



P.K. Yasser Arafath is a historian of medieval and early modern India. His research primarily focuses on Kerala, and the areas of his interests include its intellectual traditions, *Arabi- Malayalam* literature, history of violence, Indian Ocean communities and the cultural history of the body and hygiene. He is also interested in the history of science, technology and gastro- politics. His research papers and essays are published in edited volumes and peer reviewed journals that include *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, *Economic & Political Weekly*, *Social Scientist*, *The Medieval History Journal*, and *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*. He regularly writes for news-papers and popular magazines and his articles are published in *The Hindu*, *The Indian Express*, *The Telegraph*, *Deccan Chronicle*, *The Asian Age*, *The Wire*, *Madhyamam*, *Deshabhimani* and *Mathrubhumi*.

Routledge has published his first book (co-edited with Haris Qadeer, London and New York, 2021), entitled *Sultana's Sisters: Genres, Gender, and Genealogy in South Asian Muslim Women's Fiction*. Currently, he is in the process of completing a monograph on Indian Ocean texts entitled *Malabarnama: Intimate Texts, Ulema, and the Lyrical Resistance in the Age of Disorder (1500- 1875)*. He received a number of research fellowships including those awarded by the *Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR)* and the *Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)*. In 2017, he was at the Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, as the Dr. L.M. Singhvi Visiting Fellow.

Education:

PhD in History, 2012, University of Hyderabad, India

M.Phil in History , 2004, University of Hyderabad, India

Masters in History, 2002, University of Hyderabad, India

Awards and Honours:

2020-2021: Research Grant, Institute of Eminence, University of Delhi

2017: Dr. L.M. Singhvi Visiting Fellowship, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge.

2015-2016: University Research Grant, University of Delhi.

2012-2013: University Research Grant, University of Delhi.

2008-2009: ‘Outstanding Person in the Field of Culture’, Junior Research Scholarship, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, India.

2007-2008: Moulana Azad Library Fellowship, Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR) Government of India, India.

2004-2006: Research Fellow, Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), India.

Book and Special Issues:

Sultana’s Sisters: Genres, Gender, and Genealogy in South Asian Muslim Women’s Fiction, co-edited with Haris Qadeer, Routledge: London and New York, 2021.

Research Papers (Forthcoming):

- ‘Gay Sultans’ in Intimate Empire: Khalji Homosexuality, Gastro-Politics and Penal Order in the Age of Hate’.
- ‘Sexual Piety and Body Boundaries in the Oceanic Texts: Locating Shafiite Malabar in the ‘Age of Disorder’(1550-1800).

Research Papers (Under Review):

- ‘Witnessing Dalits: Caste, Ulema, and the Lyrical Illumination in Early Modern South Asia (1500-1650).’
- ‘Dancing Bride’ and ‘Feasting Mother- in- Law’: Performative Print and Return of the Fasad in Colonial Malabar (1800-1900).’
- ‘Transcending Breasts: Milk kinship, Identities and Communal living in Malabar (1800-1950)’.

Published Research Papers (Peer Review Journals and Edited Books):

1. 2021. 'Monsoon Malabar: Religion, Language, Memory and Materiality', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Review Article, Vol. (4), pp.31-37.
2. 2021. 'Southern Hindutva: Rhetoric, Parivar Kinship and Performative Politics in Kerala, 1925–2015', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. (2), pp. 51-60.
3. 2020. 'Polyglossic Malabar: Arabi-Malayalam and the Muhiyuddinmala in the Age of Transition (c.1600s-1750s)', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 517-539.
4. 2020. 'Arabi-Malayalam Texts: Vernacular Treasures at the British Library', *Ishal Paithrkam Journal* (Bilingual), Vaidyar Academy, Department of Cultural Affairs, Kerala, Vol. 2 (1), pp.36-42.
5. 2020. "Cassetted Emotions: Intimate Songs and Marital Conflicts in the Age of Pravasi (1970-1990)", in Rita Banerjee (ed.), *Writing India: Cultural Histories, Peripheral Genres, and Alternative Historiographies*, Routledge, London, 2020.
6. 2018. 'Malabar Ulema in the *Shafiite* Cosmopolis: *Fitna*, Piety and Resistance in the *Age of Fasad*', *The Medieval History Journal*, 2018, 21(1), Sage.
7. 2017. 'Literarization and trans-Islamism: Life and After-life of Sayyed Sanauulla Makthi in Narendar Pani, Anshuman Behera (eds.)' *Reasoning in Politics: From Political Philosophers to Politician Seeking Philosophy*', Routledge, London.
8. 2016. 'The Nadapuram Enigma: A History of Violence and Communalism in North Malabar, Kerala', Special Article, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 51(15), India.
9. 2015. 'Saints, Goddesses and Serpents: Fertility Culture on Malabar Coast (Circa 1500-1800)', in Anna Elizabeth Winterbottom (ed), *Histories of Medicine in the Indian Ocean World*, Vol.1, Palgrave, New York.
10. 2014. 'Calendar of Persian Correspondence: Being Letters, referring mainly to Affairs in Bengal, which passed between some of the Company's Servants and Indian Rulers and Notables, vol. 1-V, 1759-1780', Review Article, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 51:4. Sage .
11. 2014. 'Should Muslims Fear the Kiss? Body as Resistance in the Time of Hindutva,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.49, Dec, 06.

12. 2013. 'Malabar Muslims: History, Hangover and Silences', *Social Scientist*, Vol-41, 3/4.India.
13. 2008. 'Trajectory of Extinction; Forgotten Spirit of Arabic –Malayalam', in Ishwarappa Kasi and Ramesh Mallick (eds.) *Theory and Practice of Ethnography: Reading From the Periphery*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, India.
14. 2007. 'Understanding Cultural Interaction: Situating Social life of Pre-colonial Malabar', Rattanlal Hangloo and A. Murali(eds.) *New Themes in Indian History, Art, Politics, Gender, Environment and Culture*)Sundeep Prakashan, New Delhi.

Research Papers (Malayalam Journals and Edited Books, Translated titles are given):

1. 2021. 'The Wagon Massacre: Mappila Trains and Benthamian Prisons in British Malabar', in *1921-2021: One Hundred Years of Kerala Muslims*, (eds.) M.G.S. Narayanan, A.P.Kunjamu and K.E.N. Kunahammed, Vachanam Books, Calicut (Forthcoming).
2. 2018. October, 'The Great Flood: An Eco Critical Study of Arabi-Malayalam Literature' in *Mathrubhumi Weekly* 3(6), republished in Shabu Kilithattil (ed), *Rain, Land and Human: The Book of Survival*, Kairali Books, Calicut, 2018.
3. 2018. August, 'Malayalam, Malabari, Arabi: Malayalam: The Weak Counter-Models', in *Madhyamam Weekly*. 3 (4).
4. 2018. October, 'Malayalam, Malabari, Arabi-Malayalam: Recurring Stubbornness', in *Madhyamam Weekly*, 3(16).
5. 2017. 'Salafi Modernity and Neo-Salafism,' in Asif Ali VK (ed), *Salafism in Kerala: Critical Studies*, Open Read, Calicut.
6. 2015. December, 'Women Islam, Men Islam', *Mathrubhumi Weekly*, 92/40.
7. 2015. 'Muhiyuddin Mala' as a Resistance Text, in Jamal Ahmad (ed.), *Muslim Heritage*, Islamic Publishing House, Calicut.
8. 2015. 'Muslims and Their Understanding of the 'Kiss'. R.Unni (ed), *There are Two Kinds of People: Kissing Ones and Non-Kissing Ones*, DC Books, Calicut.
9. 2014. 'Muhiyuddin Mala: History, Politics, and Resistance', *Bodhanam Quarterly Journal*, Vol-15.10, Calicut.
10. 2012. 'History of Communal Violence and Shootouts in India', in K.Ashraf (ed), *Bheemapalli: Silences and Remembrance*, Calicut.

Select List of Invited Talks, Public Lectures, and Paper Presentations:

1. 25 May. 2021: 'The Earth Was Always *Round* and the Ocean was Dark: Science, Islam, and Some De-colonial Thoughts from British Malabar', *Kerala Council for Historical Research*, Online Lecture Series.
2. 8 Sept. 2020: 'Caste, Religion and the Future of Education', National Educational Seminar on NEP, 2020, Prism National Foundation, Calicut. 8 Sept.
3. 4 Sept. 2020: 'The Asphyxial Empire: Cattle Trucks, Penal Spectacles, and the Prisoners' Body in Colonial Malabar', Base Lecture Series 43, Kolkata.
4. 5 August. 2020: 'The Burden of Education', Distinguished Speakers Series, E-Leaders Conclave, Minority Welfare Directorate, Government of Kerala.
5. 11 July. 2020: 'The Holocaust Train, 1921: The Spit, Blood, Sweat and Human Nothing in Colonial Malabar', The Dialectics Research Forum Lecture Series-1, Kalady University.
6. 3 May. 2020: 'Covid-19: Lessons of the Kerala Model in Comparative Framework, Covid-19: Crisis and Resurrections: Reflections, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi.
7. 27 Jan. 2020. 'Malabar in West Asia: Spousal Emotions, Marital Space and Technology in the Age of Pravasi (1950-1990)', Two Day International Seminar on India's Emerging Relations with West Asian Countries: A Global Perspective, Jamia Millia Islamia, (Invited Talk).
8. 6 Jan. 2020: 'Dancing Prayers: Performative Print, Gendered Piety and Return of *Fasad* in Colonial Malabar', International Arabi-Malayalam Conference, Farook College, Calicut.
9. 2019: 'Exploring Sovereignty and Charisma: Engagements, Contestations and Fabulations from the Global South', Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, 16-18 December, (Invited Panel Discussion).
10. 2019: 'Mappila Model of Mobility: An Inspirational Paradigm for South Asian Muslims?' Conference on *State and Politics in Muslim Societies*, India Islamic Cultural Center, New Delhi, Nov 27, 2019 (Invited Talk).
11. 2019: 'Casseted Emotions: Intimate Letters and Marital Space in the Age of Pravasi (1970-1990, They Built for Eternity, The Workers Arts and Heritage Centre (WAHC) and SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre), Richmond, Toronto, Sept 14 (Invited Talk).

12. 2019: 'Islamic Philanthropy, Food Charity and Sartorial Imaginations: What is Muslim in the Muslim Middle Class?' International Workshop Globalisation and The Muslim Middle Class in India, March 26, Centre of Political Studies, JNU, India (Invited Talk).
13. 2019: 'The language of Intellectuals in the Indian Ocean: Warriors, Sufis, and the Early *Firangis* (1500-1700)', March 12, School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India (Invited Public Lecture).
14. 2019: 'Disciplining Intimacy in the Indian Ocean: Moral Manuals in the Age of Fasad (C.1500-1600)', National Seminar at Aligarh on 'Conflict and Cooperation in Medieval India', 29 January, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, India (Paper Presented).
15. 2018. 'The Ocean between Empires: Body, Sexuality, and Language in Early Modern Calicut', 5th Professor K V Krishna Ayyar Endowment Lecture, Calicut, 23 Nov.
16. 2018. 'Grandma in *Dhoti*: Love, Pain and 'Return' of the early Mappila Settlers in Malabar', 8 March, 'Imaginary Homelands', International Conference of the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi.
17. 2018. 'Witnessing Dalits: Caste, Ulema, and the Lyrical Illumination in Malabar', International Dalit Studies Conference, CSDS, New Delhi, 22-24 January.
18. 2017. 'The Age of Fasad: Jihad, Piety and Liturgical Islam in the Indian Ocean (1500-1750)', South Asia Programme, University of Oxford, 10 Oct (Invited Public Lecture).
19. 2017. 'Unknowable God and Knowable Women: Gender of Piety in the Mala Poetics of Malabar', Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, 9 Oct (Invited Public Lecture).
20. 2017. 'Indian Ocean Texts and Sexuality: Sexual Piety and Body Boundaries in the Shafiite Cosmopolis (1575-1781)', Conference on Crossing Boundaries, 27-28 Feb, University of Delhi.
21. 2017. Sufis in the Ocean: Quazi Muhammad and Textual Alternatives in the 'Age of Fasad', Modes, Motives, Motifs, and Conditions in Intra-Asian Travel, Department of English, University of Delhi, 20-21, March.

22. 2015. 'History and Identity: Situating the 'Discipline' in Contemporary Kerala, Government Graduate College, Mokeri, July, University of Calicut, Kerala, India.
23. 2015. 'Recovering the Past: Challenges to Socio-Cultural and Religious Process', Developing Countries Research Centre, April, University of Delhi, India.
24. 2013. August. 'Islamic Counter Poetic literatures: History, Politics and Resistance', University of Hyderabad, India.
25. 2009. January. 'Syncretism, Representation and Resentment: Reflections on 'Self' and 'Other' in Medieval Arabic Texts', at the Ninth CLAI Biennial International Conference, English and Foreign Languages University, Telingana, India.
26. 2007. July. 'Trajectory of Extinction; Forgotten Spirit of *Arabi -Malayalam* at Three Day International Conference on 'Ethnographic Discourse of the Other', University of Hyderabad, India.
27. 2004. November. 'Medicine and Hygiene in Medieval Kerala; A new Perspective', Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore, India.

Select list of Articles Published in Popular Journals and Newspapers

(English):

- 2020. 'History Repeats itself in Kerala', *The Telegraph*, 12 Oct, Edit Page Article.
- 2020. 'The text that saw the future', *The Telegraph*, 29 June, Edit Page Article.
- 2019, 'Pincer Movement: Kerala's Left has a new Achilles Heel, *The Telegraph*, Edit Page Article, 22 Nov.
- 2019. 'Being Patriots in time of nationalism: Procrustean nationalism and its discontents', 14.July, *Deccan Chronicle*, Edit Page Article.
- 2019, 'Procrustean Nationalism and its Discontents', op-ed article, *The Asian Age*, 14 July.
- 2019. 'Muslims in the Post-truth World are Caught between Extremes', *Deccan Chronicle*, op-ed article, republished by 'The Asian Age' 6 Jan, 2019.
- 2017. 'Onam, Mahabali and the Narrow Imaginations of the Right', *The Wire*, 4 Sep.
- 2016. 'Teaching to Hate', *The Indian Express*, op-ed article, 19 July.
- 2015. 'Kerala: Cultural Sanitation and the Making of a 'Hatesphere'', *Mainstream Weekly*, Vol.23(50), New Delhi, ISSN : 0542-1462.

- 2015. 'Rewriting History', *Teelka*, 07, Nov, New Delhi. ISBN 978-93-5150-158-9

Select list of Articles (Malayalam, Translated titles are given):

- 2019: 'Beyond the Sight of Political Murders', *Madhyamam*, editorial page article, 23 Feb.
- 2017. 'Puthur Amina: The first Islamic Feminist in Kerala', 5 August, (<https://www.asianetnews.com/magazine/dr-yasser-arafath-on-puthoor-amina-first-islamic-feminist-in-kerala>)
- 2015. 'Women Islam, Men Islam', *Mathrubhumi Weekly*, Vol.92/40, December, Kerala.
- 2015. 'Trajectories of Banishing', *Sunday Suprabhaatham Weekly*, 29 November, Kerala.
- 2015. 'As Ambedkar Gets Dispossessed,' *Sunday Suprabhaatham Weekly*, 6 December, Kerala.
- 2014. 'India: As an Idea and Ideology], in *Pachakutira Monthly*, Vol-10/6, DC Books, Calicut.
- 2013. 'Dilemmas in Malabar Muslim Reformism' *Prabhodhanam Weekly*, 25 October, Vol. 70/20.
- 2013. 'Delhi, The Rape Capital' *Madhyamam Weekly*, 794/2.
- 2012. 'Politics of Rumors' editorial page article, *Madhyamam*, 28 October.
- 2012. 'Neo-Harry Callahans in the State of Hyper-Vigilantism', editorial page article, *Madhyamam*, 10 February.
- 2011. 'Anna Hazare; Image and Realities', editorial page article, *Madhyamam*, 20 August.

Select Articles in Blogs and Websites

- 2020: 'Mahatma Ayyankali and the bullock cart he rode to challenge caste oppression in 19th-century Kerala', *Scroll.in*, 5 Sep <https://scroll.in/article/972157/mahatma-ayyankali-and-the-bullock-cart-he-rode-to-challenge-caste-oppression-in-19th-century-kerala>
- 2020: 'Juice, Muslims and Nadapuram', *doolnews*, 22 Aug <https://www.doolnews.com/author/dr-p-k-yasser-arafath>
- 2017: 'Onam, Mahabali and the Narrow Imaginations of the Right', *The Wire*, 4 Sep. <https://thewire.in/politics/onam-mahabali-hindutva-right>

- 2016: ‘Why violence is the main political narrative of Kannur’, Conversation with Nidheesh M.K, *livemint*, 18 Oct <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/qVjfh2viqxYPg8Cz9pNyCK/Why-violence-is-the-main-political-narrative-of-Kannur.html>
- 2014: ‘Should Muslims Fear the Kiss’, *Dool News* News20 Dec, <https://www.doolnews.com/yasser-arafath-says-on-kiss-of-love-and-islam-iideology-567.html>
- 2015: ‘Those Who Celebrate the Big Daddy: Why Should One be Apologetic about the Kiss of Love Protests’, *Dool News*, 19 Nov, <https://www.doolnews.com/yasar-arafath-pk-on-rahul-pashupalans-controversy258.html>
- 2013: ‘The Malayali House and The Caste’, *utharakalam*, 20 Dec <http://utharakalam.com/?p=8920>

Talks and Conversations on Websites and Blogs

- 2018: ‘Malabar Cuisine: Historical and Literary Perspectives’, *Sahapedia*, 2 Aug, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vaQA1InUIY>
- 2020: ‘The Asphyxial Empire: Cattle Trucks, Penal Spectacles, and the Prisoners’ Body in Colonial Malabar’, *Base Bengal*, 6 Sep, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFCrW_oF1R4
- 2019: Cassetted Emotions | Intimate Letters and Marital Space in the The Age of Pravasi (1970-1990), 31 Oct, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FJdws_o-sU

Research Outreach and Television Talks:

- 2019. ‘Kerala’s Nadapuram: Where Muslim Babies were Breastfed by Hindu Women and Vice Versa,’ 14 Sept, *The New Indian Express* <https://www.newindianexpress.com/good-news/2019/sep/14/keralas-nadapuram-where-muslim-babies-were-breastfed-by-hindu-women-and-vice-versa-2033270.html>
- 2019. ‘Against Communalism: DU Prof. Writes on Breast Milk Bond between Hindu-Muslims in Kerala,’ 16 Sept. *The News Minute* <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/against-communalism-du-prof-writes-breastmilk-bond-between-hindu-muslims-kerala-108987>

- 2018. ‘Researcher Finds Evidence for Novel writings in Arabi-Malayalam before the *Indulekha* and the *Gatkavadham*’, 18 July, *Varthajalakam*, <http://varthajalakam.com/azeez-tharuvana-about-arabic-malayalam-novel>
- 2018. ‘In Kerala, the first Novel was Written in Arab-Malayalam’, *Suprabhatham*, 16 July.
- 2018. ‘Malabar Cuisine: Historical and Literary Perspectives, *sahapedia/youtube*, 2 August, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX1FNMkhMPQ>
- 2015. ‘Dietary Practices in Medieval India and Indian Politics Today’, Media One TV, 15 October.
- 2011 ‘Ramayana; History and Literature’, Amritha TV, 12 September.

Professional and Service Activities (Select List):

- 2019-2020: Coordinator, MPhil, Course-3, Department of History, University of Delhi, India
- 2018-2019: Coordinator, MPhil, Course-3, Department of History, University of Delhi, India
- Mamb
- 2018-2019: Member, Department Research Committee (DRC), History, University of Delhi.
- 2018-2019: Member, Committee of Course and Studies for BA (Honours), Post Graduates and Research Studies. University of Delhi.
- 2016-2017: Coordinator, Research Scholars Conference, 2016, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- 2015-2016: Coordinator, Research Scholars Conference, 2016, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- 2013-2014: Member, Board of Under-Graduate Studies, University Calicut, Kerala, India.
- 2013-2014: Member, Advisory Committee for Kerala Heritage Conference, Calicut, Kerala, India.
- 2013-2014: Member, Department of History Anti-ragging Committee, University of Delhi.

- 2011-2012: Member, Department Library Auditing Committee, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- 2010-2011: Member, Board of Research Studies (BRS) Social Sciences, University of Delhi.

Reviewer/Examiner:

Economic & Political Weekly (EPW).

Asian Ethnicity

World History Bulletin

Kerala Council for Historical Research

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

PhD Dissertation Supervision

Anukta Gairola, ‘Understanding Garhwal through Literary Texts of Mola Ram (18th and 19th Centuries).

Anu Balachandran, ‘Hortatory Texts and Making of Moral Community: A Study of Kerala (1650-1800)’, University of Delhi.

Riyaz Yamish, ‘Hajj in Malabar: Poetics of Hajj Narrative and Transformation of a ritual Narration of Culture’, IIT Delhi (Co-supervision with Divya Dwivedi, IIT Delhi).

M.Phil Dissertation Supervision:

Abhishek Kumar, ‘Seven Tongues and Counting: Hindavi Texts of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan’, (Current M.Phil Scholar).

Samran Ahmad, ‘Politics of Sacred Space: A case study of Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin (1913-1947)’, (Submitted), 2019

Nanditha Goswamee, ‘Qalandars of Kakori in the 18th Century’, (Submitted), 2019.

Sunaina Gogoi, ‘Satra institute and social life: a case study of the Mayamaria Satra in Medieval Assam’, (awarded), 2017.

Member of Research Advisory Committees:

Abdurahminan KC, ‘Gendering Community Identities: Making of the Contemporary Mappila Man: 1970 to the Present’, Ambedkar University Delhi, PhD, Submitted September, 2018.

Ronnie Chatterjee, M.Phil, Department of History, University of Delhi

Aakash Avasti, M.Phil, Department of History, University of Delhi.

Research Teaching:

M.Phil. Course-3 ‘Discussions’, 2011-2020.

M.Phil. Course-2 ‘Readings’, 2014-2018.

M.Phil. Course-1, ‘Vernacular Histories’, 2012-2014

Post Graduation Teaching:

2019 onward: ‘History of Science, Technology, Body, and Dietary Practices in pre- Colonial India, 1500-1700’.

2019 onward: ‘Science, Religion and Techno-communities in Medieval Asia, 1500-1700’.

2009 onward: ‘History of the Marathas, AD 1636-1761’.

2010-2012: ‘Medieval Societies in Central Asia and Arabia (700-1400)’.

2014-2018: ‘Science and Technology in Medieval Asia (1400-1800)’.

2015-2018: ‘Science and Technology in Pre-Colonial India (1500-1800)’.