



American Institute of Bangladesh Studies

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**A Symposium on:
Bangladesh's Recent Past and Imminent Future: Commemorating 30 Years of AIBS**

Hosted by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS)

Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Thursday, October 17, 2019 (1:45p.m.-5:30p.m.)

The last 30 years have brought tremendous change in Bangladesh. The country has witnessed the return to democracy after over a decade of military rule; the rise of homegrown development models such as microfinance; the emergence of a new militancy within the state; the rise of climate change as an existential threat; one of the worst refugee crises; and more.

We chose this 30-year timeframe not only because it has been a period of tumultuous change, but also because of the 30 years that the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies has been involved in collaborative, scholarly research of Bangladeshi culture, politics, economy, and society. This 30-year anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on Bangladesh's recent past, AIBS' accomplishments, and consider ways to chart future of scholarly engagements with this rapidly changing country. As such, this symposium will highlight innovative work on Bangladesh's history, culture, society, economy, and environment, while exploring and contextualizing both where the country has been and where it is going.

This symposium will include panels and presentations followed by a concluding roundtable with former grantees of AIBS. We hope this program will set a new agenda for scholarship on Bangladesh in the coming years, commemorate AIBS' past achievements, and focus on future planning and programming.

This symposium invites scholars to reflect on the above transformations in the social, cultural, political, environmental, and economic landscapes of the country. Our theme and interest here is tracing and historicizing contemporary Bangladesh by examining the challenges surrounding democracy, development, and refugees that have shaped the country's recent and more distant pasts. A tentative symposium program would address the following topics of specific relevance to Bangladesh:

- Session 1: Bangladesh's Recent Past

- Session 2: Bangladesh's Imminent Future
- Session 3: Round Table with AIBS Grantees

Keywords: Bangladesh, Culture, Democracy, Politics, Economy, Environment, AIBS

Submission guideline: Please submit a paper or panel presentation proposal of not more than 400 words related to the main theme and/or sub-themes noted above by **Friday, May 3, 2019** to aibs@southasia.wisc.edu. You must list the names of the presenter(s)/panelist(s) and their institutional affiliations when submitting a proposal. Also, please provide your contact details, including an email address for future correspondence.

Conference organizer: Dr. Golam M. Mathbor, AIBS President

Co-organizers:

Dr. Frank Korom, Boston University

Dr. Sanchita Saxena, University of California-Berkeley

Dr. Sufia Uddin, Connecticut College

Dr. Jason Cons, University of Texas at Austin