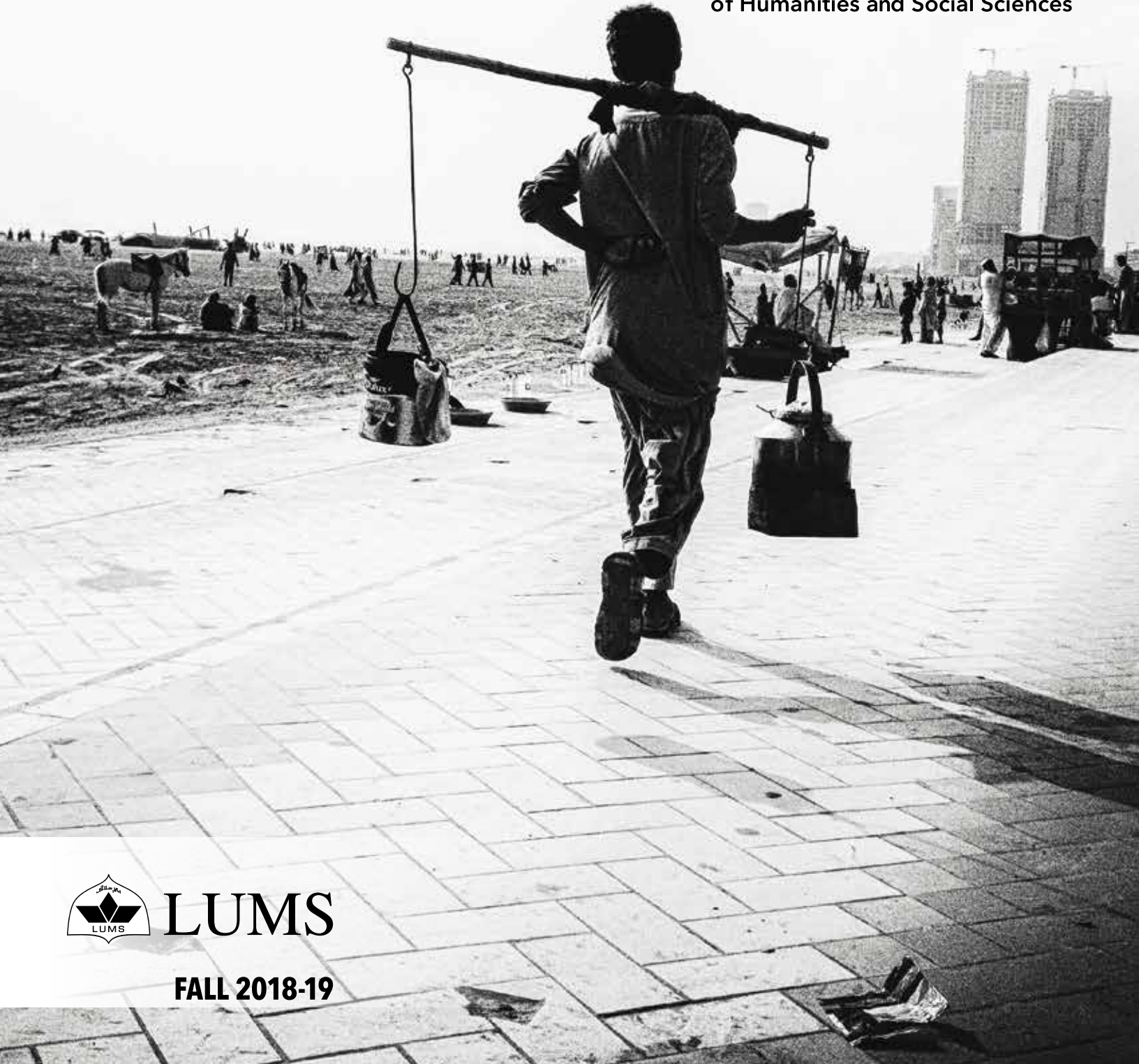


گفتگو Guftugu

Newsletter of the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School
of Humanities and Social Sciences



LUMS

FALL 2018-19

From the Dean's Desk



The Newsletter is the official voice of the Office of the Dean, Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS.

We would like to thank Anam Fatima Khan and Ateeb Gul for their work on this issue and for their contributions to it. We are also grateful to Nazish Riaz for helping out with the pictures.

Special mention must be made of the Karachi-based writer, journalist, and photographer Vaqar Ahmed and LUMS alumnus Sopiya Tauseef, whose pictures have been used for the front and back covers, respectively.

The layout has been designed by Muhammad Junaid. We also thank authors who not only provided us with write-ups but also pictures to go along with them.

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

The third issue of *Guftugu* is here. Slowly this is becoming a tradition, as it enables us to share news regarding MGS HSS and to introduce the various accomplishments by our faculty and students. Among our many achievements, we are most proud of the four-week Advanced Summer Learning Initiative (ASLI) that we organised for students who needed extra help outside of the classroom. In Fall 2018, MGS HSS also launched its Core Curriculum and after some mild hiccups we were off to a great start. Further, our advising unit now has an online advising system which the three tiers of our advising system—staff, faculty, and peer advisors—use to more effectively provide academic advising to MGS HSS students. In addition, throughout the semester our Learning and Mentoring Center served students who needed assistance in English and Maths.

Along with these progresses, we have been busy with hiring new faculty, consolidating new programmatic initiatives, organising innovative lectures and seminars, and creating a vibrant cultural life on campus. All this and more is covered in the pages that follow. As always, *Guftugu* represents the best of what we offer as a School and highlights the creativity, dedication to excellence, and the vision of our faculty, students, and staff.

Our *guftugu* continues.

K. Asdar

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Events at MGSHSS

Workshop on Pakistan General Elections 2018

Dr. Yunas Samad



The Political Science stream at the Gurmani School organised a workshop on the 2018 General Elections on September 26, 2018. The lineup of a team of leading specialists with considerable expertise and insights on the elections drew an encouraging response from the student body of LUMS as well as from the faculty. The Faculty Lounge was packed with standing room only during the proceedings. An intense display of interest and high level of engagement by the audience lead the workshop to run over time.

Speakers focused on different aspects of the elections, examining critical issues in a scholarly manner. Starting with an overview of the electoral process in Pakistan, Dr. Mohammad Waseem looked at the institutional arrangements that were used to achieve a desired result. By examining past precedents in the management of electoral results, it is possible to conclude that the recent polls were a process of selections and not elections. Under this overview, other speakers explored more specific dimensions of the hustings. Dr. Sameen Mohsin examined the administration of the elections, concluding that in comparison with previous hustings the procedures and processes were better managed even though there were some important caveats in the process, and whatever malpractice that took place was at the pre-polling stage. However, it was pointed out that having a caretaker government meant that the entire bureaucracy



Dr. Yunas Samad

was paralysed leading to ineffective governance during this period.

The rest of the speakers focused on questions of political and social change and the election of a new government that heralded these claims. Dr. Hassan Javed picked up the question of electables. When their role





in supporting nearly every political and non-political government was explored, it became clear that they were the bastion of the status quo and are an impediment to change. Only with the emergence of policy-driven politics with cadre-based parties is real social and political change possible. This message was reinforced by Dr. Asma Faiz who argued that the demand for the province of South Punjab is being spearheaded by electables who broke away from the ruling

party and who are not promoters of Siraiki nationalism. The possibility of provincial boundary reform remains slim because of the constitutional mathematics required to introduce boundary change in the provincial and national assembly. Finally, Dr. Umair Javed emphasised that a sociological change is taking place at the mezzo and micro levels and that this will have an impact on the institutional framework, which seems unchanging.

Given the intense interest and robust discussion that took place, the Political Science stream will be holding a conference dedicated to this theme next semester and will invite speakers from the wider LUMS community and also from outside of the university.

Dr. Yunas Samad is Visiting Faculty at the MGSHSS.

Goonj (Echo) – Suhaee Abro

Younis Bin Azeem



Suhaee Abro

On October 5, 2018, the Dean's Office at the Mushtaq Ahmed Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGHSS) organised the first ever solo dance performance titled "Goonj-Echo by Suhaee Abro" at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The event, co-sponsored by the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature (GCLL) and the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGI), was held in B3, the largest auditorium in LUMS.

The artist of the night, Suhaee Abro, at just 25, has been performing for over 15 years as a professional dancer and has

received training from the acclaimed Sheema Kermani. She specialises in Bharatanatyam but also choreographs and performs in other genres. She has also studied contemporary dance at the Nuova Officina Della Danza in Torino, Italy, and has graced stages in Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, Germany, and Italy.

The event began with the Dean of MGSHSS, Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali, introducing Suhaee Abro and thanking her for appearing at LUMS. As he left the stage, two projector screens dropped on the stage and a man wheeled out a suitcase. The screens



both displayed a video of dancers in a forest with a similar suitcase next to them. The audience gasped in disbelief as perfectly in sync with the video, Suhaee Abro, who had contorted herself to fit in the suitcase, eloquently unzipped it from the inside and came out to thundering applause.

Suhaee then began her dance performance which followed a format of her narrating transformative incidents in her life and how she had interpreted them through dance. The audience was taken through Suhaee's entire life journey and was left spellbound as she interpreted an array of incidents which ranged from her reactions to when her sister used to scare her in childhood, to the loss of a loved one and to her dealing with life as a dancer

with epilepsy. The dance performance which was just shy of an hour had been entirely choreographed by Suhaee herself and the music, too, was for the most part original scores by Sarah Sarhandi and Ahsan Bari. There was even a track titled 'Kerr,Kaun,Who' by Suhaee herself which she sung live during one of the performances, and which reflected her being trilingual and how language impacts her lifestyle. At the close of Suhaee's last act of the night, the entire audience rose to give her a standing ovation.

Suhaee then took some questions from the audience and satisfactorily answered questions such as the genre she identifies her act with and her advice to dancing hopefuls. She answered that her genre cuts across

a variety of styles and also includes a certain amount of theatre influence, which to the best of her knowledge is unique to herself. As for those who hoped to enter the field, she smiled and answered that her only advice is practice; practice without any breaks extending over a lifetime.

The event concluded with the Dean thanking Suhaee for her performance, and how he hopes they build on this event and have further dance performances at LUMS.

Younis Bin Azeem is Research Assistant at the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, LUMS.



Alumni Return to School

On Friday, November 30, MGSHSS welcomed back four of its alumni for a panel event. This was the second event in a series (arranged by Dr. Sameen Mohsin, Assistant Professor, HSS) in which alumni from the MGSHSS spoke to students about their time at LUMS, their graduate education, and their careers thus far, and how their humanities and social sciences major/ courses helped them get to where they are today.

The panelists were, from the right, Zainab Saeed (Head of Research and Development, Kashf Foundation), Farhan Ul Haq (Assistant Vice President, Agri Capability, Al-Moiz and Thal Industries Ltd.), Alieha Shahid (Project Manager,

Center for Economic Research in Pakistan), and Fatima Khan (Research Associate, Strategic Reforms Unit, Chief Minister's Office). The speakers

mentioned by the panelists as being crucial in providing them with the skills that gave them an edge over others either in the job market or in graduate school. The speakers also noted that their career paths were shaped by taking on a variety of summer internships during their time at LUMS and encouraged students to apply widely and frequently to internship programmes. In tracing their careers,

reflected on their time at LUMS, emphasising the importance of trying new courses and activities as a student.

The HSS department's courses Qualitative Research Methods and Community Based Learning were

each panelist commented that their time at LUMS pursuing a humanities and social sciences degree opened up multiple career avenues for them, including careers in the corporate and financial world.



LUMS Young Writers Workshop

The LUMS Young Writers Workshop is a one of a kind opportunity for young writers in Pakistan: an all-expenses paid residential creative writing workshop where selected participants have an opportunity to hone their craft of fiction writing. The workshop has hosted eight writers every year ever since its inception in 2012.

This year, the number and quality of submissions superseded all previous years amounting to over 300. The





eight most outstanding short story writers were invited to LUMS to hone their craft under the mentorship of novelist and translator, Bilal Tanweer. This year's batch of writers included Noor Ur Rehman (GCU Lahore), Maheen Qadri (Karachi University), Maham Jamal (Nixor College), Shahzeb Zaheer (IoBM, Karachi), Mahrukh Aamir (LUMS alum), Najwat Rehman (IBA, Karachi), Mariam Bokhari (LUMS alum), and Hussain Rizvi (BNU). The participants represented a range of academic disciplines and working backgrounds—from architecture and finance to publishing and accounting.

The workshop is planned around an intensive reading and writing schedule. The participants were sent books to read a month before the workshop. This year's selection included *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* by Mario Vargas Llosa, *Ghachar Ghochar* by Vivek Shanbhag, and *The Sensational Life and Death of Qandeel Baloch* by Sanam Maher. The mentor, Bilal Tanweer, guides students across different narrative strategies and different approaches to construction of stories using the primary texts as reference points. During the workshop, each participant's writing becomes the center focus of the class. Each student receives individual feedback on his or her writing, a defining characteristic of this workshop. Along with writing, another area of discussion and emphasis is the politics of representation and the power of stories in shaping our public and private consciousness and the role of a writer.

The guest speaker for this year's workshop was the author and journalist Sanam Maher. She led

workshop discussion on the fourth day and shared her experiences as a writer with the participants in an in-depth three-hour session.

"This is the best learning experience I've had," said one of the participants, Maham Jamal, "You can't walk out of the room without being inspired."

Another writer Noor Ur Rehman who hails from FATA said, "LYWW gave me the push that I've been seeking for a decade. Bilal Tanweer taught me that writing is a lifestyle that requires complete immersion."

The LUMS Young Writers Workshop & Short Story Contest has completed seven years. The number of graduates from the workshops is over 50. It remains a unique platform in Pakistan, helping young writers learn and advance their craft of literary writing.

The workshop has been made possible by a generous annual grant from Ferozsons Laboratories Limited.



Bilal Tanweer (middle) with Workshop participants.

Centre Events

Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature

Aroosa Subhani

The Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, in its efforts to preserve and promote South Asian literature and culture, has taken on the endeavor of bringing art to LUMS. For this purpose, this semester (Fall 2018) was packed with various events, all of which celebrated and explored a different form of art.



Halqa-e-Danish, a series of weekly sessions/seminars conducted to celebrate a particular theme in Pakistani culture, organised two phenomenal events this term. Considering the theme in focus, 'Maestros of Raag', there was perhaps no one better suited than the sensational Madam Farida Khanum and Ali Sethi, two pioneering voices of two different generations, to come and speak about music at LUMS. On October 4, the audience not only learnt a great deal

about the various stages of Farida Khanum's singing career, but also had the fortune of experiencing her live performance. With two maestros of raag on stage, the evening was certainly one that we will remember.

The following week, on October 12, Javed and Babar Niazi were invited to perform at LUMS. With hits such as "Kheryan de nal" and "Lai beqadran nal yari," this world-renowned duo paid tribute to their father and mentor, the icon Tufail Niazi.



Apart from music, particular focus was devoted to the art of photography. The various colors of Napier Street were explored in an exhibition and discussion conducted by Arif Mahmood, who has been photographing Napier Street in Karachi since 2006 and has over 27 publications to his credit. These photographs show us what Napier Street is now—faded, gritty, mundane—but at the same time they reflect what is not necessarily visible, what Napier Street was—a place of dreams. The Gurmani Centre

further plans on introducing weekly photography workshops for students who take an interest in the art. These workshops will be conducted by Dr. Lukas Albert Werth, Associate Professor of Anthropology at LUMS.



Literary prose is another element of literature and culture which the Centre has been keen on discussing. Professor Bilal Tanweer, novelist and Co-Director of the Gurmani Centre, along with Professor H.M. Naqvi, author of *Home Boy* and winner of the inaugural DSC Prize for South Asian literature, read from their books. Bilal Tanweer read from *Love in Chakiwara and Other Misadventures*—an Urdu classic from Muhammad Khalid Akhtar that he translated into English. H.M. Naqvi recited excerpts from his forthcoming novel, *The Selected Works of Abdullah the Cossack*. Another such book-reading took place as Mustansar Hussain Tarar recited excerpts from his new book, *Lenin for Sale*, translated into English by Durdana Soomro.

For the series titled Ahmad Bilal Awan *Bazm-i Adab*—designed as an academic and literary sitting with prominent scholars and re-named after the sad passing away of the Gurmani Centre Assistant Professor Ahmad Bilal Awan—the Gurmani Centre invited several scholars who spoke on literary issues. Dr. Saadat Saeed, professor of Urdu language and literature at Government College University, Lahore, was invited for a talk. A well-known poet, critic, researcher, and educationist, Dr. Saeed spoke about elements of resistance evident in Urdu poetry, anchoring his



talk on the works of Mir and Ghalib. Award-winning dramatist Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed was also invited to speak on similar themes. He discussed works such as Imtiaz Ali Taj's *Anarkali*, Agha Nasir's translation of *Galileo*, and a few of his own works. Both sessions were followed by questions from inquisitive students as well as professors.



The semester also featured the publication of the latest issue of *Bunyad* (Volume 9, 2018), the flagship journal of Urdu studies published by the Gurmani Centre.

Recognised in category 'Y' by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, this issue of the journal, comprised 399 pages and featured 18 articles by Muhammad Akram Chughtai, Najeeba Arif, Sajid Siddique Nizami, Rauf Pares, Tariq Mehmood Hashmi, Zaheer Abbas, Asmat Durrami, Khadim Hussain Rai, Muhammad Arshad, Muhammad Salman Riaz, Razaqat Ali Shahid, Zahid Hussain, Zaheer Hassan Wattoo, Saadat Saeed, Muhammad Asif, and Muhammad Rasheed Ashraf. It was edited by Dr. Moeen Nizami with Zeeshan Danish as its Managing Editor.

Aroosa Subhani is Coordinator of the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, LUMS.

IN FOCUS

Yūñ hī paihlū mēñ— Farida Khanum and Ali Sethi

Khadija Zaidi

"One of the qualities of great art," began Professor Bilal Tanweer, co-Director of the Gurmani Center, "is that we go to it not just for information, but to be transformed." And what

a transformation this evening has been. On October 4, 2018, the largest auditorium in LUMS was brimming with students, teachers, staff, and every other individual that felt a yearning

for great art. Everyone either sat or stood, waiting anxiously for the stars of the evening, Madam Farida Khanum and Ali Sethi—the former being the guest of honor and the latter the host.

Bilal Tanweer's address was followed by a screening of a black and white video of Khanum's, a video taken from 1974, showcasing a TV program hosted by Zia Mohyeddin. He ushers in his guest, a young girl clad in a sari, with immaculate hair and makeup. She is timid and not too confident, and laughs at all of the host's jokes. They have a conversation about the ghazal as an art form and how it has been depreciating



in quality, and this is followed by, of course, a performance by Khanum. She begins to sing in the video and her voice took the audience like a storm and the screens were lifted up. On stage, Farida Khanum, in a wheelchair and a flower in her hair, was brought to stage as the audience stood and applauded. She was brought by a few members of her family as well as her former student, Ali Sethi.

Once on stage, she immediately took the mike and began talking about music and her passion and how music trends have changed. *"Ab aisa mahaul hi nahi raha. Pailhe hamen khushi hoti thi, log waqt nikal ke shauk se ghazal sunne atay the, hamen she'r-o-sha'iri ki qadr thi."* She explained how she began with *raag Darbari* because she already knew it, and that the *sur* of ghazal were soft, that they were easy to remember by heart. Sethi added that much of his learning has been from Khanum herself. "A listener said this to me once, that when Farida Ji sings, it's about time and space, they become blurred, it's the closest you come to a spiritual experience," says Sethi. Farida Ji was then asked to sing a few words.



On stage were also present Ustad Habib ur Rehman Sahib on harmonium along with Khan Sahib on tabla. Both guests spoke about Faiz, and the ways in which these ghazals have not only moved many, but also at times provided a peak into history. The audience had the honor of experiencing live her famous hits, *'Uzr ane men bhi, aur bulate bhi nahin*, as well as the legendary *Mahabbat karne wale*. A few words of this song were also performed

by Sethi, leaving the audience awestruck. The evening concluded with questions and comments by members of the audience and a few closing remarks by Bilal Tanweer.

The audience sang, swayed, listened, and learnt.

Khadija Zaidi is Research Assistant at the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature.



IN FOCUS

Art Exhibition– Napier Street by Arif Mahmood



On September 17, 2018, the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature initiated an exhibition of the work of renowned photographer, Arif Mahmood. At the launching ceremony, Mahmood discussed his project,

Napier Street, and highlighted some of his photographic works over his 33-year career as an artist.

At the exhibition, which attracted over 200 art enthusiasts, Mahmood presented a mesmerising journey into his archive, diverse in terms of geographies and communities. Pictures, chronologically displayed, starting from the 1980s, showed the evolution of the photographer's craft. The presentation depicted Mahmood as a self-taught artist whose work has inspiration and stories behind it. Speaking to the audience, he said, "It is like a bridge to the past that keeps me rational and charged to the concept of photography in an age where it is not cost effective or feasible to editorially film it. Also, it is a pleasure that has no substitute for me."



The Vice Chancellor of LUMS, Dr. Arshad Ahmad and the Dean of MGSNSS, Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali congratulated the Gurmani Centre on organising the art exhibition.

Bilal Tanweer, Co-Director of the Gurmani Centre, highlighted the importance of arts to an institution and also mentioned how it can help nurture the culture of a country. "LUMS has overlooked this aspect of art as a part of curriculum and even extra curriculum. It is important to bring arts to LUMS and to intensify cultural and artistic activities," he said.

Going through the aesthetic images, the audience appreciated each subsequent photograph and the depth of detail that each offered. The presentation was moderated by Ali Sultan, the curator of the exhibition and it ended with a question and answer session.

The exhibition was on display on the first floor of LUMS's Main Academic Block till December 2018.



Saida Waheed Gender Initiative *Aimen Bucha*

Since its inception, the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative has been hosting monthly seminars and inviting local scholars of gender studies to share their working research or published work with the LUMS community.

This semester started off with Dr. Shama Dossa's talk on "Arts-Informed Cooperative Inquiry: Possibilities and Potential for Decolonising Methodology." She explored the potential as well as methodological and contextual challenges of combining and experimenting with two methodologies, cooperative inquiry and arts-informed research through a decolonising feminist lens in the context of Pakistan.

This was followed by another fascinating talk by Dr. Soufia Siddiqi on "The missing 'bara-aadmi': contested assumptions of privilege in all boys' higher secondary school." In her talk she discussed her research on masculinities and higher secondary schooling in Pakistan, and how boys' performativity is affected by institutional discipline and societal expectations.

Dr. Sadia Zulfiqar gave the third talk of our fall seminar series on "Scherezade in the West: Representations of Muslim Women in Leila Aboulela's Work". She explored Leila Aboulela's work and spoke on the tensions

between Muslim Feminism and Secular Feminism, unpacking how the surfacing of a vocal feminist position from within the ranks of the Islamist movement has destabilised the boundaries between hardline Islamists and secular feminists. She also highlighted how Aboulela's work has opened up the world of Muslims, and particularly Muslim women, that for many western audiences has been closed, encrypted, or barely visible. Aboulela's female protagonists are strong examples of ethical, independent women who provide refreshing possibilities for Muslim women and thus do not need saving by the West.



Ayesha Khan



Dr. Hadia Majid

The SWGI also held a talk by Dr. Naila Sahar on “Feminist Exegesis and Muslim Women’s Agency.” She discussed the works of Fatima Mernissi, Amina Wadud, and Saba Mahmood who have stressed the importance of continuous interpretations of Qur’an and Hadith in order to maintain its relevance to contemporary times and situations, and have questioned the secular left’s concepts of agency and convictions of progressive vision as the only politics of liberation when the language of Islam is coming to apprehend the aspirations of so many Muslim women around the world.

This was followed by a conversation by Dr. Hadia Majid on “Climbing out

of Poverty: An assessment of the impact of BISP on women’s outcomes.” She shared her research findings on whether cash-transfer programs improved outcomes for women. A variety of socio-economic outcomes ranging from labour market variables to time-saving asset ownership, decision-making, and technology use as well as stance on domestic abuse were examined in her research.

We ended our seminar series with a discussion with Ayesha Khan on her new book, *The Women’s Movement in Pakistan: Activism, Islam and Democracy*. The book is a history of the modern women’s movement in Pakistan. The research is based on

documents from the Women’s Action Forum archives, court judgments on relevant cases, as well as interviews with activists, lawyers, and judges, and analysis of newspapers and magazines. Ayesha Khan argued that the demand for a secular state and resistance to Islamisation should not be misunderstood as Pakistani women sympathising with a western agenda. Rather, their work is a crucial contribution to the evolution of the Pakistani state.

Aimen Bucha is Program Manager of the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, LUMS.



Dr. Shama Dossa



Dr. Naila Sahar

Interview with Author and Visiting Faculty – H.M. Naqvi

Meher Hasan



H.M. Naqvi is an author whose first novel, *Home Boy*, was awarded the inaugural DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and which has featured on the syllabi of more than 20 universities around the world. His second novel, *The Selected Works of Abdullah the Cossack*, is forthcoming (2019).

How long have you been working on *The Selected Works of Abdullah the Cossack*? Where did it all start?

It started one night, late night, in Karachi circa summer 2011 (and was more or less completed in the winter of 2016). If I remember correctly, I was at a qawwali at a flat by the sea and had to leave early because I needed to write and write immediately. The opening line came to me as soon as I sat down at home. It was the same with *Home Boy*. Of course, both projects had been marinating in my head for some time. This novel contends with matters of history and philosophy, meaning and mortality, and varieties of affection. Ultimately, however, I like to think it's a love story, one that features a lumbering septuagenarian known as Abdullah the Cossack and is set against the cityscape of my hometown, Karachi.

Did you work on it during your time in LUMS?

I actually worked diligently on the last round of edits ensconced in my spacious but Spartan office overlooking PDC. Consequently, LUMS figures on the acknowledgements page.

How has your experience living in Lahore been like? How is it different than Karachi? What do you prefer?

I visited Lahore as a child and was in and out of city during my collegiate years but had never lived here before. It's a pretty city and historically resonant. When I arrived, I took rickshaws to the old city on the weekends because the air was bracing in January and I hadn't been paid yet. The city has changed dramatically since I knew it but I managed to discover cantons I had

not been to before, from secret gardens to this one dhaba towards Mochi Gate that serves exquisite lamb karahi. I travelled in the neighborhood as well: Okara, Pakpattan, Gujranwala. I believe it's incumbent on a writer-in-residence to develop a sense of place. Of course, Karachi is my home. It's animate, cosmopolitan, and there's the sea.

How has your experience in LUMS been like?

LUMS is an undoubtedly unique ecosystem, from the infrastructure and administrative systems to accomplished faculty and a diverse and a capable student body. I solicited writing samples for those interested in taking my class—advanced creative writing. As a result, I had students who were familiar with the mechanics of the writing. Over the course of the semester, the class produced several stellar short stories.

Is there anything peculiar about LUMS?

The sprinklers turn on without warning when you're sitting on a bench, minding your own business, like a sign from above.

Where do you find inspiration?

Inspiration visits occasionally, unexpectedly, whimsically. But since writing is my bread and butter, I don't have the luxury to wait. I write every day, save Sundays, come hell, high water. I have a daily quota that I always meet and often exceed. Writing is like carpentry in this way. You have to keep hammering away at it.

What is some advice you can give an aspiring writer?

Read, write, rinse, repeat.

MGSHSS Faculty and Popular Media in Pakistan

In addition to scholarship and publishing on academic forums, faculty at MGSNSS also write for the popular media in Pakistan. They contribute their analyses on politics, economy, history, education, and on many other issues. Op-eds and features by the faculty have appeared in many prestigious dailies and weeklies in Pakistan, including *Dawn*, *The News*, *The Nation*, and *The Friday Times*. These MGSNSS faculty have, with varying frequency, contributed to Pakistan's popular print media: Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Hassan Javid, Sameen Mohsin, Asma Faiz, Umair Javed, Kamran Asdar Ali, Nida Kirmani, Ali Usman Qasmi, and Aurangzeb Haneef from Humanities and Social Sciences; and Ayesha Ali, Faisal Bari, Hadia Majid, and M. Usman Khan from Economics.

The fall of 2018 was marked by the consequences of the 2018 General Elections in Pakistan and faculty in the Politics program at LUMS made a substantial contribution to the debate through their features and op-eds in Pakistan's leading English-language papers. **Anam Fatima Khan** sat down with three professors in the Politics program—Dr. Sameen Mohsin, Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais, and Dr. Umair Javed—and asked them about their decision to write for the popular media and why it matters.



Dr. Sameen Mohsin
Assistant Professor, Humanities
and Social Sciences

"I think it's very important to assert your expertise in public. As a female academic in Pakistan, if I don't assert my expertise, nobody will know that I exist."

There was never an integrated thought process behind my decision to write for the popular media. I have always done it because I felt like there was something in the press to which I had a response. Either I felt that whatever aspect I wanted to cover wasn't being addressed by the public discourse or that I had some kind of expertise that could add to the conversation. I feel that the urge to intervene in the public discourse comes from social media, especially Twitter. Through these mediums you

are able to understand the public perception about a certain topic and respond to these notions in light of your own research. Therefore, I want to write something that is accessible for everyone and is immediately available to a much wider audience. Sometimes you get approached as well. For example, *Dawn* has reached out to me to write for them; however, that was something that came from someone who was following me on Twitter.

I think it's very important to assert your expertise in public. As a female academic in Pakistan, if I don't assert my expertise, nobody will know that I exist. That is not the case for men because of their access to networks exclusive to their gender. For women it doesn't work that way. It has taken a long time for me to realise that I do this work and I have something valuable to contribute. It's important to put yourself out there in the public discourse, which is dominated by men. The reach of a newspaper article is far more than any thesis. The point of academic work, for me, is to not sit in any journal article but to affect public knowledge and discourse.

As far as writing for a medium that transcends the bound of the academy and perhaps seeps into journalism, the line between the two professions is sometimes blurry. As an academic they teach you to be neutral. However, with journalism it is easy to slip into binaries. They're not the same thing and they shouldn't try and be the same thing. Journalism has its own niche that academia shouldn't encroach upon and vice versa. They each have their own domains. Due to an explosion of media outlets, there is a perception in Pakistan that expertise equates having an opinion. The boundaries between opinion, expertise, and facts are murky.

It is important for me to write these opinion pieces because unless you have a public profile, media organisations will not know how to contact you because of the male dominated media sphere that instinctively approaches male academics. However, at the same time a lot of women are not comfortable putting themselves out there. They are afraid of getting attention, which is fine, but also they have never been allowed the space to assert themselves publicly.

Sometimes you get requests depending on the dominant stories in a news cycle—for instance, an elections season. For me it is a struggle. It takes me a long time to write and it requires effort that I could have put into a journal article. There are a lot of things to say but there is a time and a place for an op-ed. I was thinking about how I'm writing a journal article and once that is finished, I can condense it into an op-ed. I find it hard to switch between the two things.

Dr. Rasul Baksh Rais
*Professor, Humanities
and Social Sciences*

"I believe that it is a moral and ethical obligation of intellectuals that they take the controversies out of the classroom and into the public sphere and bring back to the classroom what they learn in the public sphere."



I have been writing for almost 36 years. My first column was an article I wrote for a magazine in 1975 when I was a lecturer in Punjab University's department of political science and the name of the magazine was *Talwar*. Then I started writing for the English press in early 1982 when I came back after my PhD and started writing for the *Muslim* and since then I have been writing regularly. I contributed to the *Muslim* for almost five years and then for *The News* for around six. Then, occasionally I write for *Dawn*, *The Daily Times*, and *The Express Tribune* (the Tribune columns have also been translated to appear in the Urdu daily, *Dunya*).

I think there are two kinds of

academics: those who are reclusive and focus on their academic work. The books or journal articles they write reach a very limited number of scholars and students. I question that role of a teacher in post-colonial states. I believe that our work because of the language barrier and because of the nature of the work itself is not accessible to the general public. Therefore, we must be intellectually active in shaping public opinion. Since we have the training and the background, I believe that compared to a journalist or a columnist,

professors who have a formal training and expertise in a subject can offer more rigorous analyses to policymakers and ordinary readers. It is a kind of activism. Activism is not simply hitting the streets with placards and demonstrating. Activism is that you express your voice on burning social, economic, and political issues. I believe that it is a moral and ethical obligation of intellectuals that they take the controversies out of the classroom and into the public sphere and bring back to the classroom what they learn in the public sphere. Additionally, media appearance, not only in the newspaper but also in the electronic media, is extremely important in order to be

counted on the side of the forces of equality, liberty, social justice, and rule of law. I believe that we have a very important role in society against misrule, misgovernance, corruption, and injustices. Simply expressing one's own concerns and feelings in the classroom is not enough. We have to be there out in the media and in addition to our traditional role of teaching, researching, and publishing, we need to be in the public sphere.

Further, I believe that the idea of objectivity, even in the academia, is a misnomer—what you have is a perspective. It is quite possible to write objectively for professional articles and journals; the bias and prejudice is something that should not interfere with your writing. But then objectivity is rooted in some form of subjectivity. I agree with the critical theorists who say that construction or production of knowledge is motivated by political considerations. You cannot take politics out of production of knowledge. You are part of a much larger project. My training in American universities exposed me to various interests of production of knowledge. Similarly, for the newspapers, we write for an opinion page where you are required have and present a point of view.

Dr. Umair Javed

Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences

“I wanted to bring an element of abstraction to the conversation surrounding politics at the time.”

My interest in writing for newspapers precedes my interest in the academia. After graduating from college, I was studying Politics at SOAS where I started a blog which focused on pseudo social scientific analysis of global events and politics. There was a small and fairly active community of people who were writing about South Asian politics. *The Sunday* reached out to me and wanted to feature a piece that I had written and that is how I got started. They were looking for younger voices. After finishing my graduate studies and returning to Pakistan, I started contributing more regularly to newspapers like *Pakistan Today* where I wrote for a year before switching to *The Friday Times* for about three months which presented me with the opportunity to write longer pieces. By then I caught the eye of someone at *Dawn* and I

was offered a regular writing slot.

I wanted to bring an element of abstraction to the conversation surrounding politics at the time. We were fixated on personalities and there was not enough focus on how larger institutional factors contribute to what we're saying on a daily basis. At that time, most people who were writing were journalists and ex-bureaucrats. Later, when I went for my PhD, I observed how people were putting out their research in more digestible forms. At that time there were two graduate students who started a blog called *Tanqeed*. They wanted to bring in a more critical, rigorous analysis on the things that were happening in Pakistan and that helped me shape my own voice on various issues. The general idea is that firstly, you can contribute towards the general English-language discourse around certain themes and make it slightly more rigorous and grounded in theory. Secondly, there is a public function that such writing serves. As an academic, I have become slightly more aware of that public function largely because I think that a lot of our conversations otherwise don't seep out of the academy. As stated before, my engagement with the public sphere precedes my transition into academia. What has changed is that I am interested in talking about things that I am researching. There have been a couple of opinion pieces that I have written using my dissertation and fieldwork. It's probably linked to the ease of doing it that people feel more inclined to share their research. It's much more difficult to be insulated in academia now because of the Internet. In Pakistan there is a growing pool of academics who can speak on specific issues.



Anam Fatima Khan is Research Assistant at the MGSNSS Dean's Office.

Faculty News

Ali Usman Qasmi (Associate Professor, HSS) published "A Master Narrative for the History of Pakistan: Tracing the origins of an ideological agenda" in *Modern Asian Studies*. He also spent his summer researching at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

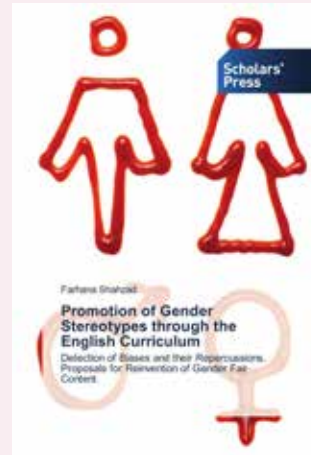
Amen Jaffer (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "A Drama of Sainly Devotion: Performing Ecstasy and Status at the Shaam-e-Qalandar Festival in Pakistan" in *The Drama Review*. He also participated in the inaugural two-week summer workshop titled "Summer Program in Social Science" organised by the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), New Jersey, USA.

Antonio Marasco (Associate Professor, Economics) presented a paper at the Foreign Direct Investment Conference, Istanbul Technical University (Istanbul, TR), titled "Foreign Direct Investment by Sector of Activity and Economic Growth: Another Look at the Role Played by Technology." He also published a book chapter titled "FDI, Technology and Economic Growth," for the proceedings of the same conference. He also attended Antonio Marasco attended the Econometric Society Winter Meeting by Federico II University in Naples, Italy.

Anushay Malik (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Public Authority and Local Resistance: Abdur Rehman and the industrial workers of Lahore, 1969-1974" in *Modern Asian Studies*.

Asma Faiz (Assistant Professor, HSS) was granted a one-month long summer fellowship by the Center for International Research, Sciences Po, Paris, funded by Campus France and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also participated in a seminar on the 2018 elections in Pakistan at the Center for International Research, Sciences Po, Paris. The title of her presentation was "The PTI and 2018 Elections in Pakistan". She presented

another paper titled "Populism of the Right: The Rise of Imran Khan in Pakistan" at The New Demagogues Conference held at the Center for International Research (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris.



Farhana Shahzad (Teaching Fellow, HSS) published *Promotion of Gender Stereotypes through the English Curriculum* (Scholar's Press).

Gwendolyn S. Kirk (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Linguistic landscapes of cinema in Lahore: From Lakshmi Chowk to the Vogue Towers Super Cinema" in *Wide Screen*. She presented at the Madison South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, California, and at the Aalami Urdu Conference, Karachi.

Hadia Majid (Assistant Professor, Economics) was given a research grant by the Punjab Commission on Status for Women (PCSW) for the project, "Transforming Women's Lives: An evaluation of the impact of

BISP on the socio-economic well-being of women." She presented a paper on the same at the PCSW Policy Conference. At the same conference, she presented another paper titled "The Role of Institutions in Securing Decent Work for Women." She gave a talk on "Climbing Out of Poverty: An Assessment of the Impact of BISP on Women's Outcomes in Punjab" at the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative at LUMS. She presented another paper titled "Women's Labor Supply and the Link with Growth: Examining the Last Three Decades" at the Lahore School of Economics.

Hasan H. Karrar (Associate Professor, HSS) published "Between Border and Bazaar: Central Asia's Informal Economy" in the *Journal of Contemporary Asia*. He also published "The Silk Road versus the Central Asian Bazaar – Two Thousand Years – or Twenty-Five Years of Exchange and Mobility?" in *Transnational Trade, Trade Routes, and Local Marketplaces between the Caucasus and Central Asia*, edited by S. Fehlings and H. Melkumyan (Anthropological Researches IV). He presented on "The Infrastructure Bridge: Methodological Devices and Conceptual Tools Across Urban Rural Divides" at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin. He was also invited for a lecture on "A Long View of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Fifty Years of Connectivity across the Karakoram-Pamir," at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

New Faculty Hires at MGS HSS

Dr. Matt Birkinshaw
Post Doctoral Fellow at the Gurmani Center of Languages and Literature

Dr. Kasim Tirmizey
Post Doctoral Fellow at the Gurmani Center of Languages and Literature

Dr. Layli Uddin Ahmed
Post Doctoral Fellow at the Gurmani Center of Languages and Literature

Dr. Syed Shimail Reza
Assistant Professor at HSS

Dr. Fatima Fayyaz
Visiting Faculty at HSS

Dr. Moeed Yusuf
Visiting Faculty at HSS

Dr. Noaman Ghazanfar Ali
Assistant Professor at HSS (will start in Fall 2019)



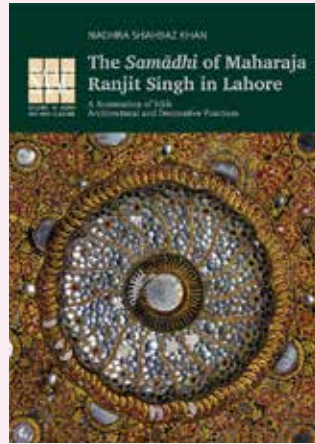
Khalid Mir (Associate Professor, Economics) published *Ethics and Economic Theory* (Routledge).

Maryam Wasif Khan (Assistant Professor, HSS) delivered a lecture at the UT Austin South Asia Institute, "The Populism of Piety: Conversion, Agency, and Exclusion in the Contemporary Urdu Novel" in November 2018 as part of their series, "Public/Popular/Pulp: Form and Genre in South Asian Cultural Production." She also spent her summer researching at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Melinda Gurr (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Taking Sides: Reflections on Activist Research with Rural Brazilian Youth" in *Neos: A Publication of the Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group*.

Muhammad Farid Ahmed (Assistant Professor, Economics) published "What Proportion of Time is a Particular Market Inefficient? ... A Method for Analysing the Frequency of Market Efficiency when Equity Prices Follow Threshold Autoregressions" in the *Journal of Time Series Econometrics*.

Nadhra Shahbaz Khan (Associate Professor, HSS) published *The Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore*:



A Summation of Sikh Architectural and Decorative Practices (University of Bonn's Studies in Asian Art and Culture). She delivered The Annual Benjamin Zaker Lecture on Mughal Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, on "Ornate Interiors and Spectacular Exteriors: Lahore Fort and Metaphors of Kingship".

Nida Kirmani (Associate Professor, HSS) co-authored "Moving Beyond the Binary: Gender-based Activism in Pakistan" in *Feminist Dissent*. She was a South Asian Studies Fellow at the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University. She presented a paper titled "Is Having Fun a Feminist Act? Gender, Mobility and Resistance in Lyari," at the Sixth International Karachi Conference. She also presented on "Negotiating Uncertainty: State Informality and Everyday Life in Lyari, Karachi," at the 47th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also presented a paper titled "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun: Gender, Space and Mobility in

Grants Awarded to MGSHTS Faculty

Donor: Shahid Hussain Foundation
Amount: PKR 1 million
Time period: 1 year
Co-PI: Dr. Samia Waheed Altaf
Project: "Understanding Pakistan's Immunization Problem: A transactional Approach."

Dr. Sameen Ali Mohsin (Assistant Professor, MGSHTS) and Dr. Samia Waheed Altaf (Affiliated Research Fellow, Dean's Office, MGSHTS) aim to investigate both the supply and demand sides of the immunization problem in the Punjab. They hope to understand not only the reasons for vaccine refusals in selected districts but to provide a fine-grained analysis of the planning and implementation, successes and failures of immunization policy.

Dr. Ayesha Ali (Assistant Professor, Economics) and Dr. Ihsan Ayyub Qazi (Associate Professor, Computer Science) have received a grant from Facebook for the project, "Understanding the Impact of Digital Literacy on Misinformation in Pakistan."

The increasing availability of low-cost mobile phones and mobile Internet access in emerging markets has led to widespread use of social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp, making them an important source of news and place for social and political activity. This trend has brought many new users online including those with limited exposure to technology. Unfortunately, they are concurrently observing an increasing trend in the spread of misinformation on such platforms. The spread of misinformation may lead to polarisation, while also affecting the beliefs and actions of users without a prior ideological leaning such as undecided voters. As part of this work, they will conduct a survey to understand how factors such as digital literacy, social media use, and social network characteristics affect the spread of misinformation in emerging countries like Pakistan. To correlate user characteristics with the spread of misinformation, they will present users with news stories and ask them if they would believe it and share it. Finally, they will conduct a randomised control trial to study the impact of two interventions for countering misinformation: (1) general information provision through infographics or videos to make users more aware of the misinformation phenomenon; and (2) specific information about users own past behavior related to misinformation.

Lyari, Karachi," at the European Conference on South Asian Studies, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. She was also invited to talk on the same at the South Asia Program Seminar Series, Cornell University.

Rashid Memon (Assistant Professor, Economics) was invited to present at UNU Wider's conference on Think Development, Helsinki, Finland. He presented at the Economic Science Association's North American Conference in Guatemala. He also participated in the Horizon 2020 Kickoff meeting in Oslo.

Rasul Bakhsh Rais (Professor, HSS) presented a paper on "Pakistan and the United States: converging interests, irritants and the Afghan endgame" in a conference organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute on "Irritants in Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Way Forward." He also presented on "Pakistan-U.S. Relations under the Trump Administration: Continuity and Change" in a Senate Foreign

Relations Committee Seminar on "Pakistan-U.S. Relations." He was also awarded the LUMS Research Award for Excellence in Research, 2017-18.

Saba Pirzadeh (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Pakistani popular music: A call to reform in the public sphere" in *South Asian Popular Culture*.

Sadaf Ahmad (Associate Professor, HSS) presented a paper titled "Pakistani Policewomen—Questioning the Role of Gender in Circumscribing Police Corruption in Pakistan" at a Chr. Michelsen Institute workshop on *Corruption and Community in South Asia* in Bergen, Norway.

Syed M. Hasan (Assistant Professor, Economics) co-authored "Waste Not, Want Not: A Case Study on Food Waste in Restaurants of Lahore, Pakistan" in the *Journal of Food Products Marketing*; his co-authors were three LUMS students, Musa Aamir, Huzaifa Ahmad, and Qasim Javed, the founders of Rizq (www.sharerizq.com). He also published

"Great engines turn on small pivots: a productivity analysis of small-scale manufacturing in Punjab, Pakistan" in *World Scientific*.

Syed Zahid Ali (Professor, Economics) published "Price puzzle in a small open New Keynesian model" in *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*.

Tania Saeed (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Islamophobia in Higher Education: Muslim Students and the "Duty of Care" in Dismantling Race" in *Higher Education: Racism, Whiteness and Decolonising the Academy*, edited by J. Arday and H.S. Mirza (Palgrave Macmillan). She was selected to participate in a two-week summer school on 'Religious Diversity and the Secular University' at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge.

Waqar Zaidi (Assistant Professor, HSS) published "Liberal Internationalism and the Search

for International Peace" in *The Routledge History of World Peace since 1750*, edited by C.P. Petersen, W.M. Knoblauch, and M. Loadenthal (Routledge). He visited the Future of Humanity Institute at the University of Oxford to collaborate on an interdisciplinary research project on the international governance of Artificial Intelligence. He presented a paper on "The Role of the United States in the Development of Pakistani Civil Aviation, 1947-57" at the Aviation Workshop of the Meiji Research Institute for the History of Global Arms Transfer, Tokyo. In addition to presenting at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, St Louis, Missouri, he also presented a paper titled "Natural Scientists as Political Experts: Atomic Scientists and Their Claims for Expertise on International Relations, 1945-1947" at the Annual Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, London. He also presented on "The Battle to Define Pugwash 1957-1962" at Birkbeck College, London.



Undergraduate Core Curriculum at MGSHSS

The Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS) recently rolled out a new Core Curriculum for its undergraduate programme for the graduating class of 2022 onwards. It will apply on the entering class of 2018.

The Curriculum aims to ensure that every student graduating from MGSHSS with a Bachelor's degree possesses a broad foundation of knowledge and a diverse set of transferable skills. The interdisciplinary nature of the Core will help ensure that students emerge as reflective, empathetic, and historically-informed individuals, with an understanding of both

global and local current issues.

Based on the LUMS philosophy regarding undergraduate education, the School has created six thematic clusters from which students will be required to take at least one course each over the duration of the degree.

The Core Curriculum will be completed over the course of the Bachelor's degree, with two or three courses required in the first year, one or two courses in the sophomore year, and two courses in the junior/senior years.

In the first year, the students will choose options from Social and Behavioral Sciences, STEM, Arts and Humanities, and Writing and

Communication (which is currently offered as a University Core). In the second year, the students will choose courses from Contemporary Debates, STEM (if not taken in the first year), Islamic Studies, and Pakistan Studies (again, already offered as University Core). In the third year, the students will take options from Great Authors and Academic Writing. The Core Curriculum courses, along with the current group of University Core courses, add up to 32 credit hours of coursework. The students will still be able to pursue a minor in addition to their respective majors *and* there will be ample space to take free electives.



6. There will be special introductory seminars and orientation events that will clarify all aspects of the new process.



5. MGSHSS advisors and other members of the staff will assist the incoming class during the 2018 Orientation week to navigate the entire enrollment process.



1. The Curriculum aims to ensure that every student graduating from MGSHSS with a Bachelor's degree possesses a broad foundation of knowledge and a diverse set of transferable skills.



4. The Core Curriculum will be completed over the course of the Bachelor's degree, with two or three courses required in the first year, one or two courses in the sophomore year, and two courses over the junior/senior years.



2. The Nature of the Core will help ensure that students emerge as reflective, empathetic, and historically informed individuals, with an understanding of both global and local current issues.



3. Six thematic clusters from which students will be required to take at least one course each over the duration of the degree.

The Study of Environment and Ecology at MGSHSS

As climate change and global warming affect our world and threaten the possibility of the very existence of many life forms in the short run and in the long run, academics around the world and in all major fields of study have made it a point to address the various aspects of environment and ecology, and not just from the point of view of reversing global warming; in fact, they have incorporated relevant discourses into their own areas of teaching and research in a multitude of fascinating ways. Development economists, social scientists, scholars of religion, literary and cultural critics—experts in various fields have developed courses to teach students about the history, the impact, and the future of environment. Entire monographs, collected chapters, and special journal issues have been devoted to it. We asked two faculty members from our own school to write something about the work that they do in this area. Saba Pirzadeh (Assistant Professor, HSS) and Sanval Nasim (Assistant Professor, Economics) write on their courses and their publications that deal with the study of environment and ecology.

Ecocritical Pedagogy and Research



Dr. Saba Pirzadeh

I teach introductory and advanced level courses on ecocriticism which “is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment” (Glotfelty). My 200-level course (Thinking like a Mountain: Literature and the Environment) introduces students to the major texts and concepts in ecocriticism. To this

end, I use a wide variety of literary texts—picaresque novel, memoir, poetry, children’s literature, postcolonial novel, and dystopian fiction—along with documentaries and critical theory to introduce students to different conceptions and treatments of the natural world. Additionally, the course encourages students to explore how environmental literature complicates our notions of human-ness, race, class, gender, colonialism, nationalism, and neoliberalism. In doing so, the class draws attention to the ways that nature in fact really exists and how nature is always culturally constructed (Gerrard). My 300-level course (End of Nature: Disaster and Geopolitics in Environmental Fiction) uses western and postcolonial fiction to explore the ways in which the violent exploitation of the natural world generates every day and epochal crises. By focusing on the visual, material, and allegorical aspects of texts, the course generates critical discussions on forms of eco-crises—including natural calamities, toxic bodies, climatic extremities, and ravaged landscapes. The course also examines how environmental crises are

caused by privileging of the human race (‘anthropocentrism,’ ‘human racism’), and advocates a reorientation towards ethical biocentrism (Sessions). In doing so, the course debates the degree(s) to which nature is ending and questions the role of human agency in mitigating ecological crises. Overall, by initiating and immersing students within ecocriticism, I hope to inspire students towards ecological thought and action outside the confines of the classroom.

My teaching is also informed by my research in the field of ecocriticism. In this regard, I have published three articles in peer-reviewed, international journals. My first article, “Children of Ravaged Worlds: Exploring Environmentalism in Paolo Bacigalupi’s *Ship Breaker* and Cameron Stracher’s *The Water Wars*,” was published in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. This article analyses how eco-dystopian Young Adult literature depicts issues of natural degradation, ecopolitics, racism, and militarism to generate environmental consciousness and to highlight agency as necessary radical action during

times of ecological crises. My second article, "Persecution vs. Protection: Examining the Pernicious Politics of Environmental Conservation in *The Hungry Tide*," was published in *South Asian Review*. This article argues that Ghosh's novel offers a de-essentialised representation of the Sundarban islands to emphasise a non-hierarchical conception of nature and that the novel critiques the neo-colonial premise of Western environmental protectionism to draw attention to issues of socio-environmental justice in the global South. My third co-authored article, "Arthurian Eco-conquest in Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, and La amon," was published in *Parergon*. This article tracks King Arthur's use and conquest of the land to ensure the expansion of the British empire. Additionally, the article argues that while Geoffrey and Wace depict the land as territory to be conquered, La amon instead represents the land as *leode*—a fusion of people, territory, and nation—thereby highlighting how land transforms into a political ecosystem.

Environmental Economics



Dr. Sanval Nasim

I first offered Introduction to Environmental Economics in Fall 2016. My colleague Dr. Saher Asad

had already taught an advanced course in environmental economics the year before and we thought that offering an introductory-level course would be an important step in generating students' interest in the field and in creating an environmental stream within the department.

The course allows students to explore the environment through an economic lens, an opportunity to apply the principles, concepts, and methodologies that they pick up in their core courses to a wide range of environmental problems. From the perspective of an economist, albeit one trained in the neoliberal school of thought, the absence of markets for environmental goods and services—think clean air, forests, fisheries, and water resources—leads to their overexploitation. The course enables students to conceptualise hypothetical markets for the environment and to recognise how price-based instruments such as charges and tradable permits can create such markets, leading to a more desirable provision of environmental goods and services.

Most US and European economics programs now regularly offer an introductory-level environmental economics course, which has become a popular elective for undergrads. Instructors also have the luxury to choose from a number of well-structured textbooks to supplement their teaching. Professor Tom Tietenberg's *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, now in its 11th edition, is the most widely used textbook on the subject, and the one that I read when I took Professor Tietenberg's class my sophomore year at Colby College.

However, I teach from the equally excellent *Environmental Economics: An Introduction* by Martha Field and Barry Field—this is by no means a rebuff to Professor Tietenberg, who was an exceptional mentor and

teacher, but a consequence of the fact that I grew accustomed to the Field book after assisting my supervisor, Professor Ariel Dinar, in teaching the same course in graduate school.

Besides select chapters from the textbook, we also cover readings from *The Economist*, which often carries brief expositions on salient environmental themes. Students particularly enjoy "Decommissioning Dams," a cogent case for removing dams to protect vulnerable species; "Taxes for a Greener Plant," a note on how a tax on carbon can provide governments an alternative source of revenue while incentivising firms to emit less; and "Never the Twain Shall Meet," an essay on how economists and environmentalists can never see eye to eye on issues common to both. To break the monotony of lectures, we turn to a few documentaries in class, including *Before the Flood*—a grim reminder of the realities of climate change, narrated by a pensive Leonardo DiCaprio—and the visually stunning *Chasing Ice*.

As the environmental economics courses start gaining traction, I hope to see some of the broader lessons get translated into civic action on campus. It's disappointing and embarrassing to observe the lack of basic civic responsibility among the LUMS community—consider for instance the appearance of heaps of trash near the canteens and on the grounds once the janitorial staff retires for the evening. Discarding trash in bins, recycling waste, printing less paper, and conserving water are a few simple steps that we can collectively take to make our campus more sustainable and to assume greater ownership of our space.

Student Advising at MGSHSS

Eilya Mohsin

With the increasing number of students admitted into MGSHSS, the school is continuously working on improving its academic advising system. Currently, we have a three-tier system that includes Peer Advising Leaders (PALs), Academic Advisors, and Faculty Advisors who track students, serve as counsellors and motivators, and help students achieve their academic goals. Each serve a unique purpose.

PALs are our first layer of support. They are students who are mobilised during the orientation week to help ease transition of first-years. Each PAL has a group of first-years assigned to them for a whole year. The purpose of our academic advisors is to monitor and track student progress. Academic advisors are academic staff that help students deal with all sorts of academic issues from degree tracking to linking students to relevant academic campus services. Here, staff from both Economics and HSS departments work together with the Dean's Office. Lastly, engagement with Faculty Advisors is really important for students. This is why we make these meetings mandatory for students. Faculty advisors help students identify educational goals in light of their individual intellectual passions.

For effective advising, the Dean's Office of MGSHSS has initiated training of Advisors in their areas of interest—from academic counselling to development of an online tracking system. Because of this initiative I got the opportunity to shadow the advising system of the University of Texas in October 2018.

The purpose of the visit was to identify and analyse gaps within our academic advising system and achieve effective advising so it can serve as a powerful tool for the students

of MGSHSS. The visit has allowed the team to work towards the ideal academic advising system that:

- Challenges and supports students throughout their programme
- Involve them in their academic decisions and make them realise their own part and responsibility
- Develop a social and academic transition plan for students
- Monitor and effectively initiate early intervention when needed

The team is proactively evaluating risk variables (academic, financial, and social) and working on initiatives for student success. One of these initiatives is the Learning and Mentoring Centre that serves to work on students' language, writing, and mathematical skills. Another one is formalising our scheduling and tracking through the existing Zambeel system at LUMS. This system will track meeting notes, grades, and degree requirements more efficiently. It will also allow students to quickly schedule their appointments, both mandatory and walk-ins. The idea is to reduce waiting time and make sure that each party

knows their commitment. We hope to increase active participation of students through this because for effective advising, students must learn to lead.

Even though technology is very important, a relevance of informed and one-on-one intervention is key. We wish to have a network of support for students to include all of this in order to reduce frustration and disastrous academic pathways. Though we are here to help navigate, a major cultural shift that we wish to achieve is to make students become proactive and involved in the development of their aims and goals. Successful advising is not one-sided and students must learn to work within the rules and policies devised by both the school and the university.

With this expansion in the vision and the execution of student advising at LUMS come challenges as well. But challenges are there to be overcome. At MGSHSS, we aim to manage and resolve problems and offer best solutions for a smooth journey for our diverse student population.

Eilya Mohsin is Assistant Manager in the MGSHSS Dean's Office.



Advanced Summer Learning Initiative (ASLI)

For the first time at LUMS, MGSNSS organised a four-week summer training programme for students who need extra help with academic problems that cannot always be addressed in the class. This initiative served as an off-shoot of the Learning and Mentoring Centre. It was conceptualised earlier this year in order to bridge the structural gaps resulting from the diverse educational backgrounds of the student body.

We called it the Advanced Summer Learning Initiative (ASLI) and it was designed as an intensive, immersive workshop.



With the support and the encouragement of the Gurmani Foundation, and with assistance from the Dean of Student Affairs, the Admissions Office, and the NOP Office, a four-week Summer pilot-programme trained up to fifty students from across the university (fully-funded) to aid them in developing their reading/comprehension, writing, and communication skills in English, along with a focus on mathematics and critical thinking. In order to create an ideal environment for learning, the programme was fully funded so that

the students did not have to worry about the cost of food, lodging, or travel, or perceive of it as an extra burden for their family. Furthermore, qualified faculty from Economics and the Humanities designed the programme curriculum to cater to various academic needs of the students. The instructors were experts in their fields which was necessary to guarantee progress in a relatively short period.

For the duration of the programme, students took classes (five hours a day, four days a week) with highly qualified faculty and participated in activities with peer mentors. Mentors were an integral part of the programme as they focused on immersing the students into a culture of speaking English, something many students were not initially comfortable with. Through activities like poetry recitation, collaborative games, and movie screening, the programme tried to inculcate learning that would complement the class room learning. In order to give them a holistic experience, the school arranged an ice cream social every Wednesday. The idea was to encourage students to connect with new peers, mentors, and administration and create a friendly and cohesive learning community.

Additionally, weekly excursions to cultural sites including a football factory in Sialkot, Haran Minar, Nankana Sahib, and old Lahore were arranged every Friday. The students were presented with the prospect of examining these sites in their historical and cultural context and interact with the different types of communities associated with these



spaces. Moreover, the students found themselves in settings where they could connect with peers from different socio-economic backgrounds and make new friends in order to ease their transition in to the LUMS life. The program ended with a farewell dinner followed by a screening of a farewell video compiled by the students as a voluntary contribution to thank the administration and instructors.

The structure of this programme allowed students to benefit from both an active learning community in a class setting as well as individual attention. We share the commitment of our donors to ensure that students who have successfully overcome disadvantage at home will not face obstacles to learning at LUMS.

With a successful pilot project, we intend to offer an expanded version of this course each summer.



Student Contributions

Gracias, Graz! An Experience of a Lifetime

Muhammed Saad Kamil



If we were to put our experiences as exchange students in a few adjectives, it would be impossible to summarise them aptly. Rather it would be unjust to do so because of the plethora of things we learnt, understood, and overall experienced as not only students, but human beings.

On the third day of the month of February, I along with two of my friends Haleema Hasan and Ujala Anand landed

in Graz, Austria. Now one might not really know what Graz is other than the fact that it is 2 hours away by bus from the Austrian capital Vienna and is a small university city. Initially to us, it was more unappealing than that. Coming from LUMS, leaving all our friends behind, was extremely difficult and the first few days went by in cold weather and gloomy nights. However, it was only a matter of time and new friendships that made us realise that there was more to this programme than we had expected.

The LUMS-FHJ (FH Joanneum, Austria) programme gave us opportunities that we had never thought we would get. From striking meaningful friendships with people from around the world to travelling all around Europe, it was truly a dream come true. Nevertheless, our exchange program was more meaningful than just living abroad

for a month in Europe and traveling around and having fun. It was the conversations, the cultural exchange, and acceptance of each other regardless what religion, ethnicity, or gender they were, that gave us a new view on life—a lesson in tolerance and endurance that in the end, as people of the world, we are all human beings and are equal.

Academically we saw how a university could be accepting of and cooperative with its students even with a rigorous academic programme. Because in FHJ the well-being of the students came first for the administration and policies came second. Overall, we would like to thank LUMS for opening such an avenue for us and helping us learn new things and grow as people. We would also like to give a huge shout out to FHJ and all our friends who now live in different parts of the world.

We will never forget this experience as a piece of our hearts and souls resides in Graz and will stay there forever.

Muhammed Saad Kamil is a junior at the MGSJSS.



Debating at MGSHSS

Marha Fatima



DRUMS organised its first Quarterly Debate of the year on October 3. The topic of the debate was: "This House Supports the Dam Fund." Maha Malik moderated the debate and did a great job in making sure that the rules and regulations of the debate were adhered to.

The first speaker from the proposition was Inshirah Tahir, a prominent member of the LUMS debating circle as well as a two-time Octofinalist at the United Asian Debates Tournament. She instantly wowed the audience with her well-articulated arguments. From the

opposition, Aima Khosa, News Editor at *The Friday Times* and Lecturer at the Beaconhouse National University, made the opening statements and engaged the audience with her wit and strong line of reasoning.

Muhammad Ahmed Pansota, renowned lawyer and legal analyst, was the second speaker from the proposition. He gave a rather sarcastic speech in favour of the current government. In contrast, the second opposition speaker, Taha Iqbal, a junior at LUMS who has been a Quarterfinalist as well as an Octofinalist at the United Asian Debates

Tournament, gave a very fiery speech which was backed by facts and figures.

The proposition's last speaker Walid Iqbal, who was representing the PTI government, present his point of view calmly and thoughtfully. The last opposition speaker, seasoned journalist and analyst Ejaz Haider, used the element of humour to sway the



audience while also building upon the previous arguments to prove his point.

A packed auditorium demonstrated that the event was very well received. People took a keen interest in the topic and the number of hands up during the question and answer session certainly reflected that. Votes were collected from the audience and after a very fierce battle the opposition was declared the winner. The guests were provided with refreshments after the debate.

Marha Fatima is a first year at the MGSHSS.



From Left: Walid Iqbal, M. Ahmed Pansota, Inshirah Tahir, Aima Khosa, Taha Iqbal, and Ejaz Haider.

In Memoriam– Dr. Ahmad Bilal Awan (1973–2018)



He was always a gentleman, a friend even if he didn't know you, generous with his time and person in a way few of us are. I keep thinking I will see him striding in the halls, or holding his son's hand and walking from the covered parking to the office, and it seems almost cruel that he is no longer with us. His kindness to students and colleagues will keep his memory alive. I hope and pray that he is at peace.

- Dr. Maryam Wasif

What a wonderful colleague and friend he was! I can't recall that he ever greeted me without a smile and a warm hug. I remember some of his discussions with me on poetry and his interest in studying prosody. But what I remember most—as I believe many of his colleagues and students do—is his smile, humility, and willingness to help anyone who needed him. He was indeed dearly loved by his students. Considering aspects of his work, one can only think of Sa'di's *nihad shakh-i pur miweh sar bar zamin*. - Asif Iftikhar

Those of us who knew him—and those who knew a little of him—will know that he was one of the gentlest and kindest individuals you could hope to come across. When people talk of those who don't have a nasty bone in their body, he was that person. He was a devoted father and husband. His students loved him because of his dedication to his teaching and the amount of time and effort he put into mentoring students. I cannot remember a time when he didn't have a smile on his face and a word of thanks for all that he had. - Dr. Ali Khan



He was one of the greatest teachers I have ever had. He had a contagious enthusiasm for Urdu that made you want to attend every class. He had the wisdom of a teacher and the humility of a student. Words cannot express the amount of love and respect he deserves. - Usman Ibrahim



#MeToo at LUMS

On December 14, 2018, as part of the Alumni Homecoming Weekend, a panel discussion was arranged at LUMS on “#MeToo & its Unfolding in Pakistan.” The discussion was moderated by Dr. Maryam Wasif Khan (Assistant Professor, MGS HSS) and the panelists included Aimen Bucha (SWGJ), Mariam Nadeem (senior) and Shmyla Khan (BA. LLB 2014). The panel began with each panelist thinking about the significance of the #MeToo movement in Pakistan, each offering a different perspective. Khan, a lawyer working at the Digital Rights Foundation, for example, spoke at length about the chasm between the law and the various violences a

woman’s body experienced on a daily basis in Pakistan. Bucha, an activist and



coordinator at the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, argued that the movement

would never gain strength in Pakistan unless collective class action was taken. Nadeem, an English major and ex-President of FemSoc, talked about LUMS itself and the fashion in which young male students treated female friends and peers, prompting Bucha to suggest that the very idea of romantic love in Pakistan is grounded in dominance and subordination rather than equality. The panel was attended by a number of students, staff members, as well as the Vice-Chancellor, and concluded with a series of compelling questions by audience members.

Frankenstein's Verbs

In 2018, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* turned 200. I remember that I read it when I was in school. What I struggled to remember was what it was about. Last year, on the bicentenary of the first edition of the novel, I read it again.

Verbs, verbs, verbs ... powerful, all of them. It helped that I was teaching a class on academic writing and editing that same semester and we were discussing the vices of adjectives and the virtuosities of verbs. The hip-hop artist Blackalicious used the phrase “Verb vice” in his song “Alphabet Aerobics.” No, not vice. Virtuosities.

There are sentences in *Frankenstein*—as there are in the best of world literature—that would crumble without the presence of a powerful verb. The verb that makes you feel the movement, the dance. Witness: a paragraph from the beginning of Mary Shelley’s novel.

I have no friend, Margaret: when I am glowing with the enthusiasm of success, there will be none to participate my joy; if I am assailed by disappointment, no one will endeavour to sustain me in dejection. I shall commit my thoughts to paper, it is true; but that is a poor medium for the communication of feeling ... You may deem me romantic, my dear sister, but I bitterly feel the want of a friend.

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*.

From the cover of the first edition, from Milton’s *Paradise Lost*

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me?—

We think of ‘Frankenstein’ as being a noun even though it can also be used as a verb.

Elizabeth Coody, Religious Studies, Morningside College

In the 1770s the Italian scientist Luigi Galvani conducted experiments that caused muscle convulsions in dead frogs through electrical charges. Galvanist experiments became popular across Europe thanks to Giovanni Aldini, Galvani’s nephew and disciple ... Galvanism directly influenced Mary Shelley’s fictional creation, and the verb “galvanize”—to stimulate to action—soon passed into the English language.

Maria Pilar Queral, *National Geographic*

Ateeb Gul is Teaching Fellow and Senior Editor at the MGS HSS.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND



PAKISTAN@100
FALL TALK ON
FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN
Dr. SAAD GULZAR, Dr. HASAN JAVID AND Dr. SAMEEN MOHSIN.
SS AUDITORIUM, ACADEMIC BLOCK
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

THE WORLD BANK

ON THE CREATIVE PROCESS

PANELISTS
SALMAN RASHID
YUSRA AMJAD
USMAN IBRAHIM
QASIM AHYAN

MODERATORS
HASAN TAJIR
MEHVAISH AMIN

Thursday | 7pm | A9

THE AEPH REVIEW

MGSHSS invites you to meet our ALUMNI

November 30, 2018
6:00 pm
A-11, Main Academic Block, LUMS

Meeting Alumni Council
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Ahmer Raqi
Creative Head, Teek.pk
BSc 2008 Social Sciences

Zainab Saeed
Head of Research and Development,
Kashf Foundation
BSc 2007 Social Sciences

Alicha Shahid
Project Manager, CEPF
BSc 2013 Humanities

Fatima Khan
Associate, Citi's Office Strategic Reforms Unit
BSc 2014 Economics

Farhan Ul Haq
AVP-Agri Capability, Al Mole & Thal Industries
Limited
BSc 2009 Political Science

SOLO SCOPES

Friday, October 5, 2018
6:00 pm
SUSB B-3 Auditorium

Dr. sponsored by the Suleman Dawood Service Initiative (SDSI) and the German Center for Language and Literature (GZL) www.gzll.com

A solo dance performance
Suhaee Abr

Goonj - Echo is a solo dance performance, choreographed and performed by **Suhaee Abr**. Each and every moment in the show is an echo of her experiences in her life as she shares intimately with the audience. With mostly original music by brilliant composers and musicians **Sarah Sarhandi** (London, U.K) & **Ahsan Bari** (Karachi, Pakistan).

PAKISTAN@100

WHERE DO YOU SEE PAKISTAN IN THE YEAR 2047?

Mr. Ejaz Haider, Journalist and Defense Analyst
Sima Rabboob Khan, MPA, Ex-Foreign Minister
Lt. Gen. Wajid Arshad, Ex-Chief of General Staff (IG)
Mustafa Wajid Sayed, Executive Director Pak-China Institute

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ON
THE FUTURE OF PAKISTAN'S NEIGHBOURHOOD
AT
AUDITORIUM B-2,
SULEMAN DAWOOD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, LUMS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018
2:00 - 4:00 PM

THE WORLD BANK

Napier Street
By Arif Mahmood

An Exhibition & Discussion with Arif Mahmood

Thursday, September 13, 2018
6:30 pm
Suleman Dawood Auditorium, LUMS

LUMS German Center for Language and Literature

LEIT

A BAN

6:00 PM


Thursday, October 4, 2018
SDSB B-3
6:30 p.m.

MAESTROS OF RAAG
FARIDA KHANUM

حلقہ دانش
فریدہ خانم


ALI SEETHI

سہان فریدہ خانم
میرزا علی سیٹی



**Arts-Informed Cooperative Inquiry:
Possibilities and Potential for
Decolonising Methodology**

Tuesday, September 11, 2018
5:00 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, VC Office, LUMS



Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes in
The Hague: Economic International Law and
"Third World Approaches"



A Talk by
Jeroen Vervliet
Member,
Peace Section,
The International Law Library,
The Hague, Netherlands.

Nov 26, 2018
5:30 pm
Academic Centre, Academic Block, LUMS

احمد بلال اعوان
بزم ادب

ادب و ادب میں مداحی کا سفر
ادب کی گہرائیوں میں



Thursday, October 25, 2018
5:00-7:00pm
MCC Exam, Library Building

You're invited to the
**BOOK
LAUNCH**
Dr. Khalid Mir
Associate Professor,
Department of Economics, MCGILL

Routledge Professor of Political Economy
**ETHICS AND ECONOMIC
THEORY**
Khalid Mir

Thursday
November 15, 2018
5:00 pm
A-16 Academic Block

Organized by the Department of Economics

کھوکھا ناٹک
NUKAR NAACH

PERFORMANCE ON ZEB AND HANIYA'S SOING

"کہہ کیا خیال ہے"
میرزاں وقاص منظور

NOVEMBER 29, 2018 | KHOKHA

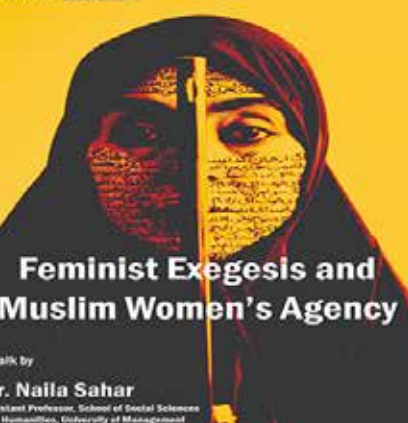
**SPACES AND STORIES:
CREATE AND PRODUCE
AN EXPRESSIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNALS**
BY: DR. LUKAS BREITH

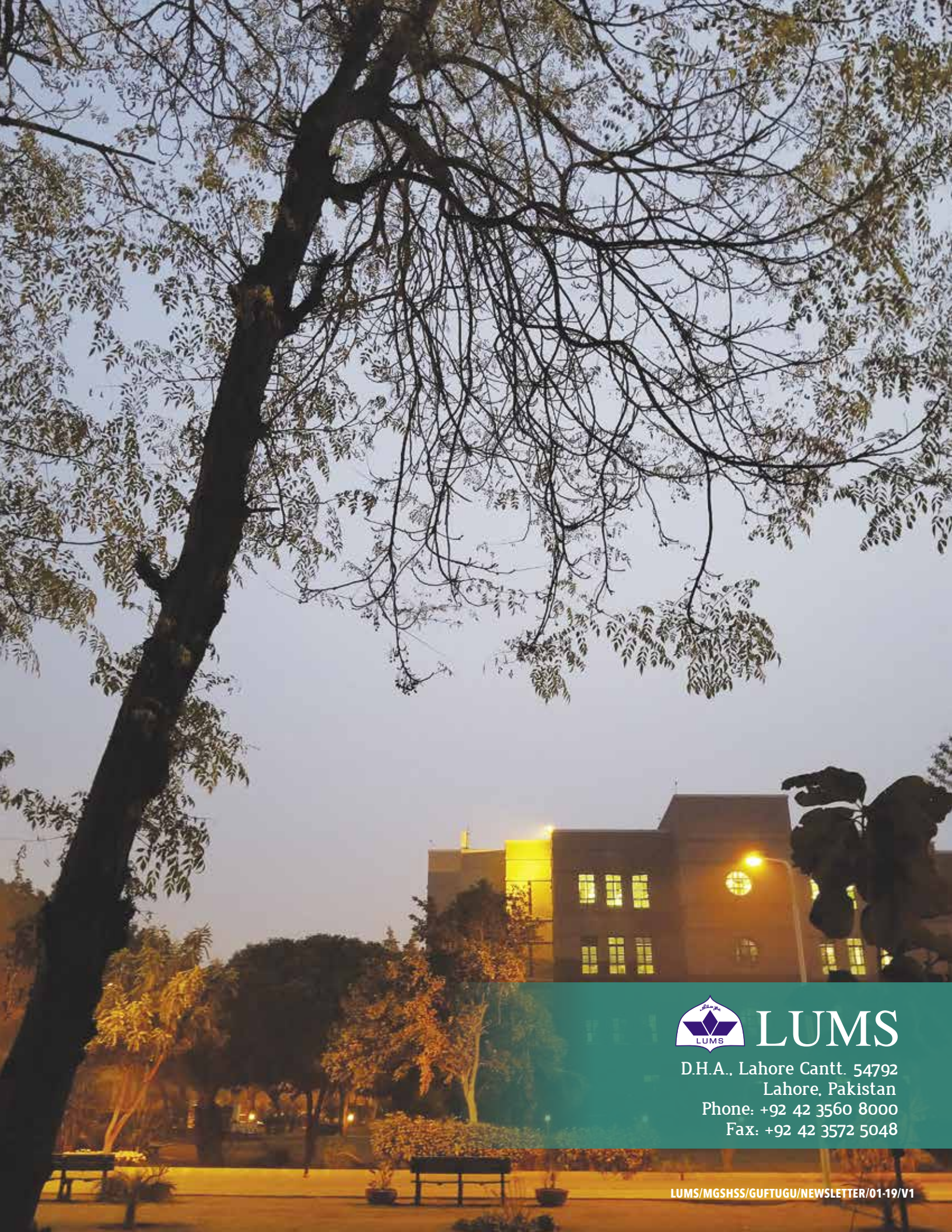
DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 - 20, 2018
REGISTER: ZEBIBI (042) 353-6262 / <https://www.facebook.com/nukspace>

**Feminist Exegesis and
Muslim Women's Agency**

A Talk by
Dr. Naila Sahar
Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences
and Humanities, University of Management
and Technology, Lahore

Tuesday, October 30, 2018
6:00 pm
A-16, Academic Block, LUMS





LUMS

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