

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

BML

### **Cover Illustration by Emil Hasnain (22020222, MGS HSS)**

Incorporating the octagon into the background, I decided to create a “hive” or a virtual network of students and faculty staring at computer screens as the background, before which the Academic Block stands. If you notice, the building is split into two, with either side depicting life before and after the pandemic; one day you’re navigating your way through the labyrinth that the Academic Block is, the next your only access to campus is virtual. Despite that metaphorical schism, the space remains the same. I hope that means something to you, and I hope my illustration can help transport you to this space, even if it is temporary. If it fails to do so, I hope it gives you a few minutes of fun to find little details and hidden messages!



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# MESSAGE FROM DEAN



It has been a year like no other. By the time I re-joined LUMS in June 2020 following a sabbatical, Covid had already reached Pakistan and had begun causing immense suffering across the world. There has not been any respite since then for large swathes of the global population. And of course, this has meant enormous changes to our lives based around 'social distancing' which has meant cutting each other off from friends and family out of fear of spreading an infection that could be fatal. For LUMS' students and faculty, the immediate challenge was how to continue teaching and learning remotely. That both these groups adjusted, difficult as it was, is testament to the commitment of both faculty and students to education. Undoubtedly, the psychological and physical strains have been significant and would have been even greater had there not been support from our friends and families and the wider LUMS community including all the staff that have worked as frontline workers to ensure that faculty could continue to deliver their lectures and that students could receive them. Certainly, one of the issues that the pandemic has painfully highlighted is that a successful defence against it requires cooperation at a community level – transmission depends on weak links and the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This will continue to be a challenge in the future and in any vaccination campaigns.

Despite these enormous challenges, there are important achievements that MGS HSS has made over in the academic year. Over the last two years we have had significant and smooth changes in leadership. Two years ago, and after many years, Dr. Turab Hussain and I stepped down from being Chairs of HSS and Economics and were replaced by Dr. Hasan Karrar and Dr. Ali Hasanain. This was an important passing of the baton as those taking over the reins of leadership had themselves been closely involved with the Gurmani School for well over a decade and as a result have an intimate knowledge of the School, its values, ethos and vision. My own appointment as Dean after 15 years at LUMS is again significant because it, along with that of the new Chairs, shows that the School is now mature enough and has enough depth to groom and provide its own internal leadership.

While I have yet to come across faculty or students who have preferred the online format, both, albeit reluctantly, would agree that there were some aspects of the online system that have been beneficial and which will become part of the teaching and learning environment when we hopefully emerge from the pandemic. Teaching and online learning has been a very steep learning curve. Some faculty have taken to it more easily than others though all have made an enormous effort not only in trying to make courses more accessible but also using innovations and trying to ensure that students are not overly burdened. But undoubtedly the human interaction that is so much a part of a classroom space is difficult to replicate virtually. The annual report has some

reflections on the new online format both from students and faculty.

There have been dislocations in research as well but covid itself has opened up new areas of analysis and several faculty members have begun work on the pandemic. Others have continued writing and doing restricted fieldwork and throughout the year the School has maintained a vibrant array of talks, webinars and workshops. The replacement of the physical world by the virtual actually helped access some speakers who would have otherwise been more difficult to engage in a physical sense. But what is particularly encouraging is the overall trajectory and momentum of research at the School. MGS HSS now produces a quality and quantity of research that puts it at the forefront of international institutions working on Pakistan in the areas of humanities and social sciences. This reputation has also helped attract new faculty to the School even in this difficult year.

In a year where students have needed support urgently, the School has made a major effort to try and expand and improve academic advising with the launch of an academic advising unit. Academic advising has been an area that has required greater focus and we now have the structure for an excellent model. Implementation has begun and we hope to build on experiences thus far to continue improving the system. In the coming year we hope to add a focus on wellbeing and pastoral care as well.

And our students – current, graduating and alumni – continue to be our biggest strength. The report has some examples of student work. Our graduate placements have been exceptionally strong, and several alumni have distinguished themselves in a variety of fields including recognition in the annual VC Alumni Achievement Awards. In the coming year we hope to make a major effort of documenting where our alumni are and of engaging them in roles of mentorship for our current students.

Finally, it is with a deep and continuing sense of gratitude and appreciation that the School thanks the Syed Babar Ali Foundation and the Shahid Hussain Foundation for their support which has led to two major endowments for the School. These generous donations will provide further strengthen the mission and vision of the School.

**DR. ALI KHAN**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Khan', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Faculty and Dean  
MGS HSS, LUMS**

# MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR

## Humanities and Social Sciences



The academic year 2020-21 was unlike any other in living memory. And yet, for those of us in the academy, it was also very similar to other years.

In reflecting on the year that is past, the default reaction is to gravitate towards what made the year unique, namely that Covid-19 made classroom teaching impossible. But in a world of uncertainty, I would underscore that the core function of the academy remained unchanged: to build new understanding about our world, our region, and ourselves through a scholastic approach that rests on knowledge, reflection, and reasoning.

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Gurmani School remained true to its core mandate, which is introducing students to humanistic experiences and thought, as well as offering specialized training in Anthropology, English, History, Politics, Sociology, Urdu and vernacular languages. Unlike the spring of the previous academic year, when students and faculty faced a steep curve learning how to use online teaching tools, when the 2020-2021 academic year commenced in August, students and faculty were prepared. Working from their homes across the country, faculty and students sought to recreate the vibrant intellectual spaces that our department is known for. Although there is no substitute for face-to-face teaching, we made the best of a difficult situation. During the past year, I did not feel that my teaching was compromised, and this, I suspect, applies to the department at large. Online teaching is far from ideal. But it is not a compromise, by which I mean substandard.

In other respects too, academic activities continued. Department faculty continued to publish peer-reviewed articles in relevant journals. Two faculty members had books appear from leading academic presses: Asma Faiz, *In Search of Lost Glory: Sindhi Nationalism in Pakistan* (Hurst), and Maryam Wasif Khan, *Who is a Muslim? Orientalism and Literary Populisms* (Fordham University Press); in addition, three more books will be appearing by the end of the year. Department faculty was also active in online lectures, organizing and participating in speaker series, book launches, and conferences. The one area where Covid-19 did slow us down is fieldwork, and in particular international travel for archival and field research. I speak for many colleagues when I say we look forward to getting back to our field sites at the earliest!

The last academic year also saw modest growth in our fulltime faculty ranks. We welcomed two new faculty members on tenure track: Tamkin Hussain, who joined the English program as an assistant professor, and Fatima Fayyaz who joined the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies program, also as an assistant professor; the latter appointment was made possible by the Syeda Mubarak Begum Endowment that was gifted by the Syed Babar Ali Foundation. In addition, the department conducted international job searches in Anthropology, Politics, and Psychology.

At the time of writing in spring 2021, we face uncertainty about what the near future holds: we don't know when or how we will be able to reassemble, in person, our student communities; when we will be able to meet with our international collaborators; or when we will be able to get back to our field sites. And yet, understanding and adapting to situations such as what the world is facing right now is exactly what we are trained to do, and offers us the opportunity to instill those skills in students: taking in a global view but being attentive to minute, local detail; being able to filter massive amounts of information to distil what is important; to foreground common good and collective humanity; to be able to face unseen challenges with grit and resolve, imagination and ingenuity, with the knowledge that there are better days ahead.

**Dr. Hasan Karrar**  
Department Chair, HSS

# MESSAGE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR

## Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics

In our Department, as in the rest of LUMS and indeed the world, this has been a year of disruption but also positive transformation.

When we went online in March 2020, many of the Department's faculty played a significant role in experimenting with methods for online teaching, and in sharing these lessons with our broader community. They have continued to be proactive this year, understanding the subtleties of how to be effective with their teaching online, and documenting how some types of courses translate better online than others. This remains a challenge, particularly with respect to striking a balance between rigor and being accommodating towards students who face significant and variable challenges to learning. Some of this tension will be eased as we continue to learn, though much may remain until we return to campus.

Disruptions often provide opportunities to learn, and we moved to engage with COVID-19 issues in the classroom, perhaps most prominently by designing and rolling out a new course on the Economics of the Pandemic. In this course and in our other classes, we hope to encourage our students to think about some of the ongoing changes they see around them through the lens of economic science.

We also initiated this year a partnership with the University of East Anglia (UEA) to establish a joint PhD partnership. Students of Pakistani origin will join the UEA PhD program each year to be co-advised by faculty from both universities, and will spend a significant amount of time on the LUMS campus. UEA ranks in the UK Top 10 for Economics, and working together allows LUMS to bolster our graduate programming and provide better access to higher level economics study to students who may not be able to spend four years or more abroad for their education.

Faculty research too faced disruption and opportunity. A large number of our faculty have field interventions or surveys deployed at any given time, and these were suspended or delayed by the pandemic. At the same time, COVID-19 disruptions created the opportunity to conduct new studies. Within two months of the lockdown last year, our faculty were publishing evidence of its impact on household incomes. And as the crisis unfolded, they explored a diverse set of relevant questions, such as whether information campaigns can increase citizens' support for social distancing directives, and the extent to which the Pakistani population is willing to get vaccinated. In Fall 2020, we also participated in a joint seminar series with faculty at Duke University's DevLab, and our colleagues at the Lahore School of Economics. We also endeavored to make our research directly useful to the government's COVID-19 response, with multiple faculty members serving in provincial and national government advisory bodies, helping expand the evidence base, or explaining pandemic issues in the popular press.

The biggest news of the year perhaps was the very generous gift given to the Department by the family of Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad to support our future advancement. Mr. Muhammad was amongst the founders of LUMS, an exceptional business leader, and a generous philanthropist, and it is an honor for the Department to take his name in recognition of this contribution. The gift multiplies the Department's operational budget, thus unlocking substantial opportunities. We intend to use these resources in the next few years to build our capacity to collect, develop and maintain datasets on the Pakistani economy, increase our policy outreach, and bolster staff support.

This year was also one of notable change for our faculty. Dr. Abid Aman Burki, our senior-most colleague, retired from the university. Professor Burki served at LUMS for two decades, training a generation of applied economists and setting an example with his professionalism and dedication, in particular to graduate students of the MS Economics program that he ran for so many years as Graduate Program Director. He will be deeply missed. 2020-21 was also a significant year for the department as five faculty members, Dr. Syed Hasan, Dr. Kashif Zaheer Malik, Dr. Hadia Majid, Dr. Antonio Marasco, and I all received tenure. These decisions represent both internal and external recognition for the quality of work done by this cohort. Finally, we also welcome to our faculty a new colleague in Dr. Osama Khan, who joins us this Fall after completing a post-doctorate at the University of Rochester.

As I write this, we are going through the third wave of the pandemic in Pakistan, and our neighbors in India are dealing with their worst spike in cases to date. While the vaccination drive has happily started, it is still unknown when coverage will become sufficiently high, and indeed if it will or will not protect against future strains of the virus. As we enter the new year then, we as faculty, staff, and students must resolve to adapt further to this 'new normal', to build resilience, and to continue to evolve the ways in which we work together to create and spread knowledge.

**Dr. Syed Ali Hasanain**  
Department Chair, Economics



# Faculty and Staff

## Administrative Staff

Adil Sattar  
Anam Fatima Khan  
Aroosa Subhani  
Aurangzaib Awan  
Eilya Mohsin  
Fatima Kamran  
Hanaa Noor Zaka  
Hinna Zahid  
Hira Javied Butt  
Khalid Pervez  
Maha Noor Qureshi  
Maria Usman  
Mehreen Jamil  
Muhammad Jamshaid Iqbal  
Muhammad Rashid  
Naseer Uddin  
Nazish Riaz  
Salman Amin  
Sophiya Anjum  
Sundus Khalid  
Syeda Ujala Riaz  
Um ul Buneen  
Usman Amin  
Zofia Javed

## Classroom Staff/AV Support

Nasim Ul Ghani  
Muhammad Shahrukh  
Aftab Sadiq  
Bilal Saddique  
Abdur Rauf  
Farman Ali  
Ali Amir  
Tanveer  
Shafqat Ali

## Office Attendants

Khanan Ahmad  
Danish Iqbal  
Akhlaq Ahmad  
Salamat Masih  
Asif Masih  
Raheel Ashraf  
Razzaq Masih

## Faculty

Aalene Mahum Aneeq  
Aamna Khalid  
Abid Aman Burki  
Adeel Tariq  
Agha Ali Akram

Ahmad Yunas Samad  
Ali Cheema  
Ali Raza  
Ali Usman Qasmi  
Amber Riaz  
Amen Jaffer  
Amir Akhter Kazi  
Amna Waqar Chaudhry  
Anam Fatima  
Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo  
Anjum Alvi  
Antonio Marasco  
Anum Fatima  
Aqila Zaman  
Arsalan Hussain  
Ashok Kumar Khatri  
Asif Iftikhar  
Asma ul Husna Faiz  
Ateeb Gul  
Attique Ur Rehman  
Aurangzeb Haneef  
Ayesha Ali  
Baqar Hassan Syed  
Basit Bilal Koshul  
Bilal Tanweer  
Corneliu Bolbocean  
Daud Ahmed Dard  
Faisal Bari  
Farah Hasan Ali  
Farhana Shahzad  
Fatima Fayyaz  
Fatima Mustafa  
Furrha Ahsan  
Furrukh A. Khan  
Gwendolyn Sarah Kirk  
Habibah Hussain Rizvi  
Hadia Majid  
Hafiz Abdul Qadeer  
Hajra Ikram Butt  
Hashim Kaleem Bhatti  
Hassan Javid  
Hassan Haider Karrar  
Hira Saeed  
Huda Imtiaz  
Ijaz Nabi  
Ilyas Ahmad Chattha  
Imad Khan  
Imran Rashid  
Iqbal Ahmad Khan  
Irfan Moeen Khan  
Kashif Zaheer Malik  
Khalid Mir  
Kinza Emad  
Laila Bushra  
Lukas Albert Paul Werth  
Lyyla Khalid  
Maha Rehman  
Maham Khalid  
Mahrukh Baig

Maryam Ibrahim  
Maryam Wasif Khan  
Mehr Asma Javed  
Saher Asad  
Moeenuddin Nizami  
Mohammad Waseem  
Mohammed Hanif Muhammad  
Farooq Naseer  
Muhammad Raza Mustafa  
Khan  
Muhammad Saad Imtiaz  
Mushtaq Ahmad Khan  
Mustapha Kamal Pasha  
Nadhra Shahbaz Naeem Khan  
Nadia Mukhtar Sayed  
Nasir Abbas  
Nauman Faizi  
Naveed Alam  
Nazish Afraz  
Nida Yasmeen Kirmani  
Noaman Ghazanfar Ali  
Noor Habib  
Noor Adnan Qureshi  
Rabia Kamal  
Rabia Khan  
Rabia Nafees Shah  
Rabia Zaid  
Rashid Memon  
Rasul Bakhsh Rais  
Rida Ashfaq  
S.M. Turab Hussain  
Saba Pirzadeh  
Sadaf Ahmad  
Sadiah Zulfiqar  
Salman Ahmed Hayat  
Sameen A. Mohsin Ali  
Sanval Nasim  
Sara Aziz  
Shabbir Ahsen  
Shayan Rajani  
Sher Afghan Asad  
Syed Shimail Reza  
Syed Muhammad Hasan  
Syed Ali Hasanain  
Syed Javed Nazir  
Syed Zahid Ali  
Tahira Haider  
Taimur Rahman  
Tamkin Hussain  
Tania Saeed  
Tehnyat Majeed  
Umair Javed  
Usama Waheed  
Usman Elahi  
Uzma Safdar  
Verda Arif  
Waqar Zaidi  
Yasser Hashmi



Zahid Hussain  
Zainab Najeeb  
Zainab Sattar  
Zebunnisa Hamid  
Zia ul Hassan

### **Peer Advising Leaders (PALs)**

Abeer Haider  
Asiya Syed  
Ayman Moazzam  
Azka Syed  
Azka Waseem Hasan  
Fatima Safdar  
Hira Batool Naqvi  
Mahad Usman  
Mahnoor Ghani Sardar  
Mahnoor Salman Khan  
Manahil Raza  
Momina Ashraf  
Muhammad Zaid  
Qurat Ul Ain  
Sakina Areej  
Shahzeb Younis  
Syed Imaad Hasan Jafri  
Syeda Fatima Tahseen  
Usama Liaqat  
Wishah Mujahid

### **Research Assistants**

Aatika Ahmad  
Abbas Turab Moosvi  
Abdur Rehman  
Abida Qayyum  
Abu Hurireh  
Adeel Ahmad  
Aiman Adnan  
Aisha Ali  
Aisha Hamid  
Aiza Hussain  
Aizaz Hussain  
Akmal Qadeer  
Aleena Shafique  
Ali Ahmed Aamir  
Ali Akbar Chandio  
Ali Arslan  
Amara Ashfaq  
Aniqa Sardar  
Aqeel Ahmad  
Ashna Azhar  
Asim Waheed  
Atif Zahoor  
Awaid Yasin  
Ayesha Ahsan  
Ayesha Hanif Rao  
Ayesha Irfan

Ayesha Qaisarani  
Ayman Moazzam  
Azka Shahid  
Bisharat Ali  
Bismah Azhar  
Bismah Kazmi  
Chaudhary Moiz Abdul  
Danial Masood  
Daniyal Ahmed  
Daniyal Saeed Khan  
Duaa Baig  
Eesha Assad  
Emun Hafeez  
Faez Noor  
Faheem Ameen  
Fareeha Hassan  
Fatima Khan  
Fatima Mohsin Naqvi  
Gulzar M Ismail  
Hareem Fatima  
Hasan Khalid  
Hasnain Akram  
Hassaan Malick  
Hassan Aziz  
Hassan Jameel  
Humayun Mansoor  
Ihsan Arsalan  
Iman Khan  
Jazib Parvez  
Kashaf Ali  
Khaula Nazir  
Khawaja Hassan Mahmood  
Kiran Guari  
Lamees Farrukh  
Mahnoor Kashif  
Mahnoor Shahid  
Maleeha Jamil  
Manahil Raza  
Maryam Mazhar  
Mehwish Riaz  
Mehwish Saddique  
Memoona Aslam  
Moiza Bushra  
Mudassir Ahmad  
Muhammad Abdullah Niazi  
Muhammad Asif  
Muhammad Bilal  
Muhammad Ibrahim Tariq  
Muhammad Kashan  
Muhammad Zaid  
Mujahid Hussain  
Nadeem Iqbal  
Naila Noureen  
Najam ul Hasan Gillani  
Naseer Ahmad  
Nosheen Shahid  
Qasim Khalil  
Rabia Najm Khan

Ramsha Fatima Ali  
Ramsha Sajid  
Rimsha Azmat  
Rimsha Munir  
Riva Naveed Effandi  
Rizwan Baig  
Rohail Asim  
Rushda Shahid  
Saad Khalid  
Saad Rehman  
Saleha Parvaiz  
Salman Saleem  
Samar Rashid  
Sana Khushi  
Shaharzade Sharjeel  
Shahbaz Latief  
Shazia Mansoor  
Sitara Gill  
Suhaib Imtiaz  
Surhaan Qadir  
Swaiba Saeed  
Syeda Warda Riaz  
Taha Kaihan  
Taha Tariq  
Tajwar Awan  
Tajwar Rafee  
Talha Javed  
Talha Malik  
Talha Munir  
Umar Anjum  
Umer Naeem  
Umer Sohail  
Usama Lali  
Wajeeha Amir  
Wajeeha Zia Tung  
Zahra Mughis  
Zain Moulvi  
Zainab Arshad  
Zobia Akhtar  
Zoha Batool Khan  
Zohra Aslam Raja  
Zoya Wasif  
Zubaira Khalil

# Congratulations, Welcomes and Farewells



Congratulations to Tania Saeed (Anthropology/Sociology), Maryam Wasif Khan (Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies), Amber Riaz (Philosophy), Hadia Majid (economics), Syed Ali Hasnain (Economics), Syed M. Hasan (Economics), Antonio Marasco (Economics), Kashif Zaheer Malik (Economics) for their promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure. Felicitations too to Salman Amin for his promotion to Senior Officer.

Eilya Mohsin has successfully completed her coursework for her MPhil in Education Leadership and Management, and we wish her all the best for her impending graduation from the School of Education in June 2021.



Congratulations also to our alumni Ammara Maqsood (2005) and Sabeen Iftikhar (2006) for receiving the VC Alumni Achievement Award for 2020.

Ammara is an Associate Professor of anthropology at University College London and Sabeen Iftikhar is the founder and owner of creative Kreative Kinder Haus an inclusive learning set up for children with special needs. They join Khadija Bakhtiar (2007), Mehreen Zahra Malik (2007) and Tania Saeed (2005) as other School alumni that have won this award.

## The Gurmani School welcomed the following new faculty:

- Professor Mustapha Kamal Pasha – Khurshid Hyder Chair in **International Relations**
- Dr Sher Afghan Asad (PhD Economics- Iowa State University) - **Economics**
- Dr Tamkin Hussain (PhD English- State University of New York at Binghamton) - **English**
- Dr Fatima Fayyaz (PhD Persian Literature -University of Tehran) – **Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies**
- Dr Rabia Kamal (PhD Anthropology-The University of Pennsylvania) – **Anthropology/Sociology**
- Dr Sara Shroff (PhD, The New School) – **Political Science/ Gender**
- Ghazal Asif (PhD expected May 2021, Anthropology) – **Anthropology/Sociology**
- Sarah Kazmi, University of Cambridge, will join in Fall 2021 as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Aameem Lutfi, University of Singapore, will join in Spring 2022 as Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## We also strengthened our staff with the following members joining:

- Sundus Khalid – Deputy Manager, Academic Advising Unit
- Maha Noor Qureshi – Student Services Associate, Academic Advising Unit
- Adil Sattar – Assistant Manager, Academic Advising Unit
- Hanaa Noor Zaka – Online Content Editor, Economics Department

Finally, we welcomed back Sophiya Anjum to the School after her secondment to the Provost office.



Dr Rabia Malik left to join the University of Essex in England and after over two decades of service, Professor Abid Burki retired from the Economics department. Burki Sahab had an immense impact on the department and School and will be deeply missed. Zainab Najeeb who has been a Teaching Fellow in HSS will be starting a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at Rutgers and Anam Fatima Khan in the Dean's office is leaving to pursue an MA in Anthropology at American University in Cairo. We wish both of them all the very best for their further studies.

On a sad note, our dear colleague Uzma Mazhar, who taught psychology for many years at the department of Humanities and Social Science, passed away. Uzma will be remembered for her teaching and for her untiring commitment toward improving counselling and student welfare at LUMS.

# Sabbaticals, Fellowships, Awards and Student Graduate Placements

The growing international standing of faculty at MGSHSS is highlighted by the fact that they continue to get some of the most prestigious global fellowships available. Dr Waqar Zaidi is already in Princeton from where he has sent a short update. Dr Tania Saeed and Dr Ali Usman Qasmi will be away from the upcoming academic year.

## An update from Dr Waqar Zaidi

I took research leave from LUMS for the calendar year 2021 and arrived into the coldest winter the United States had seen for many years. The Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where I am a fellow ('Member') for 2020-21 was, thankfully, well prepared for the snow. Beyond adjustments for the pandemic, there has been minimal disruption to the Institute's regular program of seminars, workshops, and reading groups. The snow added an extra charm to the many walks and other excursions into the local woods, canal areas, and national parks.

I am staying at the Institute's campus, within easy reach of my office and academic life at the School of Social Science. The Institute for Advanced Study was established in 1930 as a small community of scholars to carry out cutting edge research in the sciences, mathematics, the social sciences, and history. Among its present and past Faculty and Members are 34 Nobel Laureates, 42 of the 60 Fields Medalists, and 18 of the 20 Abel Prize Laureates, as well as many MacArthur Fellows and Wolf Prize winners. Prominent professors have included Albert Einstein, Clifford Geertz, Oswald Veblen, John von Neumann, and Kurt Gödel.

My work at the Institute has been focused on my new book project on the history of civil aviation and the Cold War. By following US technical and financial assistance for civil aviation networks in West Asia, my research shows that the globalization of aviation in the twentieth century occurred not only because of technological development and increasing prosperity, but also because of the Cold War. By putting the geopolitics of superpower conflict at the centre of the story of twentieth century civil aviation, my project challenges many of the transport and communications driven globalization narratives that remain central to much of our understanding of the materiality of the twentieth century. As well as participating in the regular program at the School of Social Science, I have had the pleasure of joining academic discussions across the other Schools at the Institute, as well as at Princeton University, which is nearby. The archives and libraries of both the Institute and the University are proving to be fruitful for my research, and I look forward to venturing further afield once Covid restrictions ease up. I have a further fellowship at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, which I shall take up in the second half of the calendar year once I finish my term at the Institute.

Waqar Zaidi, 2021



**Ali Usman Qasmi**, Associate Professor of History has been selected to receive the Stanford Humanities Centre External Faculty Fellowship for 2021-22. It is an extremely prestigious fellowship with Dr Qasmi being one of ten fellows chosen from around 300 applicants, making this one of the most selective competitions in the US. The award of this fellowship is recognition of Dr Qasmi's stature as a preeminent historian and adds to his many achievements as a scholar. During the sabbatical at the Stanford Humanities Centre as a fellow, Dr Qasmi will be working on his monograph on the ideas of citizenship and belonging in Pakistan.

**Tania Saeed** will be pursuing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Fellowship in 2021-23 for her project *The Inter-Nationalist* which was successful in a highly competitive application pool of more than 7600 applicants across Europe. She will be exploring the complex nexus between right wing populism in South Asia and the global networks that have contributed to its success, as well as their implications for populism in the Global North. The uniqueness of this project is its focus on South Asian populist networks in the UK and US. The study focuses on the Indian ruling political party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in relation to its international affiliates the Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP), and the Pakistani ruling political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its Office of International Chapters-PTI (OIC-PTI). The project uses mixed methods with the objective to map horizontal and vertical trajectories of these network thereby creating a multidimensional framework, to examine diversity within these groups in relation to gender, religion, ethnicity, caste, class, sect and sexualities, and to explore intergenerational differences through younger members of these groups and members of Indian and Pakistani university student societies. The result will be a study on populist networks between "North" and "South" and on the success of these ideologies amongst different communities in the "Global North".



**Dr. Ali Raza** was awarded the VC Teaching Excellence Award for 2021

**Maira Asaad's** (210201010) Senior project "Aj'ab: The Wonders of Creation" supervised by Dr. Saba Pirzadeh was awarded the annual Raazia Waseem Prize for senior thesis in English.

**Dr. Ali Raza's** book *Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India* (Cambridge University Press) was shortlisted for the Royal History Society Gladstone Prize for 2021

**Ateeb Gul** (Alumnus and Teaching Fellow/Senior Editor at MGSHS) was awarded the GCWS Motherboard Writing Prize 2020 for his paper: "Early Muslim Responses to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929" that he presented for a course at MIT while pursuing his PhD at Boston University.

## Graduate Placements

Name	Batch	Degree at LUMS	Grad school placement
Mariam Raheem	2019	Economics	Mariam has gotten into MSPPM-DA AT Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University
Fatima Sajid	2019	Economics	Fatima has gotten into an MA at Simon Fraser University in Economics
Khaula Nazir	2019	Political Science	Khaula has gotten into an MA under the EIMAS scholarship, Erasmus Mundus program at University of Bayreuth, Germany, the Bordeaux Montaigne University, France, and the University of Porto, Portugal in African Studies.
Fariha Koshul	2019	Anthropology and Sociology	Fariha has gotten into an MA in Religion at the Divinity School, University of Chicago
Navera Burki	2019	Economics	Navera is currently at the University of Rochester completing her MS Business Analytics
Syeda Naveera Fatima Rizvi	2020	Economics and Mathematics	Navera is a Fulbright scholar and currently at New York University completing her MA in economics
Fatima Mohsin	2019	History	Fatima has gotten into New York University in their Counselling for Mental Health program
Aiza Hussain	2019	Anthropology and Sociology	Aiza is a Fulbright scholar and currently at the University of Chicago finishing her MAPSS program
Shafaq Sohail	2019	Anthropology and Sociology	Shafaq has gotten into a PhD in cultural Anthropology at University of Texas at Austin
Aizaz Younas	2019	Anthropology and Sociology	Aizaz is currently pursuing a PhD at Boston University in Cultural Anthropology
Mariam Nadeem	2019	English	Mariam is currently pursuing a fully funded PhD at the University of Oregon in Comparative Literature
Wajiha Ikram	2019	Anthropology and Sociology	Wajiha got into the university of East Anglia for Masters in Education and Development program
Usama Lali	2019	English	Usama has gotten into University of Washington for their MFA in Creative Writing
Azka Batool Ghani	2019	Economics	Azka is currently doing a Masters from London School of Economics in International, Social and Public Policy (Development stream)
Muhammad Bin Salman	2020	Economics	Muhammad Bin Salman is currently doing a MA at Boston University in Economics
Mishal Shafiq	2020	Economics and Political Science	Mishal has gotten into University of Warwick for MA in Public Policy
Rumassah Chohan	2020	History	Rumassah has gotten into University of California, Berkley for their City and Regional Planning program. She also got offers from Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, University of Michigan, University of Texas at Austin, Rutgers University, University of Southern California, and Texas A&M University
Maira Rehman	2020	English	Maira has gotten into a MA English at McGill University
Fatima Afzal Dar	2020	English	Fatima is currently at Oxford University, pursuing a MSc in Modern South Asian Studies
Aimen Khan	2020	Anthropology and Sociology	Aimen has gotten into Oxford University for an MSc in Social Anthropology. She also got accepted into the University of Cambridge, London School of Economics, and SOAS.
Zain Haider	2020	Economics	Zain has gotten into University of Windsor Canada for a Master of Management (Data Analytics)

<b>Saania Ahmed</b>	2020	Economics	Saania is currently at King's College London pursuing a MSc Strategic Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She also got accepted at the University of Warwick for MSc Management
<b>Kaynat Akhtar</b>	2020	Political Science	Kaynat has gotten into a joint Master's program of International Relations at University of Jacobs and University of Bremen
<b>Dania Mohsin</b>	2020	Economics	Dania has gotten into Purdue University for Computer Graphics Technology - User Experience Concentration, University of Maryland for a MSc in Human Computer Interaction, IUPUI for an MSc in Human Computer Interaction, University of Texas at Austin for a Masters of Information with concentration in UX Design, George Washington University for an MA in Interaction Design, University of Toronto for a Masters of Information with a concentration in UX Design, and is wait listed at Indiana University for a in MSc in Human Computer Interaction
<b>Zain Sarwar</b>	2020	Economics	Zain has gotten into the University Of Chicago, University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech for PhD programs and has gotten into Purdue University and UC Davis for MS programs.
<b>Meeral Ali</b>	2020	Anthropology and Sociology	Meeral has gotten into University of Southern California and Syracuse University, both for a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy
<b>Arouba Hussain</b>	2020	Anthropology and Sociology	Arouba got into London School of Economics for Social Anthropology, University College London for Social and Cultural Anthropology, SOAS for Social Anthropology and the University of Edinburgh for Social Anthropology
<b>Taha Iqbal</b>	2020	Political Science	Taha is currently at the London School of Economics and Political Science pursuing a graduate degree in MSc International Relations.
<b>Mohammad Danish Nadeem</b>	2020	Economics and Mathematics	Danish got into Boston University and University of Rochester for a Master's in Data Science
<b>Talha Wani</b>	2020	Economics	Talha is currently pursuing a MSc Economics at London School of Economics
<b>Zoya Wasif</b>	2020	Political Science	Zoya is currently pursuing Historical sociology from Charles university in Prague
<b>Maahliqa Qureshi</b>	2020	History	Maahliqa has gotten into Stonybrook University for an MFA in Fiction Writing
<b>Shehryar Imtiaz</b>	2020	Economics and Political Science	Shehryar has gotten into HEC Paris for MSc Strategic Management
<b>Minahil Mohsin Naqvi</b>	2020	Economics	Minahil Mohsin has gotten into the London School of Economics, University of Southern California and the University of Illinois (Urbana Champaign) for a Master's in Urban Planning
<b>Shanze Ijaz Munir</b>	2020	Economics	Shanze has gotten into London School of Economics for MSc Behavioral Science, New York University for MA Psychology, and University of Southern California for MSc in Applied Psychology.
<b>Hashim Chattha</b>	2020	Economics and Mathematics	Hashim is currently doing his MPhil in Development Studies at Oxford.
<b>Aymen Habib</b>	2021	Anthropology and Sociology	Aymen has gotten into University of Sussex for an MSc in Globalization, Business, and Development
<b>Ayman Moazzam</b>	2021	Economics	Ayman has gotten into University of Chicago for an MPP for a \$8k scholarship per year, University of Cambridge for MPhil Economics, London School of Economics for an MSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Econ (conditional PhD), Columbia University for MA Economics, and Cornell University for MA Applied Economics and Management

<b>Leena Salman Butt</b>	2021	Economics	Leena has offers from: University of Southampton - MRes Economics Queen Mary University of London- MSc Development and International Business University of Bath-MSc International Development with Economics University of Birmingham- MSc Development Policy and Politics City University London- MSc Development Economics University of Glasgow- MSc Economic Development University of Kent- MSc Development Economics Kingston University London-MSc Development Policy and Politics University of Essex- MA International Development Durham University-MSc Sustainability, Energy and Development University of Sussex- MSc Development Economics
<b>Furqan Khan</b>	2021	Economics and Mathematics	Furqan has gotten into a Master's in Economics at the University of Waterloo, Canada
<b>Samar Rashid Khan</b>	2021	Economics	Samar has gotten into Georgetown University for their MPP and Columbia University for their MPA
<b>Anza Hayat</b>	2021	Economics	Anza has received an offer from Brown University for their Master's in Public Affairs along with a \$15000 merit aid
<b>Muhammad Aatasam Naseer</b>	2021	Economics and Mathematics	Aatasam has received offers for an MA in Economics at Boston University and conditional offer for MPhil in Economic Research from Cambridge University
<b>Shahmir Khan Ghani</b>	2021	Political Science	Shahmir has received an offer from Bath Spa University for an MA in Creative Writing
<b>Umar Ashfaq</b>	2021	Economics and Mathematics	Umar will be pursuing his graduate studies in Business Analytics. He has received admission offers from Queen Mary University, Loughborough University, Ashton University, University of East Anglia, Lancaster University and The University of Manchester.
<b>Ayesha Hanif</b>	2021	Economics and Mathematics	Ayesha has gotten into Carnegie Mellon for their MSSPM Data Analytics program with a 50% scholarship and is waitlisted from University of Chicago for their MSCAPP program
<b>Amina Noor</b>	2021	Economics	Amina has gotten into New York University for Master's in Public Administration
<b>Rahim Shah</b>	2021	Economics	Rahim has been nominated for the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for QEM - Models and Methods of Quantitative Economics. This includes mobility at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.
<b>Muhammad Uzair Butt</b>	2021	Economics	Uzair has gotten into University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign for Master of Science in Management. He also received an admission for Master's of entrepreneurship and innovation at University of San Francisco.
<b>Laiba Malik</b>	2021	Economics and Mathematics	Laiba has received an offer from the University of Liverpool for an MSc in Business Analytics and Big Data
<b>Rimsha Imran</b>	2021	Political Science	Rimsha got into MA Development Studies in University of Sussex, SOAS, and University of East Anglia





# Roles and Responsibilities at MGSHSS

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Dean: Ali Khan

Department Chair, Humanities and Social Science: Hasan Karrar

Department Chair, Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics: Syed Ali Hasnain

Director Anthropology and Sociology major: Sadaf Ahmad

Director English major: Saba Pirzadeh

Director History major: Ali Usman Qasmi

Director Political Science major: Ahmad Yunas Samad

Director Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies: Maryam Wasif Khan

Director Gender and Sexuality Studies minor: Nida Kirmani

Director Philosophy minor: Shabbir Ahsen

Director Psychology minor: Imran Rashid

Director Religious Studies minor: Nauman Faizi

Director Writing and Communication: Rabia Nafees Shah

Director Gurmani Centre: Bilal Tanweer

Director Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Centre: Ali Cheema

Director Saida Waheed Gender Initiative: Hadia Majid

## School Council

### Elected Members

1. MGSHSS UC representative: Ali Raza
2. MGSHSS UC representative: Sameen Mohsin Ali
3. Econ Faculty representative: Syed Turab Hussain
4. Staff representative: Naseer Ud Din
5. Elected Student representative: Jamal Akhter – 22020110
6. Elected Student representative: Noor Fatima – 21020603

### Nominated Members

1. Chair of the Econ Department: Ali Hasnain
2. Chair of the HSS Department: Hasan Karrar
3. Staff representative: Sophiya Anjum
4. Faculty representative from HSS: Farah Hasan Ali
5. Faculty representative from Econ: Hadia Majid
6. Faculty representative from the School's Adjuncts/Teaching Fellows: Tehniyat Majid.

## School Committees

### School Appointments and Promotion Committee (SAPTC)

Sadaf Ahmad  
Ali Cheema  
Syed M. Hasan  
Basit Koshul (convener)  
Nadhra Shahbaz Khan

### Department Promotions & Tenure Committees

#### *Economics*

Syed Turab Hussain  
Khalid Mir  
Syed Zahid Ali  
Muhammad Farooq Naseer  
Mushtaq A. Khan

#### *Humanities & Social Science*

Mohammad Waseem  
Furrukh Khan  
Tania Saeed  
Rasul Bakhsh Rais

#### Marketing and Outreach

Amen Jaffer (convener)  
Zebunnisa Hamid  
Adeel Tariq  
Maha Qureshi (Dean's office)  
Anam Fatima Khan (Dean's office)

#### Social Contract

Ali Raza (convener)  
Tania Saeed  
Sameen Mohsin  
Umair Javed  
Sahar Asad  
Adeel Tariq

#### Core Curriculum

Laila Bushra (convener)  
Fatima Mustafa  
Sadiah Zulfiqar  
Sanval Nasim  
Eilya Mohsin (Dean's Office)

## Academic Integrity

Maryam Wasif Khan  
Asma Faiz  
Imran Rashid (convener)  
Rashid Memon

## Admissions

Yasser Hashmi  
Waqar Zaidi  
Rashid Memon  
Hira Javed Butt (Dean's Office)

## Orientation and 'O' week

Yasser Hashmi  
Syed M. Hasan  
Ayesha Ali  
Ali Raza  
Maryam Wasif  
Hasan Karrar  
Ali Hasnain

## Proposals & Grants Committee

Nauman Faizi (convener)  
Asma Faiz  
Zebunnisa Hamid  
Umair Javed  
Saba Pirzadeh  
Naseer Uddin

## School Disciplinary Committee

Imran Rashid (convener)  
Maryam Wasif Khan  
Syed Shimail Reza  
Asma Faiz  
Syed M. Hasan  
Mushtaq Khan  
Student rep (Awaiting nomination)  
Shabbir Hussain (OSA staff support)  
Sundus Iqbal (RO support)

## Teaching in the Time of Covid

The Gurmani School has always taken great pride in the teaching of its faculty. The last year has been the most difficult in memory for instructors and students. The abrupt switch to online teaching was a journey into the unknown and not surprisingly there have been missteps and problems. But there have also been successes and learning that we could not have predicted initially. In the section below we look at the experiences of some instructors who specifically enjoyed teaching certain courses over the last year.

### ANTH 276 Anthropology of Social Media – Rabia Kamal

In 2015, I developed a social media and digital ethnography course at the University of San Francisco which was offered and fully enrolled every semester thereafter. I was excited to introduce this course to students in my first semester teaching at LUMS. The course, entitled the Anthropology of Social Media, looks at the social and cultural implications of the rise of emergent media in today's world. While social media such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube permeate every aspect of our lives, we often remain unaware of their impact and significance. Through course readings, case studies and assignments, students are encouraged to think through how to look at social media empirically, while also considering how people use social media to develop relationships, construct/perform identities, coordinate political action, achieve status and distinction, express unpopular opinions, and connect with people around the world. Although there is a swell of scholarship addressing these topics, the course utilizes studies and films where scholars are rooting their findings in ethnographic research, both within Pakistan as well as cross-culturally. What was particularly fascinating for the students was the fact that we were tackling phenomena such as digital surveillance and censorship the same week that the Pakistani government banned apps like TikTok. The class topics often aligned with events that were unfolding in real time, and the students were able to recognize the important insight that social theories created by anthropologists had in understanding the relationship between online and offline worlds, as well as the social, cultural, and political consequences of social media in our lives today.



Social Media & Pakistani Weddings - Gp 5



While the shift to online teaching introduced challenges to a course that relies heavily on discussion and debate, I believe it was received well. I was delighted to see how engaged students were as they were able to make connections between ethnographic studies on the impact of social media globally, and their own lives. In order to create a shared language for the course, we began by learning several core concepts in the study of media and culture. With this common vocabulary, subsequent weeks included two to three reading assignments, both theoretical and research-focused texts, organized around a particular theme. While anthropology has traditionally focused on non-Western cultures, my transnational upbringing facilitated a deep desire to critically examine western culture from an ethnographic perspective. Thus, in my social media class I make use of cross-cultural case studies to encourage students to investigate how people in both Western and non-Western cultures define themselves, make sense of the world, and organize their lives through the use of new digital technology (whilst also encouraging students to question the Western/Other dichotomy, and the role digital technology may play in both resisting and reasserting forms of global hegemony). We then turn the lens inwards so students can employ what they have learned about other cultures to reflect on their own engagement with emergent media in the Pakistani context. For example, in the week focused on social media and activism, we study the role of digital networked cultures in organizing, maintaining, and proliferating political and social movements. I use case studies from Iran and Egypt to demonstrate how protestors used new media as well as older forms of communication during the Green Revolution

and the Arab Spring respectively. I challenge students to consider whether western media coverage of these two movements might have overemphasized the role of social media such as Twitter in political protests in the region. We also conduct a comparative analysis between these movements and #BlackLivesMatter and the #MeToo movement in Pakistan. Through such multi-sited case study work, students are able to develop culturally relative methods of analysis, break down the mythologies of social media and, most importantly, learn to be critical about their own normative assumptions around race, religion, gender, politics and much more.

The final project for the course is a combination of a digital and visual ethnography whereby student groups address the overarching theme of "How social media has (or has not) brought about social change" through a particular case study. They conduct two months of online ethnographic research, including participant observation, surveys, qualitative interviews, and focus groups, and present their findings in a short film format. The projects this past semester were fascinating, addressing a wide range of themes from how social media has impacted Pakistani rishta culture and matchmaking, the use of memes by Pakistani youth to cope with the stresses of a global pandemic, online religious extremism and surveillance on academic Twitter to influencer culture, the relationship between Instagram and body image disorders, and the search for online queer communities on Facebook. All of these projects contribute valuable digital ethnographic research on the impact social media has had (and continues to have) on various dimensions of Pakistani culture.

## ENGL 3191 Literary Adaptation – Rabia Nafees Shah

ENGL 3191 Literary Adaptation and its Discontents is one of the most fun courses I've taught in the English program at LUMS. During the Fall 2019 semester, I had a wonderfully responsive group of students whose exuberant energy was infectious. And because they were enjoying the vast variety of genres we covered (novels, short stories, TV shows, films, songs, music videos, a documentary series, animated films, manga and anime), it created a conducive environment for exposing them to a substantial amount of theory from the field of Adaptation Studies and from highly complex and challenging theorists like Julia Kristeva, Mikhail Bakhtin and Walter Benjamin. The most exciting part of the course for me was the research projects as students took the opportunity to explore everything from *The Last Airbender*, *Death Note* and the *Lizzie Bennet Diaries* to adaptations of Kafka and Henry James, music and visuals by the Eurythmics and Pink Floyd and videogames like *Spec Ops: The Line*. Our discussions of feminist TV, horror tropes, fandom communities and the convergence culture of big franchises (Disney movies, superhero films, for instance) evoked a response from even the quietest students. The idea of transcultural adaptations

resonated with those students who are interested in the political and cultural dynamics of such indigenization and lead to many interesting presentations centring on the appropriation of powerful Western writers like Shakespeare for storytelling by the Global South.

Students today are immersed in media consumption and as a popular culture enthusiast, the most satisfying aspect of Literary Adaptations for me was that the course helped them acquire a vocabulary through which to formally study the films, theatre, TV shows, comic books, horror movies, music videos etc. that they find intriguing – learning that will continue to serve them in other courses and beyond. The stark divisions between high and low culture which elitist institutions (including critical theorists and the academia) have been very invested in have broken down in our postmodern world and this allows new forms of inquiry that I am interested in pursuing in the future also and I hope students will come along for the ride.

## ENGL 2811 Re-thinking the Politics of Harem in Literature: Women, Islam and Gendered Spaces - Sadia Zulfiqar



Illustration for course project by Syeda Maheer Wasti. Group members included Eman Nadeem, Mariam Shahjahan, Shiza Saqib.

ENGL 2811 Re-thinking the Politics of Harem in Literature: Women, Islam and Gendered Spaces is an innovative course that excavates histories of harems and harem women that have been previously overlooked due to imperial and western hegemony in academia and the wider world. The course uses travelogues, memoirs, fiction and poetry in order to demystify and dismantle stereotypical notions of harems as Orientalist fantasies. Students read and enjoyed memoirs of Muslim women of the early 20th century and letters of elite western women about harem women.

These two sources play an important role in creating counter-narratives about harems and harem women. Also, students discussed *The Thousand and One Arabian Nights* and the politics of empire behind its various western translations. This new way of engaging with the text enabled them to view Scherezade as an independent and cerebral woman, and not as a salacious beauty as portrayed in the West. This course proved to be fascinating for the students whose geographical and cultural positioning helped them critically examine the politics of harems and harem women in literature.

## CLCS 1000 Texts and Contexts: Stories of Home and Displacement - Zebunnisa Hamid, Zahid Hussain, Fatima Fayyaz, Noor Habib, Maryam Wasif Khan, Bilal Tanweer, and Gwen Kirk

CLCS 1000 Texts and Contexts: Stories of Home and Displacement is a flagship course for the Gurmani School. Team-taught by a faculty of seven, traversing from the European classical mode to the crises of our postcolonial presents, and introducing students to textual and visual expressions from Persian, English, Urdu, and Punjabi, the course never has a dull moment. Faculty often co-lecture: there is nothing more exciting than when a film critic such as Prof Zebunnisa Hamid unpacks the Iranian film, *Baran*, with Prof Fatima Fayyaz, a scholar Persian literary cultures. Other faculty members take us to textual realms that are hard to access. Professor Zahid Hussain leads us through stories of Partition written in Punjabi, showing us characters and places that we could not otherwise know.

CLCS 1000 forms the introductory core for the minor in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies and allows students to meet and study with all of the program's full-time faculty members. For close contact, students are broken up into small groups that meet and work with an assigned instructor for writing and preceptorial discussions. When forced to go online in Fall 2021, students used their small groups to produce webinars around their reading, an exercise that was simultaneously entertaining and thought-provoking for the audience.

Though grading and coordinating this massive course is always a challenge, CLCS 1000 always ends up as a bonding exercise between students and faculty alike.



## CLCS 2116 Shahnameh: The Story of Our World

- Fatima Fayyaz

I would like to share my experience of teaching Shahnameh: The Story of Our World (CLCS: 2116) course at LUMS. The inspiration to design and offer this course came from my discussion with Dr Maryam Wasif Khan, associate professor of comparative literary and cultural studies, at HSS. I attended one of her classes on famous western epic Beowulf and during the class break I just shared how I could relate some of the text she had discussed with the celebrated Persian epic Shahnameh of Ferdowsi. She, in response, floated the idea of teaching a course on Shahnameh, the great epic of the Persian empire. That brief discussion was then followed by a couple of detailed meetings in which we discussed how this course should be designed.

In Fall 2020, the course was offered for the second time and the response was overwhelming, much more than I had expected. Depending on the English translation as the core text, made me a little uncomfortable as much is lost when one is not reading the poetry in its original form (Urdu translations have long been lost and unavailable). However, the richness of the stories, the characters, the imagery & the symbols were captivating enough to stir the imagination of the students even with the translated text.

Every class of this course was a magical experience. We studied and analyzed selections from Ferdowsi's magnum opus, while also going through a range of Iranian and Indian miniature paintings that depicted different stories of the Shahnameh. Meanwhile, we also listened to Naqqali (the tradition of Shahnameh's oral recitation), the theatre plays, puppet shows and movies inspired by Shahnameh, made in both Iran and Europe.

It gives me a sense of accomplishment to see the transformation of students in this course. In the beginning of the course they knew almost nothing about the shared Persian heritage of Iran and the subcontinent, particularly in terms of the Shahnameh and how it is celebrated across the region. By the completion of the course they demonstrate their understanding and ways of appreciation of the Persian culture and heritage. Students were also able to personally relate to and absorb these timeless stories written almost a millennium ago.

## HIST 2121 Digital Preservation and Historical Documentation of Monuments - Nadhra Shahbaz Khan and Murtaza Taj (SSE)

This course was designed to equip students studying art history and heritage with digital skills, and introduce artistic perspectives to the ones specializing in computer sciences. One of the main objectives was to help students acquire technical skills with an art historical approach to study and appreciate immovable and movable heritage sites/objects/concepts scattered around them. This course suffered badly due to the shift to online teaching in March 2020 as it became impossible for students to work in labs or download heavy software in their computers. We had to cancel our site trips for photography and laser scanning and make major changes in the expected learning outcomes. In spite of these challenges, the final projects yielded some outstanding results. The students were given the option of creating websites for either the Mughal period Maryam Zamani Mosque in Lahore or the Nankana Sahib Gurdwara, a Sikh religious site. Almost all of these projects offered new and fascinating artistic approaches to showcase historical monuments using a variety of techniques, tools and instruments to measure, reconstruct and analyse heritage architecture. With Covid pushing everything into the digital realm, this course became more meaningful as the students realized the significant role technology could play to bring people together. Dr Murtaza and I hope to offer this again as soon as the campus activities go back to normal.



## SS3112 The Art of Rhetoric - Amna Khalid

This was an advanced course in analytical, persuasive communication across the curriculum hence I used a thematic approach. This allowed students to explore and engage with issues that were important for them.

The governing premise was that learning to use language well means learning to use language to THINK well. Writing was treated as a tool for thought - i.e. as a means of undertaking sustained acts of inquiry, analysis, interpretation and reflection.

This was a highly participative and activity-based course. Through numerous break-out room tasks the students managed to refine analytical skills, argumentative writing and public speaking skills while working on framing their messages for maximum impact. The students enjoyed comparing the tools employed by classical Greek & Roman rhetoricians with the contemporary practices of communication experts in this globalized age.

Even in this time of online teaching student engagement was at optimal levels because of the varied teaching methodologies that I used and the high-tech nature of the course. The highlight for me was using the flip classroom method along with cooperative and inquiry-based teaching methodologies. Supplementing synchronous zoom sessions with interactive tasks using Quizlet, Lino Post-it Board, Perusal, polls and quiz questions on Google Classroom and Survey Monkey proved instrumental in maintaining student interest and increasing their motivational levels.

First time in my 19 year-long professional career I created a YouTube channel showcasing the different courses that I teach. In my home office, I recorded video lectures full of visuals, animations, humor and of course intensive theory points and uploaded these onto the course YouTube site for the students to view. These video lectures were hyperlinked to application & reinforcement tasks on the various online platforms mentioned above. My students really appreciated this effort on my part as they could pause, rewind and keep returning to the lectures. This autonomy over their learning certainly kept them motivated throughout the course.

It is generally believed that online teaching is not an effective medium for a skills-based course. However, I learnt the opposite. Students were now able to record videos of themselves while presenting and delivering speeches and we were able to evaluate each and every non-verbal and para-verbal cue and every word used. The depth of objective and subjective feedback that was shared was amazing. Google classroom proved to be a phenomenal platform for written assignments. The platform allows the teacher to highlight areas of a students work and write detailed comments in the submitted document. Students are able to respond to these comments and a discussion ensues with the aim of learning through making mistakes and improving on your work.

This new course and the new way of teaching and interacting with students worked wonders for me. I experimented with technology, educated myself about emerging pedagogies, and created interactive activities for the online medium. I believe that I grew as an educator and became not just a teacher but also a mentor for my students.

## HIST 2324/SOC 239: Conceptual Understanding of Borders and Borderland Studies - Ilyas Chattha



Teaching this course has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I first offered it in the Fall 2020 semester and am offering it once again in Spring 2021. While Borderland Studies is being taught at LUMS for the first time, the subject itself has been of immense academic importance in recent years. It is a course that has very much been informed by my own research interests and work. It outlines different conceptual approaches to understanding how borders and borderlands evolve, interact and the many forms they take. It also centres the experiences of people on the peripheries, of borderlanders and their understanding of the border, introducing students to people's narrative rather than a static history of borders. To clarify these concepts, the course draws on different case studies, from the Punjab borderland to the US-Mexico borderland. This ultimately means that students have the freedom to outline and explore diverse research questions in their final projects; I have had the pleasure of reading papers that discuss a vast range of topics, with some students focusing on the informal economy at the Pak-Afghan border and others dissecting literary interpretations of the Irish borderland. The challenge was to first desensitize their myopic or one-dimensional understanding of borders/borderlanders and then present them with varying and comparative aspects. This was done to some extent by making it imperative for students to give their own 'voices' in CP and RP

where they reflected an understanding of their new outlook. As classes progressed, it became more enjoyable as students were not only comprehending course material but were able to bring in their own experiences of places like Paan Gali, Bara Market and Gemstone Market (Gilgit-Baltistan), making relevant connections to the course content. The fervent involvement of students especially in the context of Pak-India and Pak-Afghan borders made the course an exhilarating experience. While it is a 200 level History/Sociology course, I also taught students a bit about primary research since it is a personal forte. I feel that our students could benefit profusely from the primary research tools taught at an early stage. In fact, towards the end of the semester, the students were encouraged to incorporate primary research in their final essays. Despite the constraints of Covid-19, some students produced some exceptional final essays, based on primary sources, on the impact of the pandemic on every day informal economies on the 'bazaars', including Lahore's Paan Gali, Guldberg's Hafeez Centre, Charrar Pind's vegetable/fruit sellers. Timely feedback and sometimes extra cushion time was provided, alongside interactive and approachable accessibility over Class WhatsApp Group.

However, for students to truly take ownership of their final projects, which is the goal of the course, they must be active in class. This is what inspired my decision to introduce a hybrid CP system: use of both collective and individual CP. In some sessions, students were sorted into break-out rooms and allowed to interact in small groups, giving a question to discuss and response. This helped in icebreaking. Later, in other classes, we all remained in the main session and shared our thoughts with the whole class. This mixed approach to class discussions allowed students to engage comfortably and consistently with the course material and to develop their research ideas which were very much shaped by their own interests. Students were also encouraged to write comments on 'chat' which were discussed and marked as CP. This gave confidence to students who were otherwise hesitated to contribute to the class. The increased interaction ensured that the course remained engaging for students even in an online setup. We also utilized the online setup by inviting some experts, including Professor Ian Talbot, an authority on Modern South Asia History, and Professor Pippa Virdee, an oral history expert. I found students very engaging, especially in Q&A as both sessions went over an hour from the actual time. In this way, this course has allowed me to meaningfully interact with students from different academic backgrounds, and I hope it has allowed students to re-think and re-imagine the borders that delineate our world.



## ENGL 3611 'I am an Arab: Social and Political Dimensions in Contemporary Arab Literature' - Dr Farah Hasan Ali

I started working in LUMS in 2019. I enjoyed all the courses that I have taught so far. One of the courses that stands out is ENGL 3611 – 'I am an Arab: Social and Political Dimensions in Contemporary Arab Literature.' In the beginning, I thought it will be difficult for the students to engage with texts, especially those translated from Arabic because they contain many Arabic expressions. Moreover, I thought they might find it tasking to get to understand Arabic culture through its literature, especially texts that highlight social conditions in post-colonialism in the Arab World, but also covered major political upheavals, and changes. Yet, the students' response was far beyond my expectations. They read all the texts assigned to them, and we had engaging, interactive, and sometimes heated debates in every session of the course. Some of the students even sent emails expressing their opinion after class. One of the students requested I provide her with further readings and more novels, short stories, and essays from other Arabic writers that were not included in the course outline. For that reason, I am encouraged to design another course that delves deeper into Arabic Literature exploring issue of gender and its different representations in literary production in the Arab World.

## POL 209 Introduction to Political Economy - Noaman G. Ali

The disruption posed by COVID-19 led me to innovate to deliver the best possible educational experience to students. Recently, I adapted my survey course, *Introduction to Political Economy* (POL 209), into an asynchronous podcast. Since most of my students are trained in introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics, I invited a multidisciplinary set of academics with critical perspectives for interviews on topics ranging from the "Great Divergence" to colonial political economy to climate change. However, I supplemented the asynchronous podcast with an optional synchronous web meeting. I kept the synchronous web meeting optional out of concern for students' ability to attend, but this was a mistake as most students—even those who could—chose not to, and subsequently felt alienated from the course. Now, I use podcasts as a resource in combination with mandatory synchronous with meetings in my other courses also, to I think great effect. The podcasts play the role of guest lectures, they enable students to express a greater range of opinions because they are not merely engaging with me but rather with listening to a third party's ideas. Meanwhile, the podcast itself has allowed myself and the university to gain a wider recognition and has helped extend my professional network.





## New Initiatives at MGSHSS

### The Academic Advising Unit (AAU)- MGSHSS

During the Academic year 2020-2021, the Academic Advising Unit (AAU) at MGSHSS proposed a revised academic advising structure for the school. Certain gaps had been identified with the existing students advising system and the revisions aimed to address those gaps. A concern at the heart of these efforts was to propose an equitable advising system, which allowed all students at the school to have equal access to necessary support and advice during their undergraduate years and made sure that no student fell through the cracks. Another concern was to utilize existing nodes in the system; including faculty, department coordinators, academic advisors, and peer mentors; in the best possible manner. One key feature of the revised system has therefore been the incorporation of a referral system that will connect students approaching the AAU with faculty, staff, and offices most relevant to addressing their concerns. The revisions ensure that each node shares a set of distinct and well-defined advising responsibilities that are relevant to their professional and academic expertise, so that all possible academic concerns that students have during their undergraduate years are addressed by those best equipped to do so. Another salient feature of the revised system is that it proposes a well-structured combination of group advising and one-on-one sessions for advisees attached to faculty advisors within each major. This will allow faculty to reach out to all their

advisees, while also allowing for more in-depth one-on-one conversations where needed. The combination of group and one-on-one advising will also address the issue of faculty workload; enabling faculty to lend more meaningful support to all their advisees.

The AAU mapped out details of the revamped advising structure in collaboration with the Office of Academic Advising (OAA) at LUMS. The process involved charting out an exhaustive list of academic concerns that students have and mapping them to advisors best equipped to address them. An annual schedule of a variety of advising meetings with faculty advisors, academic advisors, department coordinators and peer mentors was also prepared. Detailed meeting agendas for each of these meetings were then drafted. These agendas were made keeping in mind all necessary information that a student at MGSHSS should receive and information that will help them make informed choices regarding their major selection, course selection, career trajectory, and even extra-curricular activities. In addition to academic advice, the meetings also offer space to talk about issues confronting students beyond the classroom, such as general wellbeing and settling into a university environment.



The unit and OAA are also working on preparing an extensive library of resources for faculty advisors, academic advisors, and peer mentors. These resources will aid advisors to provide students with better support. They include guides for student wellness, choosing majors, navigating an online semester, degree-specific graduate school options and much more. Another crucial revision has been the redesigning of the advising system so that it proactively supports academically vulnerable students; instead of only tracking such students.

The AAU now has a designated academic advisor for vulnerable students, and a well-planned schedule to reach out to these students throughout the academic year. These are at-risk students who are on academic warning and probation and need additional support. The objective of this initiative is to readily offer them this support. The unit will identify vulnerable students early in the semester to offer ongoing support. In early Fall 2020, more than 50 students were identified as vulnerable. Alongside voluntary, drop-in, office hours held every week; each of these students had three mandatory check-ins at the unit during the year and were offered the following support:

- a. Shared appropriate information (about academic policies, resources, etc.) for making decisions that can help them succeed.
- a. GPA Target setting and customized suggestions, based on i) their unique situation; their probation/ academic warning status and implications for their academic trajectory (ii) their challenges and circumstances; manageable course-load, using resources, remaining abreast of their performance.
- b. Guided them in connecting with appropriate resources (faculty advisers, peer mentors, TAs, AWL, LMC, and other resources)

It is hoped that ongoing interaction with the students will help improve student success and retention. Identifying red flags such as poor mid-terms/ quiz scores, and below-par class attendance and participation will help the unit to offer timely support. The ultimate objective is to make students feel cared for by the school.

Other than these meetings with different advisors, the revisions come with an exciting calendar of workshops, town halls, fireside chats, and information session that the AAU will also host annually, and which will cover a range of topics pertaining to career advice, graduate studies, life skills etc. Faculty and alumni will be invited to speak to students at these events and will share their experiences and expertise.

The AAU has phased in some of the proposed changes over the past few months. The unit has been holding regular office hours for students, students are being referred to faculty where needed, and a very well received fireside chat on 'choosing the right major' was also hosted in February. The AAU will be piloting some of the more significant revisions to the role of faculty advisors in the months of March and April. The unit also plans to host a virtual careers week in April. Implementation has involved sharing revisions with each stakeholder to the process and incorporating their valuable feedback at every stage. A complete roll out of the revised system is expected follow in Fall 2021-22.

## MGSHSS Language Program

2020 saw several exciting developments in language pedagogy and program development at LUMS.

The Languages@LUMS project spearheaded by Dr Gwendolyn Kirk continues to move forward. Since 2019, instructors in Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, Sindhi, and most recently, Urdu have been developing blended curricular materials for all languages in an effort to revamp language pedagogy and move towards a flipped classroom design. In December of 2020, language faculty began working with the LUMSX team to film online lessons in Persian and Sindhi, with materials under development also for Pashto, Punjabi, and Urdu. We hope to continue filming throughout the coming year, with the ultimate goal of providing online curricular materials in all of these languages both to our own students as well as in a public platform. In addition to video lessons, instructors have been designing online quizzes, handouts, writing dialogues, and creating a variety of supplemental materials that we will be using in our classes moving forward.

Generous funding from the Gurmani Foundation has enabled the design and launching of the LUMS Urdu Language Program, a new and innovative undertaking in the promotion of Urdu language and culture set to debut in the summer of 2021. The program has been put together by Dr Ali Raza and Dr Gwendolyn Kirk. This language program, a joint undertaking of the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature and the Centre for Continuing Education Studies, will offer a world-class opportunity for foreign students from around the world to study Urdu language and literature and learn about Pakistan's society and culture first-hand in the leading university in its cultural capital, Lahore. Additionally, it provides a potential avenue for interested diaspora and heritage learners to connect with Pakistani language and culture. The program has received support from MGSHSS as well as the American Institute of Pakistan Studies and the Berkeley Urdu Language Program in Pakistan, and will offer intensive instruction for 8 weeks in the summer as well as for the spring and fall semesters. Additionally, we have introduced a Beginning Urdu course through CES, which has also benefitted from partnership with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. More Urdu courses are currently being developed to cater to a variety of student needs beyond the beginning level, and the response both to the Urdu Language Program and the CES courses has already been overwhelming, with inquiries coming from over a dozen countries including the US, UK, Australia, Canada, Italy, Russia, Hong Kong, and Iran, and its first cohort of students set to begin their studies in June 2021

## Lahore Khoji App Launched



Lahori Khoji is an App developed by the students from LUMS as part of their assignment for a course on the history of Lahore designed by Ali Usman Qasmi. Azan bin Zahid and Taimoor Ali – senior year students at the Computer Science department – developed the technical aspects of the App under Professor Suleman Shahid's supervision. In total, 32 students were divided into groups of 5, and each was assigned a specific gate. They were tasked with conceiving a walking trail for the gate, which required extensive research about the gate, its various neighborhoods, historical sites, and the residents' current lived experiences. The students read up on such classical texts about the history of Lahore as the works of Syed Muhammad Latif, Kanahya Lal, and Chishti to do their research and collect relevant information. They made several trips to the walled city, talked to the residents, explored the neighborhoods on their own, identified key sites, pinned them on google maps, and wrote historical notes about them. In their quest to find relevant information about the sites, the students were guided by Syed Faizan Abbas Naqvi – local historian known for his encyclopaedic knowledge of Lahore's history.

The end product is an App that uses the conceptual category of 'walking' to develop an intimacy with the city, its neighborhoods and the lived experiences of its residents. The work on this App, and the course which led to it, could not have been possible without the generous support of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty Initiative Fund and a number of faculty members who gave guest lectures on different aspects of Lahore's history, culture, politics and economy.

## Science in Art & Art in Science

Dr Nadhra Shahbaz Khan has designed a new Summer (term II) course for 2021, in collaboration with Dr Muhammad Zaheer (SSE), titled, "The Art & Science of Colour". This introductory course aims to offer an integrated approach to study art and science side-by-side in a rather unconventional manner and hopes to introduce new methods of investigating both fields. Several hands-on activities and demonstrations will not only give students an opportunity to explore the aesthetic side of colours and their application but will also enable them to understand scientific principles involved in the creation of art.

## Staff Wellness Program

The COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden shift in the work environment have highlighted how critical it is to develop and maintain a healthy workforce. From balancing work with child care to health worries to feelings of isolation, everyone has dealt with some level of stress. Keeping in view these challenges faced by the employees, MGS HSS launched a Wellness Program for our staff with a focus on self-care and stress management through mindfulness. Led by trainee therapist Sophiya Anjum, the program focused on providing practical strategies to manage anxiety and to develop a better work-life balance. The program received stellar reviews with participants urging the School for more such workshops and courses. This was a pioneering effort by Sophiya Anjum who custom-designed a targeted program for the holistic development of MGS HSS staff. The mindfulness session was not only well-attended and well-received but also led to an awareness in the staff about the importance of psychological well-being in optimizing their professional performance. The positive feedback received from the participants was testament to the existing need and desire for mindfulness programs in order to reduce stress, anxiety and conflict at the workplace. This program was successful in increasing the staff's motivational levels, emotional intelligence and communication behavior.

# Seminars, Workshops and Brown Bags at MGSHSS

## English Seminar Series

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### Why Postcolonial Ecofeminism? Why Now?

Date: 8 October 2020

Speaker: Dr Shazia Rahman

Organizer: Dr Saba Pirzadeh

Dr Rahman analyzed Pakistani film and fiction (Khamosh Pani, Burnt Shadows) to illuminate women's indigenous knowledge as an important source of countering environmental violation, promoting an ethics of care towards nature and advocating for socio-ecological justice.

### Decoronial Writing

Date: 16 November 2020

Speaker: Dr Claire Chambers (Professor of Global Literature, University of York)

Organizer: Dr Saba Pirzadeh

Dr Chambers focused on an explication of Zadie Smith, Elif Shafak, Arundhati Roy, and Uzma Aslam Khan's writings on Covid-19 that offered readers a linguistic inoculation against the diseases of racism, Hindutva, anti-immigration bigotry, religious/ideological obscurantism, mental ill health, and coercive control within families.

### Graphic Migrations: Gender and Citizenship in Public Culture

Date: 8 February 2021

Speaker: Dr Kavita Daiya (Director of Women's, Gender and Sexuality studies and Associate Professor of English, George Washington University)

Organizer: Dr Saba Pirzadeh

Dr Daiya's talk examined how graphic narratives, advertisements and historical archives on the 1947 partition shaped political and cultural imagination of secularism and gendered citizenship for South Asians in regional and global contexts.

### The Wor(l)ds of James Baldwin: The Civil Rights Movement and Not-So Post-Racial Imaginary in Literature and Word

Date: 26 February 2021

Speaker: Dr Mark A. Reid (Professor and former Director of Film and Media Studies, University of Florida)

Organizer: Dr Sadia Zulfiqar

Dr Reid analysed Baldwin's Blues for Mister Charlie in relation to the myth of post-raciality and the Civil Rights Movement. Highlighting the pervasiveness of police brutality in contemporary American society, Dr Reid emphasized the need to organize on the basis of intersectionality to galvanize the struggle for racial justice.

### The Value of Mobility in Postcolonial Writing and Cinema

Date: 29 March 2021

Speaker: Dr Anastasia Valassopoulos (Senior Lecturer of World Literatures, University of Manchester)

Organizer: Dr Sadia Zulfiqar

Dr Valassopoulos contrasted Western and indigenous multi-modal representations of the Palestinian and Syrian crises. She discussed the constrictive effect of surveillance and securitization in curtailing migrant mobility, and concluded with an exhortation to recognize the importance of refugee stories as counternarratives.

### In Conversation with Saba Karim Khan

Date: 9 April 2021

Speaker: Saba Karim Khan

Organizer: Dr Sadia Zulfiqar

Ms. Khan discussed her formative years at LUMS and life experiences that shaped the creative vision of her debut novel Skyfall and emphasized the importance of telling stories of marginalized women in pursuit of social justice.

## Brown Bag Series

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### The Spirit of Ramadan and Criminal Acquittals: Causal Evidence from Pakistan

Date: 12 June 20

Speaker: Dr Sultan Mahmood

About the speaker:

Dr Sultan Mehmoed Postdoctoral Fellow at the Aix Marseille School of Economics

Sultan Mehmoed is a postdoctoral fellow at the Aix Marseille School of Economics. He completed his PhD in economics from University of Paris in October 2019. He will join as an assistant professor of Economics at the New Economic School in Moscow in January (after a short visiting position at UPF University Pompeu Fabra). His research interests are in development economics and political economy. Particularly, his research seeks to understand the conditions for establishment of Rule of Law in societies and its consequences for institutional design and development.

Abstract:

We study the effect of religious practice on judicial behavior in the context of Ramadan fasting, in the second most populous Muslim majority country in world. For identification, we rely on exogenous variation in the length of daily fasting due to the interaction between the rotating Islamic calendar and a district court's latitude. Using a unique case-level micro data on judicial cases spanning over the entire history of Pakistan, we report two key results: i) longer fasting has a negative effect on criminal convictions, and ii) this higher acquittals reflect a deterioration in the quality of judicial decisions. We present evidence that these findings are consistent with a channel where physiological deprivation inherent to Ramadan fasting and an anchoring effect that we label the "Ramadan Spirit" primes judges to rule more leniently. Taken together, our results indicate that religious practice can undermine bureaucracies by inducing cognitive biases in high-stake decision-making. (JEL D02, O10, P16).

### Household Response to an Extreme Shock: Evidence on the Immediate Impact of the Covid-19 Lockdown on Economic Outcomes and Well-Being in Rural Uganda

Date: 3 July 2020

Speaker: Dr Mehreen Mahmud

About the speaker:

Dr Mahreen Mahmud is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Development Economics at the Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford. She has a PhD in Economics from the University of Kent. She works on topics related to

development and behavioural economics with field experiments in Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa and Uganda.

**Abstract:**

We provide evidence on the economic and well-being impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on a sample of households in rural Uganda. Our sample consists of 1,277 households randomly drawn from 114 rural villages in western Uganda and surveyed in-person in early March 2020, just before the lockdown. We followed up with this sample in May 2020, reaching over 85% of them by phone. We find a large decline of 60% in household non-farm income due to household enterprise profits and labour income being almost wiped out post the lockdown. Households respond to this loss of income in three key ways. One, there is a 40% decrease in food expenditure per adult equivalent. Two, they use up nearly 50% of their savings and borrow more, but have not yet liquidated their fixed assets or sold livestock. Three, they increase total household labour supply to household farm and livestock, more than making up for the decline in supply to enterprises and labour outside the household. We find a decrease in well-being as a result of this: there is an increase in the likelihood of missing a meal, a decline in reported satisfaction with quality of life, a higher likelihood of having a major argument with spouse and an increase in perceived frequency of intimate partner violence against women in the village. The negative effects of the lockdown are greater for households that were wealthier at baseline, since these households were more reliant on enterprise and salaried income.

**Trust in The State and Citizen Cooperation: Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan**

Date: 14 August 2020

Speaker: Dr Andreas Stagmann

**About the speaker:**

Andreas Stegmann is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Warwick. He holds a PhD from CEMFI in Spain. His research fields are political economy and development.

**Abstract:**

This paper investigates the questions whether and how deep-rooted mistrust in state institutions and elected governments can be redressed, and whether doing so can yield higher citizen cooperation with the state. We evaluate one attempt to improve these outcomes by leveraging randomly assigned informational treatments shared with Pakistani citizens as part of a phone survey during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our informational treatments were designed to encapsulate common strategies used by governments in their messaging to citizens. We elicit beliefs and trust using survey questions and a lab-in-the-field type of measure, and use a pre-analysis-plan (PAP) to preclude us from data mining. We show that the information treatments neither improved perceptions of state capacity nor increased trust in the state. However, we document a striking partisan gap in belief updating related to citizen cooperation. Our results suggest that citizens' perceptions of state inefficiency and distrust towards the state are deeply engrained and difficult to manipulate. Moreover, political polarization might be an important underlying factor preventing societies from developing higher levels of state capacity in response to the COVID-19 shock.

**COVID-19's Socioeconomic Toll on Women in the Informal Sector in Pakistan**

Date: 2 October 2020

Speaker: Dr Faisal Bari

**About the speaker:**

Dr Faisal Bari Associate Professor at the Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics and Interim Dean at the School of Education Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Dr Faisal Bari is an economist with over twenty years of research/teaching experience in the areas of economics of education, social protection, industrial organization and economic development. His areas of teaching and research relate to the economics of education, inclusive education, philosophy of education, microeconomics, game theory and industrial organization. He is currently also serving as the Interim Dean for the School of Education at LUMS. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS). Previous to this, Dr Bari was Executive Director for Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre (2004-2006), and Visiting Assistant Professor of economics at Yale University, New Haven (2000-2001). Dr Bari has also consulted with Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, DFID, CIDA, SDC and UNDP. A former Rhodes Scholar (Pakistan-1988), Dr Bari has a BA (honours) from Oxford, and a doctorate from McGill University. His research has been published in numerous journals/books. He is a regular columnist for the daily Dawn, Pakistan.

**Abstract:**

Given significant decrease in the rate of COVID-19 infection in Pakistan, the Pakistani economy started opening in different phases. Consequently, economists and policy makers are estimating the economic effects in the aftermath of the lockdown that was implemented to curb the infection in the country. While the country's economy has suffered as a whole, it is the informal sector that has been most affected. The impact is particularly profound for women, who comprise a large majority of the informal sector. Women working as domestic help, home-based workers involved in small scale manufacturing, low fee private school tutors, beauticians and technicians are largely undocumented, unregulated and have little or no access to social protection and job security. This study aims to estimate the effects of pandemic on women who were already facing problems due to high degree of informality. Estimates from the study show that the pandemic has exacerbated the existing afflictions for women working in the informal sector. Survey findings report that between March and May 2020, women working as business owners lost 40% of their profits; 19% of those employed were laid off either temporarily or permanently; and 70% were uncertain about the future sustainability of their work and businesses. Women in the informal sector had to borrow large amounts from various informal sources to cope up with the economic shocks, with little or no recourse to the government for social protection. Amidst economic vulnerability, women face increased incidence of domestic violence from their spouses, additional responsibilities of household care and reduced agency.

**Do Reward and Reprimand Policies Work in Reducing Electricity Distribution Losses?**

Date: 16 October 2020

Speaker: Dr Ayesha Ali

**About the speaker:**

Dr Ayesha Ali is Assistant Professor of Economics at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan. She does research on developing countries in the areas of Energy, Information Economics, and Political Economy. Some of her current projects include studying policies to counter electricity theft, impact of unreliable electricity distribution services, combating misinformation among low digital literacy populations, and competition and its effects on news media quality in Pakistan. She completed her PhD in Economics from the University of Toronto, Canada in 2016.



#### Abstract:

Do Reward and Reprimand Policies Work in Reducing Electricity Distribution Losses? Ayesha Ali, Khusrav Gaibulloev, Javed Younas

Electricity distribution losses due to theft and non-repayment of bills are costly burden for the power sector in developing countries, leading to significant financial losses and poor service delivery. Using monthly electricity feeder level data, we study the effect of a unique reward and reprimand policy in curbing losses, implemented by the utility serving the city of Karachi in Pakistan. Under this policy, feeders were assigned to very high, high, medium, or low outages, based on average losses in the past twelve months using fixed thresholds to separate the categories. To incentivize loss reduction, the distribution company periodically updated the outage category at the feeder level. We use an instrumental variable and fuzzy regression discontinuity design in which we instrument for actual outages by outages predicted by the policy, to study the effect on within feeder change in losses. Both approaches show that the policy was successful in bringing down losses, but the effect is smaller for feeders in high and very high loss areas.

#### Groundwater Management under Heterogeneous Land Tenure Arrangements

Date: 23 October 2020

Speaker: Dr Sanval Nasim

#### About the speaker:

Dr Sanval Nasim is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He studies how societies can better allocate environmental goods and services to grow sustainably and equitably. His research work includes behavioural experiments on air pollution forecasts and information-based pollution mitigation interventions, optimal control modelling of water resources, and cost-benefit analysis of clean technology adoption. Dr Nasim obtained his PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Policy from the University of California, Riverside in 2015 and a BA in Economics-Mathematics and in History from Colby College in 2008.

#### Abstract

Does sharecropping improve groundwater stock and net returns to irrigated agriculture over time? Do groundwater stock and net returns in the presence of sharecropping significantly differ across groundwater management schemes such as open access and optimal management? How does the revenue from a charge on groundwater extractions vary across sharecroppers and owner cultivators? We evaluate these questions by introducing land tenure heterogeneity in a dynamic groundwater model; calibrating the model using economic and hydrological data from an aquifer in a developing country; and simulating the outcomes over a long-term horizon.

#### Promotions in Alcohol Sales: Lessons from the Scottish Experiment

Date: 20 November 2020

Speaker: Dr Farasat Bokhari

#### About the speaker:

Dr Farasat Bokhari Associate Professor at School of Economics and Centre for Competition Policy University of East Anglia. Farasat is an applied Industrial Organization (IO) and a Health Economist, with interests in competition and policy analysis. He has worked on the role of insurance and competition on the adoption and diffusion of hospital technologies, impact of public financing on health outcomes across countries, and unintended consequences of school accountability laws on diagnosis and

treatment of ADHD among school children. His recent work provides valuation of new drugs, including those of generics and second generation me-too/follow-on drugs as well as impact of 'pay-for-delay' deals between branded and generic drug producers, and how such settlements are made. His current work is focused on innovation strategies of pharmaceutical firms and how they impact growth but also act to deter potential entry by rivals upon end of marketing exclusivity for patent holders. He is also working on impact of various sales regulations for alcohol. Farasat teaches empirical methods in 10 (demand estimation) and Math Methods for Economists to the PhD class and 10 to the MSc students.

#### Abstract:

In a widely regarded pioneer effort to curb the country's alcohol problem, Scotland imposed a ban on front-of-the-aisle and multi-buy promotions of alcohol in retail stores in October 2011. Using take-home purchasers scan records of a representative sample of households living in Scotland, England and Wales collected before and after the ban, we evaluate the effect of the policy. We find heterogeneous effects by alcohol-type as well as by type of consumers. First, retailers appear to have responded by replacing multi-buy promotions with over all temporary price reductions (discounts) on single unit which allowed consumers to purchase alcohol at lower post-promotion prices per unit. Second, the ban had limited or no impact on the purchasing patterns of low or moderate purchasers. On the other hand, high purchasers who are more price sensitive and responsible for almost three quarter of purchases by volume, increased their overall purchase for beers and wines, segments particularly affected by the multi-buy ban. Third, the increase in purchases of beers among high purchasers persists even when accounting for any simultaneous price changes. This is not the case for wines. Finally, the number of shopping trips per week also increased among heavy purchasers. We tentatively conclude that non-linear pricing was restraining heavy purchasers but once the ban came into effect, uniform pricing removed that constraint and both the frequency and amount of alcohol purchased increased.

#### Using existing public service infrastructure to deliver early childhood development interventions: Evidence from a cRCT in Bangladesh

Date: 4 December 2020

Speaker: Mr. Akib Khan

#### About the speaker:

Mr. Akib Khan 2nd year Economics PhD student at Uppsala University. Previously, Mr. Khan was a Jr Economist with IDinsight in Lusaka, Zambia, leading experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations in agriculture, health, and education, and providing M&E support to governments in Zambia, Malawi and Ghana. Mr. Khan is co-investigating two held experiments in Pakistan, exploring the potential of in-home growth monitoring in addressing childhood undernutrition, and the roles of learning, habit formation and social norm in adoption of cheap water purification technology; and an experiment in Sweden on the role of social network in immigrant integration. With a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, his past experience includes stints with the World Bank, IPA, /GC, and BRAC School of Public Health PhD class and 10 to the MSc students.

#### Abstract:

Can existing public service delivery platforms be used to implement early childhood development interventions at scale? We report results from a clustered natural field experiment evaluating an early childhood stimulation intervention in

Bangladesh targeting more than 12,000 children between 3-18 months and delivered by health-workers of a pre-existing nutrition program. The key (preliminary) results are as follows: a) despite implementation challenges leading to only half of the intended population receiving the intervention, ITT estimates show modest improvements in child outcomes in terms of cognitive (0.16 SD), language (0.22 SD), and socio-emotional development (0.12-0.15 SD); b) it led to robust improvements in nutritional outcomes as well, reducing wasting and underweight rates by 4.8 (40%) and 3.5 (10%) percentage points, respectively; c) in terms of mechanisms, the former seems to be driven by changes in parental investments in play materials and learning activities, whereas the latter might be a result of increased take-up of the pre-existing nutrition program thereby attenuating crowding-out concerns in this particular context.

### Using the Alternative Minimum Tax to Estimate the Elasticity of Taxable Income for High Earners in the United States

Date: 11 December 2020

Speaker: Mr. Ali Abbas

About the speaker:

Mr. Ali Abbas is a doctoral candidate in Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. His areas of expertise are public finance and development economics. Ali studies the responsiveness of taxpayers to tax policy and researches the distributional and revenue effects of evolving income tax and property tax regimes, both in the United States and in developing country contexts. Since 2019, Ali has provided technical guidance on the design of property taxation to the provincial governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan. Prior to enrolling at Cornell, Ali received a Master of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities as a Fulbright Scholar, and conducted research at the World Bank and the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP).

Abstract:

Personal Income tax revenue in the United States draws heavily from high-income taxpayers. How high earners respond to tax changes has repercussions for tax revenue, the efficiency costs of taxation and the optimal progressivity of the tax schedule. Prior research that uses bunching methods to estimate the taxable income response of taxpayers has presented no evidence of high-income bunching at the top kink in the regular, federal income tax schedule. I argue that the regular schedule does not identify the actual tax-related incentives that apply to high-income individuals. At the federal level, high earners are subject to a combination of the regular income tax and the Alternative Minimum Tax. I use annual tax codes and samples of Internal Revenue Service individual income tax return data from 1993-2011 to characterize the combined schedule for each taxpayer. I discover previously undetected bunching at the top kink in this schedule and use it to estimate the elasticity of taxable income with respect to the net-of-tax rate for high earners to be between 0.15 to 0.28. This estimate implies a lower bound on the optimal top marginal tax rate of 70 percent, suggesting an optimal rate that is higher than prevailing top rates. I also use this setting to make a unique methodological contribution: I show that the location of the top kink in the combined schedule for each taxpayer varies across the distribution of taxable income. This generates novel variation in marginal tax rates that is separable from variation in taxable income, allowing me to mitigate a key endogeneity concern associated with the use of bunching estimators on fixed kink points.

### Institutional Change and Dynastic Persistence in Pakistan: The Impact of Electoral Reapportionment and Education Minimums

Date: 18 December 2020

Speaker: Dr Ali Cheema

About the speaker:

Dr Ali Cheema is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He serves as the Faculty Director of the Mahbub UI Haq Research Centre at LUMS. He is a co-founder of the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). In addition, he is a Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS) and a co-lead academic of the International Growth Center's Pakistan programme. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex and was the Chair of the Economics Department at LUMS from 2004-2010. He was also a founding member of the Stockholm Challenge Award winning portal, Relief Information System for Earthquakes, Pakistan (RISEPAK). His areas of research include economic development with a focus on human capital, inclusion and economic mobility, gender, public economics, comparative politics, economic history and the economics of crime. His research combines extensive mixed-methods fieldwork, historical archival research, rigorous empirical analysis and theory to offer insights into how political economy and historical foundations shape economic and political development. Part of his recent work focuses on how political and wealth inequality shape accountability, representation and development, analyzing the barrier's to women's political participation and representation and evaluating the potential of skills and human capital as instruments for inclusive development. He is particularly interested in how local governance and taxation institutions can be designed to make states more accountable to citizens. He is also interested in understanding the role of citizen-state trust in building effective and accountable state capacities for inclusive development. He holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge, an MPhil in Economics and Politics from Cambridge, a BA (Hons.) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a BA in Mathematics and Statistics from Government College, Lahore. He was a visiting Fulbright and SAI Scholar at Harvard Kennedy School in 2010-11.

Abstract:

The pervasiveness of families in electoral politics around the world highlights the ability of elites to self-perpetuate, even in the face of considerable institutional change. In this paper, we test how political dynasties in Pakistan responded to two institutional reforms introduced in 2002 with the potential of curtailing elite power. We demonstrate that electoral reapportionment and redelimitation had different consequences for political families, a powerful elite group in Pakistan. Using a regression discontinuity design leveraging district level reapportionment formulae, we estimate that an additional seat within a district decreases the probability a constituency is won by a dynastic candidate by 9 percentage points, diluting the power of dynastic families. On the other hand, using a difference-in-difference, we estimate that the disqualification of incumbents via education minimums only causes churning within the elite; while incumbents were disqualified, their family members won at high rates in their stead and dynastic prevalence in politics was unchanged. We argue that these differential responses to institutional reforms may be the result of diminishing marginal returns to the number of family members in elected office. These results highlight the usefulness of legislature size, reapportionment and increasing the number of representative units to curtailing the power of incumbent elites.

## Price Information and Competitive Spillovers in an Online Platform in Pakistan

Date: 19 February 2021

Speaker: Shotaro Nakamura

About the speaker:

Shotaro Nakamura is a 4th-year Ph.D. student in economics at the University of California, Davis. He holds an M.Sc. in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and B.A. in Economics from Dartmouth College. Shotaro's research focuses on online markets and digital economies of developing countries. He is particularly interested in information and search frictions in online marketplaces, and the roles of analytics tools and platform design in inducing welfare gains and positive market externalities.

Abstract:

Information and search frictions play a critical role in the efficiency of emerging markets, which often see high price levels and dispersion (e.g. Allen 2014; Andrabi et al. 2017). Information communications technology is shown to reduce such frictions (e.g. Aker 2010; Aker and Mbiti 2010; Jensen 2007), and online platforms and marketplaces may further accelerate efficiency gains in the search and match processes in emerging economies. An emerging body of evidence suggests that, although large enough shocks could induce productive efficiency gains, market structure and persistent frictions could dampen such effects (e.g. Bai et al. 2020; Jensen and Miller 2018; Mitra et al. 2018). We aim to provide empirical insights on a) how market participants internalize, and compensate for frictions in online markets, as well as b) how an externally adjusted information environment would induce spillovers and other systematic implications. To this end, we have partnered with the leading listing platform for used vehicles for Pakistan, and are running a randomized control trial in which we privately provide a machine-learning based price estimate to sellers. We will generate variations in the timing of treatment by market sub-sections via a two-step cluster-randomization design, in order to separate direct treatment effects from spillovers. We will observe sellers' strategic choices on the platform in two dimensions; list pricing and advertising. We are set to roll out the intervention in March 2021.

## Forecasts: Consumption, Production, and Behavioral Responses

Date: 26 February 2021

Speaker: Dr Sanval Nasim

Abstract:

Economic theory predicts forecasts are an important determinant of welfare. In developing countries, however, limited information and human capital may make it difficult for agents to produce accurate, precise forecasts. This plausibly limits the scope for optimal responses to uncertain future events. We study the effects on forecast consumption, production, and behavioral responses from two randomized interventions in Lahore, Pakistan: 1) provision of one-day ahead air pollution forecasts; and 2) general forecasting training aimed at reducing behavioral biases. On average, subjects exposed to forecasts were willing to pay roughly 60 percent of the cost of mobile Internet access to continue receiving them. Both interventions reduced air pollution forecast error, and receipt of forecasts increased demand for protective masks. These results document substantial demand for forecasts among urban residents in the developing world. They suggest that modest educational interventions may durably improve forecasting-relevant human capital.

## History Seminar Series

### Book Launch by Professor Richard Eaton

Date: 12 October 2020

Speaker: Prof. Richard Eaton

Organizer: Dr Ali Usman Qasmi

About the speaker:

Richard Maxwell Eaton is an American historian, currently working as a professor of history at the University of Arizona. He is known for having written the notable books on Indian history before 1800. He is also credited for his work on the social roles of Sufis, slavery, and cultural history of pre-modern India. His research has mainly concentrated on the Deccan, the Bengal frontier, Islam in India and, most importantly his work India in the Persianate Age: 1000-1765, a text praised as a new cultural history of India from the middle ages to the arrival of the British.

Abstract:

Protected by vast mountains and seas, the Indian subcontinent might seem a nearly complete and self-contained world with its own religions, philosophies, and social systems. And yet this ancient land and its varied societies experienced prolonged and intense interaction with the peoples and cultures of East and Southeast Asia, Europe, Africa, and especially Central Asia and the Iranian plateau.

Richard M. Eaton told this extraordinary story with relish and originality, as he traces the rise of Persianate culture, a many-faceted transregional world connected by ever-widening networks across much of Asia. Introduced to India in the eleventh century by dynasties based in eastern Afghanistan, this culture would become progressively indigenized in the time of the great Mughals (sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries). Eaton brilliantly elaborated the complex encounter between India's Sanskrit culture—an equally rich and transregional complex that continued to flourish and grow throughout this period—and Persian culture, which helped shape the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughal Empire, and a host of regional states. This long-term process of cultural interaction is profoundly reflected in the languages, literatures, cuisines, attires, religions, styles of rulership and warfare, science, art, music, and architecture—and more—of South Asia.

## HSS seminar Series

### Cold War 2.0: Sino-American Rivalry and the Post-liberal Order

Date: 10 February 2021

Speaker: Prof. Mustapha Kamal Pasha

Organizers: Prof. Mohammad Waseem and Dr Asma Faiz

About the speaker:

Prof. Mustapha Kamal Pasha specializes in International Relations Theory and World Politics. He has taught in universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, China and Japan.

### Book launch by Karamat Ali, "Rahguzar to Dekho" (Pathway: Workers' Remarkable Struggle for Peace, Social Justice and Democracy — Experiences and Observations)

Date: 24 February 2021

Organizers: Prof. Mohamamd Waseem and Dr Asma Faiz

Speakers:

Karamat Ali, Executive Director of Pakistan Institute of Labour

Education and Research (PILER)

Dr Syed Jaffer Ahmed, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Sohail University, Karachi.

Ms. Rubina Jamil, President All Pakistan Workers Confederation  
Mohammad Tehseen, Executive Director of South Asia  
Partnership Pakistan and National Convener of Pakistan Civil  
Society

Dr Syed Muhammad Azeem, Assistant Professor of Law at LUMS

### **A Post-Colonial Condition of Policing? Jang aur Jugar in Karachi, Pakistan**

Date: 10 Mar 2021

Speaker: Dr Zoha Waseem

Organizers: Prof. Mohammad Waseem and Dr Asma Faiz

About the speaker:

Dr Zoha Waseem is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Global City Policing, University College London. Her research interests broadly include comparative policing, the provision of public security, police-military relations, police-minority relations, urban security and insecurity, and institutional culture and reform.

### **Indo-Pak Cricket Relations in the Shadow of the Rise of Hindutva**

Date: 24 Mar 2021

Speaker: Dr Ali Khan

Organizers: Prof. Mohammad Waseem and Dr Asma Faiz

About the speaker:

Dr Ali Khan is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Dean of the Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences at LUMS. Dr Khan's research interests vary from labour issues to popular culture in Pakistan focusing particularly on cinema and sports. His latest book covering the theme of cricket and society is currently under publication. Dr Khan is also General Editor of Oxford University Press Karachi for a series of seven books on Sociology and Anthropology in Pakistan.

### **Launch of the Education, Justice and Memory (EdJAM) Network**

Date: March 2-4, 2021

Organizers: Dr Tania Saeed and Dr Sameen A. Mohsin Ali (Co-Is EdJam)

### **EDUCATION: Tuesday 2 March 2021**

Dr Tania Saeed hosted a conversation with Professors Arathi Sriprakash and Keri Facer.

Education is sometimes framed as the only way to overcome past injustices and their legacies in the present. Yet the personal experiences of millions of learners around the world and of the work social theorists across many traditions show how schooling is often a site of violence and a process that maintains existing inequalities and creates new ones.

This panel grappled with this paradox by exploring the purposes and possibilities of education, inside and outside of schools, to help create just futures. With a focus on decolonial theory and practice, creativity and co-production, memory and reparative practice, and ecological and climate justice, panellist shared their experience, research and questions around education.

### **JUSTICE: Wednesday 3 March 2021**

Abiti Nelson hosted a conversation with Professors Ciraj Rassool and Pablo de Greiff.

Justice has many definitions: something which is meted out in courtrooms, a sense of fairness for all, a process of repairing past injustice, a radical reshaping of social relationships and imagining new ways of living for people and planet. These definitions connect and call on education and memory making about the past in different ways as this panel will explore. With a focus on transitional justice; human rights; accounting for past injustices, including of colonialism, slavery, and violent conflict; heritage and memory making processes, our panelists shared their experiences, research and questions around justice.

### **MEMORY: Thursday 4 March 2021**

Professor Matthew Brown hosted a conversation with Professors Elizabeth Jelin and Maria Emma Wills. This event was held in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation to English.

Memories about violence and injustice are multiple, struggled over and often very different from official narratives of the past that circulate in history books and classrooms. Memory can also be productive and pedagogical, offering potential to intervene in educational spaces and to challenge or shape transitional justice processes.

With a focus on social movements, gender, memory production by those affected by violent conflict, the relationship between history and memory, transitional justice and the pedagogical possibilities of memory, the panelists shared their experiences, research and questions about memory.

### **EdJAM Funding opportunities: Friday 5 March 2021**

EdJAM commissioned research into creative practices for teaching and learning about the violent past. We will fund projects led by researchers, civil society organisations, artists and activists, with a focus on research led by colleagues based in the global south, early career researchers and/or researchers from groups that are traditionally under-represented in academia. In this session, information about the process of applying for funding, the areas of focus, and tips on preparing applications was shared.



# Research at MGSHSS

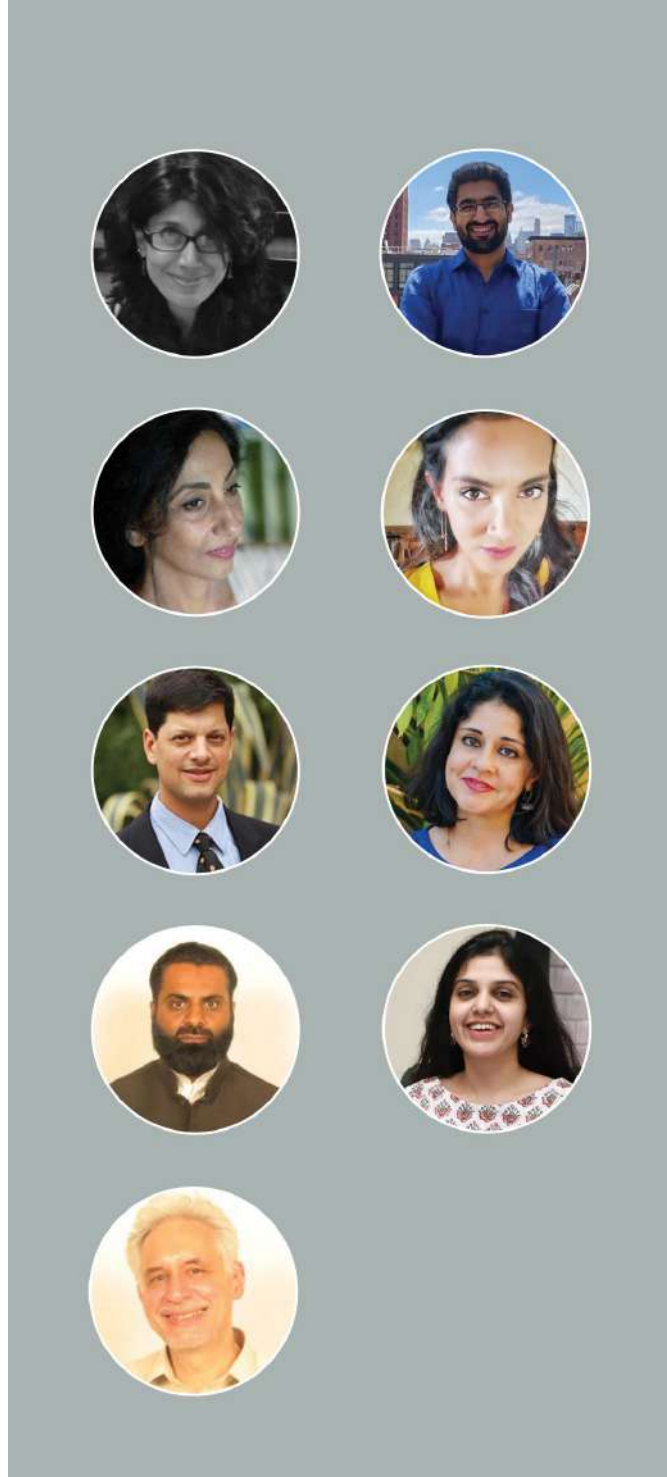
## Anthropology and Sociology

Gender has been a cross cutting theme in **Dr Sadaf Ahmad's** research to date. It has intersected with a variety of domains—religious revivalism, women's social movements, gender-based violence, and Pakistani cinema—over the last fifteen years, and resulted in my monograph *Transforming Faith: A Story of Al-Huda and Islamic Revivalism Among Urban Pakistani Women* (Syracuse University Press, 2009) and a number of book chapters and articles.

Sadaf's current research project is on Pakistani policewomen. She conducted ethnographic research on Pakistani female police officers over a twelve-month period in 2015 and 2016. This exploratory research—based on a few hundred hours of observation of policewomen as they did their duties across a variety of spaces, and interviews—sought to understand female police officers' experiences across rank, geographical location, and the police branch they worked in, in a larger context in which little academic work had been done on them. This research thus took place across nine cities in three Pakistani provinces, which included both federal and provincial capitals, as well as relatively smaller cities within the provinces. It also included female police officers who worked at different ranks in the provincial police (e.g. police stations, the traffic police) and in different federal police branches (e.g. the National Highways and Motorway Police).

Some of the gendered insights gained from this research have been shared with the Punjab Police through a workshop on police reforms jointly organized by them and the United States Institute of Peace. Other insights have been shared through published work. Her journal article "Pakistani policewomen: Questioning the role of gender in circumscribing police corruption" (*Policing and Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2019.1611820>) critically interrogates the popular narrative that increasing the number of women in the organization will reduce its corruption levels. Her book chapter "'How do I like being a policewoman? I'm very happy!' Pakistani Policewomen and the Challenge of Presentational Data" (in *The Routledge Companion to Anthropology and Business*, Routledge) provides a detailed look into how ethnographic research can play a critical role in overcoming a major challenge—interviewee reticence and misdirection—when studying an organization associated with corruption and a regular abuse of human rights. Additional writing projects—which focus on the various factors which produce and reproduce gender inequity in the police at different ranks, and which do a comparison of the efficacy of women police stations in the global South—are currently underway.

**Dr Umair Javed's** research interest span the interplay of politics with socio-economic development, especially within the context of urban informality in South Asia. His latest publication – a forthcoming book chapter for a Palgrave-MacMillan edited volume, *The Sociology of South Asia*, out in mid-2021 – looks at the role of religious ritual and cultural beliefs in the lives of merchants and workers in large informal marketplaces. From another project,



a forthcoming journal article looks at the politics and history of popular urban discontentment around electricity outages, and the state's varying responses to such forms of contention.

During this past year, he has initiated work on three externally-funded research projects, with total grant award amount to £210,000. The first of these is a GCRF-ESRC funded project investigating how peri-urban communities politically navigate access to basic services in the city of Lahore, as part of a broader investigation in urban political economies of South Asia. Preliminary work from this project was presented at the annual British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) meeting in 2021. A second project, funded by the International Centre for Taxation and Development (ICTD), studies attitudes towards the state and informal charitable giving during the COVID-19 pandemic in Egypt, Morocco, and Pakistan through the use of a large-n survey. Finally, a third project, initiated in late 2020, looks at the relationship between state and informal sector workers, and the impact of COVID-19 on trust and health-seeking behaviour.

**Dr Anjum Alvi** has explored in her research entirely different fields, like, kinship, person-self, death, Muslim veiling, gift, rituals, ethics and moralities over three decades of teaching cultural anthropology. In her publications, she attempts to develop a theory which encompasses a subjective and objective perspective as well as facts and values by relating anthropological perspectives to philosophical ones. She examines cultural fragments in relation to their place in the larger picture, be it of one specific cultural context, or the total of cultural contexts constituting humanity as such. In such an endeavour, instead of emphasizing mere differences or similarities, she searches for transforming patterns between cultural contexts, and points out challenges that we face in relating cultural contexts intersubjectively.

She has published in well-known journals. Her latest work, published in *Anthropological Theory* (2020), offers a new theoretical perspective to analyze empirical data and a new understanding of ethics within the discipline. She co-authored another essay, currently under review, with her husband Lukas Werth that argues for a differentiation of ethics from morality and introduces the notion of the non-ethical as different from the unethical. This perspective allows to critically reconsider one's own and others' values. This may constitute a key for addressing issues like, racism, fundamentalism and religious dominance, or xenophobia in the contemporary multicultural world. Another ongoing research, also coauthored with Lukas Werth, is on the dimension of ethics inscribed in a hitherto largely overlooked aspect of the classic work of Marcel Mauss on the gift. This discussion offers a basic alternative to widespread assumptions derived from economic rationality.

**Dr Rabia Kamal's** current project is a multi-sited ethnography located at the nexus of social media and social justice in the United States and Pakistan. Foregrounding digital worlds as emergent from and constitutive of specific cultural, historical, and political contexts, her research explores the ways in which technology and social media are affecting how young activists are engaging with "the political." She uses the phrase "the political" to broadly reference such practices as civic and political engagement, transnational activism, and political/social commentary around popular culture. Through digital ethnography and offline participant observation and interviews, Rabia aims to gain a more holistic understanding of how women of color in the U.S. (both immigrant and indigenous) and female activists in Pakistan navigate a racialized and gendered digital landscape.

Rabia Kamal asks how women of color are responding to such interpellations through content creation and online engagement as "influencers," particularly in the era of digital misogyny, "false news," and ubiquitous government surveillance? How might a cross-cultural, transnational perspective on online activism shed light on "racialized" and "gendered" affect in critical ways? In what ways might postcolonial, black, and indigenous feminisms intersect on- and offline in the current moment? And how do factors such as class and other forms of privilege shape and limit radical feminist and anti-racist politics, both in the U.S. and in Pakistan?

Further research on the relationship between social media, cultural performance, and the emerging logics of virality and contagion provide a useful framework for exploring the nature of resistance vis-a-vis digital subcultures. The research methods employed for this project also draw on innovations in ethnographic research which offer critical approaches to digital media, ethics, and the relationship between the digital and the human.

**Dr Ali Khan** has been working on completing the manuscript for his book on cricket and society. During the year he has also submitted two chapters - to Oxford University Press *Indo-Pak Relations in the Shadow of the Rise of Hindutva* (Oxford University Press) and *Muslims and Cricket* (Bloomsbury). In 2020 his edited book with Ali Nobil Film and Cinephillia was published by Oxford University Press.

**Dr Nida Kirmani** continues her long-term research engagement in the area of Lyari in Karachi. After publishing an article on the relationship between feminism and fun for young women in this area, Nida worked with a Lyari-based director, Dostain Baloch, to convert these findings into a documentary entitled *Khel Khel Mein (Playing at the Boundary)*. This film has been screened at the WOW Festival, the Vasakh Documentary Film Festival, The University of Edinburgh South Asian Seminar Series, the Women International Film Festival, and at Queen Mary University London. Dr Kirmani is also planning on submitting a journal article on the relationship between state and non-state actors in the area. During the coming months, she will be submitting a proposal for a full-length manuscript based on this longitudinal research.

Nida is also in the process of editing a textbook with Folio Books on gender studies in Pakistan, and her edited volume, *Marginalisation, Contestation and Change in South Asian Cities*, which is based on a conference held at LUMS in 2016 on the same theme and brings together scholars from India and Pakistan, will be published by Oxford University Press in the coming months.

**Dr Basit Koshul** has completed a chapter entitled: "Max Weber's Life and Our Times: The Cultural Significance of Weber's Methodology." It will be included in *The Routledge International Handbook on Max Weber* edited by Alan Sica. The book is due by the end of the year. He is also completing a manuscript titled: *American Pragmatism and Modern Islamic Thought: A Case Study*, to be published by Edinburgh University Press. The book is due by the end of the year.

**Dr Tania Saeed** is involved in the Education, Justice, and Memory Network (EdJAM) which is a collaborative international network of researchers, educators and civil society organisations working in the arts, education, and heritage. EdJAM is a UKRI GCRF funded Network Plus project led by Dr Julia Paulson at the University of Bristol and brings together academics across the fields of education, sociology, history, and politics from the UK, Pakistan, Colombia, Uganda, and Cambodia. EdJAM contributes to SDG 4 - quality and inclusive education for all - by committing to creative ways to teach and learn about the violent past in order to build more just futures.

EdJAM's collaborative work takes place across four themes: History education about the violent past; Heritage, education, and everyday life; Transitional justice and memory; and, Learning, collaborative evaluation and partnership. Across these themes, EdJAM aims to identify synergies and linkages, produce new knowledge in collaboration with local partners, promote creative approaches to pedagogy and enhance research capacity.

In Pakistan, the team is led by Tania Saeed (Sociology) and Sameen A. Mohsin Ali (Politics). Dr Saeed and Dr Ali are co-investigators for History education about the violent past, with Dr Catriona Pennell at the University of Exeter. This theme considers the construction of, and struggle over historical narratives, their use and place in and beyond the classroom, and

the interpretations of learners. In particular, the theme engages with teacher and learner identities, colonial legacies, power dynamics in the classroom, and its implications on political ideologies and identities beyond the classroom.

In the initial phase, the Pakistan team received a AHRC - GCRF Development Grant in 2019 to start work with a civil society partner, Engage Pakistan. The Development Grant supports Engage Pakistan's innovative approach to teaching and learning about historical events through developing short-animated films that deal with pre-partition violence committed by the colonizers, and post-partition violence committed by citizens, and the state. These videos are available to view on the YouTube channel Hashiya Online. These videos are also being used to engage high school and university students and teachers in Pakistan and across EdJAM partner countries to reflect on how such (and related) narratives have been presented or erased in the formal curricula, and their implications for questions of citizenship and identity.

EdJAM officially launches with a series of virtual events during the first week of March. The launch will be followed by a series of events across partner countries throughout March and April 2021. To encourage greater collaboration and innovation, EdJAM will also be providing funding opportunities for new projects starting in October 2021.

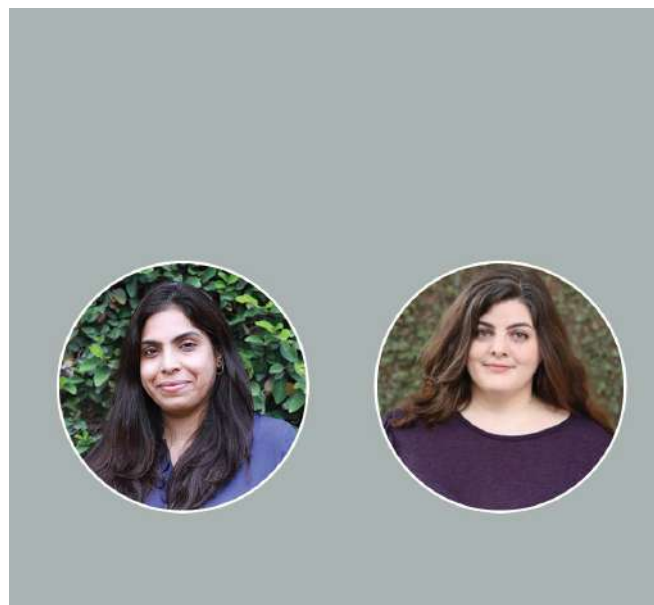
**Dr Lukas Werth** locates in space and time those values and discourses which define the worlds we inhabit as well as the conditions which form them. He traces them by investigating such notions as ethics as an expression of the Other, power, liminality, the Beyond, and he illustrates them by photographic means. He developed this perspective over thirty years of teaching and exploring different fields of anthropology (kinship, caste, ritual, gender, hunter-gatherers, mythology, art, visual anthropology, religions in comparison, Sufism and asceticism, modernity and postmodernity).

He co-authored an essay, currently under review, with Anjum Alvi that argues for a differentiation of ethics from morality and introduces the notion of the non-ethical as different from the unethical. This may constitute a key for addressing issues like, racism, fundamentalism and religious dominance, or xenophobia in the contemporary multicultural world. Another ongoing research, also coauthored with Anjum Alvi, is on the dimension of ethics inscribed in a hitherto largely overlooked aspect of the classic work of Marcel Mauss on the gift. This discussion offers a basic alternative to widespread assumptions derived from economic rationality.

His research "*Borders, Power, and Conspiracies: Intellectual gestures in Contemporary Pakistan*" is essentially about the intellectual discourse which developed particularly in urban Pakistan. Here he identifies a particular modernity which emerged in conjunction with reformist brands of Islam.

His research on "*The existential Abyss of German Detective Movies*" focuses on a common genre of German TV. It reveals how the discourses that structure our experience generate their own nightmares by pointing out an underlying pattern: a discrepancy between work and private life, family and profession, fracturing human existence. This articulates a basic fear which informs people's identities.

## Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS)



**Dr Zebunnisa Hamid** has recently published an article in BioScope titled 'Behind the Scenes: The Women Filmmakers of New Pakistani Cinema'. Her chapter, 'The Birth of a Cinema in Post 9/11 Pakistan,' also appeared in the recently published book, *South Asian Filmscapes: Transregional Encounters* (editors Elora Halim Chowdhury and Esha Niyogi De; University of Washington Press). Early this year, Zebunnisa took part in the virtual book launch for this volume where she spoke about her chapter and research. She is currently working on her own book, based on her PhD thesis, 'New Pakistani Cinema: Industry, Processes and Imaginaries', as well as journal articles on transnational cinemas, urban spaces and the cinematic city. During this time, she joined the advisory board for *Screen Worlds: Decolonizing Film and Screen Studies*, an ERC funded project hosted by SOAS. Dr Hamid is also working on a co-authored chapter titled, 'The City as a Site of Contention of Gender Mores in Asian Screen Narratives: An Exploration of Contemporary Japanese and Pakistani Cinemas,' with Dr Irene Gonzalez-Lopez, her colleague in Spain and an expert on Japanese cinema, for the project's *Global Screen Worlds* volume. A workshop on the chapter is planned for this summer.

During the academic year, Zebunnisa presented her paper 'Finding Hope and Despair in the Transnational Cinematic City: The Case of Laal Kabootar' at the 11th International Small Cinemas Conference. She moderated a discussion on contemporary Pakistani cinema with filmmakers Meenu Gaur and Tabish Habib for the Centre for Creative Industries, Media and Screen Studies, SOAS and the *Screen Worlds* Project. She also took part in a panel discussion for the DIVVY Film Festival, held by Foundation Art Divvy and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, and was a guest speaker on South Asia Chat, a



podcast by the Institute of South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for their episode on 'Pakistan's Obsession with Turkish Drama *Diriliş: Ertuğrul*'. Dr Hamid and Dr Gwendolyn Kirk also made a presentation on Pakistani cinemas as part of the panel, 'Reflecting on Feminist Practice in Qualitative Research: Views from Pakistan,' for Distribute 2020, a conference of SCA and SVA. Earlier last year, Zebunnisa joined Gwen as a panelist for the Lahore Biennale (LB02) Academic Forum discussion on 'Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan'. Zebunnisa and Gwen also organize the annual CLCS Screen Studies Symposium, jointly edit their journal *Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum*, and recently started a podcast.

In 2020, **Dr Gwendolyn Kirk** published an article in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, detailing the development of South Asian Studies library collections and librarianship in light of various geopolitical currents from the Cold War to the War on Terror, and also in light of neoliberalization of higher education and its impact on a range of interconnected practices and processes, such as academic labor, urban development, and built spaces. She also published a chapter on early Punjabi diasporic cinema in an edited volume *South Asian Film Landscapes: Transregional Encounters*, published by University of Washington Press.

In collaboration with Dr Esha Niyogi De (UCLA) Dr Kirk prepared a critical essay on Noor Jehan, focusing on her contributions as a filmmaker—rather than as a performer—which has been accepted to the Columbia University Women Film Pioneers Project. Finally, Gwen submitted another chapter to an edited volume entitled *Pakistan Desires*, forthcoming from Duke University Press, which outlines some landmark queer and gender-crossing performances in Pakistani cinema. Currently, she is revising her book manuscript, *Filmi Punjabi: Language, Power, and Film Production in Pakistan*. She also serves as a Member-at-Large on the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, in addition to her work as Language Pedagogy Coordinator of the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literatures and the Academic Director of the LUMS Urdu Language Program.

Along with Dr Zebunnisa Hamid, Dr Kirk organized the third annual CLCS Screen Studies Symposium, held on December 3 and 4, 2020. There were six panels on a variety of themes relating to Pakistani screen cultures, including film, television, and digital media; the Symposium also featured a Short Film Competition and a filmmaking masterclass with director and screenwriter Bilal Sami. Over 200 guests registered for this event, many from North America and Europe. Zebunnisa Hamid and Gwen Kirk are in the process of compiling the symposium papers to publish them in the third volume of the journal *Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum*. Dr Hamid and Dr Kirk have also started a podcast on Pakistani film called *Filmi Happy Hour*.

## Economics



**Dr. Saher Asad** is working on various research projects in the domain of empirical development economics. In one such project which recently received funding from LUMS Faculty Initiative Fund, she and Dr. Agha Ali Akram are working on conducting experiments with potential low-cost tech interventions for reducing spoilage faced by street vendors selling fruits and vegetables. This work has strong policy relevance as losses caused due to spoilage threaten incomes of street vendors as well as contribute to food insecurity and threaten the goal of environmental sustainability.

Dr. Saher has also recently concluded a project which was funded by International Growth Centre (IGC). The project was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Naureen Karachiwalla (IFPRI), Dr. Katrina Kosec (IFPRI), Dr. Clare Leaver (Oxford) and Dr. Masooma Habib (CDPR). This project was based on piloting reform of the promotion system for rural primary school teachers and head teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The project tested these interventions as a randomized experiment while closely working with the KP Elementary and Secondary Education Department. The results released in a new IFPRI working paper provide novel evidence on implementation issues which can reduce the effectiveness of bureaucratic reforms.<sup>[1]</sup> The project has provided important findings for the academics and has a lot of policy relevance for future reform implementation.

More recently this year, Dr. Saher has also worked with Dr. Javaeria Qureshi, Dr. Basit Zafar and team from Centre for Economics Research Pakistan (CERP) to conduct 3 rounds of Economic Vulnerability Assessment surveys to help track patterns of recovery from COVID-19 related economic shock. This work has shown that patterns of recovery are uneven with certain vulnerable groups such as people living in rural areas and those with lower levels of education continuing to suffer.<sup>[2]</sup> More recent rounds of the survey have also highlighted that vaccine hesitancy of people in Pakistan has increase over the few rounds of survey.<sup>[3]</sup> This work has been featured in CERP press released, various Dawn articles as well as LSE COVID-19 Blog.

Dr. Saher has also been working on another project with Dr. Ayesha Ali to study the impacts of increase in number of private news channels on quality of news talk shows. For this project they have designed a new measurement tool to objectively evaluate the quality of Urdu talk shows. They are using this data to see if competition is efficient in news markets. This has important policy implications as there is often debate on whether entry of news outlets should be regulated or not.

[1] <https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134215>

[2] <https://www.dawn.com/news/1611777>

[3] <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2021/04/22/vaccine-hesitancy-in-pakistan-is-growing-heres-how-it-can-be-tackled/>

**Dr Sher Afghan Asad** is engaged in multiple research projects in the domain of public finance and the economics of discrimination. With his co-author, Dr Michael Best (Columbia), Dr Asad has secured a grant from International Growth Center (IGC) to explore various areas of research in collaboration with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). These projects' broad aim is to help the FBR's effort in broadening the income tax base, improving sales tax compliance and audit, identifying tax

evaders in various sectors, examining withholding tax regimes, and reducing the contact between taxpayers and tax officials. In another stream of work, Dr Asad, in collaboration with Michael Best (Columbia), Anders Jensen (Harvard), and Adnan Khan (LSE), is in the process of initiating a partnership with the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA). This engagement aims to help PRA's effort in; 1) improving the take-up of electronic invoicing machines in restaurants and beauty parlors to help aid collection of sales taxes, and 2) performance management of PRA's field and legal staff. The project has received a small grant from J-PAL Governance Initiative.

Dr Asad has also started a project with Dr Hadia Majid (LUMS) and Dr Husnain Fateh (Sewanee) to understand some of the challenges women face in the online marketplaces in Pakistan. This project aims to document the discrimination and harassment women might face on the Facebook marketplace and identify their sources. The project is partly funded by LUMS' Faculty Initiative Fund.

**Dr Ayesha Ali** won the prestigious Facebook Foundational Integrity Research Award for the second time for her research on misinformation in developing countries. Dr Ali's research has focused on finding effective ways to combat misinformation among low digital literacy populations, who are new to social media and technology. Her work shows that educational interventions which focus on teaching social media users how to recognize fake news by providing examples, and personalized guidance increase their ability to identify misinformation, while general educational messages about misinformation do not have any impact.

Now Dr Ali and her collaborators Dr Ihsan Ayyub Qazi and Dr Agha Ali Raza from the Computer Science department (SBASSE) are studying the growing challenge of "deepfake" misinformation. "Deepfakes" are generated using technology that allows any individual's voice or video to be faked with unprecedented accuracy. Such fake media can be used to manipulate people's beliefs especially at critical times such as elections, public health emergencies, foreign policy and domestic policy events, thereby creating anarchy, distrust, and polarization.

Given the far-reaching negative consequences of audio deepfake misinformation, Dr Ali and her collaborators future research agenda includes studying (i) How do low digital literacy users perceive, consume and engage with misinformation received through audio "deepfakes"? What is the role of prior beliefs and their analytical ability in forming perceptions about the accuracy of misinformation? and (ii) How can we educate such users to identify non-textual misinformation (e.g., audio messages impersonating public figures), and bring about behavioral changes such as reducing polarization?

In the last year, Dr Ali has presented her research on misinformation at several government, national and international research forums. She was featured by Facebook Research as the Academic of the Month in January 2021.

**Dr Agha Ali Akram** is engaged in a number of research projects in the domains of public health and education, some of which has direct relevance for Pakistan's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. In collaboration with Dr Hadia Majid (LUMS), he partnered with a local edtech company to conduct a randomized trial to quantify and understand the impact of online education platforms on learning. We find that the online learning platform substantially increased learning. Importantly, student learning using the platform was not affected by income or gender – rich and poor, women and men performed equally well. These results provide key insights in the role online education platforms can play to sustain learning during these challenging times.

Dr Akram recently concluded a project (funded by the World Bank, the Shahid Husain Foundation and LUMS FIF) in Karachi on childhood stunting – a major public health challenge for Pakistan. Along with his collaborators he found that simply providing regular nutrition counselling and in-home growth monitoring was sufficient to boost child height-for-age and reduce the incidence of stunting. Importantly, these gains were made despite the Coronavirus Pandemic, which many feared would eviscerate progress made in recent years.

Finally, Dr. Akram is part of a team that was recently awarded a grant by EGAP to understand the very real challenge of vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and explore possible solutions to overcome it. This will be critical as we approach the end of the pandemic and vaccination of the population becomes a critical public health goal.

**Dr Ali Cheema's** existing work focuses on civic and governance interventions that can make the local state accountable to citizens for public service delivery. His recent work analyses the impact of interventions that can strengthen citizen trust in state institutions on community-police relations, on compliance with property taxes and on the demand for vaccination in Pakistan. He is a co-PI on competitive grants from J-PAL MIT and Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP based at Berkeley) to study the impact of community policing programs on trust in the police and citizen security in Punjab. This work has been done in partnership with the Punjab Police. He is also a co-PI on competitive grants from UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and LSE-Oxford' International Growth Centre (IGC) that analyses the impact of regressive property tax schedules and weak service delivery accountability on citizen trust in the fiscal system and on tax compliance. This work is being done in partnership with the Governments of KP and Punjab. An article from this body of work, "Trust in State and Non-State Actors: Evidence from Dispute Resolution in Pakistan", was published in the Journal of Political Economy (a top two economic journal globally) in 2020.

Another strand of work focuses on analysing factors that weaken state accountability by impeding citizens' political participation in urban Pakistan and studies that impact of civic responses in mitigating these problems. He is a co-PI on competitive grants from EGAP and IDS

Sussex to study the impact of women's collectives on the accountability of local governments. This strand of work also looks at the impact of canvassing interventions that target both men and women in households on women's electoral participation. This work was done in collaboration with Aurat Foundation and the Election Commission of Pakistan. A book chapter from this work "Who do Politicians Talk to? Political Contact in Urban Punjab" was part of a volume, "Pakistan's Political Parties, Surviving Between Democracy and Dictatorship," edited by Mufti, M., Shafqat, S. and Siddiqui, N and published by Georgetown University Press in 2020.

A final strand of work analyses the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also looks at the magnitude and causes of vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan. Finally, it looks at the impact of different design features of the vaccination campaign on citizens' demand for vaccination. This work is part of cross-country studies that analyse these problems in low-income countries and is being done in collaboration with academics at Yale, IDS Sussex, Princeton, and LSE.

**Dr Ali Hasanain's** ongoing work explores three distinct issues. First, he is conducting research (with Ali Cheema and Jacob N. Shapiro) on how citizens' trust in policing can be increased through incorporating community policing methods. This work is part of a multi-country study, and funded by Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) and by J-PAL. Second, he is studying (with Adeel Tariq and Shotaro Nakamura) how improved information in online marketplaces can impact outcomes for buyers and sellers using the platform. And finally, he is working (with Dr. Fareed Zafar and the Technology for People Initiative) on creating an analytics platform for Pakistani news media and (with Hina Usman) on leveraging it to develop datasets on political violence in the country. This work is partially funded by the International Growth Center.

**Dr Hadia Majid** started a new project in September 2020 in collaboration with Dr Maryam Mustafa (Department of computer science). The project is funded by IDRC and involves undertaking qualitative work with low-income low-literate female factory workers in Lahore to gather information on their working lives and in particular any incidents of harassment that they may have faced en route or at work. Ultimately the project aims to design an app which will allow women to network with one another and find safer, better-paying jobs. This will be done through a collaborative process where the researchers will co-design with the respondents so that the app truly reflects their needs and constraints.

**Dr Antonio Marasco** has several research articles in progress. His first article with Prof. Ahmed M. Khalid (University of Brunei Darussalam), and F. Tariq is titled "Foreign Direct Investment by Sector of Activity and Growth: The Role of Technology".



This article is being revised by implementing a different econometric methodology (general method of moments) and updating the dataset. It will then be submitted. He is working with Prof. A.M. Khalid (University of Brunei Darussalam) and Dr Gulasekaran Rajaguru (Bond University, Australia) comparing the impact of qualitative and quantitative (de-jure and de-facto) restrictions in most-financially and least financially integrated countries. The study is based on data that was compiled in an earlier 2019 publication in *Applied Economics*.

Dr Marasco is working on the application of graph theory to international trade flows which is a new approach that has been done before. In this current work Antonio uses Gephi, a leading platform for the visualization and exploration of graphs and networks. Another work-in-progress is titled “Can the zero lower bound be... positive? How to ensure monetary policy (in) effectiveness” This research is based on the idea that if the Central Bank cuts interest rates too frequently, it may unwittingly create an expectation of further interest rate cuts among investors who would therefore hold on before committing to new investments. Hence the rate cut would be ineffective at stimulating the economy and the situation would practically resemble that in which the nominal interest rate has hit the zero lower bound and cannot be reduced further.

Dr Marasco is investigating the changes in public debt dynamics after severe external shocks. This study is inspired by the ongoing covid pandemic which is a clear example of a severe external shock. The aim of the study is to explore how the shock can alter the crucial stability condition that the economy growth rate be higher than the real interest rate and thereby undermine the affected country's debt-to-GDP ratio. The study explores what can be done to counter the perverse shift in debt dynamics brought about by the shock.

**Dr Rashid Memon**, along with geographer colleagues from the University of Bristol, has been awarded a prestigious and competitive grant by the Center for Effective Global Action, based out of Berkeley University. The grant aims to design a dynamic and shock responsive system for targeting social protection initiatives. They will use satellite imagery, household survey data and machine learning to create small area estimates of socioeconomic conditions across Sindh. By doing so, they will identify villages or ‘clusters’ of greatest need, allowing them to be targeted for early assistance while also increasing the efficiency of pro-poor spending.

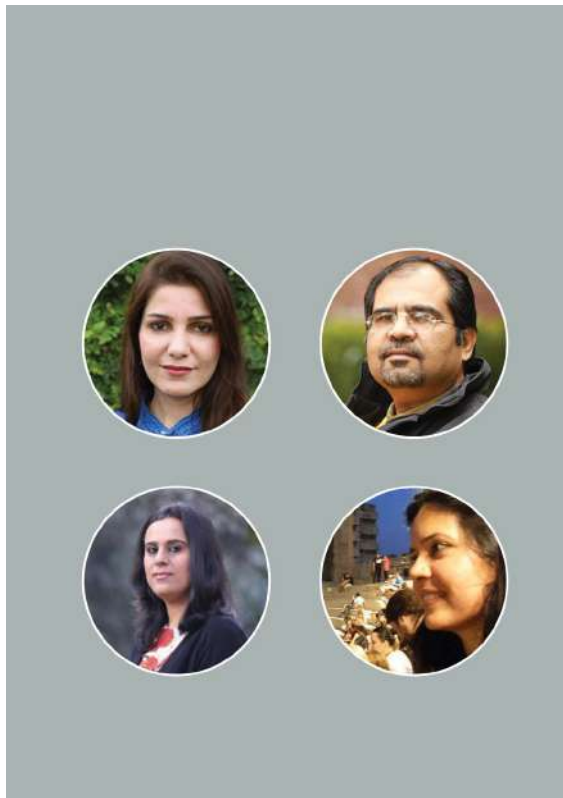
The work being done through the CEGA grant is a continuation of work completed under an IGC grant earlier this year. This work has resulted in a paper titled “Mapping Livelihoods Using Geo-Tagged Electricity Consumption Data” and is under consideration at an academic journal. While both projects focus on Sindh, the methods developed can be used anywhere in the world to target social protection interventions.

**Dr Sanval Nasim** is currently engaged in a number of projects that assess how information and knowledge can affect individual behavior and human capital. Economic theory predicts forecasts are an important determinant of welfare. In developing countries, however, limited information and human capital may make it difficult for agents to produce accurate, precise forecasts. This plausibly limits the scope for optimal responses to uncertain future events. In a field experiment (with Husnain Ahmad, Matthew Gibson, Fatiq Nadeem, and Arman Rezaee), titled “Forecasts: Consumption, Production, and Behavioral Responses,” we explore how urban residents in the developing world solve forecasting problems in the presence of constraints on information and human capital.

We implement a randomized controlled trial in Lahore, Pakistan to study the effects on forecast consumption, production, and behavioral responses from two randomized interventions in Lahore, Pakistan: 1) provision of one-day ahead air pollution forecasts; and 2) general forecasting training aimed at reducing behavioral biases. On average, subjects exposed to forecasts are willing to pay roughly 60 percent of the cost of mobile internet access to continue receiving them. Both interventions reduce air pollution forecast error, and receipt of forecasts increase demand for protective masks. These results document substantial demand for forecasts among urban residents in the developing world. They suggest that modest educational interventions may durably improve forecasting-relevant human capital.

Citizens in developing countries often distrust state institutions and their ability to provide public services. In a phone-based experiment (with Adnan Khan, Mahvish Shaukat, and Andreas Stegmann) titled “Building trust in the state with Information: Evidence from urban Punjab,” we study whether communication designed to increase support for government policy and shift perceptions of state capacity redress deep-rooted mistrust in state institutions. We leverage randomly assigned informational treatments with 5,771 respondents in Lahore and Faisalabad, the two most-populous cities in Pakistan's Punjab province. We find providing information on past state effectiveness, highlighting citizens' cooperation in enabling past effectiveness or appealing to religious authorities' support for government policy have limited impact on support for policy, perceptions of state capacity, and trust in the state in Pakistan. This holds true on average and across important dimensions of heterogeneity after accounting for experimenter demand. Our work highlights the limits of using information to build trust in state institutions, and the importance of measuring experimenter demand. The *Journal of Public Economics* has asked us to revise and resubmit the paper.

## English



**Dr Farah Ali** has sent in a book proposal that deals with images of power in Harold Pinter's films and screenplays, to Routledge, it is on its second round of peer review. She is also in the process of writing a proposal for short essays, mostly essays that look at hostile environments in Pinter plays. The short essays are already in drafted form.

Her article entitled "Freedom as a Mirage: Sexual Commodification in Harold Pinter's Films" will be published in *Journal of Modern Literature* (July 2021). Farah has two more articles under review: one dealing with traces of post-colonialism in Pinter's plays, and another on the challenges Arabic and Muslim women face in the NHS (UK) (under review at *Journal of Gender Studies*).

Farah is planning on expanding her research to include women's representation in other works by Pinter, specifically his screen-works. She will be looking at various aspects of his works dealing with women's identity, objectification, and agency in different frameworks alongside other power manifestations. Her works-in-progress include: "I do not know how to keep things whole": Identity, Corporeality, and Gender in Harold Pinter's *The Pumpkin Eater* 1964; "Brutality is in the eyes of the beholder": Inside the torturers' psyche, and the case of *One for the Road* 1984; "We are sorry it was a mistake, but we are ready to do it again": *Homo Sacer* in Harold Pinter's *Mountain Language*; "Get Back to your Trough": Images of Post-colonialism in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* and "Are we in a Kind of Alaska?": Dis (ease) of Mind, Body, and Authority.

**Dr Furrukh Khan** has been involved in a number of initiatives during the current academic year. Apart from teaching essential courses in the English stream he is part of a five-year European Commission funded MIGNEX (Aligning Migration Management and the Migration- Development Nexus) project aiming to forge new connections between two policy fields: how migration is regulated, and how migration and development affect each other. Furrukh is the co-lead in the Qualitative Research Team conducting research in Pakistan. As part of this project Furrukh has co-authored the paper "Reflecting on the change migration brings about: Migrant houses and socio-economic hierarchies in Pakistan" with Marta Bivand Erdal, Arslan Ahmad and Safia Mahmood.

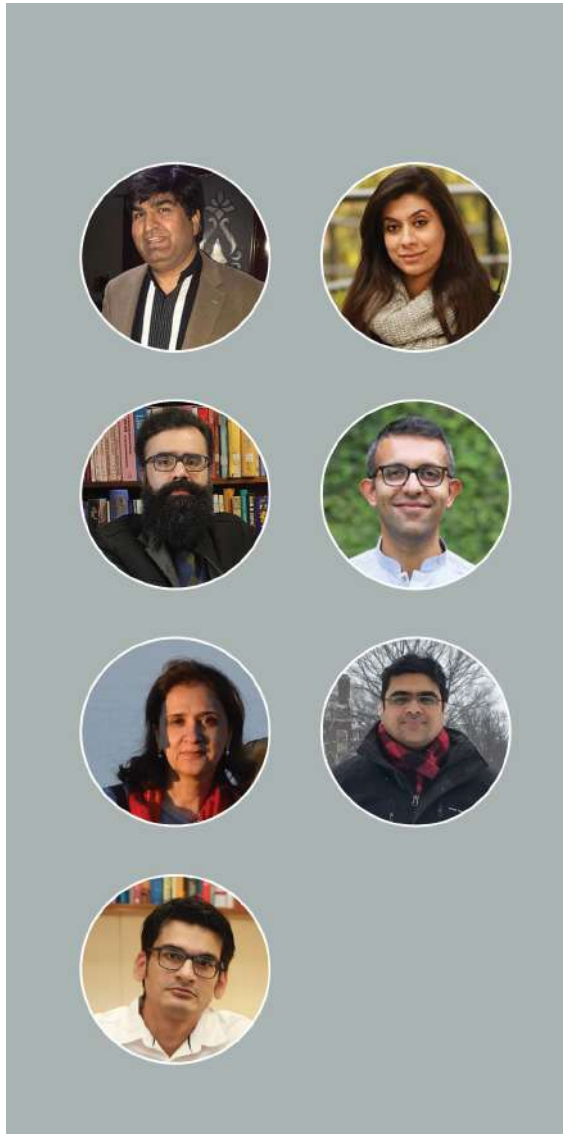
Furrukh has also presented a paper on Confronting the Nightmare: Covid and Women Carers in Pakistan at Crisis, Community and Oral History (Oral History Association of India) and in conjunction with the 'International Day of the World's Indigenous People' made an online presentation to 'Keep Truckin' on World Native Day, on 'Sheedi Africans in Pakistan'. He was part of a seminar organized by Partition 1947 Archive in which he spoke on Teaching Partition in India and Pakistan.

In March 2021, Dr Furrukh Khan was appointed the Interim Director for the Office of International Affairs at LUMS.

**Dr Saba Pirzadeh's** research explores war ecologies, resource extractivism, climate change, blue humanities, spatiality, and socio-ecological justice in literary texts. In February 2021, she published an article "Neoliberal extraction and aquatic resistance in Helon Habila's *Oil on Water*" in *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*. The article addresses the invisibility of oil in mainstream discourse through an analysis of Habila's narrative depiction of aquatic disintegration through neoliberal petro-infrastructure. The article also highlights the agential qualities of water such as biodiversity, morphology, and immersion in order to posit it as a life source and a space resistant to the neoliberal logic of ecological domination. This work was developed during Dr Pirzadeh's fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society at Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich (2019). She is currently working on an essay that analyses depictions of anthropogenic climate change and species decline in Anglophone fiction. Another article is derived from research interest in popular culture and examines the evocation of colonial nostalgia in contemporary British heritage films. Her book project will examine the intersections between violence, militarism, and the environment in South Asian literature.

**Dr Sadia Zulfiqar** is currently working on the revisions of her article 'Sharing a Husband: The Representation of Polygamy in Buchi Emecheta's *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979)' to be published in *Research in African Literature* (Indiana University Press). Sadia is also presenting a paper entitled 'The Politics of censorship and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2008) at the 46th annual meeting of the African Literature Association (USA) on 29th May 2021.

## History



After completing a Post-Doc at LUMS, **Dr Ilyas Chattha** submitted his manuscript, *The Punjab Borderland: Mobility, Materiality, and Militancy, 1947-1987* to Cambridge University Press. The book is due to be published in summer 2021.

Currently, Ilyas Chattha and Ali Usman Qasmi are working on a crime history project and one piece of research on the 'City of 'Red Assassins' Crime, Control, and Resistance in Colonial Lahore' has been accepted for a publication in Oxford's *History Workshop Journal*. Dr Chattha has also completed articles on Partition Violence in the NWFP and Australian Press Presentations of Partition Violence'. The first article is to be published in December 2021.

In addition to the aforementioned projects Ilyas Chattha is working on two different projects on the legacies of Partition of India: "Partition's Orphaned and Abandoned Children in Pakistan" (a submission for *Indian Economic and Social History Review*) and "The Fruits of Freedom: Redistribution of Partition's Evacuee Property" (2021-22, manuscript in progress).

**Dr Anushay Malik** has begun a major project on the Partition of Identity: an exploration of belonging in Bengalis in Pakistan, 1971-2021. Following the violent Liberation War of 1971 in which Bangladesh declared independence from Pakistan, there was a wave of migration from Bangladesh to the more economically stable Pakistan. Often settling in Sindh province, particularly Karachi, these Bengali migrants have participated widely in the Pakistani economy. Many have been refused citizenship rights in line with the Pakistan Citizenship Act of 1951 and despite their Pakistan-born children and grandchildren having little direct knowledge of Bangladesh, they remain without official documentation. This can create challenges in everyday activities (around education, employment and health) and strengthen the idea that they are not 'true' Pakistani citizens as emphasised by a wider state narrative.

This project will make use of oral histories, historical documents and media reporting to analyse how the community has been represented in historical narratives in Pakistan. The initiative is a collaborative project with Dr Humera Iqbal (UCL, London). The project was awarded funding by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK.

**Dr Ali Usman Qasmi** is currently finishing up a monograph on the idea of citizenship and belonging in Pakistan. His recent publications include a chapter on the history of Jinnah's visual representation in the press, official publications, and popular media. His upcoming publications include a co-authored article (with Dr Ilyas Chattha) for *History Workshop Journal* on revolutionary violence in colonial Lahore. The editorial board of the *New Cambridge History of India* has invited Dr Qasmi to contribute a chapter on the politics of nationhood in postcolonial South Asia.

Ali Qasmi has received an international grant of \$5000 from the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC) to work on disinformation about Covid in Pakistani social media. He is also working on projects relating to digital humanities. He curated a project on Lahore's cultural and political history. Additionally, he is collaborating with students and colleagues from the School of Sciences to develop an App to explore Lahore's walled city and its historical sites.



**Dr Shayan Rajani** is currently working on a monograph entitled *Leaving Legacies: Individual Becoming in Early Modern South Asia*. This project examines the enterprise of producing and assembling texts, monuments, and children as a concerted effort to leave memorials for posterity. In doing so, he investigates the intellectual, social, and material history of the individual in South Asia, specifically, in the western region of Sindh from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. By conceiving the individual not as the self-contained, autonomous historical subject of western liberalism, but as a gendered effect fabricated out of human and non-human traces, this work provokes a consideration of genealogies of the individual outside the west. The project brings together the methods and concerns of diverse disciplines including history, art history, religious studies, gender studies, and literary studies.

He is also working on two additional articles pursuing a related interest in a conceptual history, or *Begriffsgeschichte*, of ethnicity. While this research is situated in a global history of the late twentieth century, it is also invested in rethinking the conceptual apparatus that scholars bring to the study of early modern South Asia. In revealing the recent provenance of the ethnicity concept, this work also emphasizes alternate conceptions of self and collective in the past and the present.

**Dr Nadhra Shahbaz Khan's** research covers the visual and material culture of the Punjab during the Mughal, Sikh, and colonial periods. Her publications, conference papers and other research activities spread over more than a decade, especially her book titled *Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Samādhi in Lahore: A Summation of Sikh Architectural and Decorative Practices* has successfully brought Sikh art and architecture at the forefront of Pakistan's heritage discussions and conservation activities. Taking this forward, she is currently working on a website ([sikhvirs.org.pk](http://sikhvirs.org.pk)) and an accompanying catalogue (both digital and print), in collaboration with Dr Murtaza Taj (SSE), supported by FIF. Showcasing Sikh-period artefacts housed in the Lahore Fort's Sikh Gallery & Armoury and the Lahore Museum's Faqirkhana Collection, the website and catalogue will be a unique platform for students and scholars all over the world to learn about Pakistan's Sikh heritage and material culture. For her next FIF project (2021-22), she will document all non-Muslim religious and secular sites in Lahore and present them on a creative digital platform with the help of Dr Murtaza Taj. Nadhra is also working on a Sikh manuscript translation project with Dr Fatima Fayyaz. The first in the list is an illustrated *Sher Singh Namah*, also known as *Tarikh-e Punjab*. This annotated translation will be published with critical notes on the nine miniature paintings in the British Library manuscript. Another recent project has been assisting the Sikh Research Institute (US) with a Persian-to-English translation (2020-2021) of Bhai Nand Lal Goya's twelve ghazals from his *Divān-i-Goya*. Two of these have been published on the SIKHRI website and the rest will be uploaded on a monthly basis.

Her recently published article "The Picture Wall's Iconography and Aesthetic Analysis" in the Aga Khan Historic Cities Program publication *Lahore: A Framework for Urban Conservation*, is the outcome of her consultancy with the Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan (AKCS-P) since 2016. She plans to publish a more detailed study of the Picture Wall's iconography and iconology and British modifications and demolitions of the Lahore Fort structures in the near future. Her interest in tracing adjustments and adaptations in hereditary art and craft practices in colonial Punjab has already brought forth an article on John Lockwood Kipling's pedagogical practices with a special focus on methods of teaching geometry to sons of craftsmen.

Her upcoming publication "Traditional Geometrical Patterns in Colonial Punjab: Methods of Construction and Persian/Punjabi Titles" is a detailed study of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century manuals published by hereditary craftsmen of the Punjab. This has been accepted for the *Manazir Journal* and will be published by July 2021.

**Dr Waqar Zaidi's** research on technology, internationalism and international organization culminates this summer with the publication of his book *Technological Internationalism and World Order: Aviation, Atomic Energy, and the Search for International Peace, 1920-1950* with Cambridge University Press. The book explores radical proposals for the international governance of aviation and atomic energy through the League and the United Nations. By bringing together histories of aerial and atomic diplomacy it provides new perspectives on science and technology in our growing understanding of twentieth century liberal internationalism and international organizations.

Waqar's current research interests are largely focused on technology and international relations. He is currently working on his second book monograph, which is on the history of civil aviation in the Middle East and Pakistan during the early Cold War. He is part of a E.U. HERA-funded project on the history of scientific conferences which is working towards a series of workshops and a co-authored book on the topic. He is also participating in a project exploring arms control at the Centre for the Governance of AI at the Future of Humanity Institute at the University of Oxford.

Waqar's other research interests explore technology and society more broadly. He is writing a chapter on technology and governance for the new Bloomsbury Cultural History of Technology, and one on technological determinism for Cambridge University Press' forthcoming Cambridge History of Technology. A project on technical expertise recently concluded with the publication in January 2021 of an article on scientists as political experts in the journal *Centaurus*.

**Dr Ali Raza** is currently working on two book projects. The first looks at the question of culture and decolonization in Pakistan from the 1950s to the late 1970s. The second traces the emergence and evolution of fascist ideas, imaginations, aesthetics, and longings in colonial India.

Raza's recent and upcoming publications revolve around his book *Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India*, published in spring 2020 by Cambridge University Press. South Asian editions of *Revolutionary Pasts* have been published in 2021 by Folio Books and Tulika Books in Pakistan and India respectively. In addition, Raza published an article 'Provincializing the International: Communist Print Words in Colonial India' in the *History Workshop Journal* (Volume 89, 2020). His upcoming publications include an essay, 'Pan-Islamism, South Asia, and Communist Internationalism', which will appear in the edited volume *Global Designs/Local Encounters: Political Imaginaries of the Third International* (Routledge, Fall 2021).

In addition, Raza also co-curates the LUMS Digital Archive along with Professor Ali Usman Qasmi. The LUMS Digital Archive is aimed at collecting, cataloging, and preserving rare material, with an emphasis on documenting the history of marginalized and subaltern groups.

## Political Science



**Dr Noaman Ali's** first research project, *Maoists on a Muslim Frontier: Peasant Rebellion and Political Order in Northern Pakistan, 1947-1986*, examines the political and economic crises of the Pakistani state, as well as conflict over the terms of recovery from crises, from the perspective of tenants and landless labourers. The key outcome will be a book that builds on research and ideas that Noaman Ali has published in peer-reviewed journal articles in the *Journal of Agrarian Change* and *Rethinking Marxism*. In the proposed manuscript the argument is to be made that peasant movements played a decisive role in enabling significant implementation of de facto pro-poor reforms in land and tenancy rights in the 1970s—above and beyond the *de jure* land reforms of 1972. It is also argued that agrarian class struggle reshaped informal and formal institutions of power. Specifically, it is demonstrated how the self-empowerment of peasants through independent organization first severely undermined the informal, indeed, colonial institutions of landed elite power in villages, and second, interacted with broader intra-elite conflicts to instigate an increase in state capacity and relative autonomy, which enabled relatively pro-poor reforms. Dr Ali has been accepted as a Charles Wallace Trust visiting fellow at the University of Oxford to work on the book manuscript, but the position is pending given the current pandemic. Meanwhile, a related, co-authored article on how 1970s Pakistani radicals engaged class, gender and religion theoretically and practically is under review for a special issue of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*.

A second research project involves the examination of contemporary Pakistani political economy from a critical perspective. Currently this entails two article manuscripts: The first is a comparative study of three rural movements, the Pakistani Taliban, the Anjuman Mazareen-e Punjab, and the Pakistan Kisan Ittehad, to understand the particular political economic conditions and political sociological circumstances that lead different rural actors to adopt different political ideologies in pursuing their objectives. The second examines the nature and extent of political economic relations between Pakistan and the Gulf—including trade, capital investment, and labour export—and argues that these relations are deeply unequal and entail a transfer of value from Pakistan to the Gulf. The plan is on combining both of these threads in a broader project that focuses on contestation over domestic accumulation, tentatively titled *Natural Resources and Class Geographies of Conflict in Pakistan*, while locating Pakistan within the international division of labour.

Dr Ali's third research project is an international collaboration with Dr Luke Melchiorre at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, titled *The Real World of Oligarchy in the Shadow of COVID-19*, which critically examines the explanatory utility of regime type categorization in political science. Specifically, the collaborators compare epidemic containment strategies and economic stimulus and relief policies in China, Pakistan, Colombia, the US and Canada, to argue that in all of these cases, the systematic prioritization of capital and the affluent at the expense of labour revealed the oligarchic character of these states and informed the limitations of their responses to the pandemic. Thus, the terms populism, democracy, and authoritarianism can serve to obscure continuities across regime types and differences within them.

**Sameen A. Mohsin Ali** has recently published two articles. The first, "Networks of Effectiveness? The Impact of Politicization on Bureaucratic Performance in Pakistan", was published in the *European Journal of Development Research*. The second, "Citizen trust, administrative capacity and administrative burden in Pakistan's immunization program", was published in the *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*. She is also the co-author of a comment in *The Lancet*, drawing on her research on immunization in Pakistan to re-think vaccine hesitancy amongst minority groups in the UK and US.

Sameen is currently working on two articles on elite politics in Pakistan with Dr Mariam Mufti (University of Waterloo). An article with Professor Rasul Bakhsh Rais and a chapter for an edited volume co-authored with a former undergraduate student are presently under review, and a chapter on federalism and Pakistan's first wave response to the pandemic is forthcoming as part of a volume edited by the Forum of Federations and published by Routledge.

Over the past year, Sameen has participated in panel discussions on Pakistan's Political Parties at Yale, SOAS University of London, and St. Mary's College of Maryland, US. In April 2021, she was invited to deliver a lecture on "Getting Things Done: Policy and Programme Implementation - the Pakistan Experience" at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Nigeria. In August 2020, she participated in a PIDE Webinar on "Civil Service Reforms in Pakistan". Sameen was a reviewer for Bertelsmann Stiftung's Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) and contributed an expert working paper on governance and the pandemic to the Governance Programme at the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations.

Sameen is co-Director of an oral history archive project on Women in Public Service in Pakistan (WPSP), initiated by Dr Sana Haroon (Associate Professor of History at UMass) while she was Visiting Faculty at LUMS in 2019-2020. The WPSP Oral History Archive project is an effort to document the contributions of these women in public life in Pakistan, collecting and preserving their professional life histories. The project focuses on the gendered experience of participation and service in government in Pakistan, and its impact on individuals as well as institutions and communities. As such, the project supplies unique and important documentation of the experiences of women in government. The project leaders and future affiliated faculty and students who contribute to the project will give their time and efforts to grow this archive of testimonials for the use of present and future researchers while adhering to oral history best practices. Recordings and the transcriptions of the interviews will be made available in the LUMS library premises to LUMS faculty students and researchers and visiting scholars.

Sameen's second project, in conjunction with Dr. Suleman Shahid (Department of Computer Science), is the Humqadam Application for Women's Rights Defenders. The Humqadam phone application is being developed by a team based at the Technology for People Initiative (Department of Computer Science, LUMS). Funded by the EU and developed in partnership with DCHD and the women's rights NGO Shirkat Gah, the application aims to be a secure, easy to access and use resource for women's rights defenders in 8 pilot districts across Pakistan. The application is available on Google Play Store and is currently operational in two languages - Urdu and English. The application was formally launched on February 12th, National Women's Day, in Islamabad.

Sameen is a co-investigator on the "Dynamic Financial Data Analytics for Policy and Governance" project, alongside Dr Fareed Zaffar, Dr Suleman Shahid (both in the Department of Computer Science) and Dr Adeel Zaffar (SDS). The multi-disciplinary project, funded by the FCDO's Sub National Governance Program's Innovation Challenge Fund, will pilot the development and deployment of technical dashboards for data analytics to enable greater budget efficiency and transparency in Punjab.

Sameen is also part of the Education, Justice, and Memory Network (EdJAM), alongside Dr Tania Saeed.

**Dr Asma Faiz's** research interests include nationalism, ethnic conflict, federalism, party politics, populism and minority rights. In February 2021, she published her book, *In Search of Lost Glory: Sindhi Nationalism in Pakistan* (Hurst Publishers, London and Oxford University Press, New York). The book looks at the question of ethnic nationalism in Pakistan with a particular focus on ethnic contention in Sindh. The work brings together primary data based on extensive fieldwork and archival material as well as secondary sources to explore the intra- and inter-ethnic nationalist contestation in Sindh. Apart from the monograph Asma's article 'Building Language, Building Province: Civil Society and Ethnic Nationalism in Pakistan' published in the March 2021 issue of *Journal of Civil Society* analyses the rise of new ethnic contenders in south Punjab in the form of Siraiki and Riyasti nationalisms. Her work on the evolving dynamics of Riyasti nationalism in Bahawalpur is currently in progress.

Asma Faiz is also involved in projects on federalism and populism in South Asia as well as around the world. Following the publication of a chapter, 'Populism of the Right: The Rise of Imran Khan in Pakistan' (2019), she has been engaged in understanding the consequences of populist rule in Pakistan from 2018 onwards. Her chapter, 'We Are on the Same Page: The Curious Case of Imran Khan's Populism in Pakistan', is due to be published in a volume by Palgrave MacMillan later in 2021. Having briefly examined the causes and



consequences of populism in Pakistan, Asma is deeply interested in a comprehensive study of this phenomenon as part of a larger book project devoted to an in-depth account of the populist exercise of power in Pakistan under the present dispensation.

**Dr Fatima Mustafa's** research focuses on different aspects of political violence in the context of South Asia and the Middle East. Within this broad research area, using a combination of both quantitative and qualitative analysis, she explores several different questions in her work. One paper, recently accepted at the journal *Terrorism and Political Violence*, explores the relationship between communication blackouts and the ability of groups to organize violence. Within the broader topic of countering violent extremism, in another working paper Fatima and her co-authors, Sairah Yusuf and Love Calissendroff, examine and evaluate a community-based programme that used sport and art activities with youth in eight public schools in Tunisia over the course of two years in order to change young people's susceptibility to radicalization. This paper adds to the existing literature on Countering Violence Extremism (CVE) which has been largely dominated by qualitative studies. This paper is currently under review at the *Journal of Peace Research*. In addition, Fatima is also working on a project with Dr Yunas Samad and Dr Hassan Javid on attitudes towards violence across different localities of Lahore. Over the next year, she plans to expand her work on violence to examine election violence and understand the factors that explain varying levels of election violence across districts and between elections in Pakistan.

**Professor Rasul Bakhsh Rais** published two articles from his ongoing research, "*Siraiki Nationalism: Identity Construction and Political Economy*" in ed., Ryan Brasher, *The Politic of Ethnicity and Federalism in Pakistan: Local, National and Comparative Perspectives* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, December 2020), pp. 157-179; and "Sharing the Pie? The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Sharing/Platform Economy: Distributive Justice Implications" in eds., Fayyaz Baqir and Sanni Yaya, *Beyond Free Market: Social Inclusion and Globalisation* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021), pp. 125-140. His current research area is the "Geopolitics of Pakistan's Western Borderlands".

**Dr Shimail Reza** has spent the last year working on two (somewhat related) articles about how democracies aggregate socially-distributed knowledge, ideas, and judgments to produce collective decisions. The first of these will go out for review in April 2021, with the other following in the early summer of 2021.

**Professor Yunas Samad's** engagement with the externally funded by the European Union, 10 country study, Migration Management and the Migration-Development Nexus (MIGNEX) project in collaboration with colleagues in the MGSHSS,

continues as it enters the data collection phase. He is the lead for the country policy paper, for which research has been completed and this will be part of the comparative policy analysis of the project.

Yunas was also a consultant for the Political Settlements Survey of Pakistan for the Effective States led by the Inclusive Development Research Centre (ESID), University of Manchester and External PhD examiner for Deakins University.

**Professor Mohammad Waseem** has spent much of 2020 completing the manuscript of his latest book *Political Conflict in Pakistan*. The book is to be published by Hurst Publishers London in late summer 2021. Along with Professor Christophe Jaffrelot, Professor Waseem is also involved in a joint project on Re-Imagining federalism in Pakistan (2019-2022) for Pakistan. The project will involve a workshop on federalism and an edited book. A third project involves analysing the wave of populism spreading across the world and its local variation in Pakistan. Research on this is underway and a joint article with Asma Faiz on Populism of the Right in Pakistan: Imran Khan's Rule and Crisis of Democracy is in the works.



## Psychology

Since 2006 **Dr Imran Rashid** has taught a range of psychology courses at LUMS, and since 2008 he has supervised at least one senior project every year, over a dozen by now, each of them an experimental project, with the purpose of familiarizing students with research methods in psychology. Since 2012 Imran has been the convener for the psychology stream, in which capacity he has been involved in the hiring of psychology faculty and orienting new instructors to job requirements. In addition, he has served on a number of university and school committees, including the disciplinary committee and is currently heading the DC for the school of social sciences and humanities.



## Religion

**Dr Nauman Faizi's** current research is focused on philosophic analyses of texts and thinkers wrestling with questions at the interface of religion, secularity, and modernity, with particular focus on how modern religious thinkers thematize relationships between scriptural texts and modern scientific and philosophic discourse. He has completed work on a monograph titled "God, Science, and Self: Muhammad Iqbal's Reconstruction of Religious Thought," which is going to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in August 2021. In this project, Nauman argues that the keys to deciphering the complexities of Iqbal's philosophic magnum opus, *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* (1934), are two distinct epistemologies at play within the work. Iqbal takes knowledge to be descriptive, essential, foundational, and binary, but he also takes knowledge to be performative, contextual, probabilistic, and vague. Nauman shows how these approaches to knowledge shape Iqbal's claims about personhood, God, scripture, philosophy, and science. The monograph also offers a particular approach to interpreting Islamic thought as it crafts relationships between scriptural texts, philosophic thought, and scientific claims for modern Muslim subjects.

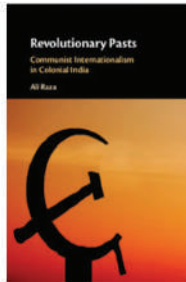


## Writing and Communication

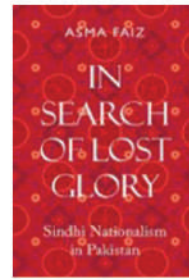
**Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo** is currently working on translating the Urdu writer, Ikramullah's novel, *Sawa Neze par Suraj* (Under the Scorching Sun) into English. *Under the Scorching Sun* is a rich source of social history as it depicts a critical historic juncture in South Asian history- the decades immediately preceding and following the end of colonial rule and the Partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. As opposed to other well-known Partition novels, this work focuses on life inside the gendered space of the home, depicting sexual tensions in relationships between members of different castes, classes and genders. Aneeqa is simultaneously working on a research project about middle-class women, gendered urban spaces and mobility in Pakistan.

# Selected Publications

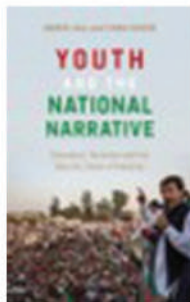
## BOOKS



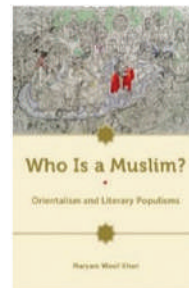
**Ali Raza**  
**Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India**  
*Cambridge University Press*



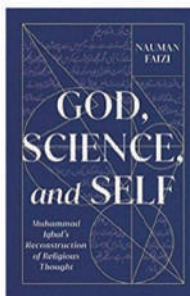
**Asma Faiz**  
**In Search of Lost Glory**  
*Hurst Publishers*  
 February 2021



**Tania Saeed**  
**Youth & the National Narrative**  
*Bloomsbury Publishing*



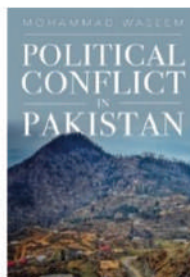
**Maryam Wasif Khan**  
**Who Is a Muslim? Orientalism and Literary Populisms**  
*Fordham University Press*



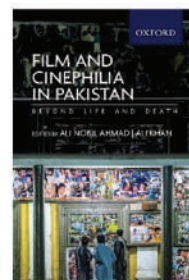
**Nauman Faizi**  
**God, Science and Self: Muhammad Iqbal's Reconstruction of Religious Thought.**  
*McGill-Queen's Studies in Modern Islamic Thought*



**Waqar Zaidi**  
**Technological Internationalism and World Order: Aviation, Atomic Energy, and the Search for International Peace, 1920-1950**  
*Cambridge University Press*  
 May 2021



**Mohammad Waseem**  
**Political Conflict in Pakistan**  
*Hurst Publishers, May 2021*



**Ali Nobil Ahmad and Ali Khan**  
**Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan: Beyond Life & Death**  
*Oxford University Press*



# Articles/Book Chapters

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**Hamid, Zebunnisa and Gwendolyn Sarah Kirk.** “Pakistan Screen Studies: Widening the Frame.” *Introduction to Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum* 1 (2020). <<[https://reelpakistan.lums.edu.pk/sites/default/files/user376/reel\\_pakistan\\_vol\\_1\\_2020-2\\_hamid\\_and\\_kirk.pdf](https://reelpakistan.lums.edu.pk/sites/default/files/user376/reel_pakistan_vol_1_2020-2_hamid_and_kirk.pdf)>>.

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# Senior Projects at MGS HSS

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## English

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### Farah Hassan Ali

Hira Batool Naqvi: "Identity politics in Postcolonial Literature"

### Rabia Nafees Shah

Maryam Sami Khan: Speaking for and speaking of women: A feminist psychoanalytic study of Saddat Hassan Manto and Ismat Chughtai's selected short stories.

Zainab Anwar: Exploring issues of intercultural relations, characterization, and setting in two children's literary magazines: Hamdard Naunehal and Taleem o Tarbiyat.

Wardah Javed: A Case of Identity Politics and Failed Leaderships: Gendered Constructions of Political Figures in Pakistan through Literature and Beyond.

### Sadia Zulfiqar

Maryam Nasir Khan: "Nationalism and the Construction of Gender in Postcolonial Spaces."

### Saba Pirzadeh

Maira Asaad: "Ajā'ib: The Wonders of Creation"  
Ayesha Lari: "Exploring the Peripheries: Nature, Race and Sexuality in Literature"

## Anthropology/Sociology

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### Ali Khan

Eman Tufail Arbab: "A project on media representation and public "celebration" of the Pakistan Women's Cricket Team"

### Amen Jaffer

Haleema Aurangzeb Abbasi: "How do College Students Find Jobs: A Sociological Perspective"  
Momina Ashraf: "How do College Students Find Jobs: A Sociological Perspective"

### Hassan Javid

Kanza Hussan: "Leftist/leftwing politics in Pakistan"  
Muhammad Hani Ahsan: "Leftist/leftwing politics in Pakistan"

### Lukas Werth

Zoha Batool Khan: "The Desi Eldest Daughter"  
Maham Munir: "Children of Prostitutes"  
Tehreem Anwar: "Children of Prostitutes"

### Nida Kirmani

Fatima Azeem: "A Thematic Archival Research into the Backlash Against the Aurat March in the Digital Sphere"

Duaa Rehman: "A Thematic Archival Research into the Backlash Against the Aurat March in the Digital Sphere"

Muhammad Saif Imtiaz: "Construction of Masculinity in Elite Educational Institutes"

## History

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### Ali Usman Qasmi

Maryam Ahmad Kiyani: "Police Checkposts: Episodes of Bodily Experiences"

Muhammad Zaid: "The remaking of a Muslim religious identity in Nineteenth century colonial India"

Shanzay Sajjad: "Federalism and the Baluch Question"

Zainab Shuja: "Nationalism in Pakistan: The Past, Present and Future"

### Ali Raza

Khushan Shahad: "Trauma and History"

Wafa Asher: "Audre Lorde"

Nayyab Naveed: "Testimonies of Women seeking refuge from domestic violence in women's shelters"

Anum Shah: "Qudrat Ullah Shahab"

### Shayan Rajani

Aisha Zaman: "Capital Punishment in the Mughal Era"

Mahnoor Khan: "Mughal History"

Manahil Raza: "Mughal Studies"

## Political Science

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### Ahmad Yunas Samad

Rimsha Imran Tahir: "The State of Asylum Seekers in Pakistan"

Hira Farooq: "Internal Politics and CPEC: Who does CPEC really benefit in Pakistan?"

Fahad Syed: "Pakistan's Relations with China and United States: An International Relations Perspective"

### Asma ul-Husna Faiz

Ahmad Kamran: "State Securitisation and the role of Technology"

Zumer Zia: "Politicization of Sufi shrines in Pakistan"

### Mohammad Waseem

Momina Anwar: "History of Sindhi Nationalism pre and post partition In Pakistan"

### Noaman Ghazanfar Ali

Wajeeha Amir: "Urban Immovable Property Tax (UIPT)"

Zahra Hafeez: "Agricultural economy of Pakistan"

Shahzeena Malik: "Agricultural Economy of Pakistan wrt. Gender"

Rida Fatima: "Urban Immovable Property Tax (UIPT)"

Shehreen Umair: "Urban Immovable property tax"

Saad Abid: "Political Economy of Sewerage"

### Rabia Zaid

Hibba Nawaz: "Gender Inequality and the Political . Economy of Pakistan"

Ammar Hassan Sajjad: "Political Reforms of the Pasty Decade and Their Effects on Respective Population Segments"

Hooria Safdar: "Gender Inequality and the Political Economy of Pakistan"

### Rasul Bakhsh Rais

Bareha Abbas Naqvi: "Nuclear Deterrence between unequal rivals: Challenges and Prospects of Strategic Stability"

Fatima Najeeb Khan: "Why do political organizations choose different strategies at different times and different places"

Waseem Abbas: "The Politicization of Shia Identities in Pakistan: the ideas of Syed Jawad Naqvi"

Pareesa Memon: "Conflict Resolution in Afghanistan: Trajectory of Peace Negotiations Led by Foreign Actors"

Muhammad Huzaifa Zulfikar: "Conflict Resolution in Afghanistan: Trajectory of Peace Negotiations Led by Foreign Actors"

### Sameen Andleeb Mohsin Ali

Syeda Fatima Tahseen: "The Politics of Silence and Speech"

Wasib Iftikhar: "Intersectional Feminism, LGBTQ Rights, Queer Theory"

### Syed Shimail Reza

Rabia Najm Khan: "From the Censor to Self-Censorship: The Silent Struggle of Journalists in Pakistan"

Syed Imaad Hasan Jafri: "Violent Protests and Public Policy"

### Umair Javed

Mashaal Shah: "The Political Sociology of Inclusive Education: The Case of Pakistan's Deaf Community"

Syeda Kainaat Jah: "The Political Sociology of Inclusive Education: The Case of Pakistan's Deaf Community"

Mahnoor Ghani Sardar: "Law and Politics- Analysing Legislation related to Violence against Women in Pakistan"

## Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS)

### Zebunnisa Hamid

Azka Syed: "Cracking Earth: Reconciling the diasporic experience with Partition through the fiction of Bapsi Sidhwa and Deepa Mehta"

### Maryam Wasif Khan

Laiba Niaz Paracha "A Delicate Sensibility: The Transcendental Poetics of Parveen Shakir"

## Economics

### Agha Ali Akram

Ashal Nadeem, Taha Farhan Allawala, Mustafa Najam Siddiqi: "Air Pollution and Public Health"

### Ayesha Ali

Muhammad Anas Mahmood: "Pandemics of 1919 and 2020"

Sheikh Arsalan-UI-Haque, Manahil Javed: "Digital Divide in use of Mobile Phones and Cellular Technologies by Females (relative to Males)"

Muhammad Adil Khalid Chaudhry: "Analyzing the Vaccination Uptake in Rural Punjab, and thus measuring the IMR"

Fatima Ahmad: "Consumption"

Areeba Irfan: "The Economic, Strategic and Political Implications of CPEC Projects"

Rohan Kumar, Rajveer Ahuja, Ahmed Mustafa Uqaili, Hassan Ali Khan, Danya Iqbal Ibrahim: "Covid 19: a catalyst for startups and its impact on market growth and employee relations"

Tayyab Saqib: "Empirical Analysis of IPP-Government Contracts on Electricity Sector"

### Faisal Bari

Zarnaab Ather, Shahnawaz Ali, Usama, Sameer ., Muhammad Haris: "Education & Economics"

### Hadia Majid

Omair Rashid: "Gendered Impact of Poverty on Education"

Masooma Zahra: "Gendered Impact of Poverty on Education"

### Hira Saeed

Mahnoor Abid: "Role of Microfinance Banks and Institutes in Economic Development of a Country".

Muhammad Zain: "Analyzing the Impact of School Closure on the Learning of Students in Low-Fee Private Schools"

Mehboob Ali: "Application of Economics in Agriculture sector of Pakistan".

Kashif Fayaz: "Auction Theory"

### Khalid Mir

Mahnoor Fatima, Jaweria Waqar, Zainab Azhar, Minahil Zafar: "Impact of Pakistan's governments new expansionary monetary policy on trade during COVID-19 pandemic"

### Lyyla Khalid

Anusheh Azhar: "How Covid-19 has Affected Gender Equality"

Habib Ullah: "Industrial Change in Sargodha: 2005-2015"



### **Syed Turab Hussain**

Farwah Abbas, Saad Rehman, Muhammad Talha Malik, Maimoona Khan: "International Trade"  
Zunaira Khan, Aden Anwar: "Trade for Development"  
Amna Mahnoor Cheema, Ayesha Shahzad, Maham Naeem, Fatima Akhter, Rida Fatima: "Examining Underdevelopment Through Dependency Theory: Case of Pakistan and China"

### **Saher Asad**

Amara Ashfaq: "Development Economics/Applied Microeconomics"  
Amara Ashfaq: "Employment Choice in Response to Natural Disasters"  
Fatima Safdar Abbasi, Aleesha Raza, Amina Noor, Chaudhry Aswad Shah Nawaz: "Economics of Pandemics"  
Samar Rashid Khan: "Development Economics/ Applied Microeconomics"  
Tasneem Kousar, Taqdees Azizy, Anisha Saleem, Nayab : "Impact of Cash Transfers on Child Labor in Brick Kiln Industry"  
Haleema Habib: "Behavioural Economics"  
Sharoon Bakhshi, Baber Aizaz Toor, Namra Tahir, Muhammad Rohaan Khan Malik, Zubair Muhammad, Areeba Jamal, Dure Maknoon Jadoon: "Development Economics"  
Aleena Abbas, Muhammad Adil Khalid Chaudhry, Huda Ubaid Yousuf Chhapra, Areeba Irfan, Humama Ali: "The market level effect on the prices of essential commodities after the intervention of Ehsaas Program: A Temporal and Spatial Analysis"  
Rija Ahmad Khalid, Zaid Ahmed Abro, Aurooj Khan, Taha Siddique: "News Media & Political Behavior in Pakistan"  
Samar Rashid Khan: "Employment Choice in Response to Natural disasters"

### **Usman Elahi**

Muhammad Zohaib Bin Jamil: "Fintech"

### **Abid Aman Burki**

Laiba Malik: "Applied Economics"  
Anza Hayat, Aman Bashir: "Applied Microeconomics"

### **Adeel Tariq**

Haider Ghani Jafari: "Applied Macroeconomics"  
Sayed Mujtaba Mahmood Shah, Ali Jalaluddin, Daniyal Shahzad, Furqan Khan, Salman Zulfiqar, Moiz Sohail, Rahim Shah: "Effect of Covid-19 on Investors' Sentiment in Pakistan: Lessons from Behavioral Economics"  
Muhammad Waqas Majeed: "Impacts of Covid-19 on Pakistan's Economy"  
Maimoona Khan: "Economics and the Probable Topic"  
Qunoot Sharif: "How COVID-19 has Affected Economies Around the World"  
Muhammed Akber Hussain, Mir Mussawwir Ali, Umer Sohail: "What is the impact of Covid 19 on crimes and crime rate in Pakistan"  
Ghazala Hayat: "Development Economics"  
Zubair Muhammad: "Labor Economics"  
Zainab Safdar: "Institutional economics"  
Fatima Ahmad, Mustafa Noman, Aiman Manzoor: "How gender and ethnicity plays a role in wage discrimination in provinces of Sindh and Punjab"

Hamza Hamayun, Muhammad Azan Asif: "Machine Learning and Economics"  
Shahzil Naziri: "Forecasting Exchange Rates Through Machine Learning"  
Subhan Asif, Khushbakht Rashid, Simran Rajpal, Abdul Rafay Abid: "Productivity"  
Ansuya Bhatia, Muhammad Khan: "Econometrics"  
Muhammed Akber Hussain, Umer Sohail, Mir Mussawwir Ali: "Do Firms and Households Resort to Child Labor to Cope with Income Shocks?"

### **Muhammad Farooq Naseer**

Abdullah Haroon: "Improving CSO's Employment Initiatives" and "Trends in LUMS Student Placement after Graduation"

### **Syed Ali Hasanain**

Ayman Moazzam, Ayesha Hanif, Sheikh Arsalan-UI-Haque: "Sentiment Analysis of National Assembly Debates"

### **Syed Zahid Ali**

Laiba Malik: "Misinformation and Its Circulation on Social Media"

### **Usman Elahi**

Nauman Yaqoob: "Pandemic and Auto Mobile Industry of Pakistan"

### **Hadia Majid**

Leena Salman Butt: "Impact of Work from Home Policies on Women"  
Rida Mazhar, Mahnoor Babar Matin, Ramsha Naveed Butt: "Gendered Impact of Poverty on Education"  
Fiza Maqbool, Mahnoor Salman Khan, Noor Fatima, Hamna Rasool Khan, Haneeya Aabroo: "Development Economics"  
Eraj Tufail Arbab: "Implications of COVID 19 And the Lockdown on Women's Employment and Unpaid Labour"  
Abdullah Waseef Chaudary: "The Economic Impact of Development Policies in Pakistan"

### **Hira Saeed**

Khadija Murad Ashraf, Maryam Abbas: "Efficacy of Smart Lockdown in Pakistan due to COVID-19 and its Mobility Outcomes"  
Hashim Shabbir: "Economic Analysis"  
Umer Iqbal, Abdur Rafeeq Bin Zubair, Muhammad Shahir Shamim, Danya Iqbal Ibrahim: "Auction Theory"  
Umer Sohail: "Impacts of Oil Shocks in the Developed World: A Study on a US Economy"

### **Kashif Zaheer Malik**

Azka Waseem Hasan: "Methods in time series econometrics"

### **Nazish Afraz**

Huda Ubaid Yousuf Chhapra, Aleena Abbas: "Domestic Child Labour (Demand Side)"

### **Sher Afghan Asad**

Asma Majeed, Haleema Habib, Taha Farhan Allawala: "Economics of Organ Transplantation"

### **Usman Elahi**

Noor Ul Huda Malik: "Covid-19"

COVID-19 has brought about an abrupt change in routines and livelihoods all around the world. Adapting to the pandemic has required a transition to virtual communication and social distancing which has disrupted the joyful immediacy of everyday interactions. Resultantly we have been left grappling with the debilitating effects of social withdrawal and isolation. This phenomenon has been felt acutely by young people who in turn have shown their resilience by devising new ways of coping with the constraints of pandemic life. Celebrating the creative capacity of young people, this next section showcases our students' stories and reflective responses on life during covid. Covering a range of topics such as home, family, college life, memories, mourning, environment, ethics-of-care and resistance these writings offer connectivity and imagination as antidotes to pandemic existence.

Every December, I tend to review my year to look back at the accomplishments I've made and the notable experiences I have had. It's a nerdy and boring thing to do. 2020 was a long year, the latter half even more so as it marked the start of university life for me. The density of these new experiences called for something fun and lively rather than some words on a blank page. Enter Fall Lookback.

Starting the first semester in such unprecedented times was an anxious prospect. Everything had just shifted online. Zoom Meetings replaced the classes long walks with new friends replaced with late-night meetings and group chats. It had its highs and lows; getting stuck in your room staring at the laptop for hours on end, it sometimes felt suffocating. Yet, I would not have survived through it all if it weren't for the people I was virtually surrounded by. I express this sentiment in this poster by displaying messages, assurances, symbols, inside jokes, and influences that helped me get by. Each easter egg represents a key memory from this semester. I am grateful to all my friends, peers, O-week coaches, instructors, and TAs who made my first online semester such an amazing experience.





## Malaikah Shah (2022-02-0639)

*"Some days I feel like I'm entangled in a mesh of ambiguous loss, grappling for a sense of security in an uncertain world"*

*~ Malaikah Shah*

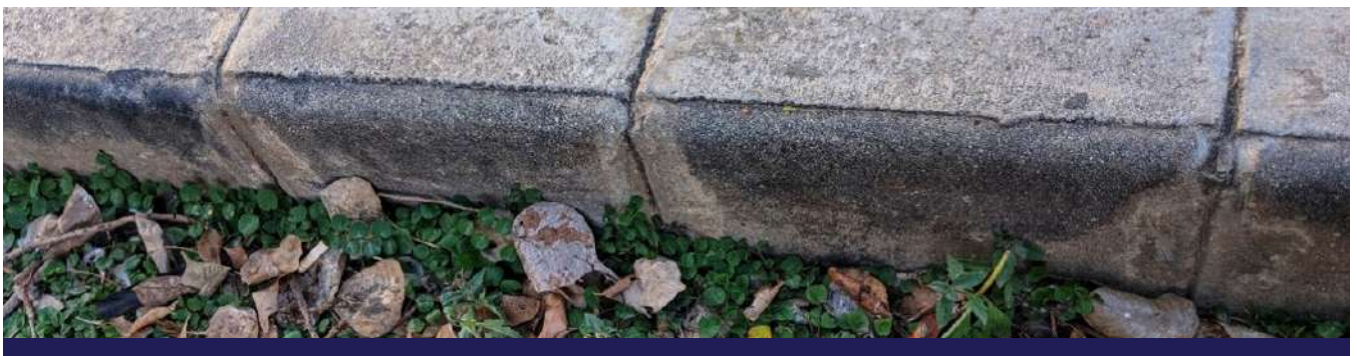
I took this picture while strolling across my university campus at 6 am, heading back to my dorm because I'd been up all night. I'd crossed this lawn almost every day, without fail, because it was on the way to the pepsi dining center. However, I'd never seen these absolutely gorgeous flowers before. I was awestruck by how the entangled stamens of these flowers looked like an intricately designed web. It dawned upon me how we get so consumed in our fast-paced lives that we fail to see the beauty that surrounds us.



*"Just like beauty can be found even in the unlikeliest of places, love yourself even in the unlikeliest of times".*

*~ Malaikah Shah*

I took this picture, sitting on the bench outside the basketball court. I was pensively staring at the ground, lamenting the cigarette butts that were scattered on the grass, when I saw a feather, beautifully nestled, amongst dried leaves. It made me realize how, all it takes is an open mind, to find beauty, even in the most unlikely of times.







*"Just like this leaf, we tend to forget that our time on this earth is limited. Spread kindness and love while you can, before resting amongst the greenery (temporarily)."*

*~ Malaikah Shah*

I took this picture while strolling through the cricket ground on a sunny afternoon. The decaying leaf reminded me of the transitory nature of our life. This becomes ever so relevant amidst the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, which is snatching away lives every single day. Through reminding ourselves of the temporariness of our lives, we can aim to break free from the consumerist, individualistic chains that shackle us.



*"Reach out for new opportunities, like the branches of the tree. Acquire diverse skills like the hues of the leaves. Close your eyes and slowly breathe. Self-compassion is what you need."*

*Malaikah Shah*

I took this picture, walking outside the library on a bright summer day. The coronavirus pandemic was at its peak, ravaging the lives of millions across the world. The branches of the trees, the hues of the leaves and the bright blue sky, got me pondering over how, we, as individuals, must outstretch our arms and embrace change with positivity. It is easy to get overwhelmed and dragged into the depths of despair, which is why I reaffirm the integrality of taking a deep-breath and being compassionate to oneself. It is only if we are compassionate to ourselves that we can truly be compassionate to those around us.



*"Do not be afraid to ask for help. Do not hesitate to lend a hand. For it is reciprocity that keeps us alive. It is interdependence that enables us to thrive."*

*Malaikah Shah*

I took this picture in the MGHSS lawn that faces the out-gate. I was drawn in by the flowers in full-bloom, but little did I know that I would come across two breath-taking red and black striped beetles preoccupied with pollination. It reminded me of how we buy into the individualist, egotistical view of humans being self-centred creatures. Limited opportunities and constrained resources drive us against one another in cut-throat competition. However, renowned sociologist, Emile Durkheim, in his theory of functionalism, likened society to that of a living organism, in which each organ (specialized individual) plays a necessary role in keeping the organism (society) alive. Especially amidst the coronavirus pandemic, it is of utmost importance that we collectively recognize and work towards societal betterment. It is time that we, hand-in-hand, take small steps towards helping those who are less fortunate than us.



## Adam's Eid

### Aamnah Mansoor (2022-02-0300)

Adam lay in bed, staring at the clock on the wall across the room. The big hand on twelve and the small hand on seven. The morning light seeped in slowly under the curtains and the only sound that could be heard was the slow whirring of the air condition, throwing the cold blast of air around the room. Adam was tightly tucked under his covers, and this was the time of day that he would usually spend sleeping, happily, but today was different. Today was bari eid, and instead of the house burying in the sounds of dishes, pots and "is my kurta ironed?", "hurry up the namaz will start!" and "get out of the bathroom I want to shower too!" there was only silence.

Adam felt tears pricking his eyes, quickly closing them shut he tried to fall back asleep but his mind seemed to be conjuring the memories of all eid's past. The time when his mother would wake him up announcing its eid, and he would run into his parent's room screaming and shouting in excitement. How he would be given the warnings of being left behind for namaz if he didn't get ready in ten minutes. Namaz! There would be no eid prayers to go to this year. He won't meet Azlaan and Zayaan at the masjid. Uncle Zahid will not give all the boys eidi along with a balloon bought from the balloon-wala standing outside the masjid. He will not be able to see the Australian bull that Mr.Qasmi would have bought for sacrifice, tied outside his house. This year he didn't even get to go to the bakra mandi with his chacha and cousins. This year the qurbani would be done at baba's factory and not at the house. With all these thoughts suddenly passing through his mind, he could feel more tears build up and this time he let a few fall, pulling the blanket over his face. The last thought he thought before falling back into a slumber was "why couldn't this corona end already."

"Adam beta, wake up it's time to get ready, it's eid today." Ammi slowly began to wake him up, shaking him slightly. Adam grunted slightly and rolled over. "Come on, aren't you excited, you'll get to meet everyone today" Upon hearing this Adam shot up straight, wide awake and a look of puzzlement evident on his face. "What do you mean meet everyone? Is coronavirus over?" A sense of hope evident in the second question. "No jaan, Corona is not over but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate eid now can we", Ammi replied while combing her fingers through his disheveled hair. Adam was still confused by what his mother meant and his befuddlement increased after seeing his mother dressed in new clothes, donning jewellery and the strong scent of itr that she normally doused in on the occasion of eid. "Come on now, go get ready your new kurta is ironed and hanging on the cupboard."

Without questioning further, Adam went into the bathroom and saw the new red kurta hanging on his cupboard. After getting dressed, he went downstairs to see that the dining table was laid out as it usually would be for the guests, but in the garden. What was going on?  
"Adam! Quickly wear a mask and come outside `` Abu spoke from behind him rushing down the stairs, wearing a surgical mask himself.

'But where are we go-' by the time Adam had gotten his question out Abu had already rushed out the door. His curiosity now controlling his body, he picked a mask from the box kept next to the door, slinging the elastics behind each ear making sure his nose and mouth were properly covered, followed his father's instructions to meet him outside.

The sight outside was even more confusing, Abu was standing with the gate open, talking and laughing with whoever was on the other side. As he came to stand next to his father, his heart leapt up in excitement as standing six feet away were a masked Zayaan, Azlaan and Uncle Zahid and each of them holding a balloon in their gloved hands.

"Assalam u alaykum Adam, eid mubarak!" Uncle Zahid greeted the little boy, and with the boy's immeasurable excitement his reply of

'EID MUBARAK!' came louder than anticipated.

"Look I brought your friends to meet you"

'AZLAAN, ZAYAAN' not able to contain his excitement he took a step towards them, but before he could even step out, Abu pulled him back.

"Uh uh you can only meet them from here for now, don't forget we all have to be careful" Adam who could not contain his happiness, obliged and began chatting with his friends excitedly from the safe distance, the two elders left chuckling at the reunion between the three boys, whose loud voices were now streaming through the windows of the neighbours as well.

After spending a good half an hour in catching up with his friends did the time to bade goodbye come, but not without Uncle Zahid first handing out a white envelope to each of the three boys, the letters spelling out eid mubarak stamped across on top and the balloon meant for Adam as well. As their guests were walking away, the gate next door began to screech open and one by one all the family members wearing masks and dressed in fancy clothes began to step out.

"Assalam u alaykum bhabhi, come in come in" Abu invited them inside their house. Adam stood there shocked to feel the familiar feelings of eid returning. His chacha, chachi and their two kids all dressed up, looking bright and fresh were coming to their house for breakfast?

"Adam beta, why are you standing here looking shocked, aren't you happy to see your chacha, won't you serve him some breakfast now" his chacha chided him. Adam slowly followed the guests into the garden, who were greeted by their mother holding a bottle of sanitizer in her hand, pumping the liquid into every guest's hand and routinely sounds of "how are you?" and "eid mubarak" echoed before him. As he reached his mom, she bent down to his level and whispered

"I told you we'll celebrate eid didn't I" and Adam nodded his head in return, feeling a sense of fulfilment holding the balloon and having a pocket with an envelope of eidi, coming to realise maybe things will not be the same for a while but that doesn't mean there won't be a new way to do the same old things.



## So and So

Fatima Azeem (2021-02-0567)

My grandfather is 76  
I see him from my balcony while he stares  
With empty eyes into the sun  
I see him down below  
Listless orbs surveying nothingness  
I see him from afar  
His expression grim  
He's touching his fingers repeatedly-he's counting  
6,7, 8-eight friends  
And 3, three friends' wives  
Eleven of them  
*Inna lilahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun*  
Rolling off his tongue

It angers me to see him in pain  
It pains me to see him go through this again and AGAIN  
He gets a call from an old friend, or a friend's brother  
They haven't spoken in a while  
But he should know  
So and so is in the hospital  
So and so breathed his last  
*Inna lilahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun*  
The call ends

He pulls out his address book  
He looks up names and numbers of forgotten friends  
But this is a moment to remember  
They are surprised to hear from him  
They are not surprised at what they hear-they are devastated  
*Inna lilahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun*

I sit with him for a few moments  
He is a man of few words  
I hear him on the same phone calls  
With the same forgotten friends  
They all need to know  
*Inna lilahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun*

So he finally gets the vaccine  
He doesn't want to be so and so  
He doesn't want to be another statistic  
Another name marked off from history

So and so is now our neighbour  
So and so is now his best friend's son  
He's concerned-but he doesn't say anything  
He's a man of few words like I said  
His words are prayers only

He tells me so and so held me when I was a baby  
He tells me they ate lunch together at the office  
He tells me they lived together as bachelors  
He doesn't cry-he never cries  
But he says *Inna lilahi wa inna ilaihi rajioun*  
That is his cry

I hear him crying every other day  
I hear this cry all around  
I hear it from myself  
I hear it online  
I hear it everywhere



## Living Under Covid

### Amna Mohsin (2023-02-0304)

Naively, I presumed that 2020 was my year but it was not, just like the rest. I started waiting for the expiration date on covid last year. I am still waiting. I said I would change, in March, and then it was December. Didn't think I would witness something like this in my life. I had always thought that I might witness the third world war or that I might experience glaciers melting and oceans running dry but coronavirus took me by surprise. At least, I am not the only one. For some reason, we all thought it would end with 2020 and the new year would bring new weak resolutions but not new variants. I decided to make new year resolutions which are not something I do often and if I do, I do not follow through with them.

This time we all made one: that coronavirus will not be a part of our lives in 2021. But like many other resolutions, it did not work. Corona was not satisfied being the highlight of just one year. It takes after humans in being greedy I guess. ... Not that anyone asked but I am not for covid, as it is not for me. I am not the person who likes going to hospitals, especially if it's for me. I got tested and the results were negative but I can never be completely certain that I did not have it. Waiting for the test result was not as dreadful as getting tested. However, I had something to brag about, that I did not flinch during the nasal swab testing. Self-medication is big in my home and I had to drink extremely healthy and strong green teas which killed my taste buds, whatever of them remained after covid. I looked accusingly at my brother if he sneezed and with masks on, I would gauge his expression from his eyes, something I am really bad at. My mom had schooled me to take half the medicine my father gives me for the headaches. She learned this lesson when I was a year old and when my father gave me way more drops than the doctor prescribed. I was asleep for a day and a half.

The lockdown started with relief. Exams were getting cancelled or the deadlines were extended. No one realised the enormity of it. As the holidays increased, our relief decreased. These holidays are not ending. It was a unique problem, students had never thought they would complain about holidays. I remembered my mom teaching my brother and me when we were young that cleanliness was half the faith. It took a pandemic to make us realise why cleanliness was such a big deal.

It was lazy of me but I think I had never washed my hands so regularly before the lockdown. Cleanliness itself had become the religion, the religion of everyone. My father would sweep the floors and he did a better job than the help. His friend gave him organic sanitisers which my father made sure to share with his friends. Our house looked too clean and it smelled of too many things at once. I told myself we will get used to it, like everything else.

Everyone has theories about covid but now they were being discussed on call instead of our drawing-room. Some noteworthy theories included that it was China's novel way to wage war, that coronavirus was not real, and that we were unnecessarily pulled into a battle between China and the USA. fruitless as these conversations were, we did reach a consensus: a common conclusion was all of us blaming the bat guy. ... My Nani was more formidable than the virus. She wanted us in Sahiwal so there we were. It was not wise to go outside one's house so the thought of traveling to another city was inconceivable to me. My mom insisted and the decision was made. I could not say no out of respect but if we were to be rational, she would lose the argument.

My khala got sick and she tested negative for covid, positive for typhoid. Did we trust the results? No. Every sick person had to have the virus. I started opening the doors with one finger and that made my entire hand hurt. My hands were dry, from washing or rather scrubbing them so fervently. I wanted to moisturise them but lotion was in khala's room and I was not daring enough to get it. My hands remained dry. In fact. The drier the better. When my father had to drop us and return to Lahore, he practiced social distancing by kissing my head after covering it with a tissue. Blessing in disguise some called it. It gave people a break from their busy lives and packed schedules, allowing people to spend time with family. But I was never missing out on family time. I had more than my quota of it. And yet covid made me miss people in the same house as me.

In a way, covid suspended life, everything except the problems. I was worried about my results but more worried about my brother's. The medical exam kept getting delayed. Unfortunately for covid, it was not the only problem in our life. It was bizarre how some things had changed but many had managed to stay the same. The weird thing is that I never prayed for covid to end. The situation was so unique and we didn't have the ability to deal with it. It became banal. The regular problems of life



existed and I would pray for people to get better. Never had I felt so powerless but I had never been one to actively try to change something. We are boring people with boring lives. We get bored of our lives but maybe our lives also get bored by us.

I failed to do something rewarding in the break which did not feel like a break. The few restaurants I liked stopped delivering and even figuring out what you wanted to eat became a grueling task. ... I have a habit of forgetting things. It is not a good habit to have during an all-pervasive virus. I am guilty of forgetting the masks and realising that in the car, not yet knowing that I can forget my phone but not a mask. My father said it is a little late to turn back and handed me a mask. One that was left in the car by his friend. That did not solve the problem. It felt as if the big brother was real and always watching.

We rarely get invited to iftars but this time we did. My parents wanted to get there five minutes before the Maghrib prayer. I thought we should leave earlier because it seemed inevitable that we would be sent back. Four people in the car, that was not normal. It was unsettling to step out of the house. I looked at the traffic wardens, surely, they would not let us continue. And I wanted to get back home in time so I could have a strawberry shake and some spring rolls. Unexpectedly, we made it to the destination. Before greeting anyone, we sanitised our hands.

Coronavirus was not static. There were periods when I would be scared when my parents went out for groceries. Even a slight sneeze would be suspicious. There was overwhelming confusion about whether to hug the person or not. One would lean in while the other would extend his hand but they should not have met in the first place. I felt disturbed by the ease with which people touched one another in shows. I wanted to stop them from touching and admonish them for not wearing a mask. It was difficult to imagine that one made physical contact without thinking twice.

When I went to university eight months after the closure, I was worried my friend would not recognise me with a mask. She extended her arms towards me but covid had made a non-hugger out of me. Usually, I would be the one initiating hugs but this time the role had inversed and I ran away from Rania. One would have thought that covid was an equaliser. Anyone could contract the virus. It did not only attack the poor or the old. If Boris Johnson and Trump could get it, who were we? Lucky for us? No, the distinctions persisted. There were people with just one mask, which they made sure to keep safe. Some tossed them carelessly, knowing they can get more. If that was not enough, there were masks that offered better protection. Look at the people well-dressed, in their fancy masks. Masks become a luxury. Capitalism doesn't ever rest does it, it commodified the masks. This was a pandemic and a half. This new normal has started working so well that we don't realise it's not normal. It can never be normal. Even if we win against corona now, there'd be too much we have lost







## Junior Year

**Aamnah Mansoor (2022-02-0300)**

**14/09/20**

It's the first day of junior year tomorrow.  
Fifth semester  
I'm in bed at home  
Unlike last year in a stuffy dorm  
Here I am where the ac is on

The anxiety is there  
But so is the excitement  
After 3 months here we go again

There won't be a rush to get dressed and run to that new class  
Instead I'll wake up from bed and straight on to my desk  
A zoom link and swoosh I'll be in class

It's the beginning of junior year  
11 am I have my poetry class  
I hope to drop it but for now  
Everything is in uncertain  
Just like the rest of our untwined hours...

**24/04/21**

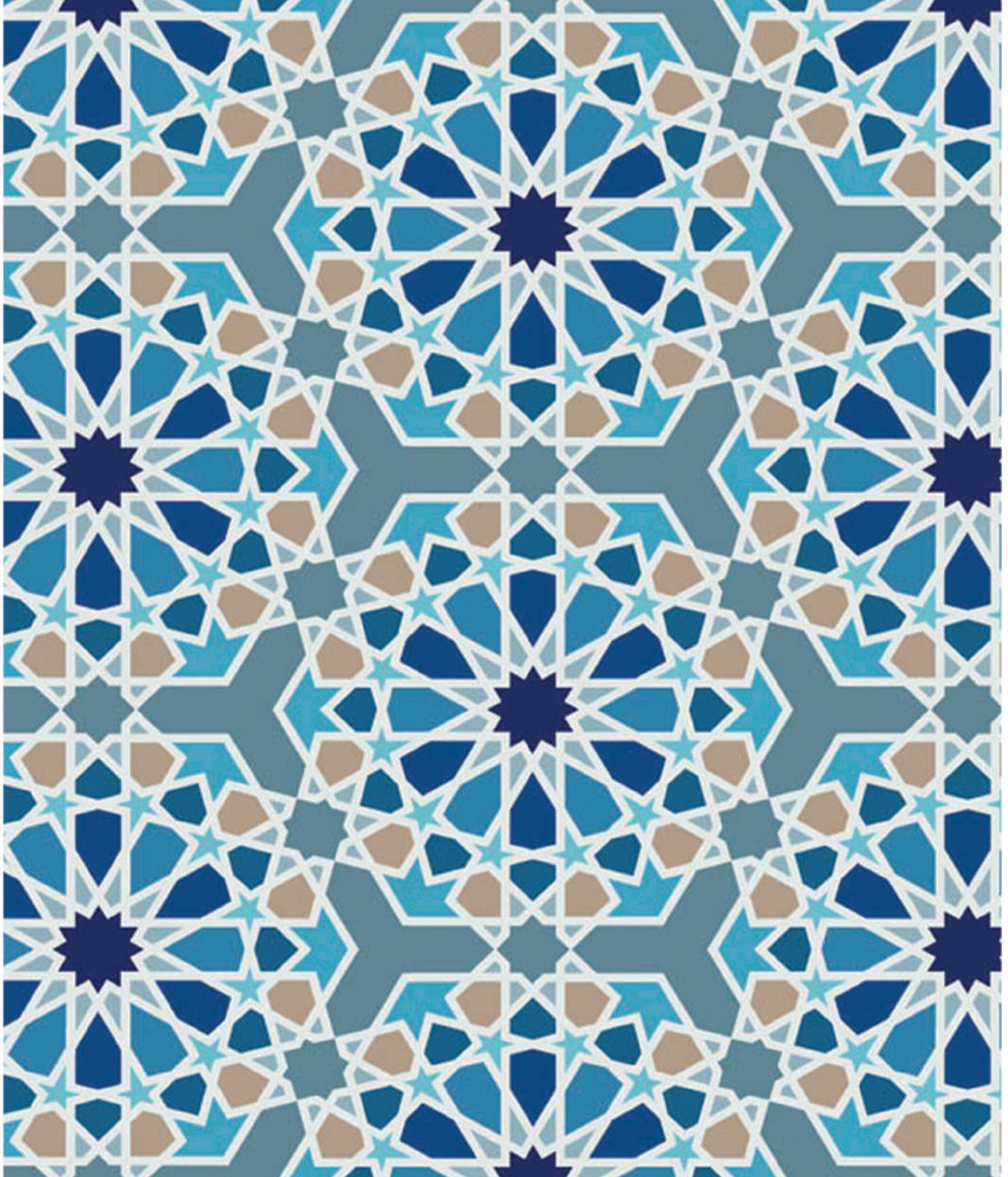
Tomorrow is the last day of junior year  
Sixth semester  
I'm in bed at home  
Unlike last year  
I have no dorm room to pack up from  
Here I am, wondering is this where I'll graduate from?

There is anxiety, worry and a whole  
Load of question marks  
A whole academic year of  
Deaths of loved ones

There is no hope for the coming year  
There's no answer for tomorrow  
Back aches, sore eyes and fatigue  
I don't think I can spend a minute on  
Zoom again

Senior year is hovering by  
But the good-byes seemed to be  
Already have been said  
To all my friends  
I thought I'd be with in this moment  
I hope life will allow me to see you again.





## **Centres at MGS HSS**

**Mahbub Ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC)**

**Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWG I)**

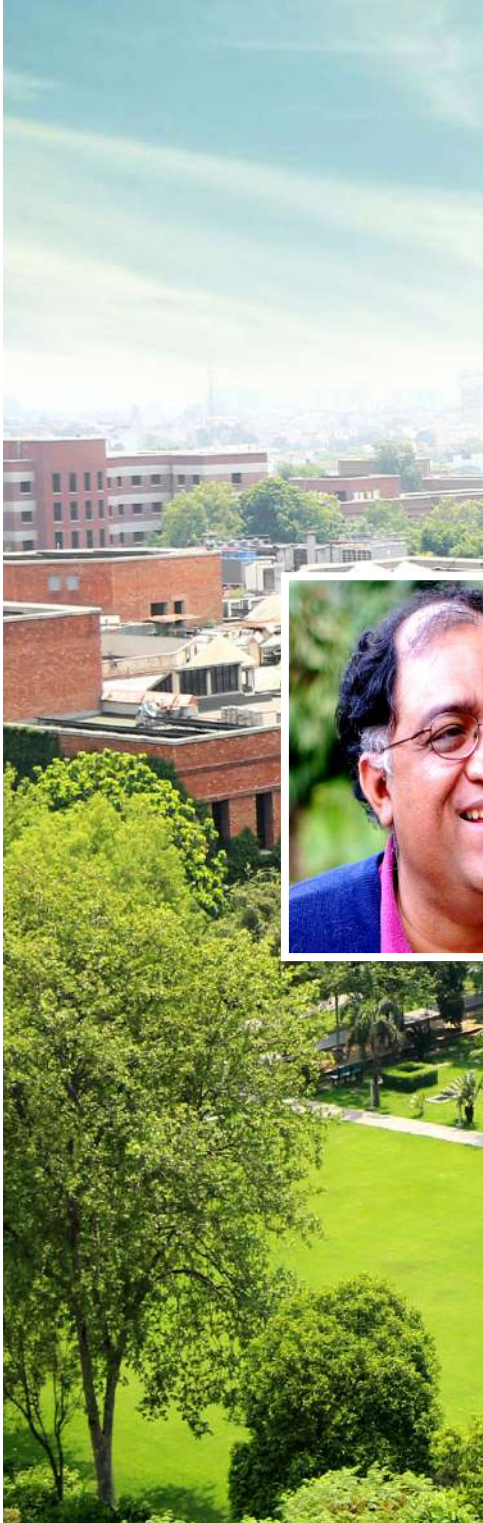
**Gurmani Centre for Languages & Literature (GCLL)**





**Mahbub Ul Haq Research Centre  
(MHRC)**





## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR



Our mission at MHRC is to act as a bridge between accomplished researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to help discover and implement innovations and reforms that can transform Pakistan into an equitable, inclusive, and developed society. We introduced a fellow's program one year ago to increase the pool of accomplished researchers working as part of the centre. We are happy to report that the response has been excellent and 84 highly reputed academics are now part of MHRC.

Our diverse pool of fellows - that includes economists, social scientists, technology and public health researchers, historians, and political economists - reflects our vision that grand challenges are caused by complex problems that require interdisciplinary responses. We have successfully created research partnerships with the Governments of Punjab and KP in the areas of local public finance, public health, education, and environmental policy. We have also established research partnerships with leading MFIs in Pakistan to innovate solutions that increase the financial inclusion and the productivity of women entrepreneurs and small enterprises.

**Ali Cheema**



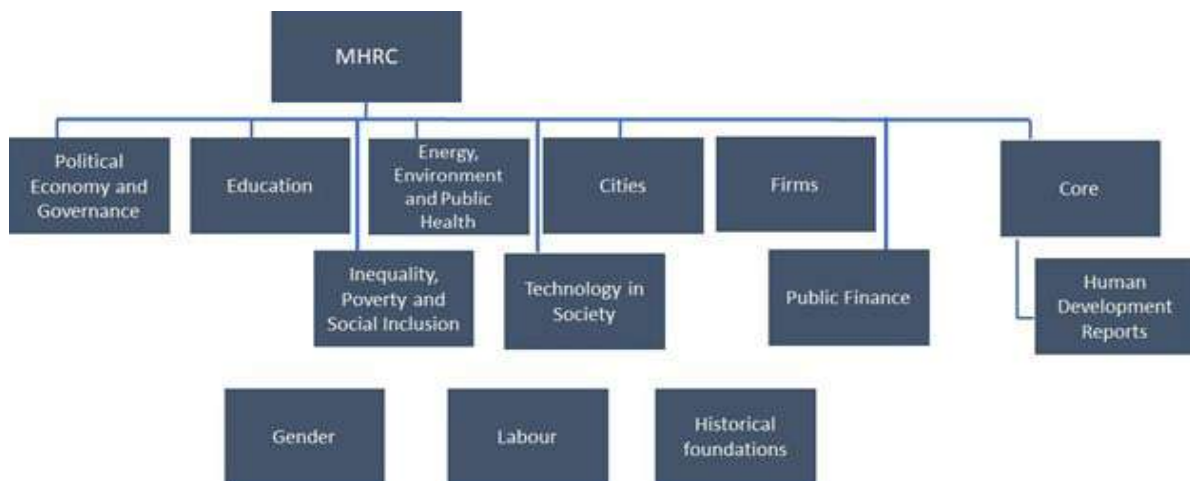
# About MHRC

The Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC) is the flagship centre of social science research at LUMS. It supports interdisciplinary research, scholarship and teaching on issues of human development, social exclusion and inequality across South Asia. Its vision is to co-construct knowledge on critical challenges with a community of scholars, students, practitioners and social actors to bring about transformative change for an inclusive and equitable society.

The MHRC team has worked hard to mainstream the Centre with the LUMS academic community. One year ago, there was little engagement between LUMS faculty

and the centre. The centre was restructured in thematic clusters that match to priority areas of work and invited LUMS faculty to join the centre as Research Fellows.

MHRC has **8 research clusters** as seen in the organogram below. Fellows from each cluster commit to providing research leadership in their themes of interest. Thematic clusters at MHRC offer research fellows the opportunity to work in peer groups and draw on expertise across disciplines. Gender, labour, and historical foundations are considered as cross-cutting themes.



MHRC has **84 Research Fellows** working together on various projects and publications.

Thematic Cluster	Fellows
<b>Cities</b>	Kamran Asdar Ali, Nida Kirmani, Syed M. Hasan, Umair Javed, Ali Cheema, Anjum Altaf, Adeel Tariq, Amen Jaffer, Fizzah Sajjad
<b>Energy, Environment and Public Health</b>	Sameen Mohsin, Saher Asad, Sanval Nasim, Shaper Mirza, Agha Ali Akram, Abid A. Burki, Ali Cheema, Ayesha Ali, Maha Rehman
<b>Political Economy and Governance</b>	Rabia Malik, Sameen Mohsin, Shandana Khan Mohmand, Umair Javed, Ali Cheema, Amin Hussain, Cory Smith, Fatima Mustafa, Noaman Ghazanfar Ali

<b>Education</b>	Tania Saeed, Qaiser Khan, Tayyaba Tamim, Faisal Bari, Gulab Khan, Maha Rehman, Rabea Malik, Soufia Siddiqi
<b>Public Finance</b>	Giulia Masagni, Shandana Khan Mohmand, Ali Abbas, Ali Cheema, Sher Afghan, Adnan Khan, Mazhar Waseem, Michael Best, Jawad Shah
<b>Firms</b>	Abid Burki, Adeel Tariq, Antonio Marasco, Faisal Bari, Maha Rehman, Nazish Afraz, Nadia Mukhtar
<b>Inequality, Poverty, and Social Inclusion</b>	Kashif Zaheer, Nadia Mukhtar, Rashid Memon, Shandana Khan Mohmand, Abid A. Burki, Adeel Tariq, Ali Abbas, Hadia Majid, Farah Said, Tania Saeed
<b>Technology in Society</b>	Maryam Mustafa, Mobin Javed, Saher Asad, Sameen Mohsin, Qaiser Khan, Murtaza Taj, Agha Ali Raza, Ali Hasanain, Ayesha Ali, Fareed Zafar, Ihsan Ayyub Qazi

Fellows are supported by a Core Team at MHRC. This consists of:

Dr Ali Cheema - Executive Director  
Dr Soufia Siddiqi - Director Research  
Maha Rehman - Director Policy  
Momina Idrees - Research Coordinator  
Tanveer Ahmed - Accounts and Admin Officer

This year, the Centre initiated several partnerships, research activities, webinar series and outreach projects.

## Research Collaborations

MHRC has been able to deepen academic research collaborations with IDS Sussex, CERP, IDEAS, CDPR, SWGI and with faculty at LSE, University of Manchester, Columbia University, University of Maryland, Cornell University, Beaconhouse National University, and Aga Khan University Institute of Educational Development. Focus of these collaborations in on:

Public Finance  
Political Economy and Governance  
Public Health  
Gender and development  
Urban Development  
Environment

## Partnerships

Several institutional partnerships have been established to provide research-based evidence for reform.

- MHRC partnered with The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on strengthening local public finances and local service delivery.
- MHRC also partnered with the Government of Punjab on strengthening local public finances.
- An MoU was signed with the Special Monitoring Unit within the CM Secretariat to build a Smog Consortium that can help address the rapidly worsening smog crisis of the province.
- MoUs with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority Punjab as well as Environment Protection Authority Punjab are also in progress in connection with addressing air pollution.
- MHRC is going to partner through MoU with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, specifically with the newly emerging Pakistan Institute of Education.
- An MoU with Tabadlab is being signed on following areas of priority:
  - o Public Health
  - o Urban Policy
  - o Education
- MHRC Director Policy, Maha Rehman and MHRC Fellow, Shaper Mirza, are working with the Institute of Public Health, Punjab, SIMS and PKLI on identifying the drivers of the heterogeneity in COVID spread.
- An MoU for the duration of three years has been signed with SMEDA to focus on entrepreneurship and SME development.
- MHRC is partnering with Kashf Foundation and Akhuwat for a conference on the success and limitations of microfinance in mediating the = gender gap.

# Events

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MHRC organises multiple events to encourage conversations about human development and global and national challenges among various stakeholders and the wider public. These events provide participants a platform to learn from experts in the field, discuss policy challenges and share their perspectives in a variety of formats. The events range from lectures, dialogue workshops, book launches and webinar series featuring distinguished speakers which include both academics and practitioners.

MHRC's ongoing Webinar Series for Spring 2021 features several renowned experts from various fields and is being very well received.

Following is the list of MHRC's Spring 2021 Webinars. For more details and streaming links, please visit our website.

## February 2021

### Technical Change, Inequality and Capitalist Development (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)

Speaker: Daron Acemoglu (MIT)  
Moderators: Shandana Khan Mohmand (IDS) and Ali Cheema (LUMS, IDEAS, CERP)

Daron Acemoglu is the Charles P. Kindleberger Professor of Applied Economics at MIT. His research interests include political economy, development economics, economic growth, income and wage inequality and labour economics. He is the author of the highly acclaimed books, *The Narrow Corridor: State, Societies and The Fate of Liberty* and *Why Nations Fail: Origins of Power, Poverty and Prosperity*.

## March 2021

### Book Launch: Pakistan's Political Parties (The Political Economy of Development Series)

Panelists: Mariam Mufti (Waterloo), Sarah Khan (Yale) and Asad Liaquat (Facebook) Moderator: Umair Javed (LUMS)

Mariam Mufti is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. Sarah Khan is an Assistant Professor at Yale and she researches gender and comparative politics, with a regional specialization in South Asia while Asad Liaquat is a Research Scientist in the Novi Economics team at Facebook and studies how economically consequential political behavior is shaped by the informational and social environment. Umair Javed is an Assistant Professor of Political Sociology at LUMS and a fellow of MHRC.

### Three Faces of Agency in Feminist Economics: Capabilities, Empowerment and Citizenship (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)

Speaker: Naila Kabeer (LSE)  
Moderators: Sohela Nazneen (IDS) and Nida Kirmani (LUMS and MHRC)

Professor Naila Kabeer discusses the three faces of agency in feminist economics and their implications for gender equality in the 21st century. Naila Kabeer is the Professor of Gender and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research interests include gender, poverty, social exclusion, labour markets and livelihoods, social protection and citizenship and much of her research is focused on South and South East Asia. She is a leading feminist economist who has had a major impact on global thinking on gender, empowerment and citizenship.

### Human Development, Climate Change and the Anthropocene (Global Challenges Webinar Series)

Panelists: Ajay Chhibber (IIEP), Adil Najam (Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University), and Frances Stewart (Oxford)  
Moderator: Hadia Majid (LUMS and MHRC)

Ajay Chhibber is a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for International Economic Policy at the George Washington University. Adil Najam is Professor of International Relations and Earth and Environment and the inaugural Dean, Fredrick S. Pardee School of Global Studies. Frances Stewart is Professor Emeritus of Development Economics and Director of the centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), University of Oxford. Hadia Majid is an Assistant Professor of Economics at LUMS, a fellow of MHRC and the Director of the Saeeda Waheed Gender Initiative at LUMS.

### Gender, Inequality and Microfinance (Conference)

Collaborating Partners: SWGI, MHRC, and Kashf Foundation

## April 2021

### Polarized Democracies: Causes and Consequences (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)

Speaker: James Robinson (UChicago)  
Moderators: Shandana Khan Mohmand (IDS) and Umair Javed (LUMS)

James Robinson is the Reverend Richard L. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and the Director of the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts. His research interests include political economy, comparative economic development and economic history. He is the author of the highly-acclaimed books, *The Narrow Corridor: State, Societies and The Fate of Liberty* and *Why Nations Fail: Origins of Power, Poverty and Prosperity*.

### Rethinking the State to Build Back Better (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)

Speaker: Mariana Mazzucato (UCL)  
Moderators: Melissa Leach (IDS) and Ali Cheema (LUMS, IDEAS, CERP)

Mariana Mazzucato is Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London. She is also the founding director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. She is winner of international prizes including the 2020 John Von Neumann Award, the 2019 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values, and 2018 Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought. She was named as one of the '3 most important thinkers about innovation' by the New Republic. She is the author of the highly-acclaimed books, *The Entrepreneurial State: debunking public vs. private sector myths* and *The Value of Everything: making and taking in the global economy*.

## May 2021

### **The Impact of Natural Disasters on Student Learning in Pakistan (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)**

Speaker: Tahir Andrabi (Pomona College)  
Moderators: Rabea Malik (IDEAS) and Miguel Loureiro (IDS)

Tahir Andrabi is Stedman-Sumner Professor of Economics at Pomona College. He is a founding Director of the Centre for Economic Research, Pakistan and the inaugural Dean of the LUMS School of Education. His research interests include the economics of education and development economics. He has published extensively in major economics and education journals including the *American Economic Review* and *Review of Economics and Statistics*. In 2007, his work on religious education in Pakistan received the George Bereday Award for the best paper published in *Comparative Education Review* in 2006 from the Comparative and International Education Society.

### **Deepening Democracy: The Role of Associational Politics (The Political Economy of Development Series)**

Panelists: Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (Virginia), Patrick Heller (Brown), and Umair Javed (LUMS)  
Moderator: Shandana Khan Mohmand (IDS)

Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner is an Assistant Professor of Politics & Global Studies at the University of Virginia. Patrick Heller is the Lyn Crost Professor of Social Sciences and professor of Sociology and International Studies at Brown University. Shandana Khan Mohmand is a Research Fellow at IDS Sussex. Umair Javed is an Assistant Professor of Political Sociology at LUMS and a Fellow of MHRC.

## June 2021

### **Pakistan's Divergent Fertility Transition (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)**

Speaker: Zeba Sathar (Population Council)  
Moderators: Hadia Majid (LUMS) and Maha Rehman (LUMS)

Zeba Sathar is the Director of the Population Council, Pakistan and is a leading demographer working on South Asia. Her research interests include demographics, gender, population planning and child and maternal health. She is the author of the publication *Capturing the Demographic Dividend in Pakistan*.

### **State Capture and the Breakdown of Democratic Institutions (Mahbub ul Haq Distinguished Lectures 2021)**

Speaker: Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton)  
Moderators: Shandana Khan Mohmand (IDS) and Ali Cheema (LUMS, IDEAS, CERP)

Leonard Wantchekon is a Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University and the President and Founder of the African School of Economics. His research interests include political economy, economic history and development economics. He has made substantive and methodological contributions to the literatures on clientelism and state capture, resource curse and democratization.

## Publications

MHRC undertakes a range of publishing efforts, from the annual issue-driven Human Development Report to policy papers as well as academic blogs.

The Centre is currently engaged with partner Institute of Development Studies (IDS), one of the world's leading international development think tanks associated with the University of Sussex, in the preparation of the next Human Development Report on Gender and Cities.

MHRC also launched a revamped website with a new blog section, Pakistan Dialogues. The purpose of the MHRC blog is to invite scholars and practitioners to draw on their work to further our understanding of national and global challenges and how they can be addressed. We hope that this will contribute to the public debate on critical challenges and create an archive of important evidence and ideas that are articulated in an accessible manner.

## Engagement and Outreach

MHRC has cultivated an active presence on Twitter, and Facebook, creating a vibrant online community of academics, students and journalists, among others.





**Saida Waheed Gender Initiative  
(SWGI)**



## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Over the years, we have seen our world continue to change rapidly. These transformative changes – from global pandemics to global warming – impact our understanding of the world. It is becoming increasingly clear that one key area of study needs to be the differential impact across genders, and it is imperative to build a revised understanding on this front. The Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGI) was established in 2015 through a generous endowment given to LUMS by the family of one of the pioneers in the field of women's rights in Pakistan, the late Saida Waheed. The endowment envisions to promote research and teaching on gender within LUMS and throughout Pakistan to build a more nuanced understanding of and discourse around how gender is understood in relation to the world around us.

Since its inception, SWGI has hosted some of the top researchers in the field of gender from across the country and the world through our regular seminar series. We have also organized innovative workshops related to pedagogy, theory, and praxis, which have brought academics and practitioners together from across a range of disciplines and fields. SWGI has also been committed to supporting students and faculty pursuing research related to gender by providing small grants to members in the LUMS community and training students from universities across Pakistan in research methods and design. Finally, the faculty and staff associated with SWGI have been instrumental in launching and coordinating a new minor, the Gender and Sexuality Studies minor, at LUMS.

The next few years at SWGI will be dedicated to crafting a more cross- and inter-disciplinary view of the gender discourse. So, our immediate agenda is to involve more disciplines across the university in designing research outputs geared towards this aim. Our objective is to equip more researchers with the incentive and tools to study our world through the gender lens. We aim to be the premier name in this domain, not just within Pakistan but worldwide.

**Hadia Majid**



*Parchhayian* by Amna Rauf, Kanza Hussain, Huda Mehdi Shah, Zilehuma

## Student Research

During the summer, as COVID-19 related uncertainty peaked and all of us tried to cope with the extraordinary situation, we here at the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWG) felt that students at LUMS interested in writing or presenting their work be given the opportunity to explore and evocate. It was, and in many ways still is, routine to speak about the pandemic as an unprecedented crisis, a rupture of apocalyptic proportions. However, there have been minority voices that have spoken of the pandemic as an intensification of earlier injustices and oppression, environmental, economic, domestic, political. Others still have seen in it an opportunity for a different world, for new relationships to self, family, community, nation, and the world. It has been argued that this is a moment for a re-examination of our desires, politics, critical perspectives, and ideas of time, including the future, present, and past.

In light of this, SWGI announced a call for proposals and provided funds of up to 20,000 PKR to selected grantees. We encouraged proposals for research, artistic, or literary projects, which centre the experiences of women, and queer and trans persons amidst the pandemic. We also welcomed proposals that rethink the pandemic beyond the framework of crisis, and offer new analytic perspectives, experiential insights, political possibilities, and affective reckonings. We are immensely proud of all our grantees:

- *'Amidst the Pandemic: Lady Health Workers of Sindh'* – by Uswah e Fatima
- *'Domestic Violence in an Age of Online Spaces and Pandemic'* – by Noor Fatima, Minahill Khan, and Swaiba Saeed
- *'Female Commuters and Covid-19 in Karachi'* – by Ushna Khan
- *'Flitting through time 1918/2020: A study on women and pandemics in the subcontinent'* – by Noor Fatima Bokhari
- *'Pandemic Archives: Charting Queer Pakistani Identities'* – by Zainab, Urooj, Rameen, and Mashael
- *'Parchhayian'* – by Amna Rauf, Huda Mehdi Shah, Kanza Hassan, and Zil E Huma
- *'The Gendered Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in Pakistan'* – by Hira Farooq, Rida Fatima, Zainab Farooq, and Zumer Zia

The projects have been put on display virtually and can be explored through this weblink

<https://studentprojects.lums.edu.pk>

## Webinar Series

Since its inception SWGI has been hosting seminars throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, inviting scholars of gender and sexuality studies as well as scholars whose work uses gender and/or sexuality as a central category of research.

### Webinar Series Fall 2020

#### Gendered Design of Technologies by Dr Maryam Mustafa

In our first talk we were joined by Dr Maryam Mustafa, who is an Assistant Professor at the School of Science and Engineering, LUMS. She was joined by Dr Hadia Majid as discussant who is Assistant Professor, Department of Economics & Director, Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, LUMS.

The talk explored how feminist thought is a natural ally to the design of technologies because of its central commitments to issues such as agency, fulfilment, identity, equity, empowerment, and social justice. Dr Mustafa discussed her research, which engages feminist perspectives and approaches towards designing technologies for/with underserved communities. In particular, she spoke about designing for maternal and mental healthcare in Pakistan, designing for digital financial services targeted towards women and how women in the Global South have leveraged technologies to navigate around restrictions on work and mobility outside the home and claim financial independence by setting up thriving businesses.

#### Indian Sex Life: Sexuality and the Colonial Origins of Modern Social Thought by Dr Durba Mitra

For our second seminar, we were joined by Dr Durba Mitra to discuss her new book, *'Indian Sex Life: Sexuality and the Colonial Origins of Modern Social Thought'*.



Dr Mitra is an Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and Carol K. Pforzheimer Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. She was joined by Dr Ali Raza, who is a historian of modern South Asia and an Associate Professor of History at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS. He is the author of *Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India* (2020).

The discussion primarily focused on Dr Mitra's book, which demonstrates how ideas of deviant female sexuality became foundational to modern social thought. In *Indian Sex Life*, Dr Mitra shows how deviant female sexuality, particularly the concept of the prostitute, became the primary way to think and write about Indian society. She reveals that ideas of deviant female sexuality were critical to debates about social progress and exclusion, caste domination, marriage, sexual violence, widowhood and inheritance, women's performance, the trafficking of girls, abortion and infanticide, industrial and domestic labour, indentured servitude, and ideologies about the dangers of Muslim sexuality.

### 'Women in Public Service in Pakistan' by Dr Sana Haroon

In our third seminar we were joined by Dr Sana Haroon, who is Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has authored two books, *Frontier of Faith* and *The Mosques of Colonial South Asia*, and a variety of papers, and is co-leader of the Women in Public Service in Pakistan oral history project at LUMS. She was joined by Dr Sameen A. Mohsin Ali as discussant. Dr Mohsin is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS. Her research and teaching interests include state capacity and bureaucratic and party politics in South Asia, public health governance, and the politics of donor engagement in LMICs.

The talk explored women's sense of belonging during their recruitment, training, mentoring, networking in the public service in Pakistan. This oral history of women's professionalism engages and expands documented accounts of women's participation in public and cultural life and also explores the potential of oral history to offer new insights about historical change in South Asia.

### Writing & its Discontent: Sabyn Javeri on *Hijabistan*' by Dr Sabyn Javeri

Our last talk of the seminar series was by Dr Sabyn Javeri who teaches writing at New York University, Abu Dhabi. She is the author of 'Hijabistan' and the novel 'Nobody Killed Her'. She was joined by Dr Nida Kirmani as discussant. Dr Kirmani is Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Humanities and Social Science, LUMS. She has published widely on issues related to gender, Islam, women's movements, development and urban studies in India and Pakistan.

In this conversation, Dr Javeri discusses how the idea for her book originated, the process of writing the book, and finally, its reception. She focuses on her experience of writing stories which subvert traditional expectations of gendered norms and of crossing boundaries of self-censorship and voicing experience. In this talk she also explored the responsibility and ethics of representing "true" material from life history or observation, and the reception of a woman writer's work.

## Collaborations Fall 2020

At SWGI we value collaborating with other centres and initiatives across LUMS and institutes beyond as well.

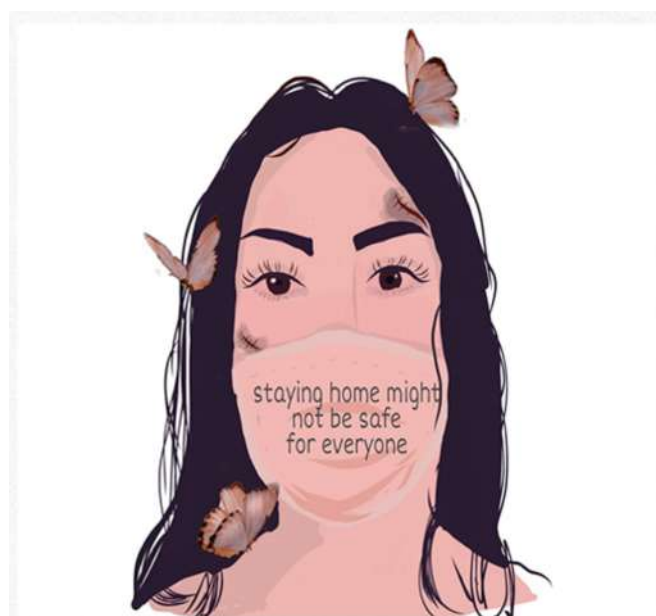
**'Remembering Justice Ginsburg: Confronting Women's Challenges in Pakistan's Legal Fraternity'** SWGI in collaboration with LUMS Live conducted a session in memoriam of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In this session we were joined by Justice (R) Nasira Iqbal Former Judge, High Court of Pakistan; Ms. Reema Omer, International Legal Adviser for South Asia at International Commission of Jurists (ICJ); Ms. Nida Usman Chaudhary, Founder, Lahore Education and Research Network (LEARN) and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan and Ms. Zehra Zaidi, Adjunct Faculty, School of Law, LUMS.

Interestingly, the current legal landscape in Pakistan is quite similar for female lawyers to what Ginsburg consistently fought against in the US. It continues to be a hostile and unwelcoming environment for them, with little progress over the years. While women are increasingly taking up space in public and private law schools across the country, their presence is almost non-existent in the top echelons of legal practice and the judiciary. This session aimed to unpack and discuss Justice Ginsburg's legacy and how it speaks to the women in the legal fraternity in Pakistan.

### The Women's Summit 2020

SWGI joined the Standing Committee on Gender Mainstreaming & Women Development - Punjab Assembly, the Canadian High Commission, Shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre, World Bank and UN Women as a policy and advocacy partner for the Women's Summit 2020. The Summit explored solutions and put forward recommendations on key areas including women's political participation, gender responsive disaster management systems and skill development for the future of work.

Our faculty director, Dr Hadia Majid joined the summit as a panellist for the second panel, *'Creating Gender Responsive Inclusive Disaster Management Systems'*. Dr Majid added to this conversation through her talk titled, *'Engendering Responses through Data'*. She argued that we can harness data to design responses to reduce inequalities in the future. The key lies in making holistic use of data - characterizing the problem, understanding the underlying mechanisms while devising appropriate interventions, shared Dr Majid. She further added, that for interventions to be truly effective we must make women a part of the process, including not just their needs and constraints in the design but also incorporating the solutions that they themselves highlight.



*Domestic Violence in an Age of Online Spaces and Pandemic* by Noor Fatima, Minahill Khan, Swaiba Saeed



## Webinar Series Spring 2021

### *Intersection of Caste, Gender, Religion and Work: A Case of Christian Female Sweepers in Lahore by Dr Ayra Indrias*

For the first talk of our Spring 2021 Webinar Series, we were joined by Dr Ayra Indrias, to discuss how the historical baggage of caste-based prejudices coupled with socio-religious inequalities have been quite detrimental for low hierarchy laborers/sweepers in janitorial occupation, which is overwhelmingly dominated by Christians in Lahore. Dr Indrias is a Professor of Women Studies at Kinnaird College for Women and is engaged in women welfare projects at Women's Desk of the Lahore Diocese Church of Pakistan. Her work on issues pertaining to religious minorities and women has been occasionally published in national dailies and academic journals. The session was moderated by Dr Nida Kirmani, who is an Associate Professor of Sociology at LUMS. She has published widely on issues related to gender, Islam, women's movements, development and urban studies in India and Pakistan.

### *Pakistan's Health Sector: Gaps and Innovations – A Panel Discussion*

A diverse panel of health professionals and experts from both Pakistan and the UK joined us for our second webinar 'Pakistan's Health Sector: Gaps and Innovations' to discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility and precarity of health systems across the world and recommend steps towards rethinking the way Pakistan, and the world, approaches care. The speakers included Ms. Aisha Ijaz (Aahung), Dr Aneel Tariq (Anesthesiologist, Activist, Owner of Doctors' Republic), Dr Ayaz Qureshi (University of Edinburgh, UK), Dr Faisal Bashir Chaudry (University Hospital North Midlands, UK), Dr Sara Saeed Khurram (Sehat Kahani) and Dr Ayesha Masood (LUMS) joined as the moderator.

At the beginning of the session, Dr Aneel and Dr Faisal spoke about the responses of the governments of Pakistan and the UK towards the COVID-19 health crisis, respectively, by sharing their experiences of working at different medical facilities during the pandemic. While Dr Faisal and Dr Ayaz shed light on some of the gaps in the UK government's response to COVID-19 around racial, ethnic and gender lines and its effect on health access for minority groups. Focusing on Pakistan's rural areas of Pakistan, Dr Sara and Dr Aneel commented on the response of the public health sector in those areas and the opportunities for the private sector to intervene. For instance, Dr Sara shared her experience of partnering with the government to help provide health care to people living in remote areas using telemedicine and digital health during the COVID-19 crisis.

Apart from health sector's response in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Ayaz and Ms. Aisha talked about the how the focus on COVID-19 affect overall health access in particular other chronic diseases, mental health and reproductive health. The session concluded on a hopeful note, as panellists shared the opportunities in public health sector

that have emerged due to the pandemic but also the issues that need to be addressed before those opportunities can be realized.

### *Gender, Inequality and Microfinance*

Saida Waheed Gender Initiative partnered with Kashf Foundation and Mahbub ul Haq Research Center at LUMS, organized a virtual consultative session exploring how gendered and economic inequalities inform women's experiences and access to microfinance. Women face a myriad of challenges with respect to their economic and social role across the world, however, the situation is much more exacerbated in the Global South. Pakistan in particular has consistently ranked amongst the worst on global gender parity indexes. Engagement and dialogue on these issues between academics and practitioners has been limited giving rise to an academic-practitioner gap on these issues. Therefore, with this event we aimed to bring together academics and practitioners to understand the reasons behind the gender gap in Pakistan, and discuss the success and limitations of possible.

The conference began with a powerful keynote address by Pakistan's first female Deputy Governor of the State Bank Ms. Sima Kamil. This was followed by a panel discussion that brought together academics and practitioners including Dr. Hadia Majid (Associate Professor, LUMS), Dr. Maryam Mustafa (Assistant Professor, LUMS), Ms. Roshaneh Zafar (CEO and Founder, Kashf Foundation) and Mr. Mudassir Aaqil (CEO, Telenor Microfinance Bank) for a consultative session, moderated by Ms. Zainab Saeed (Head of Research, Kashf Foundation).

### *Exploring Feminism and Fun through Film with Dr. Nida Kirmani, Dr. Shilpa Phadke and Dr. Kamran Asdar as discussant*

Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGII) organized a virtual film screening and panel discussion event titled 'Exploring Feminism and Fun through Film' with Dr. Nida Kirmani, Associate Professor of Sociology at LUMS and Dr. Shilpa Phadke, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at Tata Institute of Social Sciences based in Mumbai, India.

The session was moderated by Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali, who is a Professor of Anthropology, Middle East Studies and Asian Studies based in University of Texas in USA and previously served as the Dean of the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences at LUMS.

The live event featured two short films including 'Khel Khel Mein' (Playing at the Boundary) by Dr. Nida Kirmani and 'Khule Aasman Ke Neeche' (Under the Open Sky) by Dr. Shilpa Phadke. These films explored themes around gender, space, and fun.

'Khel Khel Mein' tells the story of three young people from the area of Lyari in Karachi-- one of the most conflict-ridden yet oldest, most diverse and vibrant parts of the city. While 'Khule Aasman Ke Neeche' (Under the Open Sky) follows the Parcham

women's football team as they play and coach a younger generation of girls, in the process transforming not just the way they see themselves and their bodies but potentially transforming the way we see their cities. The film screening was followed by a discussion about the concept, narrative, cinematography and themes of the two films.

## Collaborations Spring 2021

### **“Round Table Discussion: ‘Impact of COVID 19 and Inflation on Low-Income Households, especially Women’”**

#### **Panel Discussion: The Economic Role of Women in Pakistan: Vulnerabilities and Hurdles by Dr Hadia Majid**

Our Faculty Director, Dr Hadia Majid was invited to speak at a virtual round table discussion organised by Kashf Foundation, titled: “Impact of COVID 19 and Inflation on Low-Income Households, especially Women”. The online event aimed to bring together different stakeholders to understand how the economic recession coupled with rising inflation has impacted low-income households, especially women and brainstorm solutions and strategies that can help low-income households alleviate the effects of food inflation and enable the most vulnerable from slipping further into poverty.

Speaking at the second panel, “The Economic Role of Women in Pakistan: Vulnerabilities and Hurdles”, Dr Hadia discussed the existing vulnerabilities and hurdles faced by women in their working lives in particular, and how these have been exacerbated by the pandemic. She shared findings from her projects with informal workers and home-based workers and the vulnerabilities and hurdles they face vis-à-vis the labor market.

#### **Abolishing Archaic Processes: Rape Investigations in Pakistan**

Saida Waheed Gender Initiative in collaboration with Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL) at LUMS and LUMS Live arranged an online session about Lahore High Court's recent judgment on the banning of the ‘Two-Finger Test’, a virginity test used in rape investigations. The decision came after two petitions were filed in Lahore in March and June 2020 by a group of women's rights activists, academics, journalists, advocates, and a member of the National Assembly, seeking to ban such tests for rape survivors. The team that has been instrumental in this landmark case joined the discussion as

panelists, including Dr Sadaf Aziz (SAHSOL), Ms. Sahar Bandial (SAHSOL), Ms. Maria Farooq (Axis Law Chamber & SAHSOL), Mr. Sameer Khosa (Axis Law Chamber) and Mr. Hammad Saeed (Bhutta and Saeed & SAHSOL), while Ms. Syeda Zehra Zaidi, Adjunct Faculty at SAHSOL moderated the session.

The session discussed the timeline of the events that led to filing the petition, the experience of the panelists as petitioners in the process and the next steps required to improve rape investigation in Pakistan. It also shed light on the history of the test and how the practice was unnecessary and medically irrelevant for proving a rape crime, making it unscientific, invasive and demeaning for the victims.

#### **Human Development, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene**

SWGI collaborated with the Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Centre for a panel discussion on the new Human Development Index. The panel discussed the implications and limitations of the Planetary-Pressures Adjusted Human Development Index introduced in UNDP's 2020 Human Development Report. In doing so it examined the importance of climate change for how we think of and measure human development. It uses these new findings to discuss policy measures, state commitments and societal actions that are needed to mitigate the human devastation of the planet.

The panel included Dr Ajay Chhibber (IIEP, George Washington University), Dr Adil Najam (Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University), and Dr Frances Stewart (University of Oxford). The discussion will be moderated by Dr Hadia Majid (Associate Professor and Faculty Director, Saida Waheed Gender Initiative).

## Female commuters and Covid-19 in Karachi

By Ushna Khan



During the pandemic commuting to work was definitely much easier as there was less traffic and I was called less frequently.



If I was a guy, I could have easily used bykea



Work stress definitely increased but my exhaustion related to commuting and extra costs incurred decreased significantly

[Read More...](#)

*Female commuters and Covid-19 in Karachi by Ushna Khan*





**Gurmani Centre for Languages &  
Literature (GCLL)**

# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

I write this letter with a deep sense of gratitude. As my three-year term comes to a close this August, I wish to thank my colleagues who have worked with the Centre to give it a renewed sense of identity and purpose.

In 2020-21, the year of the pandemic, we focused our energies on the Centre's publications that were long in the production pipeline. Our publications team led by Zahid Hussain and managed by Wajahat Rafiq Baig put in a concerted effort to bring out three important works of Punjabi, Persian and Urdu: a compendium of Sarmad Sehbai's Urdu and Punjabi plays *Aare Tirche Aa'eene* (compiled by Muhammad Naveed), the Persian poet Sohrab Sapehri's volume of poems *Aa'eeno'n kee Jheel* (translated into Urdu by Moeen Nizami), and a four-volume edition of poetry from the Punjab selected, edited, and translated into Urdu by Zahid Hussain. Collectively, we have put an extraordinary amount of time and attention to detail in the production of these volumes. We wanted nothing less than to set these works at the international publication standard. I hope readers will see and appreciate the quality of these volumes. Dr Nasir Abbas Nayyar has worked extremely hard during this challenging year for our research journal *Bunyad*.

The other major development at the Centre has been the Urdu language program. Under the leadership of my excellent colleague and language expert, Dr Gwendolyn S. Kirk, we have now introduced the first-ever Urdu language curriculum for adult learners in Pakistan. The course will be offered to international students in the coming Summer and Fall semesters. This course is an exciting addition to the impressive roster of language classes at the Centre that include Arabic, Persian, Sindhi, Pashto and Punjabi.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge all my colleagues who have helped guide the Centre (and me) in various associate and leadership roles during the past three years: Gwendolyn S. Kirk, Ghulam Moeenuddin Nizami, Zahid Hussain, Nadhra Shahbaz Khan, Fatima Fayyaz, Maryam Wasif Khan, Irfan Moeen Khan, Ali Raza, Kamran Asdar Ali, and Ali Khan.

The Centre is extremely fortunate to have an enthusiastic administrative staff led by the coordinator, Aroosa Subhani. My very special thanks to Wajahat Rafiq Baig, Managing Editor of *Bunyad*, who has ensured through the pandemic and otherwise that our schedules are met and all the work is delivered on time. He has now taken on the arduous task of revamping the Centre's website for which we are indebted to him. Farhan Saleem, our typist and composer, has worked through moments of personal difficulty in the last year for which I am deeply grateful.

Finally, it has been my great pleasure to work with the many undergraduate student associates for the event management and communications work. My thanks to: Nayyab Naveed, Younis B. Azeem, Usama M. Lali, Maira Asaad, Israa Shahid, Mahnoor Azeem Lone, Faizan Ahmad, Mahnoor Gul, and Emil Hasnain.

There is no doubt in my mind that we were able to recruit so many willing colleagues to serve the Centre because we all understand the extraordinary importance of the Centre's work. It has been my honor to serve this distinguished Centre.



## **Bilal Tanweer**

*Associate Professor, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies  
Co-Director, Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature  
Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences*



# Updates

During the academic year 2020-21 the Gurmani Centre continued its endeavour to promote South Asian languages and literature by publishing a diverse array of literary works and by further enhancing its growing language program.

In August 2020 the Centre released the 11th Volume of Bunyād, its annual Urdu Studies journal. The journal has been a platform for emerging academics to share innovative and current research with a global audience since 2010. The latest issue was edited by Nasir Abbas Nayyar, with Wajahat Rafiq Baig as its Managing Editor. It featured thirteen articles addressing a wide array of themes—including comparative analyses of nineteenth-century poetry, theoretical analyses of key twentieth-century prose writers, and contemporary linguistics and translation technologies. The Centre also published the 9th Issue of Numūd this year—an annual Urdu literary magazine which features poetry, fiction, and essays by students from various departments of LUMS.


The Gurmani Centre also collaborated with the Lahore based publishing house Sanjh Publications to showcase important literary works which have traditionally received little attention. This year the Centre published three exciting books. The first of these, Ārē Tīrčhē Ā'īnē, is a comprehensive collection of Sarmad Sehbai's Urdu and Punjabi stage plays. This landmark collection features all of Sehbai's plays including several previously unpublished ones. This was followed by a collection of Urdu translations of Sohrab Sepehri's Persian Poetry, titled Ā'īnoñ Kī Jhīl. The poems in this volume were selected and translated into Urdu by Professor Moeen Nizami. The Centre also compiled an anthology titled Punjabi Shā'rī.

The four-volume collection features a vast corpus of poetry in Punjabi which was selected by Professor Zahid Hussain—Writer in Residence and Head of Publications at the Centre. Some of the poets featured in these volumes include Ustad Daman, Nasreen Anjum Bhatti, Munir Niazi, Riffat Abbas, Sara Shagufta, Aziz Shahid, and Najam Hussain Syed. The first of these publications was released in October 2020, while the latter two are forthcoming later in the year.

This year also saw several exciting developments in language pedagogy. The Centre continued to teach Arabic, Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, and Sindhi at level 1 and level 2, and introduced a new course titled "An Anthology of Pashto Literature." Instructors in Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Urdu also continued to develop blended curricular materials in an effort to move towards a backwards classroom design. Moreover, Since December 2020, the language faculty has also been working with the LUMSX team to film online lessons in Persian and Sindhi and to create online quizzes, handouts, writing dialogues, and a variety of supplemental materials to use in language classes.

The Gurmani Centre has also collaborated with the Centre for Continuing Education at LUMS to launch the LUMS Urdu Language Program. Dr. Ali Raza and Dr. Gwendolyn Kirk secured initial funding to design and launch this innovative program, and it is set to debut in the summer of 2021. This language program will offer a world-class opportunity for foreign students from around the world to study Urdu language and literature, and to learn about Pakistan's society and culture firsthand in its cultural capital, Lahore. Additionally, it will provide a potential avenue for interested diaspora and heritage learners to connect with Pakistani language and culture. The program has received support from MGSHSS as well as the American Institute of Pakistan Studies and the Berkeley Urdu Language Program in Pakistan.

In April 2021 the Gurmani Centre launched its website after several months of intense development <https://www.gcll.lums.edu.pk>


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Gurmani Centre for  
Languages and Literature

گرمانی مرکز زبان و ادب

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## FEATURED STORIES



Mahnoor Lone  
Feb 24, 2020 • 1 min

**Shudh Sur: A Musical Journey**

"Shudh Sur: A Musical Journey" was a unique event featuring Ustad Naseeruddin Saami in conversation with Ali Sethi. During this musical...



# The Academic Writing Lab

The AWL began the academic year with welcoming new inductees from the batch of 2022 to join the team. We held a week of exciting ice-breaking sessions and training workshops to foster team bonding. With the online semester, we faced a great challenge in terms of reaching out to the student body and together, we devised a new system to continue operations virtually. A form was sent out to students through which we received requests detailing course instructions along with attached essays. A tutor then returned written work to students with detailed feedback added for their perusal. We managed to work with almost 900 students over the year, an unexpected number given how students could not avail the usual walk-in service provided by the Writing Lab. This year, we also received a great range of written work including research essays, policy briefs, personal statements, reflection papers, ethnographies, senior project reports, film reviews and newspaper articles.

Continuing our collaborations with faculty, we conducted numerous MLA workshops over the year for a variety of courses including Writing and Communication, Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature, Economics and History courses. Given the lack of access to campus resources, we included important research avenues to help

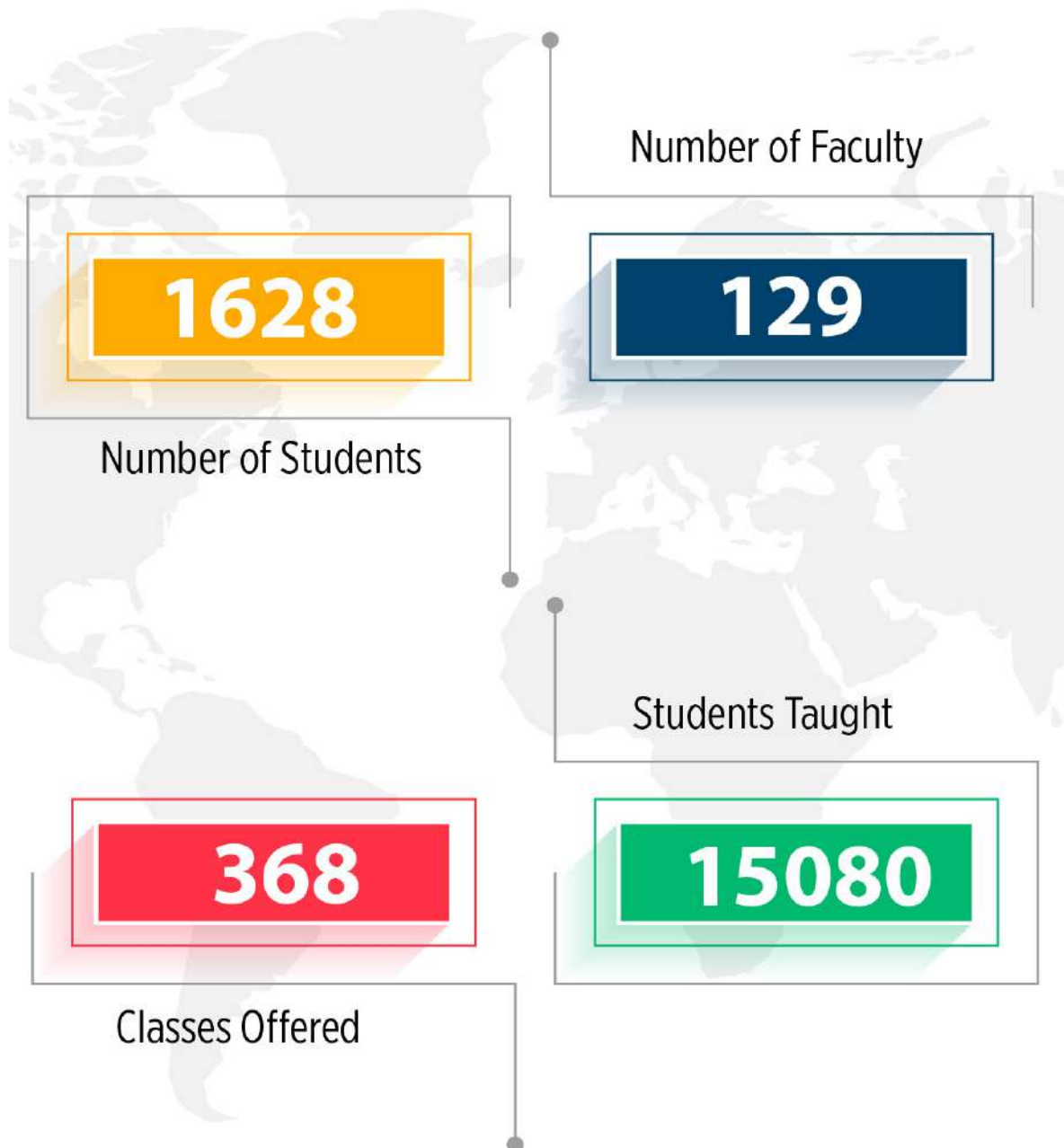
students in their writing process such as navigating the library website from home, accessing journals, books and articles through various websites and online repositories. Additionally, we also had the opportunity to work with the Academic Advising Unit in setting up the office for student ambassadors. We worked closely with the Unit in training the newly hired AWL ambassadors and conducted workshops explaining the role of a tutor and how to effectively communicate with students virtually.

This year has been nothing short of monumental. Working online has come with its immense challenges and frustrations. Despite this, our small team has shown extreme effort and dedication in working with the student body and being patient in dealing with several anxious students. Having to completely shift our approach to tutoring and get accustomed to a new mechanism of communicating with students has been an incredible learning experience. If anything, being an AWL tutor this year has been the most fulfilling role one could ask for. We would also like to extend our gratitude to our coordinator, Dr Aamna Khalid, for her continued support and trust in our team.

Looking forward to the next academic year,  
The Academic Writing Lab



## MGSHSS by Numbers 2020-2021





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