

IIS/AKU-ISMC

September 2024

Graduate Conference

# CHALLENGES IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES



The Institute of Ismaili 

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

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## **AGA KHAN CENTRE**

10 Handyside Street, London N1C 4DN  
[www.iis.ac.uk](http://www.iis.ac.uk)



**Welcome**



# Schedule

**8:30 – 9:00**

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**12:45 – 14:00**

**Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:40**

Panel 3: Oppression and Strife – Dr. Sevgi Adak

**Zeinab Nikookar (AKU-ISMC):** “Rape and Sexual Violence: An Analysis of International Wars Beyond the Frontlines”

**Sofa Leathers (AKU-ISMC):** “Vision 2030 and Invisible Violence: Sex Trafficking and International Advocacy in Saudi Arabia”

**Fareed Bahader (IIS, GPISH 2026):** “What Were the Underlying Motives Driving Aurangzeb’s (1618-1707) Decision to Destroy Temples and Impose Jizya on the Non-Muslims? To What Extent Can These Actions Be Characterised as Those of a Tyrant Enforcing Muslim Dominance, or Rather as Strategic Measures Aimed at Consolidating His Rule and Expanding his Empire?”

**Anila Bano (IIS, GPISH 2026):** “Sandi and Sende: The Impact of Floods and Landslides in Sandi Yasin”

**15:40 – 16:00**

**Health Break**

**16:00 – 17:00**

Panel 4: Ismaili Intellectual History – Dr. Farhad Daftary

**Zeba Khoja (IIS-GPISH 2026):** “Distancing Faith from Intellect”

**Saeedeh Kardan (IIS-GPISH 2024):** “Fading Echoes: Migration and the Decline of the *‘aqq* n Tradition among Ismailis in South Khur s n”

**17:00 – 17:15**

Closing Remarks by Prof. Zayn Kassam, Director, IIS

**17:15 – 18:30**

Refreshments and Pre-Concert Break

**18:30 – 19:20**

Concert

Fareed Bahader is a second-year GPISH student with a





Farhan Feroz Ali is currently a Farhad Daftary Doctoral Scholar in History of Art and Archaeology at SOAS. He explores what the shrine of the Sindhi Suf-folk poet Shah Abdul Latif makes possible for both the devotees of the saint and the visitors of this place, by treating the site as a broader South Asian phenomenon and synthesising theories and methodologies across various disciplines. He graduated as a designer in 2015 and worked in the field of architecture before pursuing his MA in Islamic Studies and Humanities from the IIS, followed by an MA in History of Art and Architecture of Islamic Middle East from SOAS.

Mashal Gilani is a third-year GPISH student and is pursuing an MSc in Digital Humanities at University College London. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of London, after which she conducted

Saeedah Kardan is a third-year GPISH student pursuing an MA in Islamic Studies at SOAS. She holds a BA in Jurisprudence and Fundamentals of Islamic Law from the University of Tehran. She is interested in early Islamic history, development of Ismaili thought in the early Islamic





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## **AQIL VISRAM**

Aqil Visram is a graduate of GPISH and holds a BA in Islamic Studies and Economics from the University of Toronto (High Distinction). His research focuses on medieval Islamic history and thought, with an emphasis on Ismaili traditions. Aqil has received academic fellowships, scholarships and awards from various governments, universities, and research institutions around the world. At the conference, he will be presenting his MA research on the Ismailis and their institutions in Tanzania.



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# Challenges in Muslim Societies

