

### 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. In addition to thanking all staff members in the Dean's Office, we want to specially thank Sara Saleem Khan and Ateeb Gul for their excellent work and effort for this issue. Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends, The first issue of *Guftugu*, the biannual newsletter of the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS) at LUMS, is in your hands. We have chosen the title as we in MGSHSS believe in opening up conversations, encouraging debates and fostering discussions. In short, we want to promote a truly dialogic (the academic in me could not resist) social and cultural space which promotes non-hierarchical and democratic deliberations on a range of topics. Hence, *Guftugu* is our vehicle to share what we accomplish at MGSHSS during a semester and also represent what we hear from the community in our forums, symposia, conferences, workshops, musical events, creative endeavors and artistic pursuits. We remain committed to this exchange of ideas, opinions and points of view by bringing them forward in a guftugu.

I say with a sense of pride that MGSHSS holds a unique place among liberal arts programs in Pakistan, if not in South Asia. I say this because as we delve into works on politics, sociology, economics, culture, religion, art, literature, science and aesthetics at our School, we accomplish this through a faculty that has altered the way in which the social sciences and the humanities are taught in Pakistan. Their passion and commitment is reflected in the vibrant intellectual culture of the School, and translates into a pedagogical method that is truly transformative. They seek to inculcate in our students the spirit of curious thinking, of risk taking and of thinking outside the box. The intellectual work and creative contribution of our faculty and our students will especially be foregrounded through this newsletter, so that the world gets to know that we implicitly understand ourselves. Let the conversations begin! Sincerely

K. Adar

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# **100 Years of Soviet Revolution**

A two-day workshop marking the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution was held on the 3rd and 4th of November. Organized by Anushay Malik and Ali Raza, the workshop brought together scholars and activists with an aim of initiating a critically-informed conversation on communist, socialist, and revolutionary movements in South Asia, and, specifically, in Pakistan.

The workshop was inaugurated by the noted intellectual and women's rights activist, Nighat Saeed Khan, who gave a keynote address on the role of women in Marxist political thought and leftist movements. Her address was followed by four sessions featuring a total of thirteen speakers. Together, the sessions covered the history of labor movements, political organizations, intellectual genealogies, and progressive literature in Pakistan and South Asia.

The speakers reflected on how the Soviet Revolution was important not only for the events of the revolution itself, but also for the impact it had internationally. In that respect, Karamat Ali, Ammar Jan and Aasim Sajjad Akhtar discussed the global implications of the Bolshevik Revolution's legacy, while Anushav Malik. Ali Raza. Nadeem Khalid. Sarah Suhail and Muhammad Azeem discussed its impact on leftist and labour movements in Pakistan. An important perspective from East Pakistan was also provided by Dr. Layli Uddin who gave a talk on the politics of Maulana Bhashani and the National Awami Party. These perspectives were further enriched by the contributions of Ahmad Salim, Humaira Ishfaq, Jaffer Ahmad,

and Kamran Asdar Ali on the politics, history and legacy of the Progressive Writers' Movement in South Asia.

The conference was well-attended by academics, students professionals, and activists from Lahore and elsewhere. It was also attended by veteran activist Rauf Malik, the last surviving member of the pre-partition Communist Party of India. One notable aspect of the workshop was the personal reflections of the speakers. many of whom have devoted their lives to progressive politics and causes in Pakistan. Notable examples included: Nighat Saeed Khan, one of the founders of the Women's Action Forum (WAF). Karamat Ali Director of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER); Aasim Sajjad Akhtar of the Awami Workers Party; and Ahmed Salim, whose valuable work in archiving the records of progressive movements in Pakistan continues to be a great resource for researchers across the world

As part of the conference programme, a concert by Arieb Azhar was also organized. The concert was enjoyed by faculty and students alike.

> Anushay Malik and Ali Raza are Assistant Professors at the MGSHSS.





Arieb Azhar in concert.

# Neglected Narratives: An Interview with Dr. Layli Uddin

Dr. Layli Uddin is a historian of modern South Asia and is currently working on a book on the making and unmaking of Pakistan and Bangladesh. She is also the curator of the 'Two Centuries of Indian Print' project at the British Library. In November. she presented a paper titled '1969: Marxists, Murids and the Maulana in the Unmaking of Pakistan' at the 100 Years of **Soviet Revolution** conference at LUMS. I thought we could begin with you telling us a little about your work as a historian in general, and perhaps a little about the paper you presented.

A lot of my work on Bangladesh and how it comes about, the 'making and unmaking of Pakistan' if you will, functions as a counter-narrative to existing historiographies. Especially in the sense in which they attribute 1971 and the creation of Bangladesh to the events of high politics and big political figures. What gets ignored is the role of the peasants, the landless laborers. the students. This is where Maulana Bhashani becomes important, because in a lot of ways he was speaking for these constituencies. His leadership and charisma were important factors, and in the absence of understanding that connection, and the radical imaginaries that fueled those peoples, often the ways in which workers and peasants did politics is not understood.

#### What about your work at the British Library? How does that that feed into your research?

The 'Two Centuries of Indian Print' project looks at publications, printers and authers of the early colonial period, The eighteenth to early twentieth centuries. I do draw on the collection for my research—it's especially helpful in establishing a longer trajectory and filling in the gaps since so much of what I'm looking at and the figures I'm concerned with do not exist in conventional archives. One of the key concerns of my work is to bring in the silences that exist in the archives, and question things like the grounds on which workers mobilized, their conception of and faith in Bhashani as a leader and how this alliance between the marxist and his murids functioned on the ground. Another question is what socialism might have looked like then, and how were these constituencies being empowered. If Bhashani was a leader who appeared to his murids in their dreams. do I invalidate that entirely because of modern ideas of rationality? It's important to open these histories and navigate neglected narratives with caution and respect, because otherwise you risk ignoring how people conceptualized events that we are trying to understand as history.

I was going to ask you how your experience of the conference was. Given that there was a variety of talks and papers, what were your thoughts about the other panels given what we just discussed about alternative ways of looking at history?

It's been a tremendously productive experience here. LUMS has a great faculty in the Humanities and Social Sciences. I've gotten to meet some great colleagues who share similar ways of thinking about history or doing history. There are some really impressive historians and academics here. The conference was wonderful because there was a mixed bunch of academics and activists and it's really good getting that idea of what was happening on the ground. And it was looking at the whole of the 20th century, looking at the history of the October Revolution, but also its impact in South Asia. Not just its immediate aftermath, but also at its long term implications up to the present. So there were a number of diverse papers ranging from the October revolution, to the Progressive Writers' Association, to thinking about what was happening in East Bengal. And also bringing in stalwarts like Ahmad Salim, and people who were involved in these movements. It was great just hearing all these voices and I think it really is quite promising, the work that LUMS is doing.

What about Lahore in general? Is this your first time here, and did you get to see any of the city?

I did, actually! And yes it's my first time in Pakistan. I'm going shopping again today, actually. But Ali Usman Qasmi took me around yesterday, and he's Lahori who also reads anything and everything about the city. So we had a great sort of talk. We went to the Badshahi Mosque, the Lahore Fort, the Wazir Khan Mosque, the Anarkali Bazaar, and I think we saw Sultan Qutbuddin Aibak's mazaar. And we saw from the mazaar this Hindu temple, which is no longer in use, but is now a residence. And since then I've just been resting. I still feel like there's so much more to see, because as we were coming back he pointed out Neela Gumbat and all these little mazaars. And I feel like there's also so many conversations to be had about the city. I'm going to a remembrance today at the Women's Action forum, and I met with the Feminist Collective at a dhaaba. We had tea and a lot of conversation. In general it's been really great, I've met a lot of people and had a lot of food. But I imagine there's plenty more to be done here, whether at LUMS or outside..

Sara Saleem Khan, Research Fellow, conducted this interview.

"It's important to open these histories and navigate neglected narratives with caution and respect. because otherwise you risk ignoring how people conceptualized events that we are trying to understand as history."

Dr. Layli Uddin presenting at the conference.



# **Events at MGSHSS**

### **Overview**

The MGSHSS was host to multiple series of talks over the Fall Semester by scholars, writers, and artists. The HSS Seminar Series, organized by Mohammad Waseem and Asma Faiz. included sessions on topics surrounding feminism, Marxism in South Asia, nationalism, and so on, Dr. Fouzia Saeed. Director of Lok Virsa in Islamabad, gave a talk on 'Developing a Framework for Indigenous Feminism', in which she highlighted the need for recognizing and documenting the stories of South Asian women who fought for their rights, dating back to the literary classics that portrayed female characters with agency and power and resolve to make their own decisions. Dr. Ammar Jan gave a talk on anti-colonial Marxism in light of M.N. Roy's works. Asma Faiz presented on the Sindhi nationalist narrative, while Wagar Zaidi's lecture addressed the history of civil aviation in Pakistan. Mariam Chughtai spoke in her lecture about religious ideology in the education policies of Pakistan over several decades.

Bilal Tanweer of the HSS organized a series of events under the title of 'Conversations on Contemporary Culture'. The series began with the launch of *Muslims Against the Muslim League* (Cambridge, 2017), co-edited by Ali Usman Qasmi. The next event in the series was the launch of Harris Khalique's *Crimson Papers* (OUP, 2017). A student-led discussion on Rasul Bakhsh Rais's *Imagining Pakistan: Modernism, State, and the Politics of Islamic Revival* (Lexington Books, 2017) also took place as part of the series. Dr. Nasir Abbas Nayyar (Director, Urdu Science Board), too, was part of the series with the launch of his book, *Miraji* (OUP, 2017).

The Department of Economics hosted some fascinating events in the Fall Semester. Dr. Shahrukh Rafi Khan of the Mount Holyoke College gave two lectures: one on 'Catch-up Growth' and the other on 'Principles of a Liberal Arts and Sciences Education'. In the latter, he drew upon his own experience as a professor at a prestigious liberal arts college to describe the process and the advantages of a liberal arts education. Dr. Robert Carl Michael Beyer, a macroeconomist at the South Asia Office of the World Bank, spoke about how satellite imagery and luminosity observed from the outer space can be a good indicator of measuring a region's GDP. In another session, Hadia Majid and Dr. Kate Vyborny (Duke University) presented their findings on 'Infrastructure investments and public transport use: Evidence from Lahore, Pakistan'.

### Emotions and Modernity in Colonial India

Ateeb Gul and Sara Saleem Khan

Professor Margrit Pernau of the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, addressed students and faculty in a talk titled 'Emotions and Modernity in Colonial India'. Dr. Pernau began with a discussion of whether it is possible to write a history of emotion, and what the value of that history would be. She suggested that emotions do not merely change through history, but also affect it. The challenge in such a study is not merely to determine the way emotions have been differently valued, but rather what it means—or has meant—to have different emotional norms, and the combined effects of these on historical events.

As a case study, Dr. Pernau elaborated on the events of the Kanpur Mosque incident in pre-Partition India in 1913. According to her, while modernity has most commonly been seen as a force for disciplining emotions, research indicates that modernity has, in certain places, encouraged an excess of emotions—nationalism being a prominent example of this. Using this lens, she described the Kanpur Mosque incident, in which the colonial government in Kanpur made a decision to demolish the washing area of a mosque in the city's Machli Bazar in order to expand an existing road. What ensued were protests, in print and in person, that eventually led to multiple deaths. These protests revolved around the notion of "josh" (passion), aroused in the public through a whole campaign of articles and speeches in Urdu that lamented the destruction.

She also discussed the relation between emotions and will, invoking the writings of Abdul Majid Daryabadi, a Muslim scholar and *mufassir*, who began translating texts on psychology into Urdu around the same time as the mosque incident. and eventually reached the conclusion that emotions are not affected by will; rather, they affect it. And moreover, that knowledge creation and the discussion of emotions as a category feed back into their development. Her talk was followed by a question and answer session that examined other fascinating aspects of the history of emotions in South Asia, and elaborated on the relationship of Dr. Pernau's work to previous academic work on the subject.

Ateeb Gul is Teaching Fellow and Senior Editor at the MGSHSS. Sara Saleem Khan is Research Fellow at the MGSHSS.





### Three Feminist Poets at LUMS

Sara Saleem Khan and Onaiza Arshad

In September, the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative and the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature hosted Attiya Dawood, Tanveer Anjum and Amar Sindhu for a talk titled Struggles and Dreams: Three Feminist Poets'. Tanveer Anjum, who is a prominent Urdu poet and translator, has had seven collections published in her name, and has had her poems translated and anthologized in various countries. Attiya Dawood, a celebrated Sindhi poet, writer and activist, has been hailed as 'the most important feminist writer in Sindhi'. Amar Sindhu is a prominent columnist, activist and Sindhi language poet, as well as a Professor of Philosophy and Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at Sindh University, Jamshoro.

The discussion was moderated by Kamran Asdar Ali, who began the program by introducing the three poets and asking them to elaborate a little on their poetry and their personal journeys. The discussion that followed was a fascinating glimpse into the very diverse circumstances that brought each of the three women to their poetry and activism. Tanveer Anjum spoke about the restrictions of growing up middle-class in Karachi, the further suffocation of a bad



## **Events at MGSHSS**

marriage and the psychological and spiritual freedom that her poetry gave her before the 'formal' freedom she attained during her graduate studies in the U.S. The conversation around their The three poets also recited their works for the audience, which was very well received. The poems touched on themes including motherhood, writing, politics, and simultaneously



personal histories brought out the important intersections between their political activism. feminist thought and creative work. All three discussed their personal negotiations of feminist ideas. and their struggle to adapt them to their own lives and contexts. Amar Sindhu said that she thought of it as an act of translation. and endeavors constantly to rearticulate in Sindhi any concepts she encounters. On a similar note. Attiva Dawood shared the humorous story of how she came to own the label of feminism—when somebody else described her as feminist without asking her. she learnt from him what the term meant, and has acknowledged ever since that she fits the bill

seemed an acknowledgement of the problematic realities that they described, as well as resistance to it. After the recital, the audience engaged the guests further by asking about their experiences in activist circles, their influences and inspirations, notions of translation and ideas of form. The event concluded after a spirited and involved discussion, and a similar session was held at Books and Beans in Gulberg the following day, moderated by writer Bilal Tanweer.

Sara Saleem Khan is Research Fellow at the MGSHSS. Onaiza Arshad is Coordinator of the

### Young Writers Workshop

Bilal Tanweer Saida Waheed Gender Initiative.

As its annual literary fixture that has gained a lot of popularity among young, potential writers, LUMS organized a five-day residential creative writing workshop from August 14 to 18, 2017.

Out of 180 submissions, writers of eight outstanding short stories were invited for an all expensespaid workshop with mentor, Bilal Tanweer, and guest speaker, Omar Shahid Hamid. This year's batch of writers included Isra Zia Ansari, Hira Awais and Afrasiyab from Islamabad; Hurmat Kazmi and Kashaf Ali from Karachi. Ghammaz Hussain, Aaina Batool and the youngest participant who just completed his A'Levels, Saud Afzal, from Lahore. The participants represented a range of academic disciplines and working backgrounds from architecture to finance, anthropology, NGOs and business.

The plan of the workshop for the first three days included reading and discussion of works of fiction: *Family Life* by Akhil Sharma, *This is How You Lose Her* by Junot Díaz, *A Visit From the Goon Squad by* Jennifer Egan, as well as *The Party Worker* by Omar



Shahid Hamid. Bilal Tanweer, the mentor and workshop organizer, led classes on the elements of literary craft and narrative construction, as well as on the politics of storytelling. Omar Shahid Hamid took over the workshop discussion on the fourth day, and brought in his unique perspective and shared his experiences as a writer with the participants in an intense two-hour session.

The heart of the workshop was peer critiques. This rigorous exercise

allowed participants to hone their writing skills by critiquing peer work, thereby sharpening their critical abilities to evaluate and edit works of fiction. On the final day, the originally submitted stories were critiqued, and participants were given guidelines for the publishing process.

The LUMS Young Writers Workshop & Short Story Contest 2017 has completed six years. The number of graduates from the workshops is over 40. It remains a unique and one-of-a-kind platform in Pakistan, helping young writers learn and advance their craft of literary writing. It has been made possible through a generous grant from Ferozsons Pharmaceuticals.

Bilal Tanweer is Assistant Professor at the MGSHSS.







## **Centre Events**

The Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature





Asif Farrukhi, Masood Ashar and Moeen Nizami commemorating Nayyar Masud.

The Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature (GCLL) arranges weekly talks every semester under the banner of 'Halqa-i Danish'. The purpose of this series is to throw light on Pakistan's culture and different aspects of its literatures. In the Fall Semester 2017, several events were held under the theme of 'Our Culture and Literature: Some Windows and Dimensions'.

In the session 'Three Best Voices from Sindh', Attiya Dawood, Amar Sindhu and Tanveer Anjum spoke about and recited their poetry. They talked about their lives, experiences, and creative work. They spoke about the struggle that they faced during their journey toward feminism and how it informed their own creative work. Another important event was the inauguration of the Intizar Hussain Collection. The late writer's collection is now the part of Gad & Birgit Rausing Library at LUMS.

A session was also arranged in the memory of Nayyar Masud. In addition to speakers talking about Masud's personality and art, the Zambeel Group performed a dramatic reading of his famous short story 'Taoos Chaman ki Maina'. Another session that attracted notable speakers was on the work of Masood Ashar. The event was well attended, and the audience included Ashar himself.

In addition to events centered on literary works, this semester saw the launching ceremony of the journals *Bunyad* and *Numud. Bunyad* is a journal of Urdu studies published by the GCLL and approved by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in the prestigious 'Y' category. *Numud* is a student magazine published by the GCLL.

Other notable events this fall included a discussion of Parveen Malik's autobiography *Kasiyan da Pani*, and a talk on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's literary contributions. The Centre also hosted exciting events related to literary translations, among which was a showcasing of Punjabi translations of Bertolt Brecht's poetry, and a lecture on the *Dar al-Tarjama-e Usmaniya*. Urdu Translation and Academic Prose.

This semester's long running lecture series was called 'Bazm-i Adab', a series of seminars in which a scholar read original Urdu texts with participants. Suheyl Umar, Azhar Waheed, Yasmeen Hameed, Ahmad Bilal Awan, and Tabinda Khan read texts ranging from the poetic works of Iqbal to those of Rumi to the letters of Ghalib to the Marsiya tradition.

The GCLL is also working on the Contemporary Punjabi Poetry Project in which selections from contemporary Punjabi poetry are compiled along with their Urdu translations. So far, selections from 60 Punjabi poets have been compiled.

> Maria Usman is Administrative Assistant at the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, LUMS.

## **Centre Events**

### The Saida Waheed Gender Initiative





Kiran Ahmed presenting on women digest writers.

The SWGI and the Gurmani Centre kicked off the academic year hosting two consecutive talks with three renowned feminist poets from Sindh - Tanveer Anium. Attiva Dawood and Amar Sindhu. The sessions focused on their lifelong struggles against deep-rooted patriarchal structures, and how these shaped their poetry and political activism. The poets spoke openly about the various fractures of gender and class privilege in Sindh, and the backlash they faced for identifying as feminists. The second session, held at Books and Beans in Gulberg, shed light on their understanding of art and its critical link to politics. They recited their works in Sindhi and Urdu for the audiences, discussing the contexts that gave birth to the poems, and reflecting on the importance of poetry as a form of resistance and empowerment.

On September 26, the SWGI welcomed actors Sania Saeed and Nimra Bucha, and writer/director Kanwal Khoosat, to discuss the play Mushk, gender roles, theatre and performance. The conversation, moderated by Maryam Wasif, revolved around the need to move beyond the limiting constraints of gender and the importance of layered and complex female protagonists. The actors spoke in depth about the importance of the collective experience of theatre, the differences between television and theatre and the need for the youth to support local plays.

Towards the end of the Fall semester, the SWGI facilitated the Swedish Embassy in bringing the documentary play Seven to LUMS. The play consisted of seven life stories of women's rights activists from across the world (Afghanistan, Northern Ireland, Russia, Pakistan, Guatemala, Cambodia and Nigeria) and was presented by seven readers from different walks of life. The stories shed light on the real life struggles of these seven strong women, highlighting the need to bring such voices to the forefront of our political agendas.

As part of a tradition, the Initiative hosted a series of seminars with scholars of gender studies, starting with Kamran Asdar Ali's paper titled 'Female Friendships and Frictions: Sexual Politics in 1960's Pakistani Cinema'. The paper presents a queer reading of the 1961 film Saheli, opening up a discussion on women's representation in popular media and the various untapped archives for women's cultural and sexual politics. In the second seminar, Kiran Ahmed presented portions of her dissertation 'Agency, Articulation and Attachment: The World of Women Digest Writers', largely based on her lengthy ethnographic work with women fiction writers' engagement with the digest genre, and the community (of readers and writers) that formed around it. Her work traced the various forms that feelings and practices of attachment and agency take in the lives of these women. The last seminar for the semester focused on Tehmina Pirzada's work on narratives of Muslim girlhood in graphic narratives such as Gogi and Burka Avenger, and the ways in which the female protagonists navigate Pakistani cities/spaces.

Onaiza Arshad is Coordinator of the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative.

# **Editing at MGSHSS: Essence in Variety**



Ateeb Gul

One of the perks of being an editor is that I get to read pioneering scholarship before it is even sent out for publication. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of editing established writers and new writers alike, those working in formal fields of study as well as in new and unorthodox disciplines. The world of publishing is as exciting as ever and the MGSHSS faculty, in many ways, is at the cutting-edge of it.

Inquiring into the relationship between sports and the society is as fascinating an academic issue as it can get (apart from a literary analysis of Bob Dylan's lyrics, that is -- You look surprised; It's all right. You don't agree? That's on me). Ali Khan, Associate Professor and Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences. wrote two articles. The first addressed how changes in the larger Pakistani society reflected in how the Pakistan cricket team evolved over the years from a group of elite and formally educated individuals from only major cities to a team with a more democratic makeup. It also draws a well-argued connection between the increasing religiosity in the team and the immorality (and illegality -- funny how the two can be so apart in many cases, but not in this) of match fixing in which many members of the team participated. The second article investigated the reasons for the mercurial nature of Pakistan cricket -- almost as mercurial as this article is about to get.

Was the pre-colonial Indian society a feudal one? You may say so, but I have

been told that Voltaire will protect my right to speak up and disagree (funny how Voltaire never actually said that). Taimur Rahman, Assistant Professor (and guitarist -- a literary analysis of Dylan's lyrics doesn't sound so non-academic now, does it?) in the Humanities and Social Sciences, relying on the Voltarian promise, wrote a rigorously-argued disquisition on how characterizing the pre-colonial Indian economy as feudal betrays the realities of that period as well as the very concept of feudalism. By diving into the very oeuvre of Marx, Taimur Rahman is able to fish out the real nature of the economy in precolonial India, namely the Asiatic Mode of Production that sees the individual as part of the community, thereby focusing on the elements of unity and self-sustainability in an economy.

India reminds me of Pakistan, and Pakistan of police corruption (that was one lousy segue!). Sadaf Ahmad, Associate Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences, wrote a ground-breaking article investigating corruption among Pakistani policewomen. Arising out of ethnographic research in nine Pakistani cities over a course of two years, the results of this study not only document the nature of corrupt practices in the policewomen culture, they also provide perspective and context to those practices. The article approaches the issue of corruption among policewomen from multiple angles, including gender, class and seniority. You know, positionality! Also, while I am certain that it was not intentional

on the part of the author, the instances of corruption were documented and argued so well, and the voice given to the interviewees was so authentic, that I could not resist myself uttering at many places: 'well, the policewoman did ask for a bribe, but she had a point!'.

On the economics side of the equation, Syed M. Hasan, Assistant Professor in Economics, wrote two articles. One addressed total factor productivity in small and cottage manufacturing in the Punjab (no reason to panic, I already did that for you; total factor productivity simply means the extent of output that cannot be explained by looking at traditional sources of input). The article does the important job of pinpointing the internal and external reasons for productivity losses in small and cottage enterprises in the province, and of highlighting how state intervention in these small industries can increase total factor productivity. Relevant reading for a Sunday afternoon at the Chief Minister's office.

If that doesn't fly, Syed M. Hasan wrote another article that documents food waste in Lahore's restaurants. The article breaks new ground in documenting the extent of the food wasted, the reasons for the wastage, and the excellent initiative called Rizq, a social enterprise that, in summary, picks up food from participating restaurants (food that is marked as waste but is not) and has it delivered to those in need. As much as the article is pioneering, the Rizq initiative that is one of the main subjects of the article is humbling.

This is just a selection of articles that I have received in the four months that I have been at the MGSHSS. (Overall, this is my eighth year here but that is a story for another time.) The essence of research here lies in the varied topics and the diverse methodologies -- from historical to sociological to textual to anthropological to statistical -- employed to make sense of important developments around us. Looking forward to reading and editing -- and doing some of my own writing for heaven's sake -- a lot more in coming months.

Ateeb Gul is Teaching Fellow and Senior Editor at the MGSHSS.

"The essence of research here lies in the varied topics and the diverse methodologies -- from historical to sociological to textual to anthropological to statistical -- employed to make sense of important developments around us."



# News Shocks and Teaching Methods: An Interview with Syed Zahid Ali

Syed Zahid Ali is Professor in the Department of Economics at the MGSHSS. He has an extensive record of highquality research. He has published extensively in internationallyrecognized journals, including well-regarded journals such as Economics Letters, International Review of **Economics & Finance** and Economic Modelling, as well as in leading Pakistani journals.

Macroeconomics is a rather broad field; could you explain in which areas of macroeconomics you mostly work?

In the past, my research has touched on a wide range of topics in open economy macroeconomics. I have, for example, done research work that sought to provide explanations of the well-known price puzzle, namely that an increase in policy interest rate could a macroeconomic policy context. A common theme is the role of interest rates and/or exchange rates to deal with economic distortions. I have also, however, published work related to trade, productivity, intangible capital, and unemployment issues.

### Can you briefly tell us about your recent research contribution?



paradoxically raise inflation. In much of my work, I have also looked at the concepts of exchange rate pass-through and cost channel of monetary policy.

### Are you interested in theoretical or empirical macroeconomics?

In general, my work is informed by advanced mathematics and shares

I have recently become increasingly interested in news shock models. My papers, 'Degree of Openness of the Economy, Habit Persistence, News Shocks and the Price Puzzle' and 'Anticipated vs. Unanticipated Currency Depreciation and the J-curve Phenomenon', for example, would fall under the category of open economy business cycle literature with news shocks. This is still a nascent literature

and most contributions have focused on anticipated (news) shocks to total factor productivity. In my own work, I have tried to move beyond this traditional use of anticipation effects and apply them to other sources of exogenous fluctuations like terms of trade shocks and shocks to monetary policy. Beyond novelty, the aim has been to show that these types of anticipated movements can have important implications for

"In designing and developing courses. I have tried to include my own research into the course material. and also to reduce the gap between courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. Where I can, I try to keep my approach technologydriven, and employ a blended learning strategy."



Syed Zahid Ali

explaining outstanding puzzles in the literature. For example, the introduction of anticipated movements in the terms of trade of an economy can help explain why a J-curve exists whereas the same economy without news shocks would be unable to explain this phenomenon. Similarly, the introduction of anticipated changes in monetary policy can help resolve the 'price-puzzle', which refers to the empirical finding that prices increase after contractionary monetary policy.

You are passionate about teaching. How do you integrate research with your teaching responsibilities?

Teaching is important to me, and I have taught courses in a number of modules and streams within the economics

major. I think I have taught nearly fifteen different courses, including those at the very basic level (Principles of Micro and Macro) and advanced Masters level courses. In designing and developing courses, I have tried to include my own research into the course material, and also to reduce the gap between courses at undergraduate and graduate levels. Where I can, I try to keep my approach technology-driven, and employ a blended learning strategy (by using MATLAB and Dynare in Macroeconomics courses) to create a work-integrated learning environment for my students. I have also taught courses in the MBA program and attempted to diversify by teaching focused quantitative courses such as Econometrics and Financial Econometrics. I also supervise both undergraduate and post-graduate research projects, which I consider an important responsibility since they are often key contributing factors to my students' admission prospects for universities.

Kashif Zaheer Malik, Assistant Professor (Economics), conducted this interview

## Muslims Against the Muslim League: An Interview with Ali Usman Qasmi

Ali Usman Qasmi is Associate Professor in the Department of History at the **MGSHSS.** He works primarily on the political history of Muslim South Asia, His book The Ahmadis and the Politics of **Reliaious Exclusion** in Pakistan won the Karachi Literature **Festival Peace** Prize in 2015, and his latest book Muslims Against the Muslim League was published with Cambridge **University Press** in 2017.

Cambridge University Press recently published your co-edited volume, *Muslims Against the Muslim League*. Did your previous work lead you to this?

Well, there is no consistent pattern as such with one project leading to another. My main focus has certainly been Muslim South Asia, especially in the modern period, and I'm looking at various reform movements, contestations with the idea of modernity, colonialism, and the way it has shaped the discourse on Islam in contemporary South Asia. My doctoral research was on a set of movements. called Ahl al-Our'an. and afterwards I started working on a project looking at the history of the Shi'a community in the Punjab. The Ahmadi book was, in a way, accidental. I hit upon this large cache of really exciting material in the archive that hadn't been explored before and I thought that this was something that needed to be utilized.

Muslims Against the Muslim League emerged from my active interest in trying to move the gaze away from the Muslim League to include all the other things happening in the context of Muslim South Asia in the first half of the 20th century. I was, and still am, working on a biography of Ataullah Shah Bukhari, a very famous political leader and polemicist through whose life I wished to look at various political processes of the colonial period. It was during this that it occurred to me to have an edited volume bringing together various political figures and ideas that were prominent in Muslim South Asia beside the Muslim League. In a way, I thought of the title before the content.

Naturally the title is an indication of the contents, but what was the thought process behind the selection of contributions? What makes it thematically cohesive?

I partnered up with Megan E. Robb, who was at Oxford at the time, and we were very lucky in terms of contributions. A lot of people liked the idea and were willing to contribute. Of course, it could have been better. There is so much we didn't cover that could have enriched our understanding of what happened. But the central premise is that there's a rich complexity when it comes to the political events of the 1940s, especially the debates around the idea of the Muslim gaum, and the kind of political petitioning being made on behalf of that gaum. All the chapters coalesce on the point of needing to explore this complexity. The Muslim League narrative has been most popular because it was successful, but this doesn't mean there weren't other alternatives to it. Even other narratives that conceptualized the Muslim gaum but approached it differently, or envisioned a different future for it. In

a way, from my perspective, the idea was to enrich the meaning attached to the notion of that *qaum*, rather than reduce it to the League's version of the two nation theory, and perhaps begin a much-needed conversation.

#### A lot of your work seems to be on extremely delicate subjects? How do you negotiate the controversy around the things you write about?

Well the first thing is that the books are in English, and not many people read in English. The second is that they're not available in Pakistan. Of course. I'd rather they were, because, as I said, part of the endeavor is to begin a discussion. I'm not polemical in my arguments, and I try to remain very academic in my approach. My aim is to have critical engagement with these different texts, and that is what makes academic works useful in this sense. Because they're not polemical or sectarian, even if they are provocative, they can act as conversation-starters. As academics and faculty members at LUMS, an institution that espouses certain values of contribution to society through research and teaching, this is part of what we're supposed to do.

#### How does teaching tie into all of this? Are your courses usually connected to your research work or are they completely independent?

In my case, my work tends to be related to what I teach—I teach a course on Islamic Movements, and one on Regional Histories of Pakistan. But it's more than that I think, because it forces you to read a lot, and in fact read more broadly, stuff you won't otherwise read and move beyond your area of expertise. It also helps you become more articulate, and helps you



Ali Usman Qasmi

improve the way you communicate your point. In both these ways, I feel that teaching complements my research.

#### Now that this book is out, what are the projects we can expect to see in the future?

In terms of my research and teaching I'm moving towards vernaculars and literature. So, I have developed a course that covers the Urdu literary history in the 19th century, and hopefully there will be a follow-up course focusing on the 20th. I'm also drafting a course with Zahid Hasan in the Gurmani Centre. where we'll teach the Punjabi genre of Waar. Waars are basically poetic renditions of war or mythical traditions. The idea is to give an introduction to the form, its contents, dictions, themes, It's an alternative imagination of what history can be: an entirely different way in which people have approached the past, talked about it and passed it on. More generally, when I'm done with my current projects, I feel like it will be time to move toward cultural studies (enough of political history for now). For instance, I'm very interested in the tradition of Punjabi marsiya, because it is something that is very close to my heart.

Sara Saleem Khan, Research Fellow, conducted this interview

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"My aim is to have critical engagement with these different texts. and that is what makes academic works useful in this sense. **Because** they're not polemical or sectarian, even if they are provocative, they can act as conversationstarters"

# **Teaching Economics Like the Last Thirty Years Matter**

**Three economists** from the MGSHSS-Faisal Bari, Ali **Cheema and Rashid** Memon-have been involved in the teaching of CORE, 'an openaccess platform for anyone who wants to understand the economics of innovation, inequality, environmental sustainability, and more'. As a free, open-access courseware, it is available for pedagogical use in economics classrooms and helps students get a taste of how real-world economics is done.

In the sterile world of textbook economics, agents are individualistic in the extreme, rational to the point of being robotic and moved into action only by financial concerns. This view served a particular purpose. If all these assumptions were met, the market mechanism could achieve as efficient an outcome as a socialist/planned economy.

With the cold war over and markets firmly in the driving seat, the time was ripe to question the axiomatic foundations of this type of economics. At least three Nobels have been awarded for introducing germs from the real world into economic models. George Akerlof, Michael Spence and Joseph Stiglitz for introducing informational asymmetries, Daniel Kahneman for integrating insights from psychology and Richard Thaler for continuing in Kahneman's tradition and 'making economics more human'.

Despite these strides, textbook economics has remained religiously devoted to its roots, rendering it anachronistic and uninspiring.

The Core offers much respite by breaking away from this tradition and presenting 'modern' economics in an accessible format. First, CORE takes a behavioral approach to economics. This means that we are no longer interested in models that contribute to grand debates such as



**CORE** achieves this through content innovation and question formulation that is based on evidence and economic debates in the real world today. As a collaborating institution of CORE. LUMS has been a global forerunner in adopting the curriculum as part of its undergraduate program. Not only are Faisal Bari, Ali Cheema, and **Rashid Memon** engaged with the teaching of CORE at the Department of Economics, they also serve as peer reviewers of the **CORE** curriculum whose suggestions have been incorporated into the courseware.

markets versus socialism, but are simply interested in modeling localized human behavior. As a corollary, the text takes behavioral facts as points of departure and teaches one how to construct models that could potentially explain said behavior. This deep connection between theory and behavioral fact is a remarkably important pedagogical tool.

Second, the text allows for a nuanced institutional context by moving away from the binary of capitalism/socialism to degrees or varieties of capitalism. From a modeling perspective, this allows a student the flexibility to locate economic agents in a context as close as possible to the reality being modeled but without cluttering the model with unnecessary detail.

Both these features permit the Core to develop models of markets that are'imperfect' in terms of mobility of agents and in the information and rationality they possess and allow students to explain numerous every-day behaviors. For example, whereas standard models argue that workers are paid according to their productivity, CORE's models bring bargaining power to center stage. Students find the latter to be much more realistic. Equally importantly, the new model is constructed such that if neither the worker nor the employer had any power, the new model would collapse into the standard model. Introducing students to how economists model power in an introductory setting is CORE's most important contribution in terms of



Rashid Memon

substance as well as the tools (strategic games) required to build such models.

Finally, for the truly passionate, CORE offers a number of video clips from famous economists as well as "enrichment" boxes that provide snippets from the life of eminent economists – for one must not forget the intellectual giants on whose shoulders we stand today.

> Rashid Memon is Assistant Professor at the MGSHSS.

# In the Streets of Lyari

I first visited Lyari in August 2012 when a colleague of mine, Laurent Gayer, invited me to help conduct a focus group discussion with members of a community-based organization that worked with youth in the area. Until this visit I had only heard snippets about this part of the city in terms of its reputation for violence and criminality, but I knew very little of substance about this supposed 'no-go' area. The members of the community organization talked about how Lyari had been maligned by the media, how people in Lyari were discriminated against in employment and how the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) in particular had waged a campaign against the people of Lyari. The themes that they discussed marginalization, stigmatization, political manipulation and state neglect—were issues I had explored before in my previous work on Muslim women, and my interest in the area grew from here.

One of the city's original settlements, Lyari has been the site of an on-going conflict between rival gangs, political parties and law enforcement agencies over the past two decades. Over the past five years, my research in this area has focused on the dynamics of everyday life, examining how diverse residents cope with, strategize around, and resist multiple forms of violence by state and non-state actors and in public and private spaces. My research also looks at the impact of structural forms of violence that result from economic deprivation and discrimination faced by marginalized urban citizens.

Because of the periodic conflicts taking place in this area and in the city as a whole over the past two decades, fear has become a way of life for many of the residents. In my work, I analyze how young men belonging to the Baloch community learned to navigate through



Entrance to Lyari Karachi



the periodic bouts of violence by adapting their movements within the city and even at times by migrating outside the country. This research demonstrates the ways that the insecurity and fear caused by violence reinforces social and economic marginalization.

I approach the residents of this area not as passive victims of violence but as active citizens negotiating multiple constraints. Residents assert their agency in a variety of ways—from everyday coping strategies to outright resistance. I have conducted extensive research on a series of street protests that took place in Lyari from 2012 to 2014 organized against law enforcement agencies, political parties and the gangs. This research highlights how acts of resistance are constrained, determined by and constitutive of particular relations of power.

Laurent Gayer and I have also collaborated on a paper investigating the local media's relationship with the conflict, focusing on Lyari's most popular newspaper, Janbaz. This research explores the ways residents engage with the local newspaper as a means of negotiating the conflict, as a form of entertainment, and as means of establishing a sense of community. It also draws attention to the newspaper as an arena where local state and non-state actors compete for power. I have also worked with a local filmmaker from the area to produce a short documentary based on these findings. My research on Lyari challenges the division that exists within the literature between public forms of violence, such as the violence between criminal gangs, political parties, and law enforcement agencies, and private forms of violence, such as that which is experienced by women within their homes. In this

regard, I have conducted interviews with women working in a variety of fields exploring the relationship between their involvement in paid employment and their experiences of violence in multiple spaces—at home, in public and at their places of employment. This research draws attention to the shifting sites of potential violence for women depending on their social, economic, and political circumstances. It also explores how changes in the economy have affected gendered power relations.

In the coming year, I plan on developing my research on Lyari into a full-length manuscript, which will explore the relationship between gender, marginality and urban violence in greater depth. The manuscript will make a series of important interventions in the fields of gender and urban studies. Firstly, it will contribute key insights to the understanding of violence in Pakistan, highlighting its links with economic, social and political factors. Secondly, it will focus on a part of Karachi that, despite being one of the city's oldest and most conflict-ridden settlements, has received relatively little scholarly attention, thus contributing to the understanding of urban marginality in South Asia and in the Global South more broadly. Thirdly, it will highlight the gendered experiences of urban violence-an area that has received very little scholarly attention in the region or elsewhere. Finally, by analyzing instances of everyday and organized resistance, the project will frame the city as a key site for the assertion of citizenship rights among marginalized populations.

> Nida Kirmani is Associate Professor at the MGSHSS.



Nida Kirmani

"One of the city's original settlements, Lyari has been the site of an ongoing conflict between rival gangs, political parties, and law enforcement agencies over the past two decades."

## **Exploring the Early History** of Pakistani Civil Aviation



Waqar Zaidi

"Passengers and bystanders with an Orient Airways Douglas DC-3 on the occasion of the arrival of the Burmese High Commissioner to India at Calcutta, October 1947" would tell the Muslim industrialist Habib Rahimtoola that he wished to form a Muslim airline. 'Habib', he said, 'I want an airline which will be the reserve for the Pakistan Air Force. By starting an airline you will employ technical staff. You will have pilots. You will have navigators. You will have all these people, all trained technicians. They will be my reserve for my Air Force'. Or so recalled the one-time senior PIA executive Enver Jamall in his 1980s memoir. One cannot be certain

A year or two before the Partition, Jinnah

if Jinnah ever said those words—civil aviation remains so intertwined with nationalism that the two are difficult to disentangle, even today. But that is exactly what my new research project on the early years of Pakistani civil aviation sets out to do. Using private and public sources both in Pakistan and abroad, my project explores the contours of civil aviation in Pakistan in its early years, and its relationship to the state and the nation-building project.



The outline of the early years of Pakistani civil aviation are well known. The first airline to operate out of Pakistan was Orient Airways, formed in late 1946 by a group of leading Muslim industrialists, prominently Mirza Ahmed Ispahani. Initially based in Calcutta, the airline shifted its operations to Karachi in October 1947, and remained Pakistan's leading airline until it was folded into the newly formed Pakistan International Airline Corporation in 1955.

The period from 1947 to 1955, I am discovering, was an exciting and turbulent time for Pakistani aviation. The fledgling Pakistani airlines-which included, as well as Orient, Yusuf Haroon's airline Pak Air Limited and the non-scheduled charter airline Crescent Airways-struggled through a wide range of challenges. On the technical front, civil aviation had to contend with a shortage of trained personnel and spare parts, challenging maintenance logistics and rapid technological change. Other than Karachi, civilian aerodromes were crude and increasingly unsuited to the new generation aircraft entering service by the early 1950s. The relationship with the state was a difficult one-there were heavy government demands in

times of emergency, and following several prominent crashes, increased government and public concerns over safety. Pakistani aviation moreover could not function without foreign assistance. British, and later American, technical support was crucial to the running of aircraft and aerial facilities. Perhaps most galling for the country's civilian and military leadership, aeroplanes connecting East to West Pakistan needed to land and resupply in India.

The era of private civil aviation officially ended with the formation of the statecontrolled Pakistan International Airline Corporation in 1955. How and why this came to be is an important aspect of my project. What pressures and opportunities pushed the state toward the creation of a state airline, and what was its relationship to the nation and nationalism more broadly? The project also explores the international context, particularly technical assistance programs by the United States, and international civil aviation (including in post-colonial states).

> Waqar Zaidi is Assistant Professor at the MGSHSS.

"Using private and public sources both in Pakistan and abroad. my project explores the contours of civil aviation in Pakistan in its early years, and its relationship to the state and the nationbuilding project."



## **FACULTY NEWS**

#### Kamran Asdar Ali (Professor and Dean,

**MGSHSS**) wrote the afterword for the Nichola Khan edited volume, Cityscapes of Violence in Karachi: Publics and Counterpublics (London: Hurst, 2017). He presented a paper, 'New Lands, New Freedoms: Cultural Readings of an Early Pakistan' at a workshop organized by Cornell University on Migration and Discrimination at the Berlin Technical University/Center for Metropolitan Studies on September 23, 2017. He also presented a paper titled 'Toward a People's Literature: Soviet Cultural Politics and the Progressive Writers' Movement in South Asia' at the workshop, The Russian Revolution in the Long Twentieth Century, at the Slavic-Euroasian Research Center, Haikkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, December 7-8, 2017.

#### Syed Zahid Ali's (Professor, Economics) paper,

'Anticipated vs. Unanticipated Currency Depreciation and the J-curve Phenomenon' is forthcoming in the Journal of International *Money and Finance*, in March 2018.

#### Abid Aman Burki (Professor, Economics)

presented his papers, 'Does Repeated Borrowing Help Explain the Impact of Microfinance? New Evidence from Pakistan' and 'Pakistan KLEMS Database and Productivity Measurement at the Industry Level', at the Singapore Economic Review Conference, and at the Fourth Asia KLEMS Conference, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, respectively. He also received a grant from Tetra-Pak Pakistan to look at the economic impact of the dairy sector in Pakistan.

#### Ghulam Moeen ud Din (Professor and Director,

**GCLL)** attended a conference titled 'Translation: A Scholarly Dialogue Among Civilizations' held at the Allama Iqbal Open University on August 18 and 19, 2017. He presided over a session and presented a paper on translations of Persian Chishti literature. Zahid Hasan (Research Associate, GCLL) also participated in the conference and presented a paper on translations of Pakistani languages.

### An article by Imtiaz ul Haq (Assistant Professor,

**Economics)**, titled 'It's all in the name: Mutual Fund Name Changes after SEC Rule 35d-1', was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Banking & Finance*. He presented his paper, 'Performance-chasing Behaviour in Venture Capital Investments' at the Essex Finance Centre Conference in Banking & Finance. His fellowship with the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University has begun in January 2018.

#### Syed Muhammad Hussain's (Assistant Professor, Economics) article

titled 'Comparing the effects of discretionary tax changes between the US and the UK' was published in *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*.

#### Amen Jaffer's (Assistant Professor, HSS) article,

'Spiritualising Marginality: Sufi Concepts and the Politics of Identity in Pakistan', was published in Society and Culture in South Asia. He also presented a paper titled 'Women Networks and the Politics of Infrastructure in Lahore' at the Right to the City in the South, 'Everyday Urban **Experience and Rationalities** of Government' conference. that was held at the University Paris Diderot, CESSMA, in November 2017. He was also selected as a Fellow of the Summer Program in Social Science for 2018-2019 at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton. Along with Nida Kirmani (Assistant Professor, HSS), he was awarded the GCLL and MGSHSS grant for organizing a workshop on Everyday Urbanisms in Spring 2018. Their proposal

seeks to encourage a discussion around the work of AbdouMaliq Simone and Edgar Pieterse's book, *New Urban Worlds: Inhabiting Dissonant Times* (Wiley, 2017).

#### Hasan H. Karrar's (Associate Professor,

HSS) article, 'Shanghai Spirit Two Decades On: Language, Globalization, and Space-Making in Sino-Central Asian Cooperation', was published in the International Journal of the Sociology of Language. His review of Ross & Tunsjø eds., Strategic Adjustment and the Rise of China: Power and Politics in East Asia was published in H-Net Reviews in November, 2017. He was also invited to the Aga Khan University Institute in London to give a presentation titled 'Making Neoliberal Borderlands: China's Belt and Road Initiative and Economic and Social Transformation in Northern Pakistan'.

#### Ali Khan's (Associate Professor and Chair,

**HSS)** article, 'Transregional Cinemas: The Case of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh', was published in the *IIC Quarterly*.

#### Nadhra S. N. Khan (Assistant Professor, HSS)

presented a paper titled 'Lahore Fort's Picture Wall: Jahangir and Shah Jahan's



Decrees Read by Lahori Eyes' at the American Council for Southern Asian Art's conference held at Harvard University from October 13 to 15, 2017, and also presented her research findings on 'Issues of Sikh Heritage in Pakistan: Colonial and Post-Colonial Narratives' at an event at Columbia University (organized by the Sikh Research Institute and the Columbia University, Sewa), on October 18, 2017.

#### Nida Kirmani's (Associate

Professor, HSS) paper, "What You See is What You Get': Local Journalism and the Search of Truth in Lyari, Karachi', was accepted for publication in Modern Asian Studies. She also contributed a chapter titled 'Earning as Empowerment: The Relationship between Paid Work and Domestic Violence in Lyari, Karachi', in *Rethinking* New Womanhood: Practices of Gender, Class, Culture and *Religion in South Asia* (London: Palgrave). Along with Onaiza Arshad, she co-authored the article, 'Development: Nongovernmental Organizations: Pakistan', in The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (Leiden: Brill). She also presented a paper, 'Negotiating the Informal State: The People's Aman Committee in Lyari', at the conference, 'The Informal and the Formal in Times of Crisis:

Ethnographic Insights', held at the University of Corinth.

#### Hadia Majid (Assistant Professor, Economics)

co-authored 'Patronage and Public Goods Provisioning in an Unequal Land' for Social Indicators Research with Rashid Memon (Assistant Professor. Economics). Her paper, 'Child **Endowments and Parental** Investments: Intrahousehold Allocation in Oportunidades Families in Mexico' was similarly published in the Review of Development Economics. She has received grants from the International Labor Organization and **3ie Development Priorities** Window (DPW1) to run a diagnostic study on rural work in Pakistan, and oversee a randomized controlled trial on the integration of transport and urban labor markets in Pakistan. She has also presented her papers at the 3rd Annual International Conference on Urban Planning and Policy Development, Singapore, the International Conference on Economics and Development, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center.

#### Saba Pirzadeh (Assistant Professor, HSS) and Arielle

C. McKee published 'Arthurian Eco-conquest in Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, and Layamon' in Parergon.

 \* Dr Turab Hussain (Associate Professor & Chair Economics) presented the key highlights of the Punjab Economic Report 2017 at its launch, hosted by the Punjab Government. The report was a compendium of the work done in all sectors over the last ten years. It presented an overview of the economy through the socio-economic profile, the social sector, information technology (IT), provincial investment in energy, and public sector resource management.

### **New Faculty**



Muhammad Farid Ahmed has ioined as Assistant Professor of Economics. He completed his PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge in 2017. He previously taught at LUMS in 2009-10 as a Teaching Fellow and has also served as a Teaching Fellow at the

University of Cambridge. His research Interests draw from **Macroeconomics, Time Series Econometrics and Finance** with a particular focus on asset pricing.



Adeel Tarig has joined as Assistant Professor of Economics. He is a Fulbright Scholar, and has a PhD in Economics from Binghamton University, an MSc in Economics from the Lahore University of **Management Sciences, an MBA** 

from the Lahore School of Economics and a BSc (Hons) in Economics & Management from the University of London. His fields of interest are Applied Econometrics, Applied **Microeconomics and Labor Economics.** 



Tabinda Mahfooz Khan joined the MGSHSS as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature. She has a doctorate from Columbia University where, for her doctoral dissertation, she worked on the role of institutions in

negotiating between Shari'a and democracy in Pakistan. She will be teaching two courses in the Spring Semester 2018, 'Literature of Resistance' and 'Liberalism and Islamism in Pakistan'.



## **FACULTY NEWS**

Ali Usman Qasmi (Associate Professor, HSS) co-edited a volume titled *Muslims* Against the Muslim League: Critiques of the Idea of Pakistan (Cambridge University Press).



#### Ayyaz Qureshi's (Assistant Professor, HSS) book, AIDS in Pakistan: Bureaucracy, Public Goods and NGO, will be published by Palgrave

Macmillan in 2018.

#### IMAGINING PAKISTAN

MODERNISM, STATE, AND THE POLITICS OF ISLAMIC REVIVAL

#### Rasul Bakhsh Rais's (Professor, HSS) monograph,

Imagining Pakistan: Modernism, State, and the Politics of Islamic Revival, was published by Lexington Books. His article, 'Geopolitics on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Borderland: An Overview of Different Historical Phases', was published in *Geopolitics*.

#### Ali Raza (Assistant Professor, HSS), wrote

an article on the history of Oxford University Press Pakistan titled 'Pakistan' in The History of Oxford University Press: Volume IV 1970-2004, published by OUP, and a chapter, 'The Illusory Promise of Freedom: Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and the Movement for Pakistan', in *Muslims Against* the Muslim League: Critiques of the Idea of Pakistan. He also presented at the World History Association (WHA) conference in Boston in June, 2017, and co-organized, along with Anushay Malik, a conference on the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution at LUMS.

#### Tania Saeed (Assistant Professor, HSS) contributed a chapter titled 'Education and Disengagement: Extremism and the Perception of Muslim Students', in Education and Extremisms: Rethinking Liberal Pedagogies in the Contemporary World. She presented a paper

titled 'Securitizing the Curriculum: Education reforms under the Punjab government in Pakistan' at UKFIET, the Education and Development Forum Conference at Oxford, and was an International Visiting Scholar at the University of Passau, Germany. Her book Islamophobia and Securitization: Religion, Ethnicity and the Female Voice (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) has been long-listed for the Karachi Literature Festival German Peace Prize Award 2018.

Taimur Rahman contributed a chapter 'Pakistan' to the edited volume *The Routledge* Handbook of Marx's 'Capital': A Global History of Translation, Dissemination and Reception, edited by Must and Babak Amini forthcoming in 2018.

#### Yunas Samad's (Visiting Faculty, HSS) article,

'Elections and democratic transition in Pakistan: one step forward and two steps backwards', was published in *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*. Also, together with Gerard Boucher, the first paperback edition of their edited volume, *Social Cohesion and Social Change in Europe*, was published by Routledge.

#### Bilal Tanweer (Assistant Professor, HSS) organized the LUMS Young Writers Workshop & Short Story

Contest 2017, the annual 5-day residential creative writing workshop at LUMS held from August 14 to 18, 2017.

#### Waqar Zaidi's (Assistant Professor, HSS) article,

'Stages of War, Stages of Man: Quincy Wright and the Liberal Internationalist Study of War', was published by The International History Review. His articles, 'Liberal Internationalism and the Search for International Peace', (in William M. Knoblauch, Michael Loadenthal, and Christian P. Peterson's A *History of World Peace since* 1750) and 'Convertibility and the Militaristic Perversion of Aviation in Disarmament Discourses, 1919-1945' (in *History of Global Arms Transfer*) are forthcoming in 2018. In October, 2017, he was selected as an International Scholar at the Society for the History of Technology for the coming two years, and presented his work at their annual conference in Philadelphia.

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## **STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

### Reflections of an Exchange Student

Hasan Hameed

'Can you please tell us where the M-2 is?' I asked a girl as I entered LUMS.

'Ask a guy', she responded angrily.

It was only many weeks later when it dawned upon me that M-2 was the male dorm. By then, asking for directions had become something of a norm, for every building looked exactly the same: a mass

of red surrounded by a sea of green. Confusing though it was, the built environment had a special air about it: vast, green fields; red-bricked buildings coated green with creepers; narrow paths shadowed by trees on either side, their branches bending inwards to form

archways—within days of arriving, I had fallen in love with the campus.

I soon found other things to like. Hostellites could come in whenever, and there was no dress-code for students. Such policies ensured a (relatively) much greater degree of freedom compared to IBA and



most other universities in Pakistan. And then there was the cafeteria, the Pepsi Dining Centre, where one option each of chicken, sabzi, or daal was available at every meal, as

> was fresh salad and dahi, all at the most reasonable of rates. It was the warmth of the HSS faculty, however, that really made me feel at home. Senior year is perhaps the worst time to come on an exchange, abandoning the familiarity of your home institute just when grad school applications

and senior year projects hang ominously. But the HSS faculty in general and my instructors in particular were welcoming and friendly, pushing me to think harder about both my academic projects and my career plans. I remain deeply indebted—personally and intellectually—to their kindness. I was equally inspired by the richness of the academic culture at large. Almost every other day the Dean's office organized a talk by some reputed scholar, and many of the foreign scholars such

as Dr Margrit Pernau and Dr Akbar Hyder stayed on or near campus to give students a chance to meet with them in person. Literature, poetry and languages were greatly promoted through weekly seminars and other events, complemented by an impressive Urdu, Persian and Arabic collection in the library. While the LUMS library has been fortunate to receive the enormous Khalid Ishaq Collection, the immaculate way in which it has been catalogued and the well-trained and accommodating staff are equally important in making the library a buzzing center for research.

Unfortunately, most of my class-fellows were not as participative as those at IBA. The appalling way Class Participation points are generally marked, with fixed points for every session, in addition to the divisive relative grading system could be potential reasons for the lack of dialogue between students. Another reason could be the absence of a core curriculum



that would ensure that all students receive a shared grounding across a range of disciplines. Beyond the classroom, however, student life was a dynamic affair, and it was heartening to watch students unequivocally call out the administration for its shortcomings, their vocal criticisms of authority unimaginable at a place like IBA.

I felt that student life was marked by wide-spread anxiety and depression with many students struggling to adjust in a space where there is almost as much pressure to 'party hard' as there is to 'study hard'. In the long run we must think critically about the deeper values and aspirations that underlie these problems. At a personal level, becoming a little more sensitive to the people around oneself by going up to that freshman eating alone in PDC and knocking on your neighbors' doors just to say salam and enquire about their day might be some of the little steps that go a long way in combating the increasing alienation among some students and transforming it into the empowering, life-changing experience that is a university education.

Hasan Hameed, a senior in the Social Sciences and Liberal Arts department at IBA Karachi, was an exchange student during the Fall Semester 2017 at the MGSHSS, LUMS.

### Walking Through Waseda

#### Awais Khalid

In the last four months that I have spent in Japan, the one thing that

I am certain to have learnt is that a single attempt to describe the country and this study-abroad program can never be enough. If you have ever travelled to Japan or plan on travelling to this diverse country, you will know that it is full of surprises. Depending on what situation you are in, Tokyo can be the most convenient, and the most intimidating, city to live in.

The biggest challenge that one faces when one arrives in Japan is the sudden inability to communicate with the people around you. English, albeit an emerging global





language, is seldom spoken by people in Japan and the foreigners are expected to have learned Japanese before they visit Japan. With the sudden inability to freely communicate, one realizes how much one has

been taking language for granted. It does not matter whether one is ordering food or buying train tickets, everything seems to be mystery shopping where you are hoping that things turn out to be in your favor. The surprising part is that they eventually do!

Only a few weeks in Japan and you start to realize that even though the language might be difficult and the food might not be what you are used to at home, it is the Japanese people who make Japan what it is. They go out of their way to make

sure that you – the annoying, law-breaking gaijin (foreigner) – do not have any unpleasant experiences in Japan. The Japanese people are probably the most honest, disciplined and hard-working people you will ever come across. If you ever drop your wallet or forget your phone in the streets, you will almost always find someone frantically running after you screaming 'sumimasen' (excuse me) just so they can reunite you with your valuables.

# **STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS**



Studying in Japan, at least at the university level, is certainly much easier than studying in Pakistan. For many Japanese university students, in contrast to their incredibly tough working lives after graduation, these four years are often joked about to be their extended summer break. Being on an exchange gives you more time to experience Japan and try to understand the culture and the people. People in Japan have certain unique quirks which one can only wrap their head around if they spend a considerable amount of time in this country. This study-abroad experience certainly gives you a comprehensive insight, if not the full experience, of what it is like to live in the land of the rising sun.

Awais Khalid is a student at LUMS who is currently at Waseda University in Japan on an undergraduate, study-abroad exchange program.

### **Diwali at LUMS**

#### Hafsa Khawaja

For the past two-three years, the student society, Hum-Aahang, at LUMS has celebrated Diwali. LUMS has a small group of Hindu students, most of whom are unable to return to their homes for this religious festival. Hum-Aadents in the middle of the Courtyard, followed by enthralling live performances by the Music Society, a series of dances prepared by various students, the distribution of pamphlets detailing the history, meaning and significance of Diwali and the distribution of mithai to all those who were present there, which included several faculty members, the Dean of MGSHSS and hundreds of students from



hang tries to create an atmosphere of festivity and celebration for them on campus, which is their home away from home.

On October 19, 2017, the entire LUMS community was invited to the Festival of Lights in the Central Courtyard.

The event began with the creation of the traditional rangoli by stu-

D.H.A, Lahore Cantt. 54792 Lahore, Pakistan Phone: +92 42 3560 8000 Fax: +92 42 3572 5048 across the batches and schools. Abbas Moosvi of Hum-Aahang captured the atmosphere of the celebration in the following words:

The lights, the candles, the sweets, the flowers, the colours, and the decorations each played their part in cultivating the spirit of the Hindu festival in all its magnificent glory. It was a night on which the LUMS community truly united to

> celebrate the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair – values that Rama-chandra (the 7th incarnation of Vishnu) worked so hard to inculcate; values for which



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he battled Ravana, the demon-king, and emerged victorious following 14 years of fierce battle. In a time of grave intolerance and dismissiveness for diversity, we collectively proved that it doesn't have to be that way – that together, we can rise above and celebrate one other's opinions and outlooks. In the words of the great Sun Tzu, "There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard." So let's play!

The event came to be a resounding success due to the overwhelming response it garnered. We were told by our Hindu friends and peers that not even for a minute did they feel they were away from home on such an important occasion. We were told by many others that the event was a much-needed respite from the mounting stress of academic pressure. And we were told by the rest that they had not enjoyed a university event as much as this Diwali in the longest while. Everyone at LUMS truly did come together as one community in

the spirit of interfaith harmony, diversity and festivity on the day.

Along with the festivity and fun,



the event provided everyone with a moment to reflect on the message that resides at the heart of our tradition to hold Diwali at LUMS: inclusiveness, interfaith harmony, tolerance and an acceptance and appreciation of the diversity among us. The event intended to act upon these values not only by organizing celebrations for the Hindu community but by also attempting to expose the rest of the student body to the idea of the campus as a pluralistic space. It was an attempt to promote an openness of mind and heart towards those who may not share the beliefs of the majority but who belong to this community; and to whom each of

and to whom each of us owes the responsibility and respect of demonstrating this in our acceptance, inclusion, consideration and celebration of them. We earnestly hoped that people would recognize the significance of these ideas and how much they matter even if the ideas are

applied in a much less exciting manner because beyond the LUMS bubble, we live in a society where such notions are anything but accepted and the subsequently grim realities are for all to see.

The espousal of these ideas does not necessarily pass through grand efforts and events alone. It is important to learn to possess and demonstrate these noble ideas with conviction and courage in our beliefs, in our con-





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