

# SHAHNAZ SAVANI

## EDUCATION

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- 2014 Doctoral student of Social Work, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston  
2008 **MSW**, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston.  
1993 **M.A.**, Religious Education, Institute of Education, University of London England.  
1992 **M.A.**, Islamic Societies and Cultures, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, England  
1991 **Certificate in Islamic and Ismaili Studies**, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, England  
1988 **B.A.**, Ancient Indian Culture, St. Xavier's College, Bombay University, India.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Suicide Prevention and Intervention in Central Asia  
Islamophobia and Social Work Education and Practice

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| <b>8/2016-present</b>  | <b>Lecturer of Social Work</b><br>University of Houston-Downtown  |
| <b>08/2012-08/2016</b> | <b>Adjunct Professor</b><br>University of Houston-Downtown  |
| <b>08/2012-08/2013</b> | <b>Adjunct Professor</b><br>Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston                        |
| <b>08/2014-08/2016</b> | <b>Director of Social Services</b><br>Grace care Nursing and rehabilitation center                        |
| <b>06/2000-06/2014</b> | <b>Professional Service Provider</b><br>Aga Khan Council for the United States of America, Sugar Land, TX |
| <b>06/1997-06/2000</b> | <b>Adult Protective Services Worker</b><br>Woodgreen Community Center, Toronto, Canada                    |
| <b>05/1997-08/1997</b> | <b>Employment Counsellor</b><br>St. Christopher House, Toronto, Canada                                    |

## COURSES TAUGHT

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Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare  
Human Behavior and the Social Environment 2  
Urban Practice I  
Issues in Field Practicum I & II  
Contextualized Strength based Practice  
Assessment in Social Work Practice  
Understanding Suicide

## PUBLICATIONS

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Savani, S. (2015) Reframing pastoral counseling: Towards developing a model of pastoral care within Muslim communities In Maynard, E. and Snodgrass J. (Ed.) *Understanding Pastoral Counseling*. Springer Publishing Company.

Savani, S. & Gearing, R. (2018, under review) Suicide in Central Asia: Prevalence, Risk and Protective factors. *Archives of Suicide Research*, Routledge.

## PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

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Savani, S. (2017) The Role of Social Work in the Age of Islamophobia. Presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual NASW/Texas Conference, Galveston Island, Texas.

Savani, S. (2017) The Role of Social Work Education in the Age of Islamophobia. Presented at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Dallas, Texas.

Savani, S., & Gearing, R. E. (January 2018). Suicide in Central Asia: Prevalence Rates, Risk and Protective Factors, and Interventions. Society for Social Work and Research 22nd Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Savani, S., & Gearing, R. E. (April 2018). *Investigating Suicide in Central Asia: Examining Cultural Risk and Protective Factors, and Adapting Interventions*. The American Association of Suicidology 51st Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Savani, S., & Lucas, V., (2018). Conversations and Skill Practice in an Online Suicide Prevention and Intervention Course. Social Work Distance Education 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Savani, S., & Gearing, R. E. (May 2018). *A Systematic Study of Prevalence, Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide in Central Asia: The Implicit Role of Culture*. The 2018 International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) Asia Pacific Annual Conference, Paihia, New Zealand.

## MEMBERSHIPS

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Council on Social Work Education

Society for Social Work and Research

International Academy for Suicide Research

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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2014 Honoree, Social Work Person of the Year Award, University of Houston-Downtown, Social Work Program,

2017 Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, Travel Fellowship, \$1000.

2018 Curricular Innovation Award, College of Public Service, University of Houston-Downtown, \$2500.

2018 Gulen Scholarship, Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston, \$1650.