society, Religion and State: Identity Crisis in Indian History. *The Book Review*, July 1997.
- **Youth and Peasant Movement: A Case Study of Bodh Gaya Peasant Struggle.** *The Otherside*. January 1984.
- **An Alternative Perspective on National Integration.** (Co-author), *the Otherside*, vol. 2, No. 1, August 1982.
- **Review of Social Structure and Alignment: A Study of Rural Bihar,** H. Jha et.al. (Ed.), *Social Action Book Review Supplement*, vol. 3, No. 2, 1986.
- **Decay of a Proud Old City** (on Old Delhi), Indian Express, 20th April 1978.
- **India, China, Soviet Union and Sikkim.** *Third World Unity*. No. 5, May 1978.
- **Sikkim.** *Zameer*. Vol. II. No. 3. May-June 1978.
- **Japan's Dilemma.** *frontier*. Vol. 9: No. 35. April 2, 1977.
- **Teng Hsiao-ping: A Political Profile.** *Zameer*. Vol. 1, No. 6. November 1977.
- **Hua Kuo-feng.** *frontier*. Vol. 9, No. 14. October 1976.
- **What Next in South Africa?** *frontier*. Vol. 9: No. 6. August 1976.
- **Problems of Working Women,** *Secular Democracy*, February 1976.

Papers Presented in Conferences, Workshops, Seminars

- **Muslim Personal Law: Canon, Juridical Conceptions and Everyday Practice,** invited paper presentation at the Two-day International Conference on “Making Sense of Muslim Personal Laws in Post-Independence India”, organised by The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE -Hyderabad) and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS - Delhi), IPE Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad, on September 20, 2019

- Invited paper on the **Entangled Contours of the ‘Included’ Muslim Middle Classes**, in the International Workshop on Globalisation and the Muslim Middle Class in India organised by UPE 2 Project on ‘Muslim Middle Class in India: Globalisation, Identity and Politics’ and Centre for Political Studies, JNU March 25-26, **2019**
- Invited lecture on **Beyond the Canon: Everyday Sharia Practice and Politics in India**’ at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, 20th March **2018**, as Visiting Fellow.
- Invited paper on **Manufactory, Market and Medicine: Ethico-Cultural Logic of Resistance and Negotiation: Colonial and Post-colonial Experiences** at the panel on Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals at the 9th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines (ICTAM IX), University of Kiel, 6-12 **August 2017**.
- Invited paper on **Religion and Multiculturalism** at the Seminar on Sikh Vision of Multicultural Society at Gujranwala Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Ludhiana on 15 **March 2017**.
- Invited paper on **Subalternising the Unani – “Nationalist” Appropriation, Bazaar and the Identity Politics**, at the International Seminar on Indian Medicine: Between State and Village, organised by the International Institute for Asian Studies, the Netherlands, at Leiden, the Netherlands – 23-24- June, **2016**.
- Invited paper on **Legal Practices among Muslims in India: Questions of Morality and Justice**, at the International Workshop on Religion and Law: Colonial and Post-Colonial Encounters, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 9, 10, 11 March, **2016**.
- Invited paper on **In and Outside the State: Legal Conceptions and Juridical Practices among Muslims in India**, in the International conference on Non-State Legal Practices in India, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, 5-7 December, **2015**.
- Invited lecture on **“The Connect of Religion & Hate Speech/ Freedom of Expression”** in the National Seminar on Law, Religion and Politics in India: The Travesty of a Secular Nation by the Amity Law School, Centre-II, Amity University campus in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on 8th **April 2015**.
- Invited paper on **From Political Islam to Political Muslim: Questions of Citizenship and Pluralism** at the workshop on Researching the Arab/Islamic World the India-Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, March, **2015**.

- Invited paper on **Consuming Leisure not so Leisurely: New Political Economy of Desire** at the International Conference on ‘India at Leisure: Media, Culture and Consumption in the New Economy’ organized by Centre for Culture, Media & Governance and University of Waikato, Hamilton at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, February, 2015.
- Invited paper on **Reading Nation and Nationalism Along With Urdu** at the Refresher Course organised by the Center for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. 24th January, 2015.
- Invited paper on **Urdu Theatre Public Sphere in Nineteenth Century Bihar: Strategies of Reinvention and Renegotiation**, in the international Conference on Performative Communication: Culture and Politics in South Asia, Co-organized by Department of Sociology, South Asian University, Delhi & Center for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi. 20-21 January, 2015.
- Invited paper on **Choreographic Occultation and Petrification of Meaning: Post-colonial Law and Alternative Subject** in the conference on ‘Social Justice as a Question of Empirical Sciences’, organised by The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi - 11-12 December, 2014.
- Invited paper on “Nineteenth Century Urdu Theatre in Bihar and Public Arena”, at the [Centre for Culture, Media & Governance](#), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, on 24 January 2014.
- Invited paper on **Post-colonial Law and Alternative Subject**, on 7th August, 2013 at the Department of Sociology, South Asian University, New Delhi.
- Invited lecture on **The Missing Muslim** on 30th August, 2013 at the Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- Invited paper on **Critical Reflections on the ‘Pasmanda’ Muslim Discourse**, at the Conference Ruptures: South Asia Islam and the Caste Question, organised by the Patna Collective, December 1-2, 2012, Delhi.
- Invited paper on **Science, Colonialism and Unani’s Critical Ethical Logic of Resistance**, at the International Conference on History, Culture and Science at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany from 12 to 16 March, 2012.
- Invited lecture on **Post-colonial Law and Peasants** as visiting fellow at the national seminar on Voices from History at the Department of History, University of Calcutta, on 23rd of March 2012.
- Invited paper on **Unani and the Question of Science in Colonial India**, at the conference on “Health and Healing Practices in Colonial India: Continuity and

- Changes” held on in March 2011 at Nehru Memorial, Museum & Library, New Delhi.
- Invited lecture on **Contemporary Unani and the Politics of Medicine** at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 25th November, 2010.
 - Invited Speaker **at the launch of the book** Health, Illness and Medicine: Ethnographic Readings, Orient BlackSwan, at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, on September 17, 2010.
 - Invited paper on **South Asian Praxis of Resistance and Law** at the conference on Modernity, Identity and Resistance in South Asia: Negotiating Subjectivity amidst changing Solidarities, organised The Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai – 18-20 March 2010.
 - Invited paper on **Subalternising the Unani – Sub-continental Experiences**, at the workshop on ‘Situating Subalternity in South Asian Medicine’, under the auspices of the Warwick University and Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi on 18-19th February 2010 in Delhi.
 - Invited paper on **Secularism vs. Faith or Secular Faith** –in the Panel Discussion on *Engaging with the Contemporary Challenges to Secularism*, Bangalore – 16th November 2009, organised by the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (Bangalore), HIVOS (The Netherlands) and Kosmopolis Institute, UVH (Utrecht, The Netherlands).
 - Invited paper on **Public Sphere in Colonial Bihar and the ‘Muslims’**, at the two-day conference in memory of Papiya Ghosh on *Recent Research on Key Socio-Political Aspects of Colonial and Contemporary Bihar and Jharkhand*. October 8-9, 2009. Delhi.
 - Invited paper on **Predicament of Dialogue with Diversity: Unani and the Web of Post-Colonial Embarrassment**, in the Workshop on “Treating Diversity: ‘Traditional Medicine’ in Contemporary India” sponsored by Indian Institute of Advanced Study. Shimla. Delhi- August 18, 2009.
 - Invited paper on **Yunani Medical Culture: Memory, Representation and Literate Critical Anti-Colonial Public Sphere** in the International Conference organised by French Institute of Research in Iran, and **Tehran University of Medical Sciences - 12 - 14 February 2008**.
 - Invited paper at the Seminar on **Science and Modern India: An Institutional History – 1781-1947**, by the Project of History of Science, Philosophy and

- Culture in Indian Civilization, Centre for Studies in Civilisations, Delhi, at Guwahati 8-9 February, 2007.
- Invited paper on **Recovery of Sub-texts: Partition and the Madras Presidency**, at the National Seminar on Histories, Cultures, Politics: Islam and Muslims in South India, organised by Anveshi – Research Centre For Women’s Studies, Hyderabad, August 17-18, 2007.
 - Invited Key Note Address on **1857 and the Muslim Subject Formation** in the National Seminar on Great Revolt of 1857 organised by the Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – April 26-27 2007.
 - Invited paper on **Participation and Subject Formation**, at the National Conference on Participation and Governance organised by the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, JMI in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, JMI. 22-23 March 2007.
 - Invited paper on **Unani’s Construction of Plague Epidemic in Colonial India** in the Third Conference of the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM), JNU, on Health and Medicine in History: East West Exchange, 2-4 November 2006.
 - Invited paper on **Choreographic Occultation, Petrification of Meaning and Law – Post – colonial Embarrassment and Alternative Subject** in *Trajectory of French Thought* series, French Information and Resource Centre, Delhi on 08th April, 2006.
 - Invited paper on ‘**Medical Public Sphere in Colonial India: Competing Meaning Systems of Western Medicine and Bazaar Unani**’, in the Conference on Imperialism, Medicine and South Asia: A Socio-Political Perspective, 1800-1950, **Cambridge**, 14-16 June 2001.
 - Invited lecture on **Marxism and Ideology: A Re-look**, at Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. November 2001.
 - Invited lecture on **Colonialism: A Re-look**, at Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. August 4 2000.
 - Invited lecture on **Allopathy – Unani debate in colonial India**, at Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. August 4 2000.
 - Invited paper on **Memory, Partition and Popular Culture** in the International Seminar on Popular Cultures, CCRSSS, Pune, **January, 1998**.

- **Translation of two short stories from Urdu into English, one of Intizar Hussain (The Pale Dog) and one of Farkhanda Lodhi (Remains of Desire),** in Kumar, S.P, and Siddiqui, M.A (ed.) *Mapping Memories: Urdu Short Stories from India and Pakistan*, Katha, New Delhi, **1998.**
- Invited paper on **Domestication of Discourse: Language, Culture and the Politics of Nationalism** in International Seminar on Culture, Communication and Power by CSH, Embassy of France, Delhi and Department of Sociology, JMI. April **1997.**
- Invited paper on **Religion, Peasant Politics and Nationalism: Pakistan 0 1947-1980**, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi, July, **1996.**
- Invited lecture on **Sociology of Translation with reference to Faiz Ahmad Faiz**, Department of English, Sri Venkateshvara College, DU, Delhi, September, **1996**
- Invited lecture on Indian Cinema: A Sociological Perspective, Foreign Service Training Institute, Delhi, **1993.**
- Invited paper on **New States and National Integration: A Critique**, at the National Seminar on Relevance of Sociology: The Indian Scene, AMU, November, **1985.**
- Invited paper on **Qualitative Assessment of Functioning of PHC in a Tribal Area of Bihar (Co-author)**, in the workshop on Qualitative Monitoring and Evaluation, at the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi, **1983.**

Literary Writings

I have contributed short stories and literary criticism in leading Urdu literary journals such as A'sari Adab, Tahreek, Ahang, Sabras, Ajkal, Nishanat, Ishara, Hamari Zaban etc. In addition, I have translated monographs from English into Urdu for Sahitya Akademy and the National Book Trust.

Research for project(s):

1. UGC Minor Research Project on **Tradition of Debates in Colonial India – 1995.**
2. **Under-Utilisation of Health Services in Rural India** with the Social Science Unit of the Operation Research Group, New Delhi. Under this assignment I carried out in-depth study of six Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in tribal districts of Gujarat and Bihar (India) and wrote research reports on the functioning of these PHCs. The research project was on and was sponsored by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. Worked as **Social Scientist** from **September 1982 to November 1983**

3. Research Investigator with International Youth Centre, New Delhi. Under this assignment I wrote seven chapters of a monograph on Youth Movements in Post-1947 India. 1982.
4. **Kanjhawla Peasant Struggle**, Indian Council of Social Science Research project 5 with Dr. T. S. Papola, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow. 1979-80.
5. **The Impact of Mass Media on Family Planning in Medinipur District of West Bengal** with Indian Institute of Mass Communications, New Delhi. Under this assignment I supervised fieldwork of a research project on. I also assisted in the preparation of the report. Worked Senior Research Assistant -

Other Academic Activities:

Supervision of Ph. D scholars.

Head of the Department.

Examiner of Ph. D and M. Phil. Dissertations for several universities.

Member of the Selection Committee for teachers.

Member of University's Academic Council.

Co-editor of a thematic issue of the journal SEMINAR (No.423, November 1994) on Parallel Practice.

Convenor of the Department's Thursday Seminar for more than ten years.

Interviewed by many leading newspapers, news agencies and magazines on social, cultural, political issues.

Invited by several Television channels as a panellist and National Channel of All India Radio to give talks on social and cultural issues.

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