

Dr Abdul Jaleel *PARAPPU KADAVATH* **MATRA**

Education

- Ph.D. (West Asian Studies) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
 - MPhil. (West Asian Studies) Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
 - M.A. (Islamic Studies) Darul Huda Islamic University, Kerala, India
 - M.A. (Sociology) IGNOU, New Delhi
 - B.A. (Sociology) University of Calicut
 - B.A. (Islamic Studies), Darul Huda Islamic University, Kerala, India
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Professional Experience

2022-

Research Fellow, IAE cluster, ARI, National University of Singapore

- Assist the Muhammad Alagil Distinguished Professorship Program and lead the Arabia Asia Archives.

2019 - 2021

Lecturer, Centre for Islamic and West Asian Studies, University of Kerala

- Taught courses (at PG level): 1) India-West Asia Cultural Linkages, 2) Contemporary Intellectual Movements in West Asia and 3) Research Methodology.

2016 - 2022

Researcher, KAHDHI, Muhammad Alagil Chair, ARI, National University of Singapore

- Researched and documented the history of Arab communities in Malabar.

2016

Visiting Research Fellow, BGSMCS, Free University, Berlin

- Worked on the project: "From Hadrami Sayyids to Malayali Tangals: The Sacred Lineage and Shifting Diasporic Identity of Hadramis in Kerala, South India"

2013 - 2015

Researcher, Muziris Heritage Project, Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala.

- Researched and digitized historical documents for Cheraman Perumal Islamic Heritage Museum.

2011 - 2012

Research Team Leader, Qatar Unified Imagining Project, Qatar Foundation, Doha.

- Led a research team for cataloguing and digitizing records in the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

2009-2010

Lecturer in Sociology and Islamic Studies, Darul Huda, Kerala.

- Taught Sociological Theories and Muslim societies at UG level.

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Arabs, Indian Ocean, Sufism, South and Southeast Asia

Short Biography

Abdul Jaleel is a Research Fellow affiliated with the Muhammad Alagil Chair in the Inter-Asia Engagements Cluster at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore. With a keen focus on the history, culture and religious traditions of Arab communities in South India and Southeast Asia, he explores broader and enduring aspects of the Arabia-Asia engagements. Dr. Jaleel is currently working on a book project titled "Sacred Sailors: Islam in the Sufi Cosmopolis of the Indian Ocean". This book offers a novel historical exploration of Sufism's cosmopolitan and transformative influence across the Indian Ocean since the fourteenth century, with a special focus on the Alawi Sufi path that originated in Yemen's Hadramawt region. Drawing on previously unexplored manuscripts from mosque, family and personal archives, this study reimagines the Indian Ocean as a thriving Sufi cosmopolis—a space where spiritual, commercial, and cultural worlds met and flourished.

Publications

Books

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel (forthcoming), *Sacred Sailors: Islam in the Sufi Cosmopolis of the Indian Ocean*.

Refereed Articles (selected)

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Sacred Immigrants and Travelling Rituals: Malabar in the Sufi Cosmopolis of the Indian Ocean', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 35, no. 2 (2025): 349-368.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-the-royal-asiatic-society/article/abs/sacred-immigrants-and-travelling-rituals>

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, with Mahmood Kooria, 'Hadrami Archives of Malabar: Two Manuscript Collections in Calicut, Southwest India', *Nouvelles Chroniques Du Manuscrit Au Yémen* 17, no. 36 (2023): 70-151. https://cdmy.org/cmy/ncmy17_36.pdf

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, with Shakeel Anjum, 'Review article, For God or Empire: Sayyid Fadl and the Indian Ocean World, by Wilson Jacob (2019), *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies* 5, no. 1 (2021): 139-142. <https://jiows.mcgill.ca/article/view/102>

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, Review article, 'What is Islam? The Importance of being Islamic' by Shahab Ahmed (2016), *Islamic Insight* 1 (2018): 124-31.

Book Chapters (selected)

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Narratives from the Peripheries: An Indian Ocean Perspective for the Study of Islam', in Abbas Aghdassi and Aaron W. Hughes (eds.), *New Methods in the Study of Islam*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022, 252-277.

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-new-methods-in-the-study-of-islam.html>

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Sufis of the Sea: The Yemeni Alawi Sufi Order in South India,' in Qazi Sofiyurahman (ed.), *Dimension of Islamic Spirituality in South Asia and Beyond*. Calcutta: Calcutta University Press, 2022, 106-114.

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Maritime Peripheries and Universal Connections: Reflections on Studying Islam in the Indian Ocean,' in M.H. Ilias (ed.), *Research in the Islamic Context: Political and Methodological Reflections from South Asia, Indian Ocean, and the Arab World*. New York: Routledge, 2022, 196-209. <https://www.routledge.com/Research-in-the-Islamic-Context-Political-and-Methodological-Reflections/Ilias/p/book/9781032156019>

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Arab Immigrants under Hindu Kings in Malabar: Ethical Pluralities of 'Naturalization' in Islam', in Ray Jureidini and Said Fares Hassan (eds.), *Migration and Islamic Ethics*. Leiden: Brill, 2020, 196-214.

<https://brill.com/view/book/edcoll/9789004417342/BP000011.xml>

P.K.M. Abdul Jaleel, 'Religious Rivalries in Eighteenth Century Malabar: The Diasporic Writings of a Hadrami Scholar,' in Mahmood Kooria and Michael N. Pearson (eds.), *Malabar in the Indian Ocean: Cosmopolitanism in a Maritime Historical Region*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018, 258-281. <https://india.oup.com/product/malabar-in-the-indian-ocean-9780199480326>

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

2016-2021 Kerala Arab Historical Documentation Initiative, Alagil Arabia Asia Chair, National University of Singapore

2016 Short-term Visiting Fellowship, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Free University, Berlin.

2014 Dean's International Field Trip Grant, School of International School, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

2013-2016 Senior Research Fellowship (PhD), University Grants Commission.

2011-2012 Junior Research Fellowship and National Eligibility Test, University Grants Commission.

2008-2010 University Research Grant (MPhil), Jamia Milla Central University, New Delhi.