

Annika Schmeding, PhD Candidate, Boston University

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Education

- 2014-present** **Doctoral Researcher, Cultural Anthropology**
Boston University, USA (ABD)
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Barfield
Committee: Thomas Barfield, Michael Barry, Shahla Haeri, Kimberly Arkin
- 2012-2014** **MA/Research Master, Middle Eastern Area Studies**
Leiden University, the Netherlands
Supervisor: Dr. Gabrielle van den Berg
Thesis: *Who's the real 'nomad' in Afghanistan? Socio-political status, legal rights and the differences between peripatetic and pastoral nomads*
***Winner of Leiden University Thesis Award and National Master Thesis Award in Asian Studies**
- 2007-2011** **BA in Cultural Anthropology, graduated with honors**
Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Supervisor: Dr. Jeanne Berrenberg
Minors: Political Science and Comparative Literature
- 2009-2010** **Study Abroad, Pakistan**
Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan
National Institute of Pakistan Studies
Supervisor: Dr. Azam Chaudhary

Research Experience

- 2018** **Consultant Researcher for Turquoise Mountain**
Research on a Shi'a mosque/ Tekia Khana in an old part of Kabul (Murad Khane) about its history and current social networks.
- 2017-present** **Dissertation Research in Afghanistan**
21 months in-country research on the religious field, including education, civil society and political engagement of ulema, Sufi group adherents and teachers.
- 2017** **Consultant Researcher for People in Need (PIN) in Afghanistan**
Research on the Self-Help Group Approach in four urban centres (Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad), resulting in the publication of a research report for the European Union and PIN

- 2016** **Pre-Dissertation Field Research in Afghanistan**
Research on religious field, including making contacts to official ulema, Sufi group adherents and teachers. Advanced language learning (Persian), set-up of living arrangements for long-term dissertation fieldwork.
- 2015** **Consultant Researcher for People in Need (PIN) in Afghanistan**
Research on nomadic Jogi communities in Mazar-e Sharif, resulting in the publication of research report for European Union and PIN
- 2013-2014** **5 months research for Master thesis, Afghanistan**
Research on sedentarization and political participation of pastoral and peripatetic nomads. Research ranged from participant observation in IDP camps and nomadic settlements to interviews with parliamentarians
- 2012** **Research Manager (M&E) for Sayara Media, Afghanistan**
Supervision and design of Sayara's research and reporting with management of data collection teams in 10 provinces of Afghanistan, including data coding and analysis
- 2010-2012** **Journalistic Assistance, ARK media**
Support in research and translation covering political and cultural stories in Pakistan, Germany, Turkey and Afghanistan for ARK-media (Adnan R. Khan)

Honors, prizes, scholarships, grants

- 2017** Wenner Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- 2017** GRRI - Global Religion Research Initiative - Project Launch Grant
- 2016** Long Term GRAF -Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Dissertation Research Grant
- 2016** Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Pre-Dissertation Fieldresearch Grant
- 2015** Public Outreach Award of Central Eurasian Scholars Society for CESMI's (Central Eurasian Scholars and Media Initiative's) work to connect scholars and media professionals, and raise the profile of Central Eurasian scholarship
- 2015** GRAF - Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Pre-Dissertation Fieldresearch Grant
- 2015** IIAS - International Institute for Asian Studies, Summer Fellowship
- 2015** Leiden University Thesis Award (Leidse Universitaire Scriptieprijs), Prize for best Master Thesis in cross-disciplinary comparison.
- 2014** IIAS - International Institute for Asian Studies, National Master Thesis Prize in Asian Studies
- 2014-2019** Boston University, Dean's Fellowship
- 2008-2014** Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst, Scholarship for BA and MA studies
- 2013** Leiden University Study Abroad (LUSTRA)
Leiden International Studiefonds (LISF)
Outbound Study Grant (OSG)

Relevant Work Experience

- 2017-2018** **Herat and Kabul Project Manager**
Miniature Project of American Institute of Afghanistan Studies (AIAS)
Local communications and organizational support in Herat and Kabul for exhibitions of Afghan Timurid and Mughal paintings at Babur's Garden and Qala Ikhtiaruddin.
- 2016-present** **Co-Director**
Central Eurasian Scholars and Media Initiative (CESMI)
Directing CESMI together with Maral Madieva.
Main tasks: fundraising as well as designing and directing international collaborations between academics and media professionals in Central Asia
- 2015-present** **Academic Blog Editor**
Central Eurasian Scholars and Media Initiative (CESMI)
Editing academic blog posts to be published at the CESMI blog and on the Kyrgyz and Uzbek sites of the BBC
- 2015** **Consultant Researcher**
People in Need (PIN), Afghanistan
Research on nomadic Jogi communities in Mazar-e Sharif, quantitative survey of 120 families as well as qualitative interviews, resulting in the publication of research report for European Union and PIN.
- 2012-2015** **Consultant**
Afghan Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC), Afghanistan
Developing information material and restructuring of organizational setup to reach more communities in Afghanistan and to work towards a sustainable system setup.
- 2012** **Monitoring and Evaluation Manager**
Sayara Strategies, Afghanistan
Supervision and design of Sayara's Monitoring and Evaluation reporting with management of a data collection team in 10 provinces of Afghanistan; Writing of Pre and Post- testing reports; Design of Mid-Term and End-Term Evaluations; Data coding and analysis; Training data collection staff; Proposal writing
- 2011-2012** **Junior Associate for Monitoring and Evaluation at NSP**
Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development - National Solidarity Programme (NSP at MRRD), Afghanistan
Writing, oversight and editing of implementation and post-implementation reports, quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation of nationwide data concerning development projects (their successes, their failures, and identifying areas for improvement)

- 2011-2012** **Co-Founder and Executive Director**
Rickshaw Circus, Afghanistan/Pakistan/Iran/Turkey
Project development and planning, accounting, fundraising, implementation, work with children and youth affected by trauma through therapeutical means of Social Circus techniques; implementation in four countries, cooperation with various local organizations; project, implementation included driving a motor-rickshaw from Kabul (Afghanistan) to Istanbul (Turkey)
- 2010-2011** **Cultural Mentor for refugee family**
Xenion, Berlin, Germany
Providing support to an Afghan refugee family in bureaucratic, social and day to day matters
- 2010-2011** **Data Analyst**
Meltwater Press, Berlin, Germany
Internet based research compiling a database on journalists and editors for use by political and non-governmental institutions, including management of the database and personal telephone interviews
- 2007** **Co-Organiser and Finance Director**
Sproutbau, Bremen, Germany
Financial and organizational management of a month long international cultural art project exploring alternative living concepts with over 70 artists from four continents who converted an abandoned apartment complex into “living utopias”. The project culminated in a three day long interactive presentation and festival attracting over 1000 visitors.
- 2006-2007** **Civil Service Trainee**
Quartier e.V., Bremen, Germany
Project planning, accounting, fundraising, workshop implementation, design of advertisement, presentation and documentation for a cultural grassroots organization with additional weekend seminars in creative writing, theatre and peace and conflict studies

Conferences and Invited Talks

- 2018** **Conference: 1st Sufi Studies Graduate Student Symposium**
Speaker: Finding their place: Sufism in contested religious discourse in Afghanistan
Location: Istanbul, Turkey
- 2018** **Conference: Afghanistan- Views from Inside and Outside**
Invited Speaker: Political Representation Inside Out: The Nomadic Bargaining Chip
Location: Berlin, Germany
- 2017** **Conference: "Annual Central Eurasian Studies Society"**
Panel Organizer and Speaker: "Bridge-Building between Languages and Professions"
Location: Seattle, USA
- 2016** **Conference "Memory and Commemoration in Islamic Central Asia"**
Speaker, Paper, November 2016
Location: Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2016** **Invited Talk, Course: Music and Mysticism**
Speaker: Sufi music in Afghanistan and Pakistan
Location: Boston University, Department of Ethnomusicology, October 2015
- 2015** **Conference: "Annual Central Eurasian Studies Society"**
Panel Organizer: Approaching Afghanistan: Ethnographies between Marginality and Power
Speaker: From the Margins to the Parliament: Locating Nomads in Afghanistan
Location: Washington DC, USA, October 2015
- 2015** **Conference: "Afghanistan 2015: Transitions to Transformations"**
Invited Participant, August 2015
Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Teaching Experience

- 2016** **Teaching Assistant, Course: Human Biology, Behavior, and Evolution**
Boston University (USA), Department of Anthropology
Teaching multiple weekly lab courses with presentations, grading, office hours
- 2015** **Teaching Assistant, Course: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**
Boston University (USA), Department of Anthropology
Teaching multiple weekly seminars with presentations, grading, office hours
- 2010** **Seminar leader, "Orientalism Reloaded"**
Freie Universität zu Berlin (Germany), Department of Anthropology
Established, planned and lectured a 5 months long seminar titled "Orientalism Reloaded" for 80 students ranging from BA level to Phd, provided reading material, expert discussions with journalists and skype-talks with experts in Pakistan, overseeing of mid-term and final-term exams

Languages

German	Native
English	Fluent, TOEFL (116/120); GRE scores available
French	Conversational
Spanish	Conversational
Dari/Persian	Fluent in spoken, reading and writing advanced abilities, teachers: Dr. Gabrielle van den Berg, University Leiden 2012/2013, Tamanna Bariawal 2013-2014, Uranus Hamidi (2016), intensive courses at Ferdowsi University Mashhad (2017) and on the ground learning in Afghanistan since 2011.
Pashto	Basic conversational knowledge and written translation knowledge, private classes with Dr. Johnny Cheung 2012-2013, Naser Farahmand 2014-2015.
Urdu	Spoken and written, teachers: private classes with Dr. Arif Naqvi (Berlin) 2008, master classes with Christina Oesterheld, Amtul Manan Tahir and Bushra Malik in 2013)