

AZIZ FOUNDATION PANDEMIC WORK

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The following is a collection of some of the work currently being carried out by Aziz Foundation scholars in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

This has been categorised by:

- Key Workers – Medics and Teachers
- Medical Research
- Social and Policy Research
- Community / Relief Work
- Counselling

KEY WORKERS - MEDICS

HAAMED AL HASSAN - MRes Vision Sciences, Cardiff University

Since early March, I have been recalled from my research commitments back to the hospital front door as part of the drive to increase capacity and our ability to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak. I have been triaging, diagnosing and patients who have contracted the disease. In addition, I am reviewing our local hospital use of Antibiotics in Covid-19 cases in order to establish conclusions with regards to best practice. I'm based at University Hospital Wales, we've essentially hit the 2200 mark of confirmed positive Covid-19 cases. We are working at around 85% of total capacity currently with the Welsh Millennium Stadium having now also been converted to 200-odd beds.

SALMAN WAQAR - MSc Evidence Based Healthcare, University of Oxford

I'm a GP in East Berkshire. We have been seeing patients and doing telephone and video consults. I've also published a rapid review of the evidence on Ramadan and fasting with COVID-19 - <https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/is-it-safe-for-patients-with-covid-19-to-fast-in-ramadan/>. I also co-edited a rapid review of recommendations for Ramadan with 60 peers for the British Islamic Medical Association - <https://britishima.org/ramadan-rapid-review/> <https://twitter.com/salmanWaqar>

NICOLE PELTIER - MSc Diabetes Care MSc, University of Salford

As a diabetes inpatient nurse in NHS hospitals in West Yorkshire, my role is vital in helping patients, who are a vulnerable group in regards to the Covid 19 pandemic. I am continuing to work alongside nurses and Doctors to provide them with advice, helping to amend a patients treatment and offer those patients education, support and reassurance to stay safe and improve their diabetes control when admitted to hospital with coronavirus or other acute illness.

KEY WORKERS - TEACHERS

AFIA CHAUDHRY - MSc Learning and Teaching, University of Oxford

I am a key worker and currently teaching virtually and going into school on a reduced schedule. I've also written an article on Britain's response to the crisis, critiquing both the pace and advice given due to their impact on the working-class, disabled, and BAME communities.

<https://www.amaliah.com/post/58345/uk-governments-current-response-coronavirus-classist-ableist-elitist>

MEDICAL RESEARCH

SAHD SAJID - MSc Molecular Biology and Pathology of Viruses, Imperial College London
As an alternative to the lab work I would have been doing as part of my 6 month project, I have been tasked to research the human antibody response to the Coronavirus. Specifically, I will be looking at how we can use a particular therapeutic tool called a 'retroviral vector' in this context. A retrovirus is a special type of virus that has been used for decades in molecular biology research. Virologists can engineer these retroviruses to safely insert a gene or protein of interest for it to be expressed in target cells. The current approach towards vaccine development involves taking an essential component called the spike protein, which is found on the surface of the virus, and using it to induce a specific antibody response in people. The antibodies produced would (ideally) neutralise the virus and prevent it from entering the cells. The strengthened immune system would then destroy the virus without it harming the host. While this seems rather straightforward in principle, there are various complications and factors to consider. One aspect I am interested in is evaluating whether delivering numerous SARS-CoV-2 proteins into the patient (in addition to the spike protein alone) would be a more effective treatment.

AISHA ALI - MSc Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is collating and verifying datasets from around the world in collaboration with WHO for several projects in relation to the pandemic. With my degree interest in Public Health, I joined their Covid-19 volunteer group to help analyse the tremendous amount of information to get through.

SOCIAL & POLICY RESEARCH

FATIMA IFTIKHAR - MSc Social Policy and Social Research, University College London.

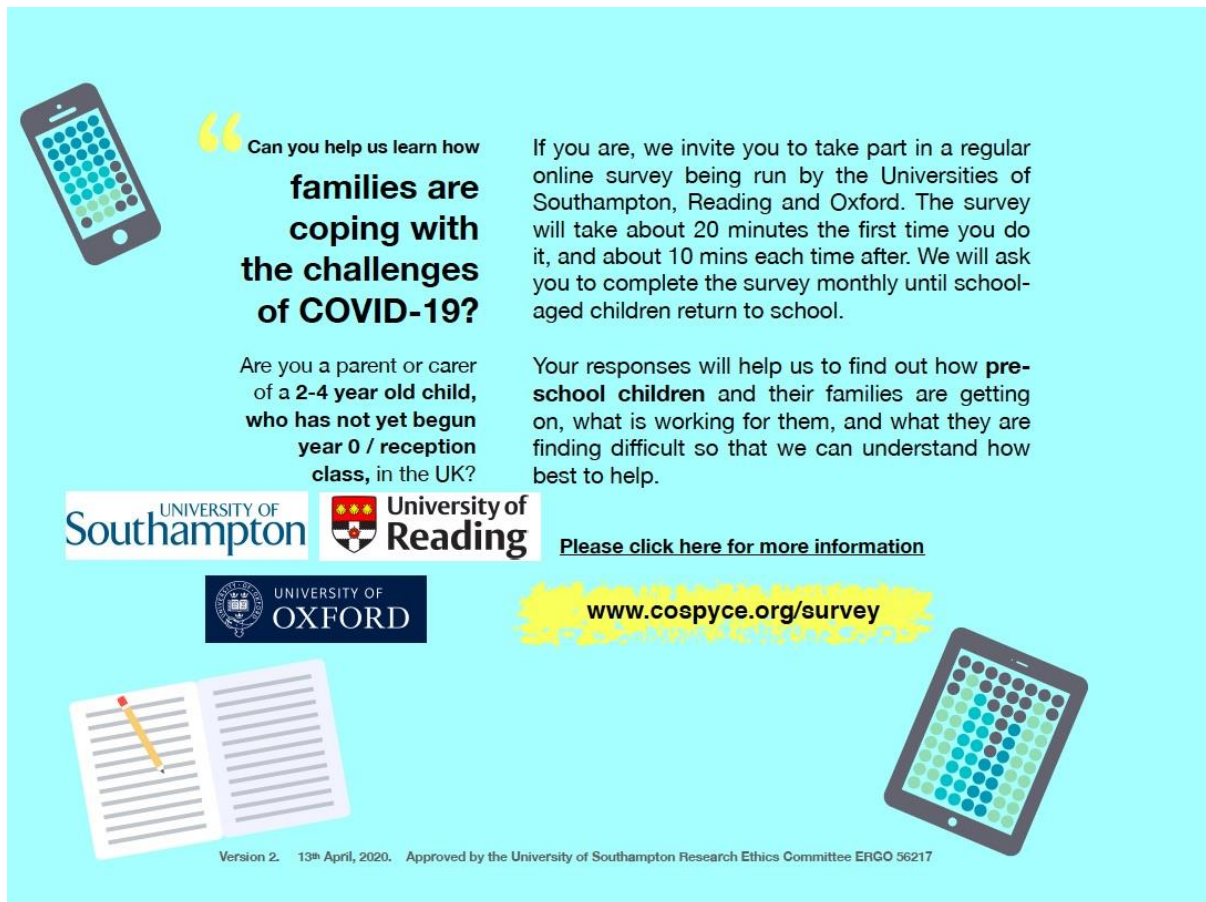
I am coordinating a live research paper for civil society on Racial Injustice in the COVID-19 response (<https://charitysowhite.org/covid19>) and campaigning for adequate funds for BAME-led organisations (<https://charitysowhite.org/press/open-letter-relief-packages-for-the-charitable-sector>).

ZEESHAN ALI - MSc Social Science of the Internet, University of Oxford

I am working with UAEM (Universities Allied for Essential Medicine), an international student-led advocacy group that seeks to improve access to and affordability of medicines around the world.

The project I'm assisting on seeks to examine clinical trials that are currently being undertaken with a view to treating Coronavirus. The aim is to develop a comprehensive database that provides information about the trials, notes whether the trial is being funded from public sources, and if the researchers are publishing results of the trials. From this database then the group can reach out to the appropriate collaborators and sponsors of the trials to advocate for socially responsible licensing of end-products. I am assisting in the production of the code to automate the database construction. Currently, the database required ~10 volunteers to help build. However, by automating parts of the methodology we can substantially reduce the number of volunteers required, decrease the occurrence of human error, and undertake analysis at a larger level.

MANAR LAMZINI - MSc Foundations of Clinical Psychology, University of Southampton
My dissertation is based on the Co-SPYCE (COVID-19: Supporting Parent and Young Children in Epidemics) study. This aims to examine pre-school children's mental health during the COVID-19 lockdown. Findings will be used to inform support for families to lessen the impact of the pandemic on mental health.



Can you help us learn how families are coping with the challenges of COVID-19?

Are you a parent or carer of a 2-4 year old child, who has not yet begun year 0 / reception class, in the UK?

If you are, we invite you to take part in a regular online survey being run by the Universities of Southampton, Reading and Oxford. The survey will take about 20 minutes the first time you do it, and about 10 mins each time after. We will ask you to complete the survey monthly until school-aged children return to school.

Your responses will help us to find out how **pre-school children** and their families are getting on, what is working for them, and what they are finding difficult so that we can understand how best to help.

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton **University of Reading** **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Please click here for more information

www.cospyce.org/survey

Version 2. 13th April, 2020. Approved by the University of Southampton Research Ethics Committee ERGO 56217

SUNEER FIDA - MSc Grantmaking, Philanthropy and Social Investment, City University
I am working with my team at the All Ways Network to identify and highlight Covid related funds available from Trusts & Foundations. We are signposting grassroots groups and charities that are serving Muslim community needs to the relevant pots. We have also secured the services of a grant bid writer who is helping the grassroots groups to apply for the emergency funding. She has been offering her services voluntarily and free of charge to them.

<https://www.allwaysnetwork.org.uk/funding-pots>

SAHRA MOHAMED – MSc Drug Discovery and Pharma Management, UCL

I am adapting and organising a two-day virtual workshop at the end of May to cover the evolving nature of the HIV epidemic across Europe, including the unfolding impact of COVID-19 regarding areas such as price transparency. The workshop is targeted towards employees working at the pharmaceutical company across Europe to specifically focus on enhancing their government affairs,

policy and advocacy skills. A key element of the workshop is to increase knowledge and understanding of how to influence policy to improve HIV health outcomes for people affected by HIV, as well as examining the unfolding impact of COVID-19 on patients and the organisation as a whole.

COMMUNITY / RELIEF WORK

SORAYA ZAHID - MSc Children, Youth and International Development, Birkbeck, London

In relation to pandemic work I have been involved in the humanitarian response to covid-19 for the local authority (Hackney) I work for. As part of the strategic delivery and policy team, my service has been redeployed to work in coordinating some of the activity between the council and the voluntary sector. I have personally been involved in food justice work by managing a hot meals grant to support providers to extend their provision and delivery of hot meals to vulnerable residents and looking at how we support families with no recourse to public funds.

ANAM ZAFAR - MA Applied Translation, University of Leeds

Along with some other University of Leeds MA Translation students and alumni, I have been doing some volunteer translating for the organisation International Rescue Committee (IRC). IRC works to support displaced people and refugees. COVID-19 is particularly risky to these communities, as they have very little support and access to information, and are likely to live in overcrowded areas where access to hygiene facilities may be limited. IRC urgently needed information regarding the handling of the crisis translated into several languages, including French. In the space of two weeks, we have translated more than 12 documents and 12600 words. This means that IRC's safety and risk management messaging regarding the current pandemic can reach more vulnerable individuals worldwide.

BUSHRA ANWAR - MSc Psychology and Neuroscience of Mental Health, King's College London

I have taken on an extra project with the Camden and Islington Foundation Trust to support residents with mental health first aid, financial and food support including organising emergency deliveries, and managing social and emotional support services.

In addition, my family co-runs the Breaking Bread Trust and we are delivering over 100 hot food packets daily to vulnerable families and NHS staff as well as liaising with local statutory and voluntary sector organisations to delivery emergency long life food and supply parcels weekly to families in need.

<https://www.facebook.com/tbbtcharity>

SHOANA QURESHI-KHAN - MSc Psychology, Nottingham Trent University

The Himmah charity is providing over 300 hot meals a week to families, and keyworkers within the NHS – due to reports of exhaustion - and nearly 200 hundred food parcels . Meals provided to the

elderly, those socially isolated, the sick, women in shelters, single parent families, and those struggling financially.

I've also raised awareness via social media – we held a podcast with other organisations to raise awareness regarding Gender and Poverty. Another broadcast provided support, live conversations and ideas for parents and children within the home; this is to alleviate unnecessary pressure within the home due to increased stress impacting health and wellbeing.

<https://www.himmah.co.uk/>

YOUSEF EL-TAWIL - MSc Global Health Policy, London School of Economics

I have also been supporting a volunteer initiative called One Million Meals which aims to provide food for frontline staff within the NHS. It has been featured in the media for David Beckham's support. I've been helping co-ordinate them and Doctors on the ground to receive these meals.

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN KAZI - MSt Islamic Studies, Regent's Park College, Oxford

I am coordinating the pandemic outreach effort at the Ashford and Staines Community Centre where I am the Community Imam and Liaison Officer. In addition to picking up groceries and medicine for those self-isolating or over 65, we are raising money to support the vulnerable via two local foodbanks and the NHS workers at St Peter's Hospital. Through the generous donations of our community, we have purchased £1,000 worth of goods, made two rounds of distribution, and will be purchasing more in the coming week to make a third round of distribution.

RASHIDAT HASSAN - MA Media, Race and Social Justice, Goldsmiths, University of London

As an Assistant Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, I am part of a MCB/BIMA lead National Covid19 Response Group. This is further divided into different working group. Aside from being part of the National CRG, I am working along with other on the Economic Impact CRG to come up with outputs and means through which we can support our community and the larger society at this difficult times of the pandemic.

More so, at my local Mosque, I am part of the team facilitating the Mosque's online daily broadcast aimed at engaging with members of the congregation of the Old Kent Road Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre and the generality of the people. I volunteer and support the project as the Broadcast Production Manager along side many other Volunteers.

COUNSELLING

ZAHRAH AWALEH - Masters in Public Health, University: City, University of London

I work at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead as a healthcare chaplain. I've been sharing information and guidance with my chaplaincy networks, as well as providing pastoral and spiritual care support to patients and their family members to help them through these times of worry, anxiety and fear.

AALIYAH SHAIKH - PhD Health Psychology, City University

I am currently supporting clients who are experiencing a variety of complex issues exacerbated by the pandemic such as increased isolation and or being exposed to abusive controlling, self esteem crushing relationships more by being at home and a number of triggering issues around anxieties, deprivation, food, fear, trauma, death and illness of loved ones as well as facing ones own mortality and searching for an inner compass amongst a variety of complex challenges. Its a time that's bringing out a lot of vulnerabilities for people.

NASIMA KHANOM - PhD in Psychology and Psychotherapy, Goldsmiths, London

I am running a supportive space for Muslim mental health professionals during covid as part of self care to assist them to deliver their services further strengthened.

<https://www.ippa.org.uk/>

IPPA Islamic Psychology Professional Association
presents....

join us for...

CONNECTING HEARTS

This is a series of regular space for a drop in group
for muslim professionals getting together and
talking about topics in the context of Covid-19
– via Zoom

Register On **Eventbrite**

Saturday 2nd May 2 - 4pm
every 2nd week on Saturdays
no fee

Please see our homepage for more information:
www.ippa.org.uk
islampsyassociation@gmail.com

BY REGION

CARDIFF

HAAMED AL HASSAN - MRes Vision Sciences, Cardiff University

EAST BERKSHIRE

SALMAN WAQAR - MSc Evidence Based Healthcare, University of Oxford

LONDON

AFIA CHAUDHRY - MSc Learning and Teaching, University of Oxford

SAHD SAJID - MSc Molecular Biology and Pathology of Viruses, Imperial College London

AISHA ALI - MSc Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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ZEESHAN ALI - MSc Social Science of the Internet, University of Oxford

LEEDS

ANAM ZAFAR - MA Applied Translation, University of Leeds

NOTTINGHAM

SHOANA QURESHI-KHAN - MSc Psychology, Nottingham Trent University

SOUTHAMPTON

MANAR LAMZINI - MSc Foundations of Clinical Psychology, University of Southampton

WEST YORKSHIRE

NICOLE PELTIER - MSc Diabetes Care MSc, University of Salford