



LUMS

A Not-for-Profit University

Spring 2020

# گفتگو Guftugu

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



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

*We want to thank Anam Fātima Khan, Ateeb Gul, and Shafaq Sohail for their work on this issue and their contributions to it. We are also grateful to Nazish Riaz for helping out with the pictures.*

*Special mention must be made of photographer Nazish Riaz whose pictures have been used for the front and the back cover of the issue.*

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

*The front and back covers depict the empty benches and spaces that were once crowded with students and echos of their mundane concerns before the lockdown that followed the Corona Virus pandemic.*

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This issue of *Guftugu* will be the last one during my tenure as the Dean of MGSJSS. We started in the Fall Semester of 2017, and the current issue is the sixth, ending our third year of publication.

As *Guftugu* has matured, so has our School moved forward. New faculty have joined us, new academic programs have been initiated, our Centers have flourished, our colleagues have published in prestigious venues, others have received accolades and fellowships. Our students have shone in their studies and our graduates are serving in various organisations and completing their graduate education in some of the best universities in the world after receiving competitive grants and scholarships. In the last three years these pages have documented this journey into the future, and I am sure the best days are still ahead of us.

While this issue shares with you the accomplishments of our faculty and students for this term, it also marks the end of one of the most unusual semesters in anyone's living memory. COVID-19 forced all of us into a protracted lockdown and our University to convert all its courses online for the duration of the semester. The faculty responded to this challenge by being flexible in their approach towards instruction and were compassionate in helping the students through this unprecedented time that we are experiencing together. As much as it may have been difficult, they were sensitive to the needs of their students and made extra efforts for the learning to continue.

Despite many odds our students persevered and have completed their semesters. We recognise that they may have felt disconnected from their peers and faculty and are missing the energy of college life (library, late night gathering at the khoka, PDC, other activities) and balanced the pressures of online classes with a range of uncertainties at home. We understand that for many there may have been stresses that created undue hardships, things that at times could not be verbalised and shared. There are some amongst the students whose families may be going through financial difficulties. Finally, despite our best efforts, some may have continued to have problems with technology, such as poor internet access. As a School and University, we tried to respond to the best of our ability to these concerns and remain truly sensitive to what students are going through as we collectively strive towards creating a greater good for all.

My parent's generation experienced economic shocks of the late 1920s, the uncertain period of World War II, and then the horrors of partition. My generation, and those slightly older, witnessed the curfews and blackouts of the 1965 and 1971 wars and the political turmoil that closed educational institutions in the 1970s and 1980s. Many of us during our college years lost many months of education due to these closures; of course, there was no online learning then or for that matter remedial classes. Our time to graduation took longer and that is how we completed our degrees. But most of us never gave up on pursuing our goals. We feel confident that at MGSJSS, one of the finest programs that focuses on social sciences and the humanities in the country, our students equipped with their insights and reflections on the current situation will be ready to address the challenges we may collectively face in the coming days, months, and years.

In ending this message, which is my last for this forum, I want to thank all faculty, staff, colleagues, and students for their support and generosity during my tenure as Dean at MGSJSS. Everyone who is affiliated with the School has made it one of the most intellectually rigorous, critically engaged, and socially aware learning spaces anywhere in the world, something all of us can be proud of. In stepping down as Dean, I also welcome my friend and colleague, Dr. Ali Khan, as the new Dean of the School. I know he is truly capable of taking MGSJSS to new heights. I finally want to reserve my special thanks to Anam Fatima Khan, Ateeb Gul, Shafaq Sohail, and Nazish Riaz—the team that has made this and previous issues possible.

Our conversations will of course continue, in speech, gestures, signs, suggestions, and in silence—Momin Khan Momin's couplet comes to mind:

***kabhi baithe sab mein jo ruubaruu, to ishaaron hi sai guftugu  
vo bayaan shauq kaa barmalaa, tumhein yaad ho ke naa yaad ho***

Till we meet again, *Khuda Hafiz aur guftugu jaari rahay ...*

*K. Asad*

# Workshop at MGS HSS

## Everyday Life in Times of Ruination

Anam Fatima Khan

MGS HSS co-organised a workshop on cities with colleagues from the American University in Cairo. The workshop, *Everyday Life in Times of Ruination*, was held at LUMS on March 12 and 13, combined a discussion of Abdou Maliq Simone's *Improvised Lives* and Veronica Galo's *Neoliberalism from Below*, with presentations of ongoing research.

The approach to the topic was framed by a set of questions that emerged from the two texts that were read together and further developed in the discussion. The first and perhaps most important question concerned the location of the political in the present. How does power operate in urban contexts? Is the category

of resistance relevant for capturing the lives of the urban poor? Another related question was around the categories that we use to understand the urban.

Theoretical tools such as precarity, working-class, and slum need to be rethought because they privilege the production of victims.

Third, it is important to question the modernist tropes, such as megacity, that we continue to privilege and think with other forms such as assemblages that emphasise fluidity rather than fixity. Looking at the urban through the lens of temporality and mobility are possible ways to challenge the fixity of our existing concepts. Finally, a focus

on peripheral urbanism is another possibility for unpacking the meaning of urban life.

Inviting scholars and practitioners to think through their ongoing research using the lens of urban ruination, the workshop allowed for a discussion of selected texts that theorise ruination (led by different faculty members) and then presentations of ongoing research on cities in Pakistan and Egypt. Finally, attracting a diverse range of audience particularly owing to Architect Arif Hasan's keynote session, *The Horse that Ran Away with the Bit*, the event was a success.



## Events at MGSHSS

### Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum

In February of 2020, Dr. Gwendolyn S. Kirk and Dr. Zebunnisa Hamid launched their new academic journal *Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum*, with working papers from the annual CLCS Screen Studies Symposium at LUMS.

This open-access publication, available online at [reelpakistan.lums.edu.pk](http://reelpakistan.lums.edu.pk), serves the mission of promoting and disseminating research on media texts, production, and reception, with particular emphasis on encouraging undergraduate research. The journal is dedicated to creating a forum for academic discourse on Pakistani screen studies, using a variety of approaches and on a scale from the local to the transnational. It will feature academic writings on fiction film, documentary, television, new media, and other forms that develop in the Pakistani context.

This journal emerged out of the annual CLCS Screen Studies Symposium, in which



Dr. Zebunnisa Hamid, Dr. Lalitha Gopalan, and Dr. Gwendolyn S. Kirk

students presented the work they had completed for the Research Seminar in Screen Studies course under the supervision of Dr. Kirk and Dr. Hamid. The first Symposium took place in May 2019 and the second in December of that same year. The symposia featured, in addition to student presentations, keynote talks from academics and film writers, film

screenings, and most recently a Short Film Competition. At its launch, *Reel Pakistan* was honoured to be introduced by Dr. Maryam Wasif Khan and for Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali to introduce the keynote speaker Dr. Lalitha Gopalan, noted film scholar from the University of Texas at Austin.

### Economics Brown Bag Series

Lums Economics Society

The Brown Bag Series all over the world connotes an open environment that fosters candid conversations and conducive questions from peers, students, guests, and the academic departments in general. At the Department of Economics, then, they began with a scholar presenting their work or research, followed by a Q&A with the audience. What is worth mentioning is the nature of this audience, and at times even the presenters—they were not limited to the field of economics or business. The department had invited speakers from the fields of data science and artificial intelligence as well. They are also not limited to academia or even LUMS.

As far as the department's own faculty is



Dr. Salman Shah

concerned, Dr. Hadia Majid, with a background in developmental economics, presented her concerns about the constraints faced by women in Pakistan in terms of their ability to join the work force. Dr. Ayesha Ali presented her findings on the how misinformation was being spread on social media as well as how to identify and counter it. Given his expertise in environmental economics, Dr. Sanval Nasim was able to present some of his findings on Lahore's increasingly hazardous levels of air pollution and how it is shaping people's behaviours. From these albeit brief examples, we get a sense of the kind of intellectual and disciplinary diversity that exists in the Department of Economics and in the field of economics in general.

# Centre Events

## Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature

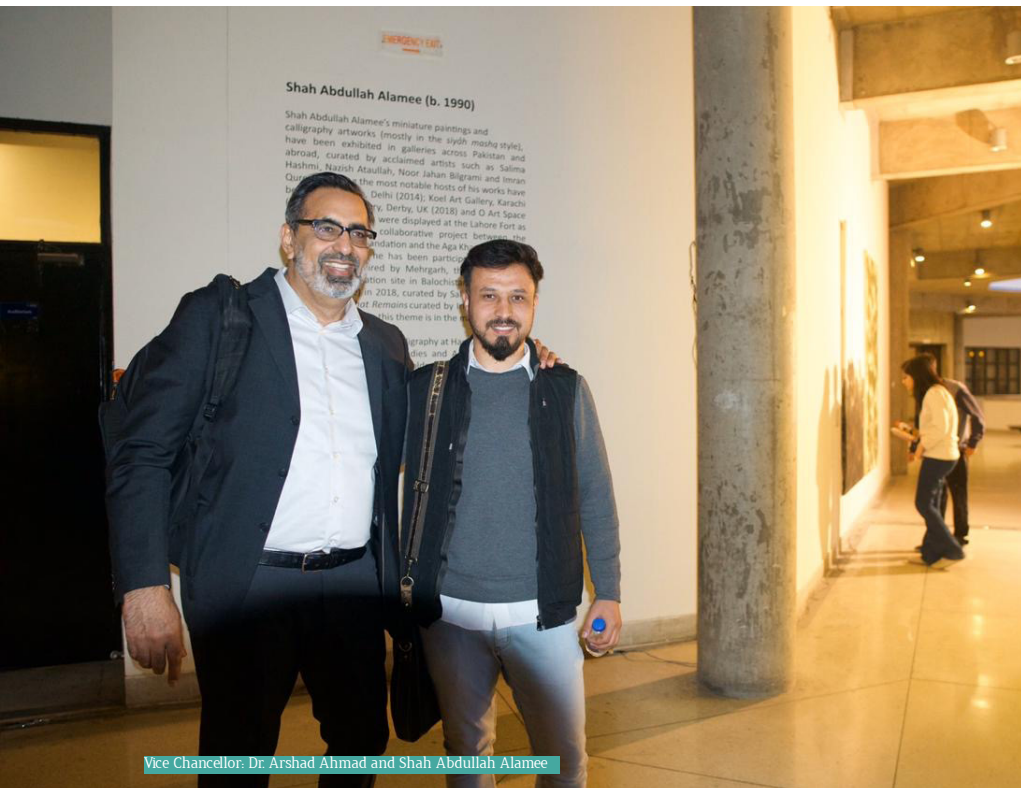
Mahnoor Ishtiaq Lone

Continuing with its endeavour to create a space for the arts at LUMS, the Gurmani Centre organised a series of events this semester to encourage students to engage with the visual, literary, and performing arts.

In February, the Centre organised *Man Pardesi Jai Thee-ai* (If the self suffers exile), an exhibition of calligraphy in *siyah mashq* by Shah Abdullah Alamee. The artworks on display depicted poetry in Balochi, Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Urdu. These verses centred around the theme of exile and included the works of Mas'ud Sa'd Salman, Guru Nanak, Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Ghani Khan Ghani, and Ata Shad. Through this exhibition the Gurmani Centre attempted



Dr. Aamir R. Mufti and Dr. S. Nomanul Haq



Vice Chancellor: Dr. Arshad Ahmad and Shah Abdullah Alamee

to combine the University's existing expertise in the humanities with the visual arts. Students and professors of regional languages and literatures were particularly delighted at the opportunity to engage aesthetically with the rich poetic traditions of these languages.

The Halqa-e-Danish series for Spring 2020, titled *Sha'iri Ke Safer*, aimed to generate a discussion around the craft of literary translation and the unique challenges faced by translators of poetry. As part of this series, the Gurmani Centre invited Afzal Ahmed Syed—a contemporary Urdu poet and translator of the Persian poetry of Abdul Qadir Bedil. Afzal Ahmed Syed discussed his technique of translation and the various creative decisions he had to make while translating between two languages. He also elaborated upon the significance of Bedil's poetry in terms of its influence on classical Urdu poets such as Mir and Ghalib. The audience also had a chance to hear the poet read out some of his own Urdu poetry.

The Ahmed Bilal Awan Bazm-e-Adab series for Spring 2020, titled *Fiction Ke Safeer*, also engaged with the creative practice of literary translation. The Centre invited Parveen Malik, a translator and a renowned Punjabi fiction writer, to speak about her translation of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*. She discussed her reasons for translating this particular novel and her creative process of translation. "Translation is like painting within the lines of a predefined frame," she said. "It is crucial to respect the creative frame set by the original writer; however you are free to experiment within that frame," she elaborated. Malik also talked about her writing practice and her decision to write in Punjabi. The session concluded with her reading excerpts from her translation titled *Sisakte Log*, and a short story from her collection, *Nikke Nikke Dukh*.

Apart from these series, the Gurmani Centre also held various independent literary events. In February the Centre invited Palestinian writer and activist Adania Shibli for a talk titled "Imagination as Resistance." The discussion centred around ways in which Palestinians

employ cunningness and playfulness in their daily lives to resist the Israeli settler-state, and how this playfulness has inspired contemporary Palestinian artworks. She showed the audience various artworks inspired by these everyday practices. Through this talk, the Gurmani Centre hoped to initiate a tradition of inviting writers and artists from diverse global regions to LUMS.

Later in the same month the Centre held a discussion on contemporary Faiz scholarship, to commemorate the launch of the new critical edition of Faiz by Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq, titled *Kulliyat-e-Faiz*. The discussion was led by Dr. Haq and Dr. Aamir Mufti. Both scholars shared their erudite insights on the legacy and works of Faiz. Dr. Haq discussed the editorial process and the obstacles he encountered while attempting to compile a standardised critical edition of Faiz's poetry. He also talked at length about the aesthetic qualities of Faiz's work. Dr. Mufti elaborated on the centrality of revolution to the poetics of Faiz and the harmonious embodiment of paradoxes found in his work. The discussion gave students an

opportunity to learn from a deep and critical engagement with the literary legacy of Faiz.

The Gurmani Centre also continued to hold events to introduce the LUMS audience to North Indian classical music. The Raag Shaam series, running since 2018, completed its ninth session this year. Ustad Imran Jafri continued the discussion of the system of Thaats and introduced the audience to Thaath Poorbi and the Raags contained within it. In February, the Centre organised "Shudh Surr: A Musical Journey," a unique event for which it invited the esteemed *khayal gayak* Ustad Naseeruddin Saami to LUMS. The audience not only had a chance to listen to Saami Sahab perform, but also to learn about the pure note and the history of the North Indian musical tradition. In the discussion hosted by Ali Sethi, Ustad Saami spoke extensively about the interactions of different musical traditions—Persianate, Arab, Turkic and Indian—that have shaped and defined North Indian classical music.



Mariam Nadeem and Adania Shibli

# Mahbub Ul Haq Research Center

Fizza Sajjad



Mahbub Ul Haque Research Centre (MHRC) is committed to interdisciplinary research and scholarship on issues of human development, social inclusion, and inequality across south Asia. During the spring semester, it organised various outreach activities and events to further the collaborative knowledge-based ethic it espouses. The Centre also formalised and initiated new collaborations and partnerships for research purposes.

## Book Colloquium

The Centre kicked off the Spring Semester by organising a book colloquium that created space for interdisciplinary learning by bringing together two authors, namely Dr. Shandana Mohmand and Dr. Ammara Maqsood. Dr. Mohmand is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex whereas Dr. Maqsood is a Lecturer in Social Anthropology at University College London. The colloquium featured Dr. Mohmand's book *Crafty Oligarchs, Savvy Voters: Democracy*

*under Inequality in Rural Pakistan* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), and Dr. Maqsood's book *The New Pakistani Middle Class* (Harvard University Press 2017) and was moderated by Dr. Umair Javed, Assistant Professor, MGSHSS. Through simultaneous discussion on these two books, a holistic picture of the social and political landscape of Pakistan was charted out and debated.

## Lectures

In January, the Centre held the first ever Mahbub Ul Haq Reform Dialogue with Professor Ehtisham Ahmad, titled "Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Pakistani Cities." The dialogue was organised in collaboration with the International Growth Centre. Professor Ahmad is a Visiting Professor at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and University Professor at Zhejiang University. He currently directs a programme of research on Financing

Sustainable Development in Emergent Market Countries, with a special emphasis on China and Mexico. The Dialogue was moderated by Dr. Ali Cheema and comprised of a rich exchange on the financing gaps cities face and the potential of a 'beneficial property tax.'

In February the Centre held its second lecture as part of its Distinguished Lecture Series by inviting Dr. Ghazala Mansuri, a Lead Economist in the Poverty Reduction and Equity Global Practice in the World Bank. It was titled "Enforcement for Sale? Irrigation Reform and Lobbying for Water in Pakistan's Indus Basin." The lecture focused on the impact of governance reforms in the Indus Basin irrigation system in Pakistan. Using canal discharge data of about a quarter-million irrigators from Punjab (between 2006 to 2014), Dr. Ghazala explored the question of how reforms in the realm of governance affect equitable living conditions in Pakistan.

## Workshops

Reinforcing its longstanding commitment to collaborative outreach events with practitioners and researchers, in February, MHRC held its first workshop in partnership with Akhuwat. The workshop, titled "Poverty, Inequality and Social Inclusion: Exploring a Research Programme with Akhuwat," involved discussions with Dr. Amjad Saqib, founder and executive director Akhuwat, Dr. Ghazala Mansuri, World Bank, and researchers based at LUMS and the Lahore School of Economics on how to collaborate on overlapping areas of interest such as financial inclusion and education. The Poverty, Inequality and Inclusion research cluster at the Centre helped organise the workshop. Additionally, in February, the Centre also co-hosted a talk by Professor Lant Pritchett, titled "The Global Learning Crisis: What we do know, what we don't."



It was organised with the School of Education at LUMS.

In March, in collaboration with MGSHSS, the Centre co-hosted renowned planner and architect Mr. Arif Hasan's keynote lecture as part of the workshop "Everyday Life in the Time of Ruination." Mr. Hasan spoke of Karachi's planning history, recent social and economic transformations, and the marginalisation of lower-income groups in the city. He drew upon his rich experience to captivate the large audience comprised of students, academics, and social activists.

### Partnerships and research collaborations

In February, MHRC facilitated the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDS at the University of Sussex and LUMS. The MoU establishes an institutional connection and strategic partnership between IDS and LUMS to invest in development-related research activities. Opportunities for research collaboration will be explored through MHRC and the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative at LUMS across the themes of tax and finance, water and sanitation,



gender, cities, environment and climate change, inequality and social inclusion, governance, and digital and technology. MHRC and IDS will also work collaboratively on the next South Asia Human Development Report (tentatively on 'Gender and Cities').

The Centre also initiated collaboration with the International Growth Centre (IGC) for research and outreach purposes. MHRC and IGC co-hosted a Reform Dialogue with Professor Ehtisham Ahmad at LUMS, as well as a talk on population growth and the demographic dividend at the Government College University, Lahore.

This semester, the Centre also applied for research funding to: (1) work in partnership with Duke University and a consortium of research institutions in Pakistan, Vietnam, and Ghana to build local research capacity, produce and disseminate policy-relevant research, and inform policy for development; (2) explore a simpler and more transparent mechanism of property taxation in Punjab (with the IGC); and (3) rapidly assess prevalence and transmission vectors of COVID-19 in high and medium risks populations in Pakistan, in collaboration with School of Education at LUMS and the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan.

The Centre is also actively working to develop an effective research response to the COVID-19 crisis, particularly focusing on its social and economic impact.



# 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 and/or published work with the LUMS community. The semester began with a talk by Dr. Karrar Hussain on February 4. Dr. Hussain is an assistant professor at LUMS. His broad interest is development economics with a focus on behavioural economics.

In his talk, titled "Mobilizing Women Voters: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan," he discussed how reducing the gender gap in politics remains a challenge in much of the developing world. He shared one of the main findings of his research that indicated that one of the major reasons for the gender gap in voting is the lack of mobilisation of women by political leaders.



Dr. Karrar Hussain



Dr. Hussain and his research team evaluated a randomised door-to-door campaign by an incumbent politician in Pakistan, a campaign that was both conducted by women and focused on women.

The women were informed of the public service delivery work undertaken by the incumbent on policy preferences that were highly ranked by women. The randomisation took place at the polling station level, allowing them to use official electoral data on gender-disaggregated turnout and vote shares. The study's results suggest that in a highly competitive campaign the winning margin is 0.08% of the total polled votes, and the women's turnout in the election was unaffected. However, the vote share of the campaigning incumbent increased by five percentage points. Furthermore, they found suggestive evidence that this response interacts with low prior information: the effect is driven by rural areas and areas where people are poorer and have less information about the incumbent's performance.



Arshad Khan and Dr. Shayan Rajani

The Centre also screened *Abu*, a film by Arshad Khan. Khan is a Montreal-based filmmaker and film festival programmer. Khan's internationally acclaimed, award-winning autobiographical documentary *Abu* (2017) has played at film festivals around the world and won the INSPIRIT Foundation grant for 2018/19. *Abu* documents his rocky relationship with his father after

Khan came out as a gay man. It also chronicles the wider story of young gay people fighting homophobia and invisibility within South Asian and Muslim cultures.

The film screening drew a wide and diverse audience from across the city and was followed by a lively discussion with Arshad Khan about his inspiration, the

process of making the film, and his experiences screening it around the world. Members of the audience shared their own emotional responses to the film and personal stories, and there was a wider discussion about marginalised sexualities in South Asian cultures including in Pakistan and in the diaspora.



# Faculty News

**Dr. Sameen A. Mohsin Ali (Assistant Professor, HSS)** published "Party patronage and merit-based bureaucratic reform in Pakistan" in *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* (Vol. 58, No. 2, 2020, pp. 184–201). She also published "Governance amid Crisis: Delegation, Personal Gain, and Service Delivery in Pakistan" in *Pakistan's Political Parties: Surviving between Dictatorship and Democracy* edited by Mariam Mufti et al. (pp. 178–194). She was awarded an FIF grant in 2020 as PI (with Dr. Samia W. Altaf) to continue work on their project, "Understanding Pakistan's Immunization Problem II: A transactional approach." She also presented on: "Understanding Pakistan's Immunization Problem: A transactional approach" at the Centre for Governance and Policy, FC College (February 2020) and on "Networks of effectiveness? The impact of politicization on bureaucratic performance in Pakistan" at the Development Studies Association annual conference in Birmingham, United Kingdom (online due to COVID-19).

**Dr. Hassam Javid (Associate Professor, HSS)** co-authored with N. Martin an article titled "Democracy and Discrimination: Comparing Caste-Based Politics in Indian and Pakistani Punjab" in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (Vol. 43, No. 1, 2020, pp. 136–151). He also published "Winning 'Friends' and 'Influencing' People: Democratic Consolidation and Authoritarianism in Punjab"

in *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* (Vol. 58, No. 1, 2020, pp. 139–159).

**Dr. Fatima Fayyaz (Visiting Faculty, HSS)** published "Contemporary Afghan Women Poets: A Feminist and Analytical Study" in *Bunyad* (Vol. 10, 2019, 263–285).

**Dr. Hasan H. Karrar (Associate Professor, HSS)** co-authored (with S. Fehlings) an article titled "Negotiating State and Society: The Normative Informal Economies of Central Asia and the Caucasus" in the *Central Asian Survey* (Vol. 39, No. 1, 2020, pp. 1–10). He also published an article in the same issue, titled "The Bazaar in Ruins: Rent and Fire in Barakholka, Almaty" (pp. 80–94). He was the guest editor (with S. Fehlings) of the journal's special issue that focused on Informal Markets and Trade in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

**Dr. Nida Kirmani (Associate Professor, HSS)** published an article titled "Can Fun Be Feminist? Gender, Space and Mobility in Iyari, Karachi" in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (Issue 2, 2020, pp. 319–331).

**Dr. Rabia Malik (Assistant Professor, HSS)** published an article titled "Transparency, Elections, and Pakistani Politicians' Tax Compliance." in the journal is *Comparative Political Studies* (Vol. 53, Issue 7, 2020, pp. 1060–1091). She was also accepted to present two papers at the Annual Meeting of the European Political

Science Association (EPSA), in Prague, Czech Republic, June 18–20, 2020.

**Dr. Nadhra S. Khan (Associate Professor, HSS)** was awarded the FIF 2020 grant for The Sikh Artefact Catalogue (in printed form) and the Web Portal (in virtual format). She has also received CHF 1,000 for attending the conference on "Geometry and Colour: Decoding the Arts of Islam in the West 1880–1945" to be held in Zurich at the Museum Rietberg and the Kunsthhaus in September 2020. She presented on "The Agency of Art to Counter Colonial Gaze" at the College Art Association's (CAA) 108th Annual Conference in Chicago, USA, in February 2020. She was also invited for the following talks: lecture on the Lahore Fort Picture Wall to NCA Masters of Visual Arts students, February 2020; a talk on "Traditions, In-Between Spaces and Iconography: Baba Nanak, *Sikhian da Guru, Muslamana da Pir*" at the Asian Art Museum in California in February 2020; a panel discussion on "The Sacred in Heritage Conservation" with Salman Beg, CEO Aga Khan Cultural Service-Pakistan and Kamran Lashari, DG Walled City Authority for ThinkFest in January 2020; a panel discussion in the Faiz Mela Panel on "Sikh in the Punjab" with F. S. Aijazuddin and Bobby Singh in November 2019 at the Alhamra Arts Council in Lahore.

**Zainab Najeem (Adjunct Faculty, HSS)** published an article titled "The Soldier, The

Terrorist, and The Woman: A Gendered Analysis of Enforced Displacement in Northwestern Pakistan Post 2014" in *Development* (Vol. 63, 2020, pp. 83–89).

**Dr. Gwendolyn S. Kirk (Assistant Professor, HSS)** founded, and assumed the co-editorship along with Dr. Zebunnisa Hamid of, a new academic journal titled *Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum* (<<https://reelpakistan.lums.edu.pk/>>). She also published along with Dr. Hamid an introduction to *Reel Pakistan* titled "Pakistan Screen Studies: Widening the Frame." She is also continuing her research for Punjabi *Boliyan Research Initiative* into Punjabi dialect variation and language shift in collaboration with Umar Anjum and Dr. Sarah Beckham. She published "We who have been killed on dark paths: Faiz Ahmad Faiz's internationalism and world literature" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*, edited B. Venkat Mani. She also participated in the following workshops and events: *Conference presentation* on "Gender out of frame: Women's labor in the cinemas of Pakistan," Distribute2020, online, May 2020; *Workshop* on "Everyday Life in Times of Ruination," LUMS, March 2020; *Panel* on "Film and Cinephilia in Pakistan: Beyond 'death' and 'revival,'" with Dr. Zebunnisa Hamid and Momina Masood, 2020 Lahore Biennale Academic Forum, February 2020; *Conference presentation* on "Filmi Punjabi: Dialect

Leveling and the Ideal Cinematic Punjab,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2019; and *Panel Discussant* for “The Subjects of ‘Reality’: Celebrity, Performance and Value on the South Asian Small Screen,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2019.

**Dr. Saba Pirzadeh (Assistant Professor, HSS)** completed a research fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany from June to August, 2019. Her project focused on the linkages between water bodies, petro-violence, and environmental ethics in postcolonial fiction. The RCC is an international, interdisciplinary centre for research and education in the environmental humanities and social sciences.

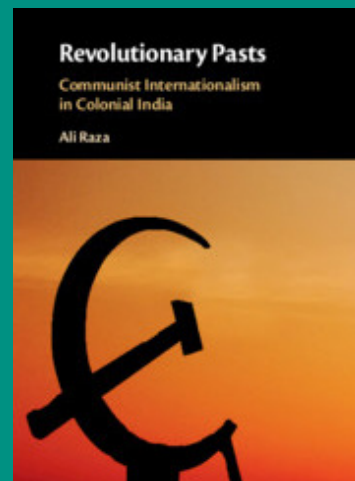
**Dr. Shayan Rajani (Assistant Professor, HSS)** published an article titled “Competing for Distinction: Lineage and Individual Recognition in Eighteenth-Century Sindh” in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (2020).

**Dr. Ali Raza (Associate Professor, HSS)** published an article titled “Provincializing the International: Communist Print Worlds in Colonial India” in the *History Workshop Journal* (Vol. 89, 2020, pp. 140–153).

**Aneeqa Wattoo (Teaching Fellow, HSS)** published a review of *Brave New Words* (edited by Susheila Nasta) in *Dawn* (March 22, 2020). She has been selected for two Residences: as an Artist of Residence by the Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild, Monthly Artist in Residence Program in New York; and the Mantooth-Morabito Fellowship for an Artist of Colour to attend a Residency in Summer, 2020.

**Dr. Tania Saeed (Assistant Professor, HSS)** and Dr. Julia Paulson received a £2,000,000 grant for their project: “Education, Justice and Memory Network (EdJAM)” from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) UKRI Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Network Plus from 2020 to 2024. This project previously received £34,800 from AHRC GCRF in the 2019–2020 academic term before receiving more funding for the upcoming four years. Her monograph titled *Youth and the National Narrative. Education, Terrorism and the Security State in Pakistan* was launched at the Virtual Comparative and International Education Studies (vCIES) 2020 conference in March 2020. She also presented a paper on “Student Activism and the possibility of a Multicultural Pedagogy,” in the conference on Multiculturalism, Nationalism, Religions and Secularism, at the University of Bristol, UK, in November 2019. She also presented on “Education and Social Inclusion: A Case of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan” at the

**Dr. Ali Raza (Associate Professor, HSS)** published a monograph titled *Revolutionary Pasts: Communist Internationalism in Colonial India* (Cambridge University Press, March 2020).



6th Georg Arnhold Symposium, The Hosting State and Its Restless Guests: Refugee Education, Migration and Regional Peace in the Global South, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, in October 2019.

**Dr. Philipp Johannes Zehmisch (Visiting Assistant Professor, HSS)** co-authored (with Ruhi Deol) and article titled “Changing perceptions of environmental change, vulnerability and adaptation in the Andaman Islands” in the *International Convention of Asia Scholars* (ICAS) Newsletter (Vol. 85, 2020, pp. 40–41). He published an article titled “Patriots in Kala Pani: Writing Subaltern Resistance into the National Memory” in *Cultural Histories of India: Subaltern Spaces, Peripheral Genres, and Alternate Historiography*, edited by Rita Banerjee (Routledge). He also published (with Katja Riek and Christos Panagiotopoulos) an article titled “Doing Good/Doing Right and the Limits of Negotiation” in *boasblog* (Nov. 11, 2019). He delivered the keynote address titled “Migration to and from Pakistan as a Process: Towards a Conceptual Framework” for the conference, *Migration from Pakistan: Facts, Avenues and Challenges*, Punjab University, Lahore, November 2019. He delivered a talk on “Beyond Borders: Being Balti in the Age of Postcolonialism” at LUMS in December 2019. He also spoke on “Negotiating Limits: The Ethics of Doing Good among Pakistani Progressives” at the Conference of the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kultur-und Sozialanthropologie (DGSKA), Konstanz, October 2019.

# Faculty Interview

## Dr. Ayesha Ali

Anam Fatima Khan



**Could you tell us about your background in research and the kind of work that you specialise in?**

I am a development economist and I do research in the areas of applied microeconomics. My research broadly spans two themes. The first theme examines the nature and effect of market frictions in developing countries in the areas of energy provision, consumption, pricing, and allocation. I examine the effectiveness of policies that can help address the challenge of providing energy in an affordable and sustainable manner. The second theme aims to understand the provision of news and information in media markets and the impact of information and digital technologies on individual beliefs, behaviours, and economic outcomes. I use microeconomic data collected from individuals, households, and firms and use experimental and quasi-experimental methods to examine issues falling under both these themes.

**Are you currently working on any projects? If so, could share some details with us?**

I am currently working on a project that examines how competition in TV news media industry affects the quality of

news aired by private TV channels in Pakistan. Economic theory predicts that greater competition among market players should lower prices and increase the quality of products and services. However, distortions such as political connections or expectations around what kind of content will be popular may lead to an equilibrium in which TV channels air content which is lacking in diversity, inclusivity, and policy relevance. We have gathered data on more than 1,500 shows aired in the prime-time slot around the time of the entry of new national news channels. We are currently examining how news channels responded by looking at outcomes such as diversity of guests, monopolisation of talking time, political bias, and policy relevance of the content which is aired on talk shows.

**In terms of teaching, what kind of courses do you teach and how has your experience been so far? Additionally, what do you hope that your students gain from your lectures?**

During my time at LUMS, I have taught the following courses across various semesters: Intermediate Microeconomics (a theoretical core course for Economics undergraduates); Development Economics (an applied second year elective course); and Topics in Energy Economics (an applied and upper-level elective course). The goal of my teaching is to enable and empower students to acquire a thorough understanding of fundamental economic concepts so that they feel confident in applying the learnt concepts to real-world applications, and they acquire skills that can be used more broadly in other courses, in graduate studies, and in the workplace. I consider my role as more of a facilitator and guide in the learning process of students. Students often find economic theory hard and I try to make it more accessible by breaking down complex ideas into smaller concepts which can act as stepping stones towards a better understanding of the complete theory.

**Are you involved in mentoring students? If so, how has that experience been for you as a Professor?**

I have not been involved in mentoring students. However, I have been supervising undergraduate senior projects and Master's theses of several students. This has been a rewarding and enriching experience and it has allowed me to interact very closely with some of our best and brightest students.

**You are one of the very few female economists in Pakistan; how do you make sense of this? Why do you think women in Pakistan don't opt for a research career in economics?**

The main reasons for this lack of gender diversity in the field of economics in Pakistan are social and cultural norms which promote certain roles for females at the expense of higher education. We need more role models to change these norms and encourage parents and women to opt for doctoral studies and research careers in economics. We also need more supportive institutional policies (such as longer maternal leaves, daycare for children, etc.) for female faculty members once they join academia to help them balance work and family in an enriching way.

**Any future projects that we should be looking forward to?**

A future project that I will be working on examines how we can counter misinformation among low digital literacy populations, specifically looking at the emerging challenge posed by "deepfake" misinformation. Recent advances in machine learning and deep learning allow any individual's voice or video to be faked with unprecedented accuracy. Such doctored media, termed as "deepfake" could be used to spread misinformation at a very rapid scale. With this research, we are trying to answer the following questions: (1) among populations with low digital literacy, how do individuals perceive, consume, and engage with audio "deepfakes," and (2) how can we educate users to identify and be more cautious of such misinformation?

# New Leadership

## Announcing the Office of International Affairs

Shafaq Sohail



*In November 2019, the Office of International Affairs was established to manage and increase internationalisation at LUMS. The Guftugu team interviewed its first director, Dr. Waqar Zaidi (MGSHSS), in order to learn more about the initiative and his responsibilities.*

### Could you please begin by introducing the Office of International Affairs (OIA)?

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) is focused on the increase in internationalisation and international mobility at LUMS. It is responsible for coordinating, developing, and expanding the scope of the university's global footprint and international initiatives. The Office acts as a liaison between LUMS and international universities and other institutions, facilitates international collaboration in line with global standards, and serves as the source of international opportunities, information, and resources. OIA also consults and advises at all stages of partnership development, including identifying funding opportunities, hosting visitors and delegations, and coordinating exchanges with internal and external institutions.

### Could you shed some light on the projects and initiatives OIA has been working on since its inception?

Since its inception in November 2019, OIA has provided information about potential international exchanges and other international mobility opportunities along with delivering guidance and

support on international exchanges and international mobility to students, staff, and faculty. It continues to oversee and manage LUMS' global partnerships, support and facilitate global activities for students, faculty, and staff, and further ensure engagement in all areas of international student affairs, ranging from recruitment and admissions to student support.

The OIA currently manages 51 student exchange programs with leading international universities. Through these initiatives LUMS students can attend exchange programs and study abroad for a semester or the summer, sometimes on either partially or fully-funded scholarships. Since January 2020, OIA has helped build new partnerships with universities in Britain, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Malaysia, and Japan. These new partnerships will, in the near future, increase internationalisation and mobility opportunities for students and faculty.

### How do you perceive the role of OIA to fit into the larger vision/mission of LUMS?

OIA's mission is to give strategic and operational direction to LUMS' continuing internationalisation. It is focused on building sustainable and mutually beneficial international partnerships that promote quality education and research by initiating and facilitating individual and institutional connections between LUMS and international students, faculty, and staff. Through greater global engagement the OIA aims to increase the visibility and impact of LUMS around the world. OIA's goal is to create global learning opportunities on campus and abroad, bring international resources on campus, cultivate partnerships and connections with global institutions, and engage its alumni across the world. It is vital for institutions in today's world to maintain a committed, meaningful interaction with

the world as a whole and that is what the OIA aims to practice and endorse. Through global engagement LUMS students gain invaluable insights into world affairs and international problems, as well as perspectives and skillset that set them apart from other Pakistani graduates. Students are graduating into an increasingly integrated international environment that, while offering exciting opportunities, also presents many challenges. Through OIA and broader internationalisation LUMS creates educational environments where students fully appreciate the complexity of global integration and develop skills to navigate it successfully.

### What are some of the new responsibilities OIA will have to assume or the new ways in which it will have to adapt to the unprecedented and unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to universities around the world?

OIA is currently working on retaining faculty, staff, and students' engagement and enthusiasm for ongoing internationalisation efforts in general while trying to maintain positive relationships with international partners. Much attention and work are focused on the modality of online resources, encouraging students to apply for exchanges while conducting interviews online for the Fall 2020 semester, and ensuring communication with partner universities is not lost. OIA is also working to help students who have been on exchange during the Spring 2020 semester and have had to either discontinue or switch to online classes by liaising with other offices at LUMS and ensuring that their education is not disrupted. Since international travel has been transformed by the pandemic, OIA is building engagement through online mediums with newer geographies and universities.

# Corona and Online Teaching



## The Virtual Transition

*Dr. Tania Saeed*

This term I am teaching a 300-level course, Comparative and International Education. As with all my courses, class discussion is an integral element. There is a rhythm that exists within a physical classroom, teaching a performance in which students are central actors. For many of us, especially those in the Humanities and Social Sciences, this way of teaching is the norm, which has been disrupted by the push towards online teaching. There is no denying that multiple platforms exist online to allow for that discussion to continue in the virtual realm, but as we step outside LUMS the kind of infrastructure required for that transition is limited.

As students are central to my pedagogy, my focus in delivering my lectures has been to ensure that quality of learning is not disrupted—a task that has not been easy. From the Internet connection, or simply the lack of one, to issues of load shedding, just ensuring that teaching can take place where every student has the opportunity to join has been a struggle. The short-term solution has been to record the lecture, sharing both the video and the audio with slides for students in separate emails and uploading it on LMS. In addition, I hold discussion sessions during regular class timings and have created a class WhatsApp group where students who might be struggling to access the class discussion can still ask questions. This class discussion is also

recorded and uploaded. Despite attempting to manage this crisis, students continue to have problems accessing their email accounts or LMS because of a limited Internet connection. I have called students and put them on speaker in instances where load shedding/power cuts was an issue. Furthermore, while logistically there might be complications, the fact that we are recording discussion and lectures where certain controversial topics are discussed is also highly problematic, at times limiting the freedom we have to engage in critical discussion.

Drawing on critical pedagogy while teaching a course on education in the midst of a pandemic, I have also changed some of my evaluation tools. For instance, students are writing a reflection paper exploring concepts that they have learnt in this course and linking them to education problems that have emerged as a result of this pandemic. They also have the space to include a reflective piece on their own learning experience and take part in a 10–15 minute discussion with me either through Zoom or over the phone to further reflect on this process of learning. Some students described this assignment as cathartic, but what it revealed was just how disconnected we are as educators from the lived experiences of our students. The educational displacement that took place as a result of going online did not simply move the classroom online but moved it to the private homes of many students. The space that the classroom, and LUMS, provided has been disrupted, blurring the boundary between the home and the university. That disruption has resulted in issues of concentration, further anxiety, and simply the lack of space to actually study, especially for students living in joint or large families.

Students also have care responsibilities which they have to fulfil now that they are physically home, parental expectations especially for female students that often need to be negotiated, and even instances where students themselves have fallen

sick. If we need a Plan B in the future it has to be driven by student data informing a mechanism to support them, and a virtual pedagogy that locates the experience of the student as central to the learning process, an experience that exists outside the classroom and the university, where they will have additional responsibilities often at odds with their role as students, which we as teachers will need to accommodate, while providing additional support and guidance.



## The Online Classroom

*Dr. Khalid Mir*

For me, personally speaking, the recorded lecture has no uncertainty about it, there's no dialogue, no give and take and no 'gaps' that allow students (and teachers) to reflect on what's being spoken in time. I think the question of the relation to real time, the voice, and the body are important ones. I've noticed I can't tell any jokes in the recorded lectures and my mind can't wander and draw upon things, references, and ideas outside of my 'script' because the lecture is pre-packaged. Taking a break from a recorded lecture may have advantages but is also problematic. There's a big question about attention spans (under both systems).

So, although I'm actually enjoying the novelty, the big danger, for me, is that the model is one of information transfer to passive recipients. I hope we can think about this a bit more when the crisis is over so that we don't simply unreflectively adopt new techniques and 'tech solutions.'



# MGSHSS Faculty on the Impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan

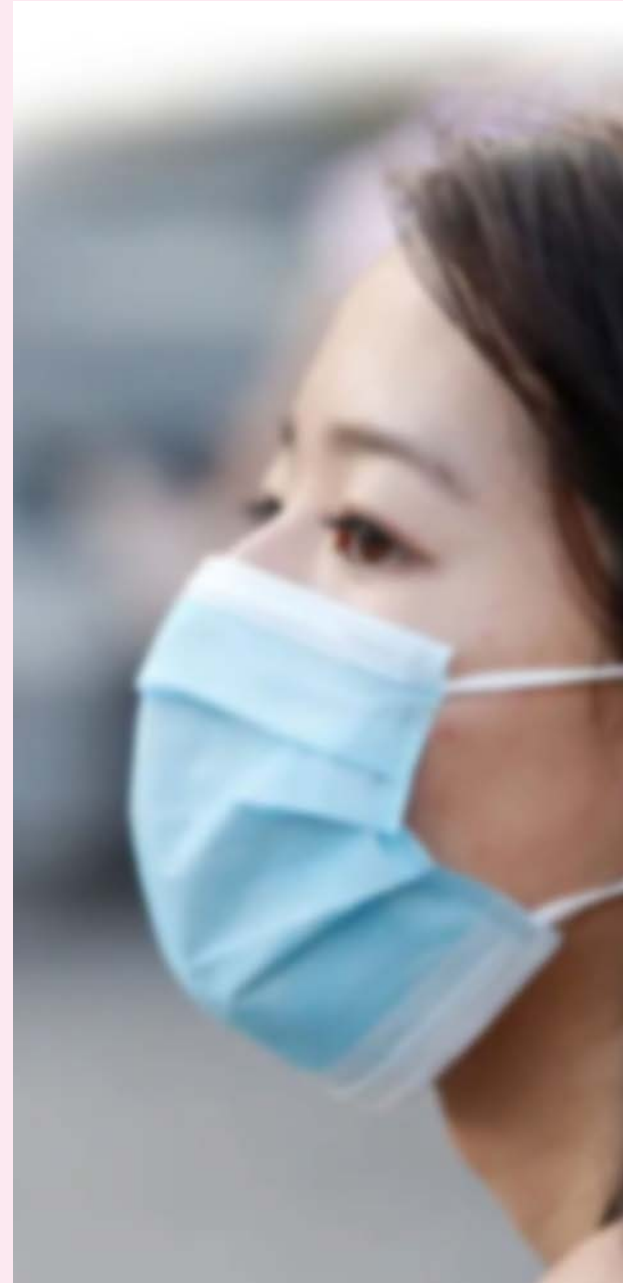
"All educational institutions, across the country, are currently closed. This is as it should be. The same is true of most schools in most countries across the world. The government has, for now, said that schools will remain closed till April 5. This date is likely to be extended. We cannot open schools as long as we do not have control over the spread of the coronavirus. We cannot take the risk of infecting a large number of people. Even if children do not get very sick if they get the virus, they become carriers. This is a risk we should not take." – **Dr. Faisal Bari**, *Dawn* (March 20, 2020)

"As the experience of a number of states across the world demonstrates, dealing with a new pandemic is just shy of an impossible task. It becomes even more so for governments in resource-poor developing countries that are burdened by the legacy of inefficient bureaucracies and weak administrators. This reality should preface and contextualise all conversations on the response to the crisis shown by Pakistan's federal and provincial governments. They've been dealt a bad hand, and, for the sake of sanity, one would prefer to assume they're doing all they can, given significant capacity limitations." – **Dr. Umair Javed**, *Dawn* (March 23, 2020)

"We have to start looking for, developing and deploying solutions. It will take some time for all universities to get there and for all students to have access of a sufficient quality, but the work has to start now. And universities, given their situations, will traverse this distance at varying speeds. The HEC should be ready to invest in infrastructure, material development and trainings. It has already announced some committees on these issues, but it remains to be seen what resources are invested in this pursuit and what the results are." – **Dr. Faisal Bari**, *Dawn* (April 3, 2020)

"Nearly a month into the pandemic, there is little indication that the worst is behind us. Ominously, a host of projections suggest an exponential rise in cases to continue till at least the middle of April. We find ourselves in uncertain and unprecedented times, and all front-line medical professionals, administrators and volunteers deserve our gratitude for steering us through them." – **Dr. Umair Javed**, *Dawn* (April 6, 2020)

"Which way will universities in Pakistan go? The decision might take some time. But it does seem that some level of physical teaching will have to happen given our infrastructural issues. It also seems that a hybrid model will also have to be introduced, as universities cannot handle all of their students if any SOPs are developed and effectively implemented. The exact nature of the hybrid model will vary with university, subject, year of instruction, nature of degree and so on. In addition, adequate protections for faculty and staff will have to be devised as well." – **Dr. Faisal Bari**, *Dawn* (May 29, 2020)



## Dean's Office at MGSHSS Bids Farewell to Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali



*In June 2020, Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali completed his three years at LUMS, first as Dean of the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS) and then as Provost of LUMS. Throughout the three years his base of operations had been the Dean's Office in the Main Academic Block, a space that was shared by his immediate team. Upon the completion of Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali's tenure at LUMS, his colleagues at the Dean's Office have penned their notes of gratitude to him.*



I started working at the Dean's Office as a nervous fresh graduate where I was welcomed by jokes orchestrated by the Dean. I was very confused. However, I soon realised that there is so much to learn from his endless store of tales and his very exciting life as an anthropologist. If you're looking for someone, chances are Dr. K will somehow be connected to them through your *chachi ki nani ke phupha* who immigrated to the US back in the day and you will never cease to be amazed. His generosity knows no bounds. He selflessly offered his mentorship to me and anyone who entered through his door. MGSHSS has seen a surge in alumni pursuing a graduate education in Anthropology and Kamran *Sahab* is to blame for future unemployment that will soon follow a large surplus of PhDs. His kindness and deep analytical ability to sort out tricky administrative situations are admirable to say the least. I have a lot to say in terms of his relentless encouragement and a strong belief in my abilities but this space may not allow for it. I will always be grateful for such a wonderful first boss, colleague, mentor, and friend. Best of luck in your future endeavours, I wish you now have more time to write and find contentment in life—unsure if they go together. Regardless, I hope that our paths cross again someday; until then, our *guftugu* continues ...

### Anam Fatima Khan

During a conversation with a friend some time ago, I highlighted how it was Dr. Kamran who prompted the adoption and common use of the word '*dost*' across HSS, making it an integral part of our shared vocabulary. 'What a legacy to have,' we both admitted. However, beyond the mere customary utterance of the word, Dr. Kamran also happens to embody the very essence of this *dosti* in all his interactions with friends, colleagues, and strangers alike. Similarly, to me, Dr. Kamran has been a teacher, supervisor, and boss, but in every role that he has assumed, he has always been a friend first. While I am grateful to have had multiple opportunities to experience and learn from his humility, humour, empathy, and wisdom in the past few years, I am also hopeful that our *dosti* still has a long way to go.

### Shafaq Sohail



Dear Dr. Kamran, working with you has been an unforgettable experience which has enabled me to grow professionally and personally in a multitude of ways. I would like to take this opportunity to simply thank you for your encouragement and support over the years. Your kind words and guidance mean a lot to me. Dr. Kamran, your appreciation becomes my inspiration and today your encouragement has made my career flourish to new heights. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Thanks for being the BRAINS of boardroom meetings, the HANDS of workplace policies, the LEGS that take the team forward and the LIFE of office!

### Nazish Riaz



As someone who wants to make his own mark on the academia one day, I always thought of scholarship, teaching, and administration as three distinct academic roles which require three times the effort if one wants to succeed at all of them. But they merge effortlessly and organically into one in Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali's personality. I had known him as a scholar even before I had met him. And I knew from several of my friends that he was an amazing teacher. But in the three years that I have worked with him in an academic as well as an administrative role, I have come to recognise him as someone who champions academic administration because that is what facilitates both the cutting-edge research and the life-changing teaching. In the first few minutes of meeting him upon my hiring I knew that under his supervision I will be afforded the time and the space that I needed to learn and grow. And that has been Dr. Kamran's biggest contribution to LUMS, especially to the MGSHSS Dean's Office. He created a physical and psychological space where everyone worked together, succeeded together, and still had the time as well as the encouragement to do their own thing and be celebrated and cheered for it. Anyone who has spent time with him knows that he is sharp, humble, and jolly. But those who truly know him know that what he is serious about is enabling others to achieve their potential. It is in large part due to his guidance and support that I was able to begin my own doctoral studies. And while I miss our Monday morning teas and our after-hours chats, I know that he must return to the US and continue to excel in the three academic roles which merge in his personality. I am just waiting for this COVID-19 crisis to be over as it will give me chance to visit him in Austin and have tea with him and continue our chat.

#### Ateeb Gul



From giving all of us opportunities to grow, to having our backs and leading all the way, thank you for being an amazing boss and mentor. We will miss the homecooked food, lunches, and kinnow. The jokes (you know what I mean) as well as the lessons on Urdu language. Can't promise if I would ever learn Urdu counting but shall try my best. Hope that you keep on visiting LUMS.

#### Eilya Mohsin



Professor Kamran Asdar Ali has countless qualities including, but not limited to, excellent leadership, mentorship, goal-orientation, support, and a deeply caring nature. Working with an excellent boss like Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali has been the best experience of my career. My heartiest thanks to Dr. Kamran for his excellent leadership.

#### Aurangzaib Awan



Dr. Kamran, your exceptional qualities have inspired us in so many ways. For that, we cannot thank you enough. You will be remembered not just for the things you've accomplished as the leader of this institution but also for your tact, care, and transparency. You have always been more of a leader, less of a boss and know very clearly how to bring the best out of your employees. You have given us so much to be thankful for. I see myself and my colleagues as extremely lucky to have worked under your caring leadership. Words alone are insufficient to express how much we are going to miss you. I wish you good luck and success in all of your future endeavours.

#### Hira Javied

# Welcome, Dr. Ali Khan!



*In June 2020, Dr. Ali Khan will become the new Dean of the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS), LUMS. After having served as Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for several years, he will now be responsible to lead the whole School, the same School that has grown into LUMS's largest during his years as the department chair. We welcome Dr. Ali Khan and extend our fullest support to him!*

Dr. Ali Khan is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS. His research interests vary from labour issues, particularly child and bonded labour, to popular culture in Pakistan focusing particularly on cinema and sports. He has previously worked in Washington and in Islamabad for the World Bank's South Asia Region and with the International Labour Organisation primarily on projects related to child and bonded labour. His monograph, *Representing Children: Power, Policy and the Discourse on Child Labour in the Football Manufacturing Industry of Pakistan*, was published in October 2007 by Oxford University Press (OUP). He is also the General Editor for the OUP publication series, *Sociology and Anthropology in Pakistan*. Ali Khan is currently undertaking research on the Pakistani film industry and cricket and society in Pakistan. He has an MPhil and a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge.

# Student Achievements

## Team Pakistan Make Country Proud at International Conference SAESM 2020

A 10-member team from Pakistan participated in the South Asian Economics Students' Meet (SAESM) 2020, which took place in Khatmandu, Nepal, from January 21 – 26. Team Pakistan comprised of nine students from LUMS and one from the Lahore School of Economics (LSE). Amongst them, Muhammad Fateh Farhan from LUMS had the privilege of representing the team as group leader.

SAESM is a platform where students studying for a major in Economics across South Asian colleges and universities come together with other fellow students to foster intellectual bonding through the student conference and its various activities.

During the conference, members were allotted various categories and each participant was then required to present a research paper from one of the themes provided. Awaid Yasin, Al-e-Iba, Javeria Ashraf, Javeria Suhail, Shehryar and Muaz Chaudhry all won the award for Best Paper in their respective themes. As a result, Team Pakistan came up on top as the best delegation with the most Best Paper awards.

The rest of the team also put in great effort in other categories, especially in the Quizonomics category which Team Pakistan's Maniha Aftab won. In the highly competitive and renowned Budding Economist competition, Muhammad Fateh Farhan, Al-e-Iba, Awaid Yasin and Shehryar had the privilege to represent Pakistan from which Mr. Yasin and Mr. Shereyar were both able to reach the final round of the competition making Pakistan proud.



In the Panel Discussions, Momena Javaid and Muaz Chaudhary effectively analysed the problems that plague South Asia. Both told compelling stories and shared cases about unemployment, pollution and effects of climate change in South Asia. The other delegates also talked about challenges in their host countries leading to a thought-provoking discussion.

From the LUMS Economics Department, Dr. Turab Hussain, Dr. Ali Hasanain, Dr. Agha Ali Akram and Dr. Sanval Nasim and from LSE, Ms. Zunia Saif Tirmazee and Ms. Maryiam Haroon represented Team Pakistan as judges. They also assisted the host team in analysing papers for the Best Paper award and in judging the final round for the Budding Economist competition.

The event not only provided great exposure to students but also helped broaden their understanding of economics. By interacting with participants from other countries, our students realised the various intricacies involved in the economic structures of other countries and the importance of diversity.

Credit also goes to the Economics Society at LUMS, who were involved in preparing for the conference, from advertising and promoting the conference to conducting training sessions and allocating teams members to various events.

Team Pakistan has made the country proud and has returned with an even greater determination to represent the country and promote engagement at a global level

## MGSHSS Alum Saim Sadiq Won the Orizzonti Award for Best Short Film at this Year's Venice Film Festival



Making the whole country proud, the short film *Darling*, directed by LUMS alum Saim Sadiq, won the Orizzonti Award for Best Short Film at this year's Venice Film Festival. *Darling*, the first Pakistani film to be nominated and to have won at the Venice Film Festival, tells the story of a young boy and a transgender girl.

*Darling* premiered at the Festival's new Orizzonti section, dedicated to new trends in international cinema, featuring short films and feature films from around the world, and proceeded to win in the category. The film is set to screen next at Toronto International Film Festival and has also been selected to screen at the Berlin and Cannes film festivals.

The film's actress, Alina Khan, is transgender, which made for a richer performance as her acting was tailored in line with her real life experiences. Sadiq also highlighted in interviews, that he

hopes films like *Darling* encourage other filmmakers to tell more original stories, and also hopes that Khan's performance will open the door for more transgender actors to get roles in film.

Sadiq graduated from LUMS in 2014 with a BSc in Anthropology and Sociology from the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He is currently completing his Master of Fine Arts at Columbia University School of Arts. His previous short film, *Nice Talking to You* ('18), was awarded Vimeo's Best Director Award along with five other awards at the 2018 Columbia University thesis film showcase. He is also the recipient of the Kodak Student Scholarship Gold Award 2018. Sadiq is in the process of developing his first feature film, *Gulaab*, which has been accepted at the Open Doors Hub at the Locarno Film Festival 2018.



## Exchange Programmes/Collaborations



Five bright undergraduate students from the MGS SHSS have been nominated for an exchange semester with the FH Joanneum University (FHJ), Austria, under the LUMS-FHJ Student Exchange Programme.

Five bright undergraduate students from MGS SHSS have been nominated for an exchange semester with the FH Joanneum University (FHJ), Austria, under the LUMS-FHJ Student Exchange Programme. The programme offers an opportunity to study at the University in Graz, Austria, for the Fall Semester (2020-21) and/or the Spring Semester 2021.

The selection process was executed by the Office of International Affairs (OIA) at LUMS and the shortlisted candidates were interviewed by an assigned panel consisting of faculty members as well as

the directors of OIA and the Student Support Services.

This year the selected students for this programme are Muhammad Umar Abuzar, Amna Ejaz Ahmad, Haider Ghani Jafari, Maheen Salman, and Ushna Khan from the MGS SHSS, and Amar Lal from the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law.

These students will now apply to avail the Ernst Mach Grant, offered by the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research that enables full funding for exchange students from non-European countries to study in a full-time programme at an Austrian University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule) for five months. In the eight years since the inception of this exchange programme, 46 students from LUMS have qualified for the prestigious Ernst Mach Grant to study at the FHJ.

**Khushbakht Rashid** attended the Summer Programme at the National University of Singapore. The experience was shared in these words:

“Going to the NUS programme transformed me as a person. Not only did my public speaking skills improve but I also became more accepting of new ideas. It gave me insight into the global entrepreneurial atmosphere as well as the opportunity to spread a positive image of Pakistan.”



**Sanha Tahir** went to Tilburg University in the Netherlands for Fall Semester 2019. She remembered her time there in the following words:

“From cultural exposure to novel academic experiences, the months I spent at Tilburg will forever be etched in my memory as one of the best times of my life. In the vast, green fields of Netherlands, I was able to interact with and befriend people from vastly different backgrounds from across the globe, explore different places and learn more about myself, all the while without compromising on the quality of my Bachelor’s education.”





## MGSHSS Events (Spring 2020)

- 1 Brown Bag Series: Pygmalion Effect and Education Networks: Evidence from Public Schools in Pakistan
- 2 Book Colloquium
- 3 Reform Dialogue: Financing Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Pakistani Cities
- 4 Thinking with Unfinished Buildings - Between Construction and Ruination in Lahore
- 5 Mobilising Women Voters: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan
- 6 English Seminar Series: Transgressive Tribute: Selections from the Punjabi Poetry of Nasreen Anjum Bhatti & Sara Shagufta
- 7 An Exhibition of Calligraphy Creations in Siyah Mashq: Man Pardesi Jai Thee-ai (If the self suffers exile)
- 8 Imagination as Resistance
- 9 HSS Seminar Series: 'Convinced about Knowing Little': The Paradoxes of Colonial Knowledge in the Linguistic Survey of India 1903-1928
- 10 Brown Bag Series: The Business Plan of Punjab
- 11 Brown Bag Series: Home-bias among Female Entrepreneurs: Experimental Evidence on Preferences from Pakistan
- 12 Colloquium on Conceptualizing Religion: Speak of the Devil: How the Satanic Temple is Changing the Way We Talk about Religion
- 13 Halqa-e-Danish Lecture Series: Shairi ke Safer: Afzal Ahmed Syed in Conversation with Moeen Nizami
- 14 Pakistan and the IMF: A Story without an Ending
- 15 HSS Seminar Series: Muslims in Australia: Understanding Dynamics and Agents of Exclusion and Inclusion
- 16 Brown Bag Series: Understanding Government Spending Multiplier
- 17 Kulliyat-e Faiz: Reflections from the Present
- 18 ABU—A film by Arshad Khan
- 19 Shudh Sur: A Musical Journey
- 20 Without Accident: Road Movie in the Age of Digital



- 21 Launch of Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum  
 22 The Political Economy of Pakistan  
 23 HSS Seminar Series: After the Elections of 2019, Is India now an  
 Ethnic Democracy?  
 24 A Webinar with Aun Raza  
 25 Memorial Service of Ambassador Syed Azmat Hassan  
 26 Enforcement for Sale? Irrigation Reform and Lobbying for Water in  
 Pakistan's Indus Basin  
 27 History Seminar Series: Mughal Historian in Mexico City  
 28 Coronavirus: Past and Present  
 29 Satire as Social Commentary  
 30 English Seminar Series: Postcolonial Studies and the Paradoxical  
 Case of Greece  
 31 Raag Shaam-Thaath Purbi  
 32 Can Contraceptive Uptake be Improved by Enhancing Access and  
 Reducing Social Anxiety?  
 33 English Seminar Series: Mentoring Session with Sadia Abbas  
 34 English Seminar Series: Symposium Textual Worlds and Literary  
 Perspectives  
 35 Why Chand Bibi Matters Today: Legends and Histories of a Medieval  
 Deccan Queen  
 36 How We Learned to Live with the Bombs: Towards a Global History  
 of the Materialities and Mentalities of Urban Terror Mindedness  
 37 Ahmad Bilal Awan Bazm-e-Adab: Fiction Ke Safeer: Parveen Malik  
 on Translating Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things into Urdu  
 38 Everyday Life in Times of Ruination  
 39 The Horse That Ran Away With the Bit  
 40 Everyday Life in Times of Ruination



Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

# EVERYDAY LIFE IN TIMES OF RUINATION

March 12-13, 2020  
9:00am - 6:00pm  
Faculty Lounge, VC Office LUMS

Seminar Series Spring 2020

## HOW WE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE BOMBS

Towards a Global History of the Materialities and Mentalities of Urban Terrormindedness


Speaker:  
**Dr. Mats Fridlund**  
Deputy Director, Centre for Digital Humanities,  
Dept. of Literature, History of Ideas & Religion,  
University of Gothenburg

Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

LUMS Urdu Waheed Gender Institute

# WHY CHAND BIBI MATTERS TODAY? LEGENDS AND HISTORIES OF A MEDIEVAL DECCAN QUEEN

A talk by  
**Dr. Sarah Waheed**  
Assistant Professor of History  
Davidson College (North Carolina, USA)



Tuesday, March 10, 2020 | 6:00 pm | SDSB-105  
Organized by the History Stream and the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative

Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

English Seminar Series


# Textual Worlds and Literary Perspectives

Keynote Speaker:  
**Dr. Sadia Abbas**  
Associate Professor, Department of English,  
Rutgers University-Newark

Reading Authors:  
Dr. Farah Ali, LUMS  
Dr. Jaleel Akhtar, University of Central Punjab  
Dr. Amir Aziz, Punjab University  
Dr. Mohammad Waqar Azeem, Forman Christian College  
Dr. Rubina Sheikh, Government College University  
Dr. Sadia Zulfikar, LUMS  
Ms. Zunaira Yousaf, Forman Christian College

March 7, 2020  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
Faculty Lounge, VC Office, LUMS

If you are unfamiliar with LUMS please send your name and CNIC to [info@lums.edu.pk](mailto:info@lums.edu.pk)



LUMS Ghulam Centre for Languages and Literature

# سرد سفر

a musical journey


hosted by **Ali Sethi** and **Ustad Naseeruddin Saami**

Central Courtyard, Academic Block  
February 25, 2020  
7:30 PM

LUMS Ghulam Centre for Languages and Literature

# کلیات فیض

Reflections from the Present



**S. Nomanul Haq**  
Editor, Kulliyat-e-Faiz  
Dean, Institute of Liberal Arts, UMT  
**Aamir R. Mufti**  
Professor of Comparative Literature, UCLA

February 24, 2020  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Faculty Lounge, VC Office

Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

English Seminar Series

# MENTORING SESSION with DR. SADIA ABBAS

Associate Professor, Department of English  
Rutgers University Newark



**THE EMPTY ROOM**  
SADIA ABBAS

Dr. Sadia Abbas is an Associate Professor in Rutgers University Newark's English department. She specializes in postcolonial literature and theory, the culture and politics of Islam in modernity, early modern English literature—especially the literature of religious strife—and the history of 20th-century criticism. Dr. Abbas has published two books and many articles on literature and theory. Her first book, *Of Freedom's Limit* was a Co-winner of the MLA First Book Prize and her second book *The Empty Room* was shortlisted for the USC South Asian Literature Prize.

March 6, 2020  
4:00pm - 7:30pm  
A-5, Academic Block, LUMS

If you are unfamiliar with LUMS please send your name and CNIC to [sadia.javed@lums.edu.pk](mailto:sadia.javed@lums.edu.pk)

"ABU IS STARTLING...  
IN ITS HONEST IMAGERY... THE SEARCH FOR 'ABU' IS THE SEARCH FOR PAKISTAN  
IN ALL ITS CONTRADICTIONS... LOVE THIS MOVIE... BRAVO."



WHEN ALL HUMANS ARE GUIDED BY A SET OF RULES,  
IT'S TIME FOR NEW RULES.

# ABU

Directed by Arif Hasan

Official Selections: Fantasia, TWIST, BILLYWOOD FILM FESTIVAL

# Thinking with Unfinished Buildings - Between Construction and Ruination in Lahore

A talk by  
**Dr. Chris Moffat**

Dr. Chris Moffat is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of History, Queen Mary University of London. In 2018, he was a Visiting Faculty member at Government College University, Lahore, China. He is the author of *Being a Postcolonial: Architecture, Politics and the Promise of Digital Design* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Abstract  
This presentation navigates a construction site that has retreated in progress for nearly thirty years. Even today, the site's Pakistan-ese complex still retains its iconic form: a massive, unfinished, left-building work repeatedly interrupted by disappearing funds and the consequent erasure of the project. Charting the history of the project, the lecture will open a discussion around the role of Pakistan in the pursuit of a postcolonial architecture in this context, reflecting on questions of failure, the project promises of construction, the site's interrelationships of building into ruins, and the possibilities to be found in failure and detail.

Monday, February 3, 2020  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
A-16, Academic Block, LUMS

Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Everyday Life in  
Times of Ruination

Keynote Talk

# THE HORSE THAT RAN AWAY WITH THE BIT

Architect **Arif Hasan**

Arif Hasan is a Pakistani architect and planner, activist, teacher, social researcher and writer. After completing his training in UK and Europe, he returned to Karachi in 1968 and established an independent practice which slowly evolved into dealing with national and international urban planning and development issues. He has taught at Pakistani and European universities and lectured widely both in the North and the South.

March 12, 2020  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Sayeed Saigol Auditorium, LUMS

An Exhibit  
Featuring poetry by  
Mas'ud Sa'ad Salih,  
Shahid Abdul Latif,  
Aja Shad and Gh  
Curated: Nadira  
LUMS

Mushfaq Ahmad Gurmani  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

LAHORE BIENNALE FOUNDATION

لاہور بیئنائلہ  
Lahore Biennale 02

Colloquium on Conceptualising Religion

HOW THE SATANIC TEMPLE IS CHANGING THE WAY WE TALK ABOUT RELIGION

# SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

A Webinar by **Dr. Joseph Laycock**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 | 6:00 pm  
Venue: A-15, Academic Block, LUMS

Organised by the Study of Religion Stream, LUMS

WITHOUT ACCIDENT: ROAD MOVIE IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL

A talk by **Lalitha Gopalan**  
Lalitha Gopalan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radio-Television-Film and affiliate faculty in the Department of Asian Studies and South Asia Institute at UT Austin.

Followed by the launch of **Reel Pakistan: A Screen Studies Forum**  
Working papers from the annual GLCS Screen Studies Symposium

Reel Pakistan is an open-access publication by the students of the Research Seminar in Screen Studies course offered by GLCS in the Fall with the mission of encouraging and disseminating research on Pakistan screen cultures. This online journal will be dedicated to creating a forum for academic discourse on Pakistan screen studies.

Wednesday 26th February 2020  
6:30 PM - Reception  
7:00 PM - Keynote Lecture & Journal Launch  
Academic Block A-1

History Seminar Series

# A Mughal Historian in Mexico City

A talk by **Dr. Taymiya Zaman**  
Associate Professor of History (University of San Francisco)

Friday, February 28, 2020  
6:00 pm  
A-5, Academic Block, LUMS

احمد بلال اعوان  
بزم ادب

Translating Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*  
فکشن کے سفیر  
ترجمہ اور تخلیق  
PARVEEN MALIK

MARCH 11, 2020  
4:00 PM  
KIC ROOM, LIBRARY BUILDING

**THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN**  
A talk with **Dr. Akbar Zaidi**

Date: 26th February, Wednesday  
Time: 4:00PM  
Venue: SS Auditorium

Brown Bag Series  
Organised by the Department of Economics, MSOCS

# Understanding Government Spending Multiplier

Dr. Syed Zahid Ali  
Professor in Department of Economics, LUMS

Friday, February 21, 2020  
3:00 pm  
A-3, Academic Block, LUMS

MAHUB UL HAQ DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

**Dr. Ghazala Mansuri**  
Lead Economist,  
Economic Research & Equity  
Global Practice, World Bank

Friday  
Feb. 28, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
A-11, Academic Block, LUMS

'Enforcement for Sale? Irrigation Reform and Lobbying for Water in Pakistan's Indus Basin'

# IMAGINATION AS RESISTANCE

Adania Shibli

Adania Shibli is a Palestinian writer who has been writing novels, plays, short stories and narrative essays, which were published in various anthologies, art books, and literary and cultural magazines in different languages. She has twice been awarded with the **Caftan Young Writer's Award-Palestine** in 2001 for her novel *Masaaq*, and in 2003 for her novel *Kulluna Ba'id beeth al-Miqdar an el-Hub*. Her latest novel is *Talaf Thawmi*. Amongst her non-fiction books are, the art book *Dispositions*, and an edited collection of essays, entitled *A Journey of Ideas Across: in Dialog with Edward Said*. Along her writing, Shibli is engaged in academic research, and since 2013 she has been teaching part-time at the Department of Philosophy and Cultural studies, Bzeal University, Palestine.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
Academic Block, A-5  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Man Purdit Jai The... (If the self suffers, who...)  
— Guru Nanak, *Gurmat Sahib* ? (Aang 167)

# Exhibition of Calligraphy Creations in *Siyah Mashq*

by Shah Abdullah Alamic

Opening: February 10, 2020 - 4:00 pm  
Venue: Academic Block (first floor), LUMS  
Opposite Sector 'U' DHA, Lahore.  
The display shall be on until May 31, 2020.

Shahbaz Khan & Fatima Fayaz  
Chairman Centre for Languages and Literature

LUMS | Mahub ul Haq Research Centre

# BOOK COLLOQUIUM

Join us for a discussion with authors **Dr. Ammara Maqsood** & **Dr. Shandana Mohmand** on societal and political transformations across urban and rural Pakistan

JANUARY 16, 2020 | 5:30 PM  
VC FACULTY LOUNGE LUMS UNIVERSITY

**AMMARA MAQSOOD**  
The New



**LUMS**

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