



Jamia's Women. Delhi and Beyond

Ways into the Public Sphere

10-11 October 2023

India International Centre,
Kamaladevi Complex,
Seminar Halls 1, 2, 3
New Delhi

Organised by

An Institute of the

Max Weber
Stiftung

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German Humanities
Institutes Abroad



Max Weber Forum
FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES



Muslim
Women's
Forum

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and confirm your participation by 3 October 2023



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For longer than Muslim women in other contexts, Jamia's women have remained invisible in public perception and in scholarship alike. While the knowledge about the founding fathers of Jamia has been handed down over the decades and has become the object of renewed academic interest since the early 2000s, we know very little about their wives, sisters, and daughters, and about the other women who had an influence on the foundation, the development and the everyday running of Jamia. It is not that these women were silent: even cursory investigations bring out a multitude of sources.

The conference will focus on two of the paths that these women took to enter the Urdu public sphere. The first one is through literature and poetry – Saliha Abid Husain was the most famous one, but not the only one to write novels; others favored short stories, and many engaged with poetry. The second one is through social work – often leaving the public face to the men of the family, Jamia's women were central to the establishment of institutions for the education of girls, for health care, and for the well-being of mothers and children.

Jamia never stood in isolation from initiatives and movements elsewhere, in India and beyond. The last section of the conference therefore will follow a comparative gaze, focusing on Aligarh, Lucknow, and Hyderabad.

Programme

Tuesday, October 10

9.30 – 10.00	Registration and Tea
10.00 – 12.00	Chair: Zoya Hasan <i>Introduction, The foundation of the Jamia Millia Islamia</i> Nishat Zaidi, Margrit Pernau <i>Khawateen e Awwal. Women in Forefront: Jamia and Beyond - An Overview</i> Syeda Hameed, Raza Mehdi
12.00 – 1.30	Chair: Soofia Siddique <i>Silsila e Roz o Shab (Flow of Days and Nights) Saliha Abid Husain</i> Azra Naqvi <i>Modernity, Muslim Society and 'the Muslim Woman's Question': The Literary World of Saliha Abid Husain</i> Nishat Zaidi
1.30 – 2.30	Lunch

2.30 – 4.00 Chair: Ritu Menon
Begum Khursheed Khwaja (1894-1981): An Unsung Gandhian Freedom Fighter, educationist, and journalist and her role in early phase of Jamia
Asad Faisal Farooqui
From Berlin to Delhi. Gerda Philipsborn, Jamia's Apa Jan
Margrit Pernau

4.00 – 4.30 Tea Break

4.30 – 6.00 Chair: Francesca Orsini
Heart, Home and Beyond. Begum Asifa Mujeeb's short fiction
Anab Nayyar
Sughra Mehdi's feminist fiction
Christina Oesterheld

6.30 – 7.00 *Cultural performance: Khawateen ka Kirdaar: Poets and Poetry.*
This has been specially designed for this conference, presenting poetry of Maulana Hali, India's first feminist poet along with kalaam of important contemporary poets. This will be presented by Hamari Urdu Mohabbat which is a performance-based cultural movement started by Begum Zakia Zaheer in 2014.
Artists: Rene Singh and Lokesh Jain
Sponsored by the Muslim Women's Forum

7.15 – 9.00 Reception

Wednesday, October 11

9.30 – 10.00 Registration and Tea

10.00 – 12.30 Chair: Shohini Ghosh
Mushir Fatima. Jamia's nursery and early Childhood Learning in Postcolonial India
Asiya Alam
Qudsia Zaidi – a short dramatic life
Shama Zaidi
Siddiq Kidwai. A woman of substance
Jamal Kidwai

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 3.00 Chair: Rakhshanda Jalil
Founding of Girls' School in Aligarh and its Outcome: From Mother to Daughter
Shadab Bano
Women at Aligarh and Jamia. Guardians of tradition or actors of change?
Laurence Gautier

3.00 – 3.30

Tea

3.30 – 5.00

Chair: Charu Gupta

*Education, Literature, and Politics. Reflections on Women's
Interventions in Lucknow (1925-1965)*

Fatima Rizvi

*Dream, Mirror, Trance: Reality and Reform in the Writings of Sughra
Humayun Mirza (1884-1958)*

Nazia Akhtar

During the conference a portrait-exhibition of Women in the Forefront designed by Ranesh Ray will be shown. This has been sponsored by the Muslim Women's Forum and is a sequel to Path breakers: 20th Century Muslim Women of India.

