

LUMS, SECTOR U, DHA LAHORE CANTT. 54792, PAKISTAN
VOICE +92 321 434 0725 • AMENJAFFER@GMAIL.COM

Amen Jaffer

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
2016 – Lahore University of Management Sciences

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
2014 – 2015 Forman Christian College

Lecturer in Sociology
2006 – 2008 Forman Christian College

Technical Consultant
2008 UN Democracy Fund Symposium on Democracy in South Asia

Project Development Manager
May 2005 – August 2005 Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop

Research Associate
August 2003 – March 2005 CIDA-LUMS Social Enterprise Development Centre

EDUCATION

Ph. D, Sociology (Distinction)
2010 – 2016 *New School for Social Research, New York*
Dissertation Title: Inhabiting the Power of the Sacred: Legitimacy and Affect in Punjabi Shrines
(Winner of the Albert Salomon Memorial Award in Sociology).

M.A Sociology (Distinction, Outstanding Student in Sociology Award)
2008 – 2010 *New School for Social Research, New York*

M.Sc Sociology Research Methods (Merit)
2005 – 2006 *London School of Economics & Political Science*

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, minor in Psychology
1999 - 2003 *Franklin & Marshall College, USA*

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Fellow of the Summer Program in Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. 2018 - 19

LUMS Faculty Initiative Fund Award to research urban citizenship in Lahore. 2017 – 18

LUMS Faculty Travel Grant. 2017, 2018

LUMS Start-up Research Grant to conduct research on the politics of infrastructure in Lahore. 2016 – 19

Ruth Westheimer Fellowship for dissertation writing by the New School for Social Research 2013 – 14

Fulbright MA/PhD Scholar: Jointly funded by the US State Department and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for MA and PhD study in the US 2008 – 14

India China Institute Summer Research Grant awarded by the Starr Foundation to conduct fieldwork in India. 2013

John Kryder Evans Scholar at the Franklin & Marshall College. 2001

Tuition Scholarship for undergraduate studies at Franklin and Marshall College. 1999 - 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Edited Volume: State and Subject Formation in South Asia, co-edited with Mashal Saif. *Oxford University Press* (In Preparation)

Articles

2018. “A Drama of Sainly Devotion: Performing Ecstasy and Status at the Shaam-e-Qalandar Festival in Pakistan” *Theatre and Drama Review* (Forthcoming in July 2018)

2017. “Spiritualizing Marginality: Sufi Concepts and the Politics of Identity in Pakistan” *Society and Culture in South Asia* 3 (2): 175 - 197.

2017. “The Politics of Infrastructure in Pakistan” *Global Dialogue* 7 (2): 15 – 16.

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

“In Search of the Political: The Ethics of Social Life in Pakistan’s Sufi Shrines” invited presentation at the Left Politics in South Asia: Past, Present, Future workshop, University of Toronto, March 26, 2018

“Gendered Infrastructures: Women and Urban Politics” invited talk for the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative Seminar Series, February 28, 2018.

“Women Networks and the Politics of Infrastructure in Lahore” paper presented at the Right to the City in the South, Everyday Urban Experience and Rationalities of Government Conference, Universite Paris Diderot – Cessma, November 15 – 17, 2017

“Women and Urban Politics in Lahore” invited talk at Low-Key Lokai, Lahore, October 28. 2017

Invited to participate in panel discussion, “Diversity of Cultural and Religious Expressions”, Heritage Now Festival, Lahore, October 22, 2017

“Powers of the Sacred: the (Sufi) Shrine in Contemporary Punjab” paper presented at the 2017 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, August 15, 2017

“Nothing-space and Mohallah Lives in Lahore” invited talk at the Nothing Fest, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, April 24, 2017

“Inhabiting the Sacred: Sufism and Shrines in Khawaja Sira Imaginations” invited talk at the Humanities and Social Sciences Seminar, LUMS, November 10, 2016

“Politics of Citizenship in Pakistan: Land and Urban Desires in Lahore” paper presented at the Urbanism, Exclusion and Change conference, Lahore, March 4-6, 2016.

“The Sacred Urban: Marginalization and Sufi Shrines in Lahore” paper accepted for presentation at the Rethinking Cities of the Global South: Urban Violence, Social Inequality and Spatial Justice conference, Mumbai, January 20-22, 2016.

“The Sufi Shrine Revival in Indian Punjab” Paper presented at the India China Institute's Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium for Emerging Scholars on India China Studies, New York, April 16, 2015.

“Democratizing Development: Urban Integration and Sufi Shrines in Pakistan” Paper presented at the 4th annual conference of American Sociological Association's Sociology of Development Section, Brown University, Providence, March 14, 2015.

“The Struggles for Citizenship in Pakistan” Presentation at the 11th Annual Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni Conference, Lahore, December 7, 2014.

“Cosmopolitan Traditions and Karachi's Imaginaries” Paper presented at the Second Annual Karachi Conference, Karachi, 21st November, 2014.

“The Graves that come Alive: Shrines and Social Life in Pakistan” Paper presented at the Sixth Annual Global South Asia Conference, New York University, February 5, 2014.

“Islam in South Asia: Alternative Perspectives” Invited presentation, Pratt Institute, New York. November 11, 2013.

“Islam without Muslims? Shrine Revival in Indian Punjab” Presentation at India China Institute Student Fellows Presentation Event. New School University. October 3, 2013.

“The Politics of Sufi Practices: Rituals and Resistance in Pakistani Shrines” Invited presentation of dissertation fieldwork in graduate course, Historical Sociology. New School for Social Research. May 14, 2013.

"Culture and Solidarity in South Asia" Guest lecture for South Asia Beyond Boundaries, Building Solidarities, Brecht Forum, New York. April 8, 2012

"Islam and the Egyptian Revolution" Paper presented at the Roundtable on Understanding and conceptualizing on-going revolts in the Middle East and North Africa, New School for Social Research, April 2, 2011

"Sufis and their Shrines: Practicing Islams" Invited presentation of preliminary dissertation fieldwork in graduate course Sociology of Religion and City. New School for Social Research. October 12, 2010

"Impact of Consuming Mobile Phones on the Social Constructions of Public and Private Spaces" Paper presented at the Critical Themes in Media Studies conference, New School University. April 4, 2009

"Introduction" Proceedings of the Symposium on Strengthening Democracy in South Asia. Islamabad, Pakistan. 27 – 29 May, 2008. Citizen's Commission for Human Development, Lahore.

COMPLEMENTARY COURSES

"Infrastructures" Penn State Asian Studies Summer Institute. June 10 – 16, 2018.

"Cityscapes and New Religiosities in Asia" DORISEA Summer School, Goettingen University. August 10 – 17, 2014.

"Citizens Without Borders." Transregional Center for Democratic Studies Democracy & Diversity Institute in Wroclaw, Poland. July 2010.

ACADEMIC EVENTS ORGANIZED

"Everyday Urbanisms" A two-day workshop at LUMS, March 16-17, 2018. (co-organized with Nida Kirmani).

"State, Society and Democracy in the Post-Colony." A two-day international conference hosted at LUMS, August 5-6, 2016 (co-organized with Mashal Saif).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Member of the Steering Committee, Saida Waheed Gender Initiative at LUMS, 2016 -
- Member, SarSabz Committee for Environment and Conservation at LUMS, 2016 - 17
- Coordinator for Sociology and Anthropology Senior Projects at LUMS, 2016 -
- Book Reviewer, Oxford University Press, Karachi.