

Sajida Sultana Alvi

Professor Emerita, McGill University, Canada

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Indo-Islamic History and Classical Persian Language and Literature,
Punjab University, Lahore, 1967.

Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto,
January 1967 - June, 1968.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, 1972-74

Assistant Professor, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, 1974-1977.

Assistant Professor, Department of South Asian Studies, University of Minnesota, 1977-1980.

Associate Professor, Department of South and South & West Asian Studies, University Minnesota,
1980-1986.

Associate Professor, Appointed to the endowed Chair in Urdu Language and Culture, Institute of Islamic
Studies, McGill University, 1986-1991.

Full Professor, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, January 1992- 2010.

Visiting Professor in Indonesia under the auspices of McGill Indonesia IAIN Development Project,
January-March, 1993; and September-December 1996

Retired on May 31, 2010 as Professor Emerita of Urdu Language and Culture and Indo-Islamic History,
Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University.

Professor (Status Only), Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto,
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012; reappointed from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Perspectives on Indo-Islamic Civilization in Mughal India: Rulers, Historians, ‘Ulamā’ and Ṣūfīs
(Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2012), 277+xx

The Muslim Veil in North America: Issues and Debates, co-edited with Homa
Hoodfar and Sheila McDonough (Toronto: The Canadian Scholar’s Press,
2003), 306 + xxiv pp.

Women in Indonesian Society: Access, Empowerment and Opportunity: Conference Proceedings, Jakarta, Indonesia, co-edited with Atho Mudzhar (Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Sunan Kalijaga Press, 2002), 246+ xvi pp.

Wanita Dalam Masyarakat Indonesia: Akses, Pemberdayaan dan Kesempatan (Women in Indonesian Society: Access, Empowerment and Opportunity), co-edited with Atho Mudzhar (Yogyakarta: Sunan Kalijaga Press, 2001), 364pp. (Collection of essays in Bahasa Indonesia, presented at the international conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia, December, 1997).

Advice on the Art of Governance: An Indo-Islamic Mirror for Princes (Mau'izah-i Jahāngīrī) of Muḥammad Bāqir Najm-i Sānī, Persian Text with Introduction, Translation, and Notes (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989), 215+ x pp.

Mir'āt al-Ālam: History of Emperor Awangzeb Ālamgīr (Political History), vol. I (Lahore: Research Society of Pakistan, University of Punjab, 1979), 490 pp.

Mir'āt al-Ālam: History of Emperor Awangzeb Ālamgīr (The Biographies of the 'ulama', Sufis, Calligraphers and Poets), vol. II (Lahore: Research Society of Pakistan, University of Punjab, 1979), 400 pp.

Chapters in Collection of Essays:

“Čištī Sufis and culture of Books in Eighteenth Century India: the Punjab-Deccan Connection,” in *Faith and Practice in South Asian Sufism*, ed. Demetrio Giordani, *Oriente Moderno*, Istituto per l'Oriente C. A. (Nallino Nuova Serie, AnnoXCII, 2, 2012), 259-288.

“Renewal of Čištī Oder in the Eighteenth-Century Punjab. Converging Paths of Two Sufi Masters: Maulana Faḥr al-Dīn Auranagābādī and Nūr Muḥammad Mahāravī,” in *Muslim Cultures in the Indo-Iranian World during the Early Modern and Modern Periods*, eds. Denis Hermann and Fabrizio Speziale (Berlin: Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2010), 217- 246.

“Sunnī 'Ulamā's Discourses on Shi'ism in Northern India during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: An Overview,” in *Shi'i Trends and Dynamics in Modern Times (XVIIIth-XXth centuries). Courants et dynamiques chiïtes à l'époque moderne (XVIIIè-XXè siècles)*, eds. Denis Hermann and Sabrina Mervin (Beirut: Orient Institute, 2010), 131-153.

The Naqshbandī Mujaddidī Sufi Order's Ascendancy in Central Asia Through the Eyes of its Masters and Disciples (1010s-1200s/1600s-1800s), in *Reason and Inspiration in Islam: Theology, Philosophy and Mysticism in Muslim Thought, essays in Honour of Hermann Landolt*, ed., Todd Lawson (London: I. B. Tauris, 2005), 418-431.

- “Muslim Women and Islamic Religious Tradition: A Historical Overview and Contemporary Issues,” in *The Muslim Veil in North America: Issues and Debates*, co-edited with Homa Hoodfar and Sheila McDonough (Toronto: The Canadian Scholar’s Press, 2003), 145-180; and “Introduction,” *ibid.*, xi-xxiv.
- “Career Development of Women in Indonesian Society: A Study of Highly Successful Career Women,” co-authored with Sabir Alvi, in *Women in Indonesian Society: Access, Empowerment*, co-edited with Atho Mudzhar (Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Sunan Kalijaga Press, 2002), 111-133.
- “The Canadian Council of Muslim Women: A Chapter in the History of Muslim Women in Canada,” co-authored with Sheila McDonough, *The Muslim World*, 1&2 (Spring, 2002), 79-98.
- “Foreword,” to *Islam: Its Roots and Wings, A Primer*, V. S. Behiery and A. M. Guenther (Canadian Council of Muslim Women: 2000), i-ix.
- “Islam in South Asia,” *The Muslim Almanac: A Reference Work on the History, Faith, Culture, and Peoples of Islam*, ed. Azim Nanji (Gale Research Inc., 1995), 55-72.
- “Unpacking the Symbolism of the Muslim Veil,” co-authored with Sheila McDonough, *Ecumenism (Women of Faith in the World’s Religion)*, No. 115, September (1994),
- “The *Mujaddid* and *Tajdīd* Traditions in the Indian Subcontinent: An Historical Overview.” *Journal of Turkish Studies (Schimmel Festschrift)*, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 18 (1994), 1-15.
- “*Mazhar-i Shāhjahānī* and the Mughal Province of Sind: A Discourse on Political Ethics,” in *Islam and Indian Regions, Texts, Beitrage zur Sudasienforschung* Sudasien-Institut Universitat Heidelberg, 145, Anna.L. Dallapiccola & Stephanie Z. Lallemand, eds., (Franz Steiner Verlag Stuttgart, 1993), vol. 1, 239-258.
- “Qāzī Sanā-Allāh Pānīpatī, an Eighteenth-Century Indian Sufi-‘Alim: A Study of His Writings in their Sociopolitical Context,” in *Islamic Studies Presented to Charles J. Adams*, eds., W. Hallaq & D. Little, (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1991), 11-25.
- “Religion and State during the Reign of Mughal Emperor Jahāngīr (1605-27): Nonjuristical Perspectives.” *Studia Islamica*, Paris, France, 69(1989): 95-119.
- “Buzurg ‘Alavī’s Writings from Prison,” in *Critical Perspectives on the Literature of Iran*, ed. and compiler, Thomas M. Ricks (Washington, D. C., Three Continents Press, 1984), 274-291, [reprinted from *The Muslim World*. Hartford Seminary Foundation, 67, 3 (1977): 205-222].
- “Urdu Literature from Prison: Some Reflections on the Writings of Pakistani Prisoners of War in India.” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*. Lahore, Pakistan, 19, 3 (1982): 43-54.
- “*Tārikh-i Husayniyah*: An Unknown Source for the History of Awadh.” *Der Islam*. Hamburg, West Germany, 58, 1(1981): 136-146.

“Shi‘ism in India during Jahāngīr’s Reign: Some Reflections.” *Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society*. Karachi, Pakistan, 27, 1(1979): 39-65.

“The Historians of Awangzeb: A Comparative Study of Three Primary Sources,” in *Essays on Islamic Civilization Presented to Niyazi Berkes*, ed. D. P. Little (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), 57-73.

Encyclopaedia Entries:

“Muhammad ‘Alī Lāhorī (1874-1951),” (a leading scholar of Islam and founder of the Lahori branch of the Aḥmadiyya movement). *The Encyclopaedia of Religion*, Detroit: Macmillan Reference 2005, Vol. 8, 5284-5285.

“Walī Allāh, Shāh (d. 1762). *Encyclopedia of Religion, Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2005, vol. 14, 9665-9667.

“Thānesarī Shaykh Djalāl al-Dīn (d. 1582)”. *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, New Edition, Leiden, 1999, vol. 10, 442.

“Abd al-‘Azīz, Shāh (d. 1824)”. *Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1995, 99-101.

“Muhammad Bakhtāwar Khān (d. 1685)”, an historian of Mughal emperor Awrangzeb. *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, New York, 1988, vol. 3, 541-42.

Shāh ‘Ālam II, (Mughal ruler, 1759-1806). *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, London, 1985, vol. 1, 791.

Aḥmad ‘Alī Hāshemī Sandīlavī, @ (late eighteenth and early nineteenth- century *tazkira* writer). *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, London, 1984, vol. 1, 646.

Publications to Serve the Community:

Pedagogy and Textbooks:

Urdu for Children: Book One, Junior and Senior Kindergarten & Grade One, comprising (*Two textbooks, Teacher’s Manual, Workbook & two Audio cassettes*), editor and project director, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1997.

Urdu for Children: Book Two, Grades Two and Three comprising (*Two textbooks*), *Let’s Read Urdu, 2 volumes, Teacher’s Manual, Workbooks, 2 volumes & two CDs*, editor and project director, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2004.

(Comprising 11 volumes, two audio cassettes and two CDS)

Book Reviews and Brief Review Notes are excluded

WRITING IN PROGRESS

“*Khānqāh, Madrasah and Chishtī Sufis: Agents of Social Change and Spiritual Revitalization in the Punjab (1750-1859)*”

This study covers Nūr Muhammad Mahāravī (1730-1790) and his four major *khalīfas* and their *khalīfas* – all Sufis of highest order with sound training in Islamic sciences. They established *madrasahs/khānqāhs* (Sufi complexes), open to Muslims and non-Muslims for learning and living together) in remote parts of western Punjab and in areas bordering the Sindh province. They played an active role in society by serving as *qādīs*, teachers, physicians, or by tilling the land and breeding animals. This study will encompass three generations of Chishtī Sufis activities in Punjab in the 18th and 19th centuries in order to highlight continuity and change in their roles in a rural society against the backdrop of socio-political and religious trends. The purpose here is to investigate networking of Sufi lieutenants linked various urban centers, and how it facilitated a shift whereby the Punjab evolved as a center of the Chishtī Nizāmiyyah *ṭarīqa*. The sites of the *murshids*’ burials, that is, their *khānaqāhs* are also identified to illustrate this inter-regional networking. The purpose of this analysis, spread over three generations, is to trace the phenomena of «memory and remembrance», as well as continuity and change in intellectual, spiritual, socio-political and economic spheres in the communities developed around the *khānaqāh*. The project is based on the textual and topical analysis of extensive foundational sources which might be termed as an attempt to do a «cultural, intellectual and spiritual mapping» of the Punjab over two centuries. The first chapter of this project has been recently published, “Renewal of Čištī Order in the Eighteenth-Century Punjab...” (For details, please see the list of publications above).

Scores of scholarly papers presented at the institutions of higher learning in Brunei, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Canada, and the US, as well as community-requested lectures in Canada and the U.S. Details excluded.

SYNOPSIS OF RESEARCH GRANTS

Department of Multiculturalism, Government of Canada, major grant for development of Urdu Instructional Materials (Primary Division), 1990-2003.

Smithsonian Institution Consultation Fellowship to go to India to work on the translation project of the Mughal emperor Shahjahan’s history, *Padshah Nama*, 1990, 1992.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Research Fellowships for a follow-up library research in Pakistan regarding the research project (detailed below) project , 1987, 1989.

Smithsonian Institution Major Research Fellowship, Washington, D.C., for data gathering and research in Pakistan on my major research project on the historians and ‘*ulama*’ in the eighteenth-century Mughal India, 1985.

Research grant by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, McGill University (for research in Pakistan), 1987; and (for research in India), 1990.

Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 1986.

National Endowment for the Humanities Travel Grant for library research in Europe, summer 1985.

American Institute of Indian Studies, Short-Term Research Fellowship to go to India for library research. December 1985 – January, 1986.

National Endowment for the Humanities Translation Grant, Washington, D.C., 1981-82.

McMillan Travel Grant, University of Minnesota, to go to Pakistan for research, 1982.

Details of other services rendered to the profession and University of Minnesota and McGill University are not included.

TEACHING SPECIALIZATIONS

History: Socio-political, institutional and intellectual history of Muslims in India and Pakistan; Mughal India; Safavid Iran; and Modern Islamic Developments in Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent and Iran.

Language and Literature: The languages include Urdu and classical and modern Persian.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Seminars:

- Modern Islamic Developments in India (1757-1947)
- Medieval Indo-Islamic and Iranian Society: A Comparative Study of Political, Social, and Religious Developments
- The Safavids and the Mughals: A Comparative Study of Social, Institutional and Religious Developments in Medieval Iran and India and History of Islam in India (711-1757)
- Mughal India in the Eighteenth Century: State, Religion and Politics
- Muslim Culture and Civilization in India in the 19th and 20th Centuries

- Religion and Politics in Pakistan
- Religion and Politics in Iran

THESIS SUPERVISION

Scores of M.A. and Ph.D. theses supervised at the University of Minnesota and McGill University