

MOHAMMAD JAHANGIR ALAM, PhD

Professor & Chairman
Department of World Religions and Culture
Arts Faculty
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EDUCATION

2020	PhD in Religion, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Dissertation Title: Dao Cao Dai: A Socio-historical Analysis of a Syncretic Vietnamese Religion and Its Relationship to Other Religions
2009	MPhil in Religion, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Thesis Title: The Concept of Unity in Bahaism and Caodaism: A Comparative Study
2000	MA in World Religions, University of Dhaka
1998	BA in Islamic Studies, University of Dhaka

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2022 –	Professor, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka
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2013-2022	Associate Professor, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka
2009-2013	Assistant Professor, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka
2005-2009	Lecturer, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION & STUDENT ADVISOR

2021 –	Chairman, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka
2006-2009	Student Advisor, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka

TEACHING AREAS

Programs MPhil/MA & BA	Religion and Politics Sociology of Religion State, Religion and International Politics Japanese Religion and Culture Chinese Thought and Culture Baha'i Faith and Cao Dai Religious Traditions Jain Religion and Philosophy
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RESEARCH GRANTS

2022-2023	Alam, M.J., Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue for Peace, Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development: The Bangladesh Perspective, University Grants Commission(UGC), Bangladesh, Granted Amount: 1,92,000
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2021-2022	Alam, M.J., The Role of Interfaith Education in Promoting Children's Awareness of Harmony in Primary School: A Case Study of Dhaka City, University Grants Commissions (UGC), Bangladesh, Granted Amount: BDT 2,04,000
2020-2021	Alam, M.J., Exploring the Social Causes of Sexual Harassment and the Role of Religious values as Prevention efforts: The Case of Bangladesh, University Grants Commission (UGC), Bangladesh, granted Amount: BDT 1,90,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Academic Excellence Award for Conference Paper. Daesoon Academy of Sciences (DAOS), Daejin University, South Korea, (\$200)
2023	Research Publication Excellence Award.Daesoon Academy of Sciences (DAOS), Daejin University, South Korea, (\$1000)
2019	Cao Dai Overseas Missionary(CDOM), USA Award for Conference Paper. The 8th Holy Books and World Literature Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (\$500)
2018	Cao Dai Overseas Missionary (CDOM), USA Award for Conference Paper. The CESNUR Conference 2018 was held in Nantou City, Taiwan (\$2900)
2012	Cao Dai Overseas Missionary (CDOM) PhD Fellowship (\$16,500)
2004	Cao Dai Overseas Missionary (CDOM) MPhil Fellowship (\$1800)
2003	Dhaka University Merit Scholarship (BDT 36,000)

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Research Interests

Subject	Description
Acculturation and Social Integration	The main purpose of this research area is to explore and analyze how syncretism, absorption, assimilation etc. as major dynamic factors of acculturation, influence New Religious Movements (NRMs) in their social integration.
The Realization of Common Aspects of Truth in Religion	This area focuses on comparing different religions and examining various intra-group dynamics. The goal is to discover new ways to foster peace and harmony, contributing to the creation of a stable society and supporting sustainable development.

Books

Alam. M.J. 2010	<i>The Concept of Unity in Baha'i Faith and Caodaiism: A Comparative Study.</i> Washington DC: Caodai Overseas Missionary.
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Edited Books

Alam.M.J., Hud ,F., Sayem, A. , Farid, S. & Rozario, T.D. 2022	<i>World Religions and Culture: Interfaith Education in Bangladesh</i> (Eds.). Dhaka: Department of World Religions and Culture
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Journal Articles

Alam, M.J. 2024	Exploring Daesoon Jinrihoe and its connections with other religions (Forthcoming publication)
Alam, M.J. 2024	Religious integration and the development of Caodaism: An overview (Forthcoming Publication)
Alam, M.J. 2023	A Harmonious Synthesis of Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism in the Matrix of Chinese Culture: An Overview. <i>Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Humanities</i> , 68(2):207-218. DOI: 10.3329/jasbh.v68i2.70364
Alam, M.J. and Mojumder, I.M 2023	Sikh and CaoDai Understanding of Interfaith Harmony: Promoting a Culture of Peace and Unity. <i>Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia</i> , 3(1):129-151. DOI: 10.25050/JDTREA.2023.3.1.129
Alam, M.J. 2022	A critical analysis in quest of the relationship between Caodaism and New Religious Movements: Comparison and appraisal. <i>The Arts Faculty Journal</i> , 1(Centennial Issue):63-71.
Alam, M.J. and Roy, N.	Hindu and Darwinian Perspectives on Evolution: Alliance or Confrontation. <i>Journal of Sociology</i> , 13(1):72-84.
Alam, M.J. and Samad, A. 2021	New Religious Movements: New Panorama of Japanese Religion, <i>Journal of Japanese Studies: Exploring Multidisciplinarity</i> , 1(1):403-414. DOI: 10.55156/jjsem.dec2121
Alam, M. J. and Ontora, S. S. 2020	Role of Teachers's Professionalism in Creating Diversity Awareness among the School Going Students: Bangladesh Perspective. <i>Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (JETIR)</i> , 7(11):338-344.
Alam, M. J. and Akter R. 2018	A Dialogical Approach towards the Realization of Common Aspects of Truth in Religion. <i>Journal of Sociology</i> , 9(2):7-20.
Alam, M. J. 2018	Understanding Humanism: The Sikh Perspective. <i>The Arts Faculty Journal</i> , 8&9(12 & 13):41-54.

Alam, M. J. 2017	The Phenomenology of Ancient Chinese Religion: An Overview. <i>The Dhaka University Studies</i> , 71(2):1-12.
Alam, M. J. 2015	Some Aspects of Philosophical Thought in Ancient Chinese Religion: An Analytical Evaluation. <i>Philosophy and Progress</i> , LVII-LVIII(January-June, July-December):52-66.
Alam, M. J. 2014	The Early Japanese and Their Religio-cultural Life: A Historical Overview. <i>Philosophy and Progress</i> , LV-LVI(January-June, July-December):69-90.
Alam, M. J. 2014	A Historical Analysis of the Origin and Development of Comparative Religion. <i>The Dhaka University Studies</i> , 68(2):69-86.
Alam, M. J. 2013	The Power of Interreligious Dialogue. <i>The Dhaka University Studies</i> . vol...(no....):19-26.
Alam, M. J. 2011	The Spirit of Cao Dai Philanthropy. <i>Philosophy and Progress</i> , XLVII-XLVIII(January-June, July-December):105-112.
Alam, M. J. 2011	Bahai Religious Faith and Tradition in Bangladesh. <i>Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology</i> , 8(1):87-92.
Alam, M. J. and Farid, M.S. 2010	Bahai Faith: From an Obscure Movement to a Widespread Religion. <i>The CDR Journal</i> , 3(4):157-165.
Alam, M. J. 2008	Cao Dai Understanding of God. <i>Philosophy and Progress</i> , XLI-XLII(June-December):169-180.
Alam, M. J. 2006	Religion and the World Today. <i>The CDR Journal (A Journal of Center for Development Research)</i> , 1(1):13-20.

Book Chapters

Alam, M. J. 2022	Department of World Religions and Culture at Dhaka University for Communal Harmony: Not for Choice but for Necessity. <i>World Religions and Culture: Interfaith Education in Bangladesh</i> in Huda, F., Alam, M.J., et al. (Eds.):51-74.
Alam, M. J. 2020	Exploring Cao Dai Holy Books and Literatures: A Brief Overview. <i>Holy Books and World Literature</i> in A. Karickam & R. Palapathwala (Eds):120-132.
Alam, M. J. 2017	A Critical Analysis of Creation Theory: Cao Dai Perspective. <i>HOLY BOOKS AND CREATION STORIES; In Search of the Original Cosmic Design</i> in A. Karickam(Eds.):47-56.

INVITED TALKS

Alam, M. J. June 2024	Pluralism: Creating a pluralistic view with systematic equality in society. Panel Discussant , Organized by the RUPANTAR, Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Alam, M. J. May 2024	English Language Proficiency and Employment Opportunity. Guest Speaker , Organized by the Latent Talents Discovering and Employing (LTDEZ) in collaboration with the Department of World Religions and Culture, Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Alam, M. J. April 2024	Religion, Peace and Understanding. Special Lecture , Organized by the Department of Daesoon Studies, Daejin University, Republic of Korea
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Alam, M. J. November 2023	The Interfaith Peace Conference, 2023 convened in solidarity with the challenges and hardships faced by the people of Gaza and the occupied territories of Palestine. Guest Speaker , Organized by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Alam, M. J.
October 2023

The Role of Educators in Shaping the Future of the Nation. **Guest Speaker**, Hosted by Banglar Bir Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
November 2023

Religion and Morality: Are they Mutually Compatible? **Guest Speaker**, Hosted by the National Baha'i Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
February 2023

সামাজিক সম্প্রীতি সংলাপ--সামাজিক সম্প্রীতি: বাস্তবতা ও করণীয় প্রসঙ্গে. **Panel Discussant**, Organized by Youth Ending Hunger, The Hunger Project Bangladesh in collaboration with Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
June 2023

How to Write an Abstract? **Speaker**, Organized by World Religions and Culture English Club and Darul Irfan Research Institute (DIRI), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
March 2022

The Role of Baha'i Faith in Promoting Interfaith Harmony in the World. **Guest Speaker**, Organized by National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Bangladesh in collaboration with the Department of World Religions and Culture and the Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
September 2022

বিবেকানন্দ ও পরমতসহিষ্ণুতা: প্রেক্ষাপট বাংলাদেশ. **Guest Speaker**, Habiganj, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
October 2019

Creating Awareness of Religious Harmony among the Children towards Promoting the Values of Peace and Tolerance. **Speaker**, Organized by the Center for Men and Masculinities Studies (CMMS), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Alam, M. J.
February 2019

Understanding the Importance of Interreligious Dialogue: Exploring Its Altruistic Impacts in Life, **Guest Speaker**, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<p>Alam, M. J. October 2018</p>	<p>Educate the Educators on Interreligious Dialogue and its Implications. Special Lecture, Organized by the Rural Development Academy, Bogura, Bangladesh</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. October 2017</p>	<p>Understanding Unity in Diversity: Baha'i Perspective. Guest Speaker, organized by the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) Bangladesh Chapter and the Local Spiritual Assemblies of the Baha'is of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. January 2017</p>	<p>Baha'i Faith and Interreligious Harmony. Guest Speaker, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. February 2017</p>	<p>History of the Baha'i Faith and Spiritual Solutions of the Economic Problem. Special Lecture, Organized by the National Baha'i Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh</p>

<p>Alam, M. J. September 2016</p>	<p>Alliance between Religion and Science toward the Creation of a Better World, Public Lecture, Organized by the MarThoma Thiruvalla College of MG University, Kerala, India</p>
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<p>Alam, M. J. September 2016</p>	<p>Mystic Love in Literature and Religion: A Comparative Analysis. Special Lecture, Organized by the Department of English, MarThoma Thiruvalla College of Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. Sep-Oct 2016</p>	<p>Interfaith Understanding and Its Future: Bangladesh Perspective. Speaker, Organized by the URI Chapter, Sri Lanka, Badulla, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. August 2014</p>	<p>Religious Freedom and Diversity: Bangladesh Perspective. Speaker, Organized by the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), Birmingham, England</p>
<p>Alam, M. J. July 2013</p>	<p>Belief Systems of the South of Vietnam and Their Future. Guest Speaker, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam</p>

Alam, M. J.
August 2009

The Role of Young Leaders in Achieving UN MDGs. **Moderator**, Organized by the Unification Movement, Bangkok, Thailand

Alam, M. J.
February 2008

Moral Values in Religion. **Special Lecture**, Organized by the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR, CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

2023-2024 Session Under Supervision	Arefin Hai Sourav, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: Concept of Interfaith harmony in Baha'i Faith and Caodaism: A Comparative Study
2020-2021 Session Under supervision	Tania Islam, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: The Role of Interfaith Education in Primary Schools towards Promoting Children's Awareness of Harmony: Perspective Dhaka City
2019-2020 Session Under Supervision	Mahmuda Islam, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: Physical and Psychological Violence against Women in Bangladesh: Violation of Human Rights and Religious Ethics
2023 (Awarded)	Md. Mohshin Reza, Department of World religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: Human Rights and Religious Freedom in South Asia
2022 (Awarded)	Injamam Mahbub Mojumder, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: The Concept of Interreligious Harmony in Sikhism and Caodaism: A Comparative Study
2021(Awarded)	MD. Ashikul Islam, Department of World Religions and Culture, University of Dhaka Title: Religious Syncretism in Eastern and Far Eastern Countries

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Alam, M.J. (2024, June). *Daesoon Jinrihoe: Exploring Its Connections with Other Religions* at JDTRAE Conference (Virtual): New Developments in Daesoon Thought & the Religions of East Asia Today, Daejin University, Pocheon, South Korea.
- Alam, M.J. (2023, September). *Exploring the Role of Sufis in the Formation of Muslim Society in East Bengal* at the International Conference on Sociology of Sufism, Perfected Humanity and Divine Quest for Social Harmony. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Alam, M.J. (2023, July). *Sikh and Cao Dai Understanding of Interfaith Harmony on the Global Stage* at JDTRAE Conference (Virtual): Daesoon Thought & the Religions of East Asia on the Global Stage, Daejin University, Pocheon, South Korea.
- Alam, M. J. (2023, June). *Caodaism: An outstanding example of religious syncretism* at a Seminar organized by the Dev Centre for Philosophical Studies, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Alam, M. J. (2021, March). *A Socio-historical Overview of the Syncretic Origin of Caodaism* at the Seminar on The Study of Religion and Culture in Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Alam, M.J. (2021, February). *Understanding Peace, Harmony and Human Fraternity: Islamic Perspective* at International Webinar on Inter-religious Dialogue for Peace and Harmony Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Alam, M. J.(2019, September). *A Critical Analysis in Quest of the Relationship between Caodaism and New Religious Movements: Comparison and Appraisal* at the 2019 Cesnur Conference Turin, Italy.
- Alam, M. J.(2019, August). *Understanding Guru Nanak's View of Man's Mutual Worth and Responsibility: the Basic Need for Maintaining Peace and Harmony* at the Seminar on Guru Nanak's Philosophy of Harmony and its Relevance to the Present World, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Alam, M. J.(2019, April).Understanding Holy Books and Literatures: Cao Dai Perspective at the 8th Holy Books and World Literature Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Alam, M. J.(2018, June). *Western and Asian Acculturation in Vietnam and the Rise of Cao Dai Movement* at the CESNUR International Conference, Nantou City, Taiwan.
- Alam, M. J.(2018, March). *Humanistic Approach of Sikhism: A Critical Overview* at the Seminar on Religion for Peace and Understanding: Sikh-Bahai-Cao Dai Perspectives, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Alam, M. J. (2017, April). *In Search of the original Cosmic Design: Cao Dai Perspective* at the Seventh International Holy Books Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.

MEMBERSHIPS

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB)

United Religions Initiative(URI), Bangladesh Chapter

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), Bangladesh Chapter

Bangladesh Youth Association for Religion and Peace

RESEARCH SKILLS

Methods: Thematic analysis, Textual analysis, Discourse analysis, In- depth and key-informant interviews, Participant observation, and Focus Group Discussion

LANGUAGES

Native (Bengali)

Good Command of English

Moderate Proficiency in Vietnamese (speaking, reading and writing and listening)

Reading and Writing Knowledge of Arabic

COUNTRIES VISITED

India, Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, England, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei, Italy, Vatican City, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Qatar, South Korea, China...

REFERENCE

Professor Kazi Nurul Islam, PhD

Founding Chairman, Department of World Religions and Culture and Founding Director of the Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, University of Dhaka

He is currently serving the department as an Honorary Professor.

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Joe Hobbs, PhD

Director, Vietnam Institute

Professor, Department of Geography

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