

Short CV

Nazrul Islam (born January 3, 1948) is the current Director of Research and Knowledge Management at the Institute of Microfinance, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to that, he completed a six-year term as the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Head, Department of Social Science and Humanities at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). He also served as a Professor and Chairman, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka, where he began his teaching career in 1974 as a Lecturer, became a Professor in 1991 and chaired the Department from 1994 to 1997. He has also taught at the National University (Bangladesh) graduate programme and at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology as a Guest Lecturer and at Syracuse University (USA) and McMaster University (Canada) as a Graduate Assistant and at other graduate level programmes outside the universities, like at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Besides, he was a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Syracuse University in 1996.

Islam received his Ph.D. degree in sociology in 1982 from Syracuse University in the USA and studied for a year as a graduate student at the McMaster University in Canada before moving to Syracuse. Earlier, he graduated in sociology from the University of Dhaka with B.A. (Honours) and M.A. degrees in 1972 and 1974 respectively (batch of 1971 and 1972) standing First in the First Class on both occasions, and was the first person to achieve that distinction in sociology from the University of Dhaka. His areas of specialization include Sociological Theory (Classical), Development Theory, Research Methodology (Quantitative), Social Inequality (Class), Poverty, Sociology of Knowledge, Globalization, Development Studies, American Studies and he has enjoyed teaching Introductory Sociology to the young entrants all through his teaching career.

Islam is the Founder and Editor of the peer reviewed international electronic journal, the *Bangladesh e-Journal of Sociology*, now in its 11th year and recognized by the International Sociological Association as one of the “core” journals of the discipline. He was also the past editor of the *Bangladesh Journal for American Studies* and holds editorial responsibilities in a number of other journals. Personally he has published extensively, including 6 books, the latest being the *Sociological Perspectives on Poverty* (2010) and over 35 researched articles mostly in peer reviewed journals. Another book, “Intellectuals at Large” is nearing completion. Islam has recently ventured into the realm of creative writing, has published a couple of short stories and just completed writing a novel (waiting publication) and is working on a collection of short stories; all in the genera of science fiction.

In his long teaching career Islam has guided numerous students’ research monographs, many Master’s and some Ph.D. theses. He organized and participated in nearly fifty national and international seminars and conferences; the last major one he organized and chaired was a five-

day international conference in Dhaka in 2011 on social development with about 150 international delegates. He was the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Sociological Association and the past Treasurer, General Secretary and the President (in that order) of the Bangladesh Association for American Studies. He is the current President of the Bangladesh Sociological Society and the General Secretary of the South Asian Sociological Society.

Besides his personal growth and development, Islam also contributed very actively in the curricular development of a number of public and private universities such as the National University (Bangladesh), Shahjalal University of Science and Technology along with the University of Dhaka and Independent University, Bangladesh, particularly in the growth and development of sociology in Bangladesh.

He has also been active all through his career with the extracurricular activities of the student bodies, leading field trips and participating in their sports and cultural programmes. He played basketball and tennis regularly and recites poetry.

Thus, Nazrul Islam represents nearly 40 years of very involving teaching, research and administrative career both in the public and private sector universities.