



*American Institute
of Bangladesh Studies*

Annual Report

October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

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LETTER FROM THE AIBS PRESIDENT

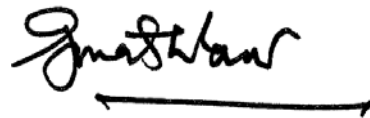
This report presents the variety of ways in which AIBS is developing and implementing programs and activities to enhance its mission to promote scholarly understanding between the institutions of higher learning in Bangladesh and the United States during the year 2016-2017. This past year, AIBS successfully awarded four fellowships and six travel grants to Bangladeshi faculty members due to the generous contribution received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Government of Bangladesh. Five Bangladesh faculty members participated in a weeklong workshop on “Research Methodology,” jointly organized by AIBS, the Institute for South Asia Studies, and the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center at UC Berkeley in San Francisco, California. The workshop participants also presented their findings during the 2016 AIBS Preconference, “From MDGs to SDS: Bangladesh as a Case in Point” in Madison, WI. Over 26 US and Bangladesh scholars and faculty members took part in this AIBS preconference.

One of the principal objectives of AIBS is to promote educational exchange among the scholarly communities locally, regionally, and internationally. During the past year, AIBS co-sponsored the second annual Mountstuart Elphinstone conference in Mumbai, India, supporting two Bangladeshi faculty to present their papers on a panel. Additionally, AIBS funded three US students and one Bangladeshi scholar to attend the second Middle Bengali Retreat Cum Workshop held in Romania, under the close supervision of Dr. Rebecca Manning.

MOFA funds enabled AIBS to organize a workshop on Article Writing for Publication for seven faculty members of AIBS Partner Institutions in Bangladesh. AIBS Dhaka Center organized and facilitated other activities, including meetings, outreach, and lecture series in cooperation with AIBS Partner Institutions in Bangladesh. During the past year, AIBS signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology, North South University, and Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University. The total number of AIBS partner institutions in Bangladesh is twenty-three. AIBS has twenty-two member institutions in the United States, to include its newest member, Valdosta University.

AIBS would like thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh for providing \$140,000 of funding for AIBS activities for the fiscal 2016-2017 year. We are grateful to Ms. Ann McConnell, Director of the American Center, and Ms. Shaheen Khan, Fulbright Specialist, for their continued support and assistance on AIBS programs. Our sincerest thanks to Professor ASM Atiqur Rahman, AIBS Advisor of the Dhaka office, for his diligent work overseeing AIBS operations and activities in Bangladesh. Lastly, we thank Ms. Meher Niger, Manager of the AIBS Dhaka Office, for her wonderful job in keeping the office operating and AIBS activities thriving.

We thank Ms. Laura Hammond, AIBS US Director; Mr. John Burmaster, Financial Specialist; and Ms. Tonia Mahnke, Outreach Specialist, for their hard work and excellent services in the implementation of AIBS programs and activities.



Golam M. Mathbor, PhD

2016 - 2017 AIBS FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2016-2017 AIBS US Citizens Fellowships



Lisa Knight

Institution: Furman University

Project Title: Migrant Ethics and Ethical Strangers: Bangladeshi Migrants in Nordic Countries

Duration: 4 months

Status: Pending Travel

Abstract: This study is prompted by recent reports of attacks on secularists, bloggers, foreigners, and minorities by assailants claiming a revivalist Islam in Bangladesh, a region with long roots in pluralistic practices and communities. In this multi-sited, person-centered study, I propose to research Bangladeshis who have left their home because of threats to their lives and are seeking refuge in Nordic countries. I focus especially on secularists who are doubly marginalized – by Islamic revivalism in Bangladesh, and abroad as Bangladeshi – in order to understand their claims of nationhood and belonging, and their perspectives on the role of religion in Bangladesh. My research interrogates intersections of everyday ethics, migration, secularism, and strategies of reception in host countries known for secularism and egalitarian principles.



Erin Hunter

Institution: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Project Title: Closing the Childhood Development Gap in Rural Bangladesh

Duration: 4 months

Status: Pending Travel

Abstract: Globally, 200 million children are failing to reach their full physical and cognitive developmental potential; and, those with the highest risk are malnourished children living in poverty—a large portion of whom live in Bangladesh. Our team of research collaborators is preparing to conduct a cluster-randomized controlled trial (entitled “RINEW”) in Kishorganj, Bangladesh to adapt, pilot, and iteratively revise an integrated package of cost-effective interventions that address the known major barriers to healthy child growth and cognitive development. These interventions will address early childhood stimulation, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), child and maternal nutrition, and the reduction of lead exposure in effort to reduce childhood stunting (short height for age) and improve cognitive developmental outcomes. My independent dissertation interests fall under the umbrella of RINEW—namely to explore the time-use patterns of household members participating in the larger trial and examine the externalities associated with study participation. In preparation for developing my dissertation proposal, I am proposing preliminary fieldwork across the border in Bihar, India, where I will collaborate with partners currently piloting a software platform that I aim to adapt for use in RINEW and my dissertation research in Bangladesh. Furthermore, I will pursue high quality Bengali language training at the American Institute for Indian Studies.

2016-2017 AIBS US Citizen Fellowships (continued)



Nazmul Sultan

Institution: University of Chicago

Project Title: Norms and Claims: Popular Sovereignty and the Ride of Democracy in the Colonial World

Duration: 2 months

Status: Pending Travel

Abstract: Focusing on a particularly crucial historical juncture in colonial Bengal, this pre-dissertation project explores how the emerging discourse of popular sovereignty shaped the course of anticolonial nationalism. To be specific, it traces how the transformation of the nation-as-civilization discourse into the nation-as-the-people discourse democratized anticolonial movements. The result of the democratization, however, was complex. On the one hand, I look at the works of C.R. Das (and the Swaraj Party documents) to explore how the popular sovereignty discourse enabled the politics of popular self-governance as a way of national unification. On the other hand, I will consult the Bengali Muslim political archive to explain how the separatist project emerged in that period. The contentious, and often riotous, mode of politics in the 1920s and 1930s register a crisis of legitimacy for the colonial state (and also for the dominant nationalist politics). I argue that Bengali Muslim separatist politics rather paradoxically drew from the discourse of popular sovereignty to substantiate the claim for a separate state. The broader significance of this project lies in offering a more nuanced genealogy of democracy in the colonial world. Taking colonial Bengal as the historical site of my research, I argue that the discourse of popular sovereignty fundamentally shaped the anticolonial nationalist projects in the colonial world (as opposed to the approaches that see democracy as an institutional imposition on the postcolonial societies).

2016-2017 AIBS Bangladesh Citizens Fellowships



Farjana Aovi

Institution: Daffodil International University

Project Title: Identification and Application of New Antimicrobial Agents from the Mangrove Forests of Bangladesh

Duration: 2 months

Status: Complete

Abstract: Natural products from plants provide unlimited opportunities for discovery of new drugs (pharmaceuticals). Plants such as herbs have been used in natural medicine for centuries in most of the cultures throughout the world. Natural products from plants, either as crude extracts or as pure compounds, have unlimited opportunities for discovery of new pharmaceuticals because of the unmatched availability of chemical diversity. Mangrove forests of Bangladesh, which is also known as Sundarbans, have enormous variety of plants with versatile medicinal properties. The economical uses of products from mangrove ecosystems are many and varied. Extracts and chemicals from mangroves are primarily in folkloric medicine as insecticides, antimicrobials and pesticides and these practices continue to this day. Many journals revealed that handsome amounts of species in the mangrove forests have medicinal values and shown that these plants are antiviral and antibacterial in nature because of the presence of high tannin content. Bandaranayake et al. (2002) indicated that mangrove plants are a rich source of steroids, triterpenes, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids and tannins in which tannins play a vital role as an antimicrobial agent. A large amount of revenue of the world has to pay for health care. Day by day new dreaded diseases are rising and antibiotics are being used without proper protocols. The rise of antibiotic resistant microorganisms is therefore a severe problem in the health care system of the world. Infectious diseases are the second most serious cause of death worldwide, especially in Bangladesh. There is a clear relationship between the amount of a given antibiotic used and the incidence of bacterial resistance. Resistance to commonly used antimicrobial drugs is remarkably high in countries where antibiotics are not restricted. Increasing rates of antimicrobial resistance have left clinicians with limited drug options for the treatment of bacterial infectious diseases. This is a major public health concern worldwide, especially in developing countries where higher rates of resistant bacterial infections persist. Through our research, we want to identify new antibacterial agents from the largest and cheapest source of Bangladesh-Sundarbans. It is quite possible that if we can identify and isolate new compounds for treating bacterial diseases, it will benefit the poor people of Bangladesh. The new molecules will be cheaper in price because the pharmaceutical industries will be able to culture and isolate the molecule in their premises, no more importing cost for the antibacterial drugs. But, it is a great matter of regret that there are not enough designed experimental models for such type of research. Dr. Ahmed Mostafa, a world-renowned professor of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, has concern in prevention of diseases with alternatives to drug therapy. We found a great amount of similarity in our interest as his research includes designing the experimental model for understanding the physiology of disease (infection) in animals and modulation of their disease resistance using natural products (nutraceuticals). He has shown interest in this proposed work and will allow me lab access for 2 months for learning the techniques and methods I need to conduct the research. Conducting this research will increase the quality of common people of Bangladesh, reduce the overall treatment cost and add a significant contribution in the socio-economic context of Bangladesh.

2016-2017 AIBS Bangladesh Citizens Fellowships (continued)



Md Ismail Hossain

Institution: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

Project Title: Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Labour Justice in the Case of Bangladesh Apparel Industry

Duration: 2 months

Status: Complete

Abstract: In the wake of ‘flexible accumulation’ and intense market competitions under the conditions of neoliberal globalization, the responsibility of multinational corporations ensuring labour justice has become both significant and challenging. Regarding labour justice, only a minority of working people today hold jobs that are well paid and well secured, while the majority of them face inhumane working conditions and live in poverty. Good jobs are getting harder to find and keep; while bad jobs are getting worse. Frequent industrial accidents cause innumerable physical disabilities and deaths. Survivors lead very inhumane lives due to lack of subsistence, treatment and other familial needs. Corporate partners are supposed to carry out responsible roles for protection of physically challenged and mentally depressed workers. Based on empirical evidence from Rana Plaza survivors, this study will explore the needs of the survivors and the roles played by the state and corporate partners. Data will be generated through the fieldwork on the RMG Industry in Bangladesh using four kinds of methods—document reviews, observation, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. US based global brands, transnational workers union and consumers views will be added to ascertain the role of MNCs and consumers. Therefore, a significant portion of data will be collected while staying at the host institution, Pennsylvania State University. The task for the development of theoretical framework and data analysis will be made in collaboration with Professor Dr. Mark Anner. A number of presentations and critical issues will be discussed with active participation of scholars and students. The study speculates to develop a model for global labor justice based on the findings.



Md Mizanur Rahman

Institution: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

Project Title: Socioeconomic Inequality and Health of Bangladeshi Ethnic Community in New York

Duration: 2 months

Status: Complete

Abstract: All people deserve the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health through access to nationally offered health services and quality medicines without discrimination (Bump 2010; Heineke and Edwards 2012; Hosseinpoor et al. 2011; The Lancet 2012; WHO 2010). Yet, ethnic minorities, migrants, and people who face hardcore poverty, chronic diseases, and disabilities are commonly excluded from social equity, equality, and support. They experience poorer health and unequal access to formal national health services of a country (AHDEL 2009; Dockalova 2013; King, Smith, and Gracey 2009; NACCHO 2013; Kirmayer, Brass, and Tait 2000; Sachs 2012). Evidence acknowledges that the sources of racial and ethnic

2016-2017 AIBS Bangladesh Citizens Fellowships (continued)

disparities are rooted not only in the nation's dysfunctional health system, but also in a number of socioeconomic determinants of health. Access to education, employment, income, nutritious foods, health care, social gradients, childhood development, stress, social exclusion, addiction, transport, and environment directly affect or reflect a person's health in society. The US belongs to a pluralistic society comprised of immigrants who coexist as highly diverse population groups characterized by significant linguistic and other social socio-cultural differences. Ample evidence indicates that these immigrants live almost in all states and encounter an array of socioeconomic inequity and disparity across many dimensions. Bangladeshi Americans are an immigrant community with major social and economic challenges. In 2009-11, 32.1% were living below the poverty level and the population was characterized by low English literacy, young age, crowded housing conditions and significant health disparities (AAF 2013). Moreover, the recent political threats entail enough potential to further marginalize their socioeconomic position and worsen their poorer health status. Considering the facts, I am keenly interested in conducting a study for eliciting the nexus between 'Socioeconomic inequalities and health of Bangladeshi ethnic community in New York'. The goal of this study is to elicit the information on socioeconomic inequality and its impacts on the physical and mental health of the Bangladeshi ethnic community living in New York. The study would follow a mixed approach - quantitative and qualitative, and cover five areas (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens and Staten Island) with a stratified sample of 230 Bangladeshi New Yorkers. I propose the study will extract significant data on both vertical and horizontal inequalities of Bangladeshi New Yorkers as an ethnic community in the US society and its impact on physical and mental health status, problems, and diseases.



S.M. Abdul Awal

Institution: Khulna University

Project Title: Sustainable Environmental Management

Duration: 1 month

Status: Complete

Abstract: I have been selected to participate in the summer certificate-training course in Sustainable Environmental Management under the Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) organized by the University of California, Berkeley, USA. The aim of the ELP program is to train up early and midcareer researchers with the tools and skills necessary to meet environmental goals that also reduce poverty and social conflict in developing countries. Due to the effect of climate change on agricultural production and biodiversity, I started to conduct research on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy in Khulna University, Bangladesh after finishing my PhD studies from the University of Cambridge, UK. Participating the ELP course would provide me with the fundamental basics and best practices to meet the environmental goals in reducing poverty and social conflict and assist me to be a better performing academic professional. It would help me to broaden my knowledge, skills and perspectives in sustainable agriculture, natural resources and renewable energy. As I am working in academia, it would be a unique opportunity for me to disseminate the acquired knowledge of the program to students who will in turn lead the nation for its development in the future. Finally I find the opportunity to network with other professional from the around the world, which is an exceptional opportunity for horizontal exchange of experience.

2016-2017 AIBS Domestic Travel Grantee



Amy Moyer

Paper Title: A Community of Learners: Improving GPS Education in Bangladesh

Conference Name: Pedagogy and Community Building

Conference Date: April 19 – 21, 2017

Abstract: Major funding initiatives resulting from Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals have been directed toward improving the education system in Bangladesh. Studies have determined that quality teaching is a significant factor in improving educational outcomes for students. However, long-held beliefs about learning, teachers' roles, classrooms, and schools can challenge the pre-service teachers' ability to transfer new concepts in pedagogy to the classroom. Therefore, in order to effectively influence teachers' professional identity and foster professional traits associated with an effective teacher, the Primary Training Institutes (PTI) in Bangladesh must implement self-reflection, collaboration, and modeling strategies throughout the training program. Self-reflection is instrumental to the process of developing professional identities of teacher trainees. Collaboration during training is a crucial element in the development of professional identities and behavioral practices of new teachers. The literature on learning transfer and teacher training consistently recommends modeling pedagogical techniques during training and professional development. Such programs could easily be accomplished in the Bangladeshi context with the PTI on-site experimental schools. Small cohorts of teacher trainees could be paired with experimental school teachers for regular classroom observations, as well as, practice teaching session for the trainees. These trainee cohorts could also be collaborative groups that work together on instructional planning and the process of sharing critical feedback to one another. Thus, modeling, peer collaboration, practice teaching, self-reflection and critical feedback would all be incorporated meaningfully into the PTI training experience. If quality improvements in education are the goal of government initiatives, then it is necessary to put aside ambiguous policy language such as "increasing child-friendly and participatory teaching techniques." Quantifiable improvements must center on evidence-based program components during training. Bangladeshi PTIs already have the infrastructure in place, namely the on-site experimental schools, but they need to function in a more comprehensive way.

2016-2017 AIBS International Travel Grantees



Md Rajab Ali

Paper Title: To Participate and Attend as Arbitrator (Judge) in the Sixth International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

Conference Name: The Sixth International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

Conference Date: March 24 - 25, 2017

Abstract: Mr. Md. Rajab Ali was an arbitrator in the Sixth LL.M. International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition on Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, 2017. The competition was a mock international commercial arbitration for LL.M. students who were, in general, not eligible to participate in most moot competitions, and sought to foster the study of international arbitration for the resolution of international business and investment disputes. He helped successfully provide students with the opportunity to develop their arbitration skills in an environment that closely resembled an actual international arbitration situation. This year, they had 18 teams with more than 80 students who competed from 15 different law schools, including among others, American University Washington College of Law; Berkeley School of Law; Cardozo School of Law; Fordham University, Law School; Georgetown University Law Center; Haramaya University College of Law (Ethiopia); University of Denver Sturm College of Law; University of Pittsburgh School of Law; University of Southern California Gould School of Law; University of Texas School of Law; Brooklyn Law School; University of North Carolina School of Law; and University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.



Md Kamrul Alam Khan

Paper Title: A Comparative Study on the Effect of Sodium Chloride as a Secondary Salt Use in PKL (Scientific Name – *Bryophyllum pinnatum*)

Conference Name: The Thirty-Second International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management

Conference Date: March 19 - 22, 2017

Abstract: This paper represents the comparative study for electricity generation technology using PKL (Pathor Kuchi Leaf), Aloe Vera, Lemon and Tomato juice with load condition for 2:1 Zn/Cu based electrodes. For this experiment, I used 1 Ω resistance, No of Anode (Zn) = 6, No of Cathode (Cu) = 3 where distance between Anode & Cathode are 5 mm. Volume of Electrolyte is 720 cc or 720 ml, for each case we have been taken (PKL, Aloe Vera, Tomato and Lemon) sap 576gm and fresh water 144gm. Results show, maximum power of PKL (Pathor Kuchi Leaf) is 2.256W, Aloe Vera is 0.588W, Lemon is 1.416W and Tomato is 0.714W. In both cases, observed that the performance of PKL (Scientific name- *Bryophyllum pinnatum*), is better than others. This is very helpful to construct a mini power plant by any people using this technique with an affordable price in the rural areas. Most of the results have been tabulated and graphically discussed.

2016-2017 AIBS International Travel Grantees (continued)



Shampa Iftakhar

Paper Title: In the Light of What We Know: Sex Violence and Our Women

Conference Name: Interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies Conference, Creating Global Change

Conference Date: March 23 – 25, 2017

Abstract: *In the Light of What We Know* is Zia Haider Rahman's debut novel, published in 2014. The novel focuses on Zafar, born in rural Bangladesh, who rises through his intelligence and hard work, to a position of some prominence. He has maintained a long-time friendship with a wealthy Pakistani investment banker. He turns up on his doorstep one morning, dirty and disheveled. A long narrative relates Zafar's adventures, love, science, war, knowledge, philosophy, politics, the entire nature of life, existence, belonging, math, free will, and quantum physics. The novel has many merits of its own. But, unfortunately, women characters are shown as non-entity characters. The female characters in this book are hardly even human. We are engrossed in a man's world where Zafar has justified his rape. Despite the increased women leadership in Bangladesh, Zia Haider Rahman's *In the Light of What We Know* represents women in a disgraceful manner that shades light on different challenges women face regardless to time and place. In Bangladesh, sex violence has become so common that adult women to female infants are at risk of being raped or sexually harassed. More surprisingly, in a patriarchal society, victims of sex violence face venerable situations as convicts have the mindset to treat these heinous acts as justified ones. Ultimately, review of the patriarchal structure has become an unavoidable task. Psychologists question what triggers the disordered mentality that leads a man to rape. The focus of this paper is to explore the predominating factors the lead males to engage in sex violence. These factors include social structure, history, psychology and politics.



Obydullah Al Marjuk

Paper Title: Drug Addiction among Street Children: A Case Study of Dhaka City

Conference Name: International Conference for Social Sciences and Humanities

Conference Date: May 22 – 26, 2017

Abstract: Drug addiction among Street Children (SC), similar to many developing countries, is a growing problem in the urban life of Bangladesh. Poverty and the hidden reality of a SC's life is overshadowed by the guise of the euphemistic term 'Pathokoli' (flower of street). Their absence in public and social policy is common. This paper explores the realities that contribute to drug addiction among SC and seeks answers beyond the conventional stereotypes of how they came to the street and what types of problems they face. The study employed qualitative research methods with semi-structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews. It analyzed different issues and roles of different actors to understand the causes and consequences of drug addiction among SC. This study explored conflicts and contradictions of actors, ideas and realities. Finally, this study concluded that drug addiction among SC, besides income poverty, is an outcome of multi-faceted issues consisting of broken families, bad parenting, and street sub-cultures.

2016-2017 AIBS International Travel Grantees (continued)



Thanvir Chowdhury

Paper Title: Racial Discrimination Against Dalit Community in Bangladesh: An Assessment of Procedure and Strategies for the International Protection of Human Rights

Conference Name: International Conference for Social Sciences and Humanities

Conference Date: May 22 - 26, 2017

Abstract: The constitution of Bangladesh (in article 28) declares the equal rights and opportunities for all citizens and forbids all forms of discrimination on the basis of caste, race, religion, sex or place of birth. Despite this, the economic and social exclusion on the ground of caste and race is practiced throughout the country. Dalit is a minority community in Bangladesh which has been deprived from basic rights. In Bangladesh, members of the "low castes" are treated as Dalits and are exploited. Although there are no official statistics, researchers estimate there are 5.5 million Dalits in Bangladesh. Caste systems and racial prejudice against so-called 'untouchables' are traditionally practices of Hindu scriptures; but in Bangladesh these practices have also been adopted by part of the Muslim majority. Dalits are denied entry to houses of non-Dalits, denied entry to temples or religious institutions, and not allowed to build or rent houses outside of their designated areas. Human rights organizations have made recommendations for these excluded groups in Bangladesh, but in most cases, implementation of these recommendations is absent, especially for the Dalit Community. This paper explains the key issues of Dalits in regards to violation of their human rights and different strategies of international bodies to protect the victims. Though there are specific international laws regarding the problem, the weakness of the implementation of these laws provides space to make more victims in various forms regarding human rights violations. Hence, there is an urge for empirical data collection and new research as a key demand for future action.



Sarah Fardeen

Paper Title: Identifying Barriers to Seek Mental Health Counseling In Private University Students

Conference Name: The International Journal of Arts & Sciences' (IJAS) International Conference for Social Sciences and Humanities

Conference Date: May 22 – 26, 2017

Abstract: Culturally, there is a negative connotation to seek counseling for mental health issues. It is very common to discourage people who want to seek counseling in the wider Bangladeshi community. We often see that Bangladeshis generally are openly discussing their problems with friends and families but they refuse to seek professional counseling. Risk and resilience factors for mental health problems are differentially distributed and influenced by aspects of social identity that involve gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age. The objective of this paper is to identify barriers in private universities in Dhaka that stop students from using the free counseling services on campus. The paper also explores the cultural factors and inequalities that come to bear and create potential barriers for students accessing counseling services.

AIBS CONFERENCES AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Faculty Workshop on Research Writing & Publishing

October 11 – 19, 2016 UC Berkeley

AIBS in partnership with the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley and the US Embassy in Dhaka hosted five faculty members from leading universities in Bangladesh to participate in a program focused on academic writing and publishing in October 2016. The program brought five faculty members from Bangladeshi institutions of higher education to be in residence for one week at the Chowdhury Center, where they took part in workshops on research methodologies, writing, and the publishing process led by UC Berkeley faculty. Faculty arrived in Berkeley and were in residence from October 11 – 19, 2016. After the week at Berkeley, Bangladeshi faculty traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, for the Annual Conference on South Asia, where they participated in a preconference (see following page) and presented their papers in progress. The final product, as a result of the workshop, will be an academic paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. A summary of the workshop and reflections from the Bangladeshi faculty can be found at:

<http://chowdhurycenter.berkeley.edu/faculty-workshop-research-writing-publishing>.

Workshop Agenda:

Friday, October 14:

9 AM – 12 PM: **Writing a Strong Introduction**

Session Lead: Clare Talwalker, *Lecturer, Global Poverty & Practice; International & Area Studies*

1 PM – 4 PM: **Qualitative Methods**

Session Lead: Raka Ray, *Professor of Sociology; South and Southeast Asian Studies*

Saturday, October 15:

9 AM – 3 PM: **Survey Methods**

Session Leads: Anustubh Agnihotri, *PhD Candidate in Political Science*, Aniryan Chowdhury, *PhD Candidate in Political Science*, Pradeep Chhibber, *Professor of Political Science*

Monday, October 17:

9 AM – 12 PM: **Literature Review/Theory**

Session Lead: Poulomi Saha, *Assistant Professor of English*

1 PM – 4 PM: **Archival Research**

Session Lead: Abhishek Kaicker, *Assistant Professor of History*

Tuesday, October 18:

9 AM – 12 PM: **Polishing your Article**

Session Lead: Sanchita Saxena, *Executive Director, Institute for South Asia Studies; Director, Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies*

1 PM – 3 PM: **The Publishing Process**

Session Lead: Clare Talwalker, *Lecturer, Global Poverty & Practice; International & Area Studies*

AIBS Preconference 2016: **From MDGS to SDGS: Bangladesh as a Case in Point**

October 20, 2016 Madison, Wisconsin

Overview: As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era came to a conclusion in 2015, the year of 2016 ushered in a new set of official commitments from the world leaders for a more ambitious and bold 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite its relatively young age and exposure to major environmental as well as socio-political challenges, Bangladesh has been a role model in the developing world for making substantial progress in achieving MDG targets. The country has a steady economic growth rate of 6 to 7%, reducing dependence on foreign aid significantly over the decades. In addition, Bangladesh has made remarkable social progress in the areas of poverty reduction, infant and maternal mortality rate, child health, access to and gender parity in primary school enrollment, immunization coverage, and communicable disease control.

However, Bangladesh is still in the process of regenerating its cultural, social, political, economic, physical and other structures and practices by strengthening existing institutions. As the country now accentuates the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted last September at the United Nations, engaging dialogues and critical discussions from multiple disciplines and scopes need to take place at this juncture.

Aims and Objectives: The 2016 preconference invited five faculty members from different public and private universities in Bangladesh to participate in a week-long workshop on writing and publishing in the US at the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley. During the workshop, participants reviewed and refined their submitted proposals, ultimately for submission to refereed journals for publication. The proposals are centered around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): no poverty; no hunger; good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure, reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for these goals. The featured presentations highlighted how Bangladesh is now preparing to achieve the SDGs in some of these respective areas.

Opening Remarks:

Golam M. Mathbor, Professor, School of Social Work, Monmouth University

Sanchita Saxena, Director, Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, UC Berkeley

Mahbub Hassan Saleh, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington, D.C.

Keynote Speaker: A.S.M. Atiqur Rahman, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare & Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Topic: *Ageing Situation and Support Systems in Bangladesh*

AIBS Preconference 2016: (continued)

Presented Papers:

Topic: *Elder Abuse & Neglect: A Study in Rural Bangladesh*

Presenter: Md. Rabiul Islam, Associate Professor, Institute of Social Welfare & Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Discussant: Golam M. Mathbor, Professor, School of Social Work, Monmouth University

Topic: *Bangladesh, Islam, Politics and State*

Presenter: Mubashar Hasan, Assistant Professor, Journalism, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh

Discussant: Mahbub Hassan Saleh, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington, D.C.

Topic: *Uneven Geography of Remittances among Migrant Households in Rural Bangladesh*

Presenter: Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikder, Assistant Professor, General Education, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh

Discussant: Sanchita Saxena, Director, Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, UC Berkeley

Topic: *Integrated Water—Energy—Food Nexus and the Role of Regional Cooperation in Promoting Energy Security in Asia*

Presenter: Md Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University

Discussant: Jason Cons, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin

Topic: *Elderly Vulnerability to Home Care Received in Bangladesh*

Presenter: Mohammad Abdul Hannan Pradhan, Associate Professor, Economics, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh

Discussant: ASM Atiqur Rahman, Professor, Institute of Social Welfare & Research, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh



Organizers, participants, and discussants gather for a photo at the conclusion of the AIBS Preconference held in Madison, WI

AIBS Conference Co-Sponsorship:

2nd Mountstuart Elphinstone International Conference

April 20 - 21, 2017 Mumbai, India

AIBS supported the 2nd Mountstuart Elphinstone International Conference, held at the Elphinstone College in Mumbai, along with AIAS, AIIS, AIPS and AISLS. AIBS supported the event by sponsoring two Bangladeshi scholars with travel and lodging to present at the conference. The aim of the inter-ORC (Overseas Research Centers) conference focused on the construction, transformation and resilience of colonial forms of knowledge in South Asia through study of Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859). Elphinstone's intellectual legacy included the first colonial account of Afghanistan (1815), a foundational history of India (1842), and substantive institution-building as Governor of Bombay (1819-27), particularly in the area of education wherein he placed a premium value on local histories and languages. Elphinstone's work in the areas of education, local language engagement and the production of history had a variety of contemporaneous ramifications and retain considerable salience throughout South Asia today. Below is a photo of one of the scholars, Natasha Kabir from Daffodil International University. The other scholar sponsored was M.M. Azuzul Islam Rasel, from the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh. To view the full reports from each scholar, please visit the AIBS website at www.aibs.net. Click on the About tab, then AIBS Sponsored Programs. Finally, click on the link Mountstuart Elphinstone Conference II, 2017.



Natasha Kabir, from Daffodil International University, Bangladesh, gives the lecture, *From the Perspectives of Feminism, Colonialism and Nationalism in South Asia: Saga of British Occupied India*, at the 2nd Annual Mountstuart Elphinstone Conference in Mumbai, April 20-21, 2017

AIBS Conference Co-Sponsorship (continued):

2017 Middle Bengali Retreat cum Workshop Awardees

August 3 – 13, 2017 Transylvania, Romania

The Department of Humanities at Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania organized a Middle Bengali Retreat and Workshop in August 2017, to which AIBS supported three US students and one Bangladeshi faculty to attend (more scholars from Bangladesh would have been supported if they had not encountered visa issues). The retreat brought together scholars and advanced students of Middle Bengali in an informal and relaxed setting, where reading and discussion of texts could be shared and analyzed. The awardees listed below benefitted greatly from their experiences. Next year's workshop will be held in Nepal. You can read more about their developments in their final reports on the AIBS website at www.aibs.net. Go to the About tab and click on AIBS Projects to read their reports under the Middle Bengali Retreat cum Workshop link.

Jessica Bachman

Institution: University of Washington

Status: PhD Student, Department of History

Ishan Chakrabarti

Institution: University of Chicago

Status: PhD Student, Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations

Christopher Diamond

Institution: University of Washington

Status: PhD Student, Department of South Asian Languages & Civilizations

Samia Khatun (Bangladesh Scholar supported by MOFA funding)

Institution: University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh

Status: Associate Professor, South Asian History, British Imperial History, Settler Colonialism



AIBS supported three US students and one Bangladeshi scholar to attend this year's Middle Bengali Retreat Cum Workshop held for the 2nd summer in Romania, August 3-13, 2017. Participants read a variety of texts and discussed them at length in various classroom and outdoor settings.

AIBS DHAKA CENTER ACTIVITIES

AIBS Workshop: **Article Writing for Publication**

August 24, 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh

AIBS hosted an Article Writing for Publication Workshop at the BRAC Centre Inn for seven Bangladeshi scholars. Dr Naveeda Khan, Professor at Johns Hopkins University, organized and facilitated the event with assistance from Ms. Meher Niger, Dhaka Office Manager and Md Shanawez Hossain, former AIBS workshop awardee, from BRAC University. During the one-day workshop, the awardees reviewed and discussed their submitted articles. Dr. Naveeda Khan provided overarching guidance and mentorship on how to improve and edit each participant's article for future publication.

Scholar: Dr. Sabiha Huq

Institution: Khulna University

Article: *Peer Gynt in India*

Scholar: Dr. Tabassum Zaman

Institution: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Article: *Transport Art of Dhaka: A Chance Discourse on the City*

Scholar: Dr. Md. Aminul Haque

Institution: University of Dhaka

Article: *Prevalence and Patterns of Multimorbidity in Bangladesh: Hospital Based Study*

Scholar: Dr. Md. Jalal Uddin Sikder

Institution: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Article: *Cross-border Migration and Vulnerability of Unregistered Rohingyas (Burmese)*

Scholar: Dr. Mohammed Faruque Uddin

Institution: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

Article: *Constraining Factors of Human Agency: Fishers' Voice from Northeastern Bangladesh*

Scholar: Dr. Nabir Mamnun

Institution: Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies

Article: *Impacts of Storm Surges on the Bangladesh Coast: A Review*

Scholar: Dr. Saidur Rahman

Institution: Institute of Social Welfare and Research

Article: *Village Court as an Alternative Justice System in Bangladesh: An Observation*

Pictured with workshop facilitator Dr. Naveeda Khan (center, red scarf), are the participants and event organizer, Ms. Meher Niger (center, orange shirt).



AIBS Support of Film Screening: *Sramik Awaaz: Workers Voices*

June 13, 2017 EMK Center, Dhaka

AIBS supported the film screening of Professor Chaumtoli Huq's documentary in Bangladesh by marketing the film showing to several institutions, organizations and advocacy groups. The free screening was held at the EMK Center in Dhaka and a discussion on human rights and the arts followed. Lubna Marium, a dance pioneer in Bangladesh, co-choreographed a dance piece about the garment workers, called *Made in Bangladesh*, and was part of the panel discussion. Chaumtoli Huq's film, *Sramik Awaaz: Workers Voices*, is a documentary on the labor movement in Bangladesh and the workers in the garment industry. It evolved out of the research she conducted during an AIBS Fellowship in 2014-15. Initially, she planned to write and propose labor policy from the results of her research, but found that creating a documentary (with the help of local filmmaker Mohammed Romel) was another effective way to influence policy and law.

AIBS is pleased to additionally support the screening of Dr. Huq's documentary at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, WI, in October 2017. To learn more about the film, please go to: lawatthemargins.com/video-sramik-awaaz-workers-voices-documentary-short/



Professor Chaumtoli Huq (4th from left, top row), who produced the documentary, "*Workers Voices*", is shown here with some participants and panelists who came to the showing at the EMK Center in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

AIBS Meetings and Outreach

The AIBS President traveled to Bangladesh early in 2017 to conduct various meetings and outreach. Dr. Golam Mathbor conducted the following meetings and events:

- Meeting with Executive Director of BRAC Center for Governance and Development
- Meeting with National Board of Revenue
- Interview with Bangla Vision TV on “AIBS Activities over the last 27 Years”
- Meeting with Vice Chancellor, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University
- Meeting with Director General, Americas, MOFA, GoB
- Meeting with the American Center, US Embassy in Dhaka
- Meeting with the US Ambassador



AIBS President, Dr. Golam Mathbor and Dhaka Office Manager, Ms. Meher Niger, meet with Cultural Affairs Officer, Mr. Kelly Ryan, and Ms. Shaheen Khan at the American Center in Dhaka to discuss AIBS programs and activities.

AIBS President’s travel to Bangladesh additionally resulted in several meetings and MOU opportunities. Dr. Golam Mathbor met with several institutions and signed MOUs with Bangladesh partner institutions.

- MOU signing with BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology
- MOU signing with North South University
- MOU signing with Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University

Dr. Golam Mathbor (second from right) pictured at a MOU signing event with BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT) in Bangladesh.



AIBS Lecture Series

AIBS President, Dr. Golam Mathbor, was invited to give the following lectures during his latest administrative trip to Bangladesh:

Topic: “Opportunities of Higher Education and Research in USA”

Date: January 25, 2017

Location: BGMEA University

Topic: “Unity in Diversity”

Date: January 31, 2017

Location: North South University

Topic: “From Island to Development: My Story”

Date: February 1, 2017

Location: Begum Rokeya University



Topic: “Opportunities of Higher Education and Research in USA”

Date: February 13, 2017

Location: Leading University

Topic: “Quality of Higher Education: Perspectives and Prospects”

Date: February 15, 2017

Location: North East University Bangladesh

Topic: “Sustaining Excellence in Higher Education: The US Context”

Date: February 15, 2017

Location: Leading University

Topic: “Governance and Leadership in Higher Education”

Date: February 16, 2017

Location: Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

Topic: “Sustaining Excellence in Higher Education: The US Perspective”

Date: February 19, 2017

Location: Khulna University

Topic: “Opportunities of Higher Education and Research in the US”

Date: February 20, 2017

Location: Jessore University for Science and Technology

Topic: “Institutional Assessment and Quality Assurance in Higher Education”

Date: February 22, 2017

Location: Jagannath University

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bangladesh Partner Institutions

BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT)

Date: January 12, 2017

Background: AIBS and BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) entered into a MOU on mutual collaboration. The MOU terms involved mutual interest; collaboration and development of academic, research and cultural interchanges; and future faculty and fellow exchanges. Co-sponsored conferences, symposia and joint research activities were also among the goals and objectives. The MOU was signed by Dr. Golam Mathbor, President of AIBS, and Mr. Muzaffar U. Siddique, Founder, Chairman and Board of Trustees of BUFT. Professor Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of BUFT, Professor Dr. Engr. Ayub Nabi Khan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, ANM Rafiqul Alam, Registrar of BUFT, and Ms. Meher Niger, AIBS Dhaka Office Manager, were also present during the signing ceremony.

Objectives:

- A) To invite AIBS Research Grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or United States as scholars to BUFT for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students of BUFT.
- B) To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with BUFT on either AIBS premises or BUFT campus, as may be identified from time to time.
- C) To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry on research programs of mutual interest.
- D) To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines.

Both parties agree in principle to pursue cooperative initiatives. Examples of future collaborations may include articulation agreements, exchange of academic materials, faculty/fellow exchange, future co-sponsored conferences and symposia, and joint research activities. Any future initiatives shall be set forth in a separate agreement and mutually agreed in writing by both parties.



Dr. Mathbor and Mr. Siddique shaking hands after the MOU signing, along with various witnesses.

North South University (NSU)

Date: January 31, 2017

Background: North South University (NSU) hosted the signing ceremony of the MOU with AIBS. Vice Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam, on behalf of NSU, and Dr. Golam Mathbor, AIBS President, signed the MOU for mutual cooperation and exchange in the fields of research, faculty and fellow exchange, future co-sponsored conferences and symposia and collaborative research activities.

Present at the signing ceremony were Professor Gour Gobinda Goshwami, Treasurer; Professor Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor Mahboob Rahman, Dean, School of Business and Economics; Professor Sirajul Islam, Dean, School of Engineering; Professor G.U. Ahsan, School of Life Sciences; Professor Sk. Tawfique, Director of PPG; Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, Department of Political Science & Sociology; Ms. Meher Niger, Manager, AIBS Dhaka Office; and Mr. Faisal Wali, Director-in-Charge of External Affairs

Objectives:

- A) To invite AIBS Research Grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or the US as international scholars to NSU for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students of NSU.
- B) To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with NSU on either AIBS premises or on the NSU campus, as may be identified from time to time.
- C) To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to conduct research programs of mutual interest.
- D) To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines.

Both parties agree in principle to pursue cooperative initiatives. Examples of future collaborations may include articulation agreements, exchange of academic materials, faculty/fellow exchange, future co-sponsored conferences and symposia, and joint research activities. Any future initiatives shall be set forth in a separate agreement and mutually agreed in writing by both parties.



Ms. Meher Niger (bottom left), along with Dr. Mathbor (second from the left) are shown here with Vice Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam and several others at the MOU signing with North South University.

Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University (HSTU)

Date: February 2, 2017

AIBS signed a MOU with Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University (HSTU)

Objectives:

- A) To invite AIBS Research Grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or US as international scholars to HSTU for presenting their field of knowledge and introducing them to the faculty members and students of HSTU.
- B) To sponsor/get sponsored to conduct seminars/workshops/conferences jointly with HSTU on either AIBS premises or the HSTU campus, as may be identified from time to time.
- C) To undertake joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry on research programs of mutual interest.
- D) To pursue joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines.

Both parties agree in principle to pursue other cooperative initiatives. Examples of future collaborations may include articulation agreements, exchange of academic materials, faculty/fellow exchange, future co-sponsored conferences and symposia, and joint research activities. Any future initiatives shall be set forth in a separate agreement and mutually agreed in writing by both parties.



Witnesses observe Dr. Golam Mathbor, AIBS President, and Professor Dr. Md. Salfur Rahman, Registrar, signing the Memorandum of Understanding between AIBS and HSTU.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH UPDATE

AIBS is extremely grateful to the Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their \$140,000 in funding this past year (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017). Because of their generosity, AIBS was able to award the following to Bangladesh Scholars:

Four 2-month Research Fellowships to the US

Six Travel Grants to present at US conferences

Five scholars to attend a Research Methodology Workshop in the US

One Scholar to attend the Middle Bengali Retreat Cum Workshop in Romania

Seven Scholars to attend the Article Writing for Publication Workshop in Dhaka

Thank You MOFA for supporting AIBS in its mission to enhance Bangladesh Studies!



Dr. Golam Mathbor, AIBS President meets with Mohammad Ziauddin (center), Bangladesh Ambassador to the US, to discuss AIBS activities.

AIBS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Boston University
Columbia University
Connecticut University
Cornell University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Monmouth University
North Carolina State University
Syracuse University
The University of Chicago
Tufts University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Austin
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Winona State University
Valdosta State University

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS IN BANGLADESH

Asian University of Women
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University
Bangladesh Agricultural University
BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology
BRAC University
Daffodil International University
Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University
Independent University, Bangladesh
Institute of Bangladesh Studies at the University of Rajshahi
Jagannath University
Jahangirnagar University
Jessore University of Science and Technology
Khulna University
Leading University
North East University of Bangladesh
North South University
Pabna University of Science and Technology
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
Southeast University Bangladesh
University of Barisal
University of Chittagong
University of Dhaka
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

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