

SHAHLA SHAHREEN

Department of Religious Studies • University of Iowa
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EDUCATION

PhD in Religious Studies

August 2024-Present

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

Research Focus: *Women in Terrorism, Conflict, and Violent Extremism: A Case Study of South Asia*

Advisor: Professor Ahmed E. Souaiaia

M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies

December 2021

University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

Passed with 'Merit'

Dissertation: *Interfaith Dialogue to Counter Radicalization in Bangladesh: An Approach to Move from Extremism to Pluralism*

Advisor: Dr. Jasmin Ramovic

M.A. in World Religions and Culture

June 2016

University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh

CGPA: 3.76/4.00 (Passed with distinction)

B.A. in World Religions and Culture

April 2014

University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh

CGPA: 3.59/4.00 (Passed with distinction)

Certifications:

Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 16 credit hours

August 2025-Present

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Office of Graduate Teaching Excellence, 12 credit hours

August 2024-Present

EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2024-Present

Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA

Course(s) Teaching: (i) *Introduction to Islamic Civilization* (ii) *Global Religious Conflict and Diversity* (iii) *Women in Islam and the Middle East*

Assistant Professor

November 2021-Present [on Study Leave]

Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Course(s) Taught (undergraduate level): (i) *Religion, Peace, and Conflict* (ii) *Women in World Religions* (iii) *Sociology* (iv) *Government and Politics*

Lecturer

July 2017-November 2021

Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Course(s) Taught (undergraduate level): (i) *Government and Politics* (ii) *Christian Religious and Cultural Tradition* (iii) *Chinese Thought and Culture*

DISCIPLINES OF INTEREST

- Gender Studies
- Security Studies
- Critical Terrorism Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Radicalization
- Religious Extremism
- Religious Violence
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Women, Gender, and Religion

PUBLICATIONS

- Shahreen, Shahla. 2026. "Extreme Britain: Gender, Masculinity and Radicalisation: By Elizabeth Pearson, London, Hurst Publishers, 2023, 280 pp., Hardback £45 (UK), ISBN: 9781787389465." *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 18(1): 121–23.

- Shahreen, Shahla. 2025. “Homeland Insecurity: The Rise and Rise of Global Anti-Terrorism Law: By Conor Gearty, Cambridge, Polity Press, 2024, 267 pp., Hardcover \$29.95 (USA), ISBN: 9781509553716.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 18(3): 796–98.
- Shahreen, Shahla. 2025. “Terrorist Minds: The Psychology of Violent Extremism from Al-Qaeda to the Far Right: By John Horgan, New York, Columbia University Press, 2024, 248 pp., £25.00 (UK), ISBN 9780231198394.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 18(2): 617–18.
- Shahreen, Shahla, and Shafi M. Mostofa. 2024. “Female radicalisation in Bangladesh: an investigation of its scope, extent and key motivations behind.” *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 17 (2): 153-175.
- Shahreen, Shahla. 2023. “Interfaith Dialogue to Counter Radicalization in Bangladesh: An Approach to Move from Extremism to Pluralism.” *Social Science Review (The Dhaka University Studies, Part-D)* 40(1): 165-184.
- Shahreen, Shahla. 2020. “Violations of Religious Freedom in Bangladesh: A Case Study of 2012 Violence in Ramu and Ukhiya.” *Social Science Review (The Dhaka University Studies, Part-D)* 37(1): 211-230.
- Shahreen, Shahla. 2019. “Religious Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore: A Critical Analysis of the Poet’s Selected Literatures.” *Perspectives in Social Science* 15: 31-52.
- Chowdhury, Saber A., and Shahla Shahreen. 2018. “Rohingya Crisis and Clash of Civilizations.” *Journal of Sociology* 1(3): 57-70.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Representation of Palestinian Female Suicide Bombers: A Comparative Study of Western vs. Non-Western Academic Discourses (preprint)
Shahla Shahreen
- Contesting the Narratives of ‘Jihad’ in Islam: A Liberal, Reformist Perspective (preprint)
Shahla Shahreen

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Fellowships

- Commonwealth Master’s Scholarship (2020-21) Fall 2020
Full tuition coverage and each monthly stipend, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Funds to pursue an M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manchester, UK.

Awards Supporting Research

- M. Willard Lampe Scholarship (2025) Spring 2025

\$750 award, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa

Funds to support academic excellence in scholarship, which engages the public in ways that recognize and acknowledge diverse religious beliefs, and fosters religious tolerance.

- Principal Investigator (PI): Centennial Research Grant (2021-22) Spring 2022

BDT 1,00,000, University of Dhaka

Funds to pursue a research project on “*Female Radicalization in Bangladesh: An Investigation of its Scope, Extent, and Key Motivators Behind.*”

- Project Director: University Grants Commission Research Grant (2019-20) Fall 2019

BDT 1,00,000, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh

Funds to conduct a research project on “*Religious Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore: A Critical Analysis of Kabiguru’s Selected Essays.*”

- Project Director: University Grants Commission Research Grant (2018-19) Fall 2018

BDT 76,000, University Grants Commission, Bangladesh

Funds to conduct a research project on “*Violations of Religious Freedom in Bangladesh: 2012 Ramu Violence.*”

Awards Supporting Conference Travel

- Graduate Student Senate Travel Award Fall 2025

\$600 award, University of Iowa Graduate Student Senate

Funds to present an authored paper at the AAR November Annual Meeting 2025 in Boston, MA

- Graduate Student Travel Funds (2025-26) Fall 2025

\$600 award, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa

Funds to present an authored paper at the AAR November Annual Meeting 2025 in Boston, MA

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Representation of Palestinian *Fida’iyyat* (Female Freedom Fighters): A Comparative Study of Western vs. Non-Western Academic Discourses.” April 16-18, 2026

Midwest AAR Regional Meeting 2026, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

- “Female Radicalisation in Bangladesh: An Investigation of its Scope, Extent, and Key Motivations behind.” March 13, 2026

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) 2026 Annual Conference Program, Vancouver, B.C., Canada [Virtual participation]

- “Representation of Palestinian *Fida’iyyat* (Female Freedom Fighters): A Comparative Study of Western vs. Non-Western Academic Discourses.” February 13, 2026

Spring Graduate Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- “Representation of Palestinian *Fida’iyyat* (Female Freedom Fighters): A Comparative Study of Western vs. Non-Western Academic Discourses.” February 20, 2026

Gender Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- “Female Radicalisation in Bangladesh: An Investigation of its Scope, Extent, and Key Motivations behind.” November 23, 2025

AAR November Annual Meeting 2025, Boston, MA

- “Interfaith Dialogue to Counter Radicalization in Bangladesh: An Approach to Move from Extremism to Pluralism.” March 23, 2021

Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies (OSRS), Oxford, United Kingdom [Virtual participation]

- “Interfaith Dialogue to Counter Radicalization in Bangladesh: An Approach to Move from Extremism to Pluralism.” March 26-27, 2019

International Conference on Religion and Culture in Conflict and Peace: Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in South Asia, Lumbini, Nepal

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Student Member, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) October 16, 2025-October 15, 2026

825 Victors Way, Suite 310, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

- Student Member, American Academy of Religion (AAR) June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026

825 Houston Mill Road, NE, Atlanta, GA, USA

REFERENCES

1. Ahmed E. Souaiaia, PhD

Associate Professor, Islamic Studies
Adjunct Faculty, College of Law
University of Iowa
Email: ahmed-souaiaia@uiowa.edu
Relationship: Academic Advisor,
Course Instructor

2. Md. Abu Sayem, PhD

Professor, Department of World Religions and
Culture
University of Dhaka
Email: sayem@du.ac.bd
Relationship: Academic Advisor, Course
Instructor