



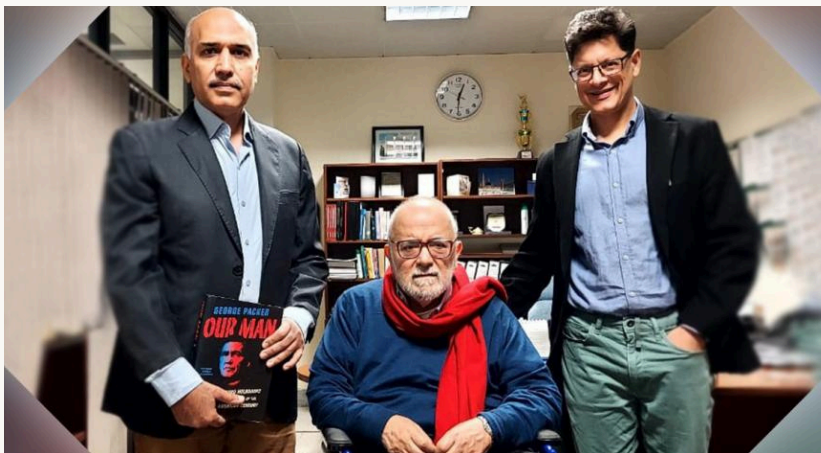
HAPPENINGS AT MGS SHSS

A Gathering in the Memory of Dr. Syeda Arfa Zehra



The Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature hosted a moving condolence gathering in memory of Professor Dr. Syeda Arfa Zehra, where students and colleagues reflected on her enduring influence as a teacher and mentor in a space deeply connected to her legacy.

Mr. Ahmed Rashid's Donation of his Book Collection to LUMS



Mr. Ahmed Rashid, of *Descent into Chaos* and *Taliban*, has generously donated his complete book collection to LUMS. The collection, spanning Afghanistan's history, politics, society, and regional security, includes scholarly works, memoirs, investigative accounts, and human rights studies, providing a valuable resource for students and researchers. We sincerely thank Mr. Rashid, as well as Dr. Nadeem Siddique and the Gad and Birgit Rausing Library staff, for making this contribution possible. [Read more](#)

CLCA - SALT Translation Workshop



The CLCA stream at LUMS, in collaboration with SALT (University of Chicago), hosted a two-day translation workshop on October 10–11, 2025. Twenty-six translators from across Pakistan engaged with classical and contemporary Urdu literature, exploring the cultural, emotional, and ethical dimensions of translation.

Heritage Spotlight: Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Toshakhāna



LUMS showcased “Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Toshakhāna” (Dec 12–19, 2025), digitally reconstructing lost treasures like the Koh-i-Noor diamond and silver bangla. Curated by Nadhra Shahbaz Khan and Murtaza Taj, the exhibition highlights 19th-century Punjab's artistic heritage and forms part of LUMS' Heritage at LUMS initiative, alongside the Digital and Lutfullah Khan Archives. [Read more](#)

Documentary Highlight:



MGS SHSS faculty Ali Usman Qasmi and Ilyas Chattha present “*Buhay Khulay Rakhin*” (Keep the Doors Open), a 35-minute documentary on children separated from their families during the 1947 Partition. Using personal testimonies, archival material, and expert insights, the film explores displacement, resilience, identity, and the possibilities of reconciliation across borders.

[Documentary Link](#)

Gender Bi-Annual



The Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWG I) extends warm wishes for a happy and fulfilling 2026 and proudly announces the launch of the ninth issue of the Gender Bi-Annual.

[Read more](#)

LUMS Economic Policy Outlook Series



The CNM Department of Economics released its December 2025 policy brief, presenting new evidence on how upzoning reforms affect housing prices and socioeconomic conditions in Lahore, reinforcing its commitment to policy-relevant research. [Read more](#)

Medical Humanities Symposium



MGSHSS hosted a one-day Medical Humanities Symposium that examined how storytelling shapes experiences and understandings of illness, care, and recovery. Bringing together medical professionals, writers, and practitioners, the symposium highlighted the role of emotion, gender, ethics, and narrative in healthcare, emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches to medicine and social justice. [Read more](#)

FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Faculty Promotions

MGSHSS is proud to announce the promotion of three distinguished faculty members:



Sadaf Ahmad has been promoted to Professor, becoming the school’s first female Professor. A Cultural Anthropologist, Dr. Ahmad has made significant contributions to gender studies and the Anthropology and Sociology major.



Farah Said has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Economics. Her research focuses on how resource constraints and social norms shape economic decisions in developing economies.



Ayesha Ali has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Economics. Her work spans energy economics, digital technologies, and political economy, with publications in leading international journals.

Service Excellence Awards

MGSHSS is delighted to celebrate faculty and staff recognized at the LUMS Service and Excellence Awards for their dedication and contributions to the university.

Service Recognition Awards 10 Years



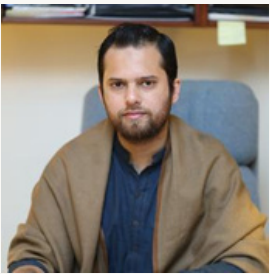
Amen Jaffer
Associate Professor, HSS



Asma Ul Husna Faiz
Associate Professor, HSS



Aurangzeb Haneef
Assistant Professor, HSS



Baqar Hassan Syed
Assistant Professor, HSS



Salman Amin
Programme Coordination Lead,
CNM Economics

Service Recognition Awards 20 Years



Muhammad Shabbir Ahsen
Associate Professor, HSS

LUMS Award for Service Excellence



Aurangzaib Awan
Manager Budget & Faculty Affairs
Office of the Dean, MGSHSS



Asma Ul Husna Faiz (Associate Professor, HSS) joined the editorial boards of *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* and *Contemporary South Asia*, became a Board of Trustees member for TDEA, and was included in DigiWorld, marking LUMS as the network’s first South Asian partner for research on digital political communication.



Tania Saeed (Associate Professor, HSS) served as Visiting Associate Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Warwick (June–December 2025) and will lead the Pakistan segment of the EU-funded FEMENA project on female entrepreneurship (€1.6 million, 2026–2030).



Afsheen Salahuddin (Adjunct Faculty, HSS) has served as plenary speaker and judge at the 6th **NMSCST Research Congress** (Nov 6–8, 2025), hosted by the North Western Mindanao State College of Science and Technology. The congress focused on *Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative, inclusive, and impact-driven research*.



Sher Afghan Asad (Assistant Professor, ECON) has been approved as an Invited **Researcher at J-PAL** and **secured a GBP 22,672 grant** from the International Centre for Tax and Development for his project on tax compliance in Pakistan.

STUDENT & ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Neha Mankani (BSc Social Sciences, 2008), Founder of Mama Baby Fund, has been included in the *TIME 100 Climate* list for 2025 for her pioneering work improving maternal and newborn health in climate-affected regions of Pakistan, including operating solar-powered, midwife-led clinics serving thousands of mothers and infants.

Sports Spotlight

MGSHSS students demonstrated exceptional athletic excellence at HEC Games 2025:

Swimming Championships



- Fatima Asim Khan**
(2027-02-0545)
- won six gold medals in 50m, 100m, and 200m Breaststroke, 4x100m Freestyle Relay, 4x100m Medley Relay, and 4x200m Freestyle Relay.
- Iman Latif**
(2028-02-0373)
- earned three bronze medals in 50m, 100m, and 200m Breaststroke, and contributed to two gold medal relay teams (4x100m Freestyle and 4x100m Medley).
- Alina Abid**
(2028-02-0334)
- won bronze in 400m Freestyle and gold in the 4x200m Freestyle Relay.

Tennis Championship

- Ibad ur Rehman**
(2026-02-0451)
- was part of the LUMS Male Tennis Team that won the HEC Championship, securing a gold medal for the University.

Economics Delegation Wins Top Honours at the 20th SAESM in Kathmandu, Nepal



A team of undergraduate students from the CNM Department of Economics represented LUMS at the 20th South Asian Economics Students’ Meet (SAESM) 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal, and secured the top title, marking an exceptional achievement for Pakistan. This year’s theme, “Assessing Risks and Vulnerabilities in South Asia and the Path to Economic Resilience,” brought together undergraduate economics students from across the region. SAESM is an annual regional gathering, and LUMS has proudly participated since the conference’s inception in 2004.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The CNM Department of Economics at LUMS invites submissions for its conference on **Gender and the Economy**, to be held on 11–12 May 2026. Abstracts are due by 15 February 2026. [Online Submission form](#)

The Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature (GCLL) invite submissions for its annual conference, **The Mughals: Their Past, Our Present**, on 11–12 May 2026. Abstracts (200 words) should be submitted by 10 February 2026 to gcll.conference@lums.edu.pk

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Tania Saeed contributed “*Unsettling Categories*”: *Reflections on Sufi Traditions and Practices to the Educator’s Guide to Global Citizenship Education* (APCEIU UNESCO, 2026, pp. 35–51). She also serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Georg Arnhold Program for *Education for Sustainable Peace, Germany* (2025–27).

Asma Ul Husna Faiz published *Federalism in Pakistan: A Contested Terrain* in *Policy Tribune*, Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy (Vol. 2, Issue 1, 2025).

Baqar Hassan Syed made his first podcast appearance: [Watch here](#)

Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo was a guest on Notes with Nomads – Women and Mobility Series, hosted by The Migration Collective: [Listen here](#)

Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo will host an upcoming episode of Unpacking Pakistan (produced by MGS HSS) on *Where Does Pakistan Stand in the New Global Order*, scheduled for release soon.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION & PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Ilyas Chattha (Associate Professor, HSS) delivered a series of book talks at Tufts, Harvard, Columbia, and the Wisconsin–Madison conference in October 2025.

Sher Afghan Asad (Assistant Professor, Economics) presented “*From Margins to Mainstream: Gender Discrimination in Digital Marketplaces*” at Yale University’s PEDL Early-Career Researchers Workshop.

Dominic Elser (Assistant Professor, HSS) presented research on caste at the Lahore School of Law and in the HSS Seminar series in November, and participated in the Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin–Madison, in October.

Ali Usman Qasmi (Associate Professor at MGS HSS and Director of the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature), delivered the keynote address at the 7th Annual Social Sciences Conference at the Lahore School of Economics on November 14, 2025, focusing on decolonial approaches and the significance of local and vernacular perspectives in the humanities and social sciences.



Saman Tariq (Post Doc fellow, HSS) gave a guest lecture on “Writing Qasbah Histories” at the South Asian Regional Histories Workshop hosted by the Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, LUMS, on 20 December 2025.

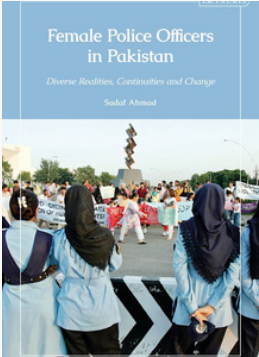
Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo (Teaching Fellow, HSS) presented “Gender and the City: Inequalities of Mobility, Safety and Freedom for Working-Class Women in Lahore” at the 53rd Annual Conference on South Asia, moderated a panel at the Indus Conclave Festival in September, was a guest poetry reader at the British Council Women of the World Festival, and conducted an Academic Writing and Critical Thinking Workshop as part of LUMS-SIDA-AAS Research Capacity Building Workshops.

MGS HSS faculty attended the 53rd Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Oct 22–25, 2025). **Huda Imtiaz** chaired a panel on gendered and minority labor in Pakistan, while **Dominic Elser, Sameera Abbas, Ilyas Chattha**, and **Ali Usman Qasmi** presented research on South Asian history and society. Ilyas Chattha also delivered book talks on *Citizens to Traitors: Bengali Internment in Pakistan, 1971–1974*, highlighting historical transformations during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

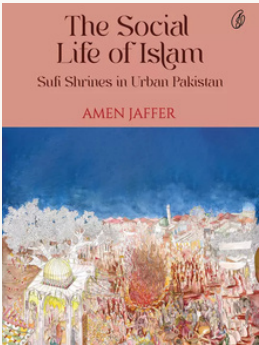


PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

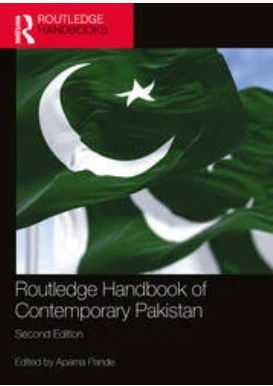


Sadaf Ahmad (Professor, HSS) published a book titled “*Female Police Officers in Pakistan*” by Bloomsbury.



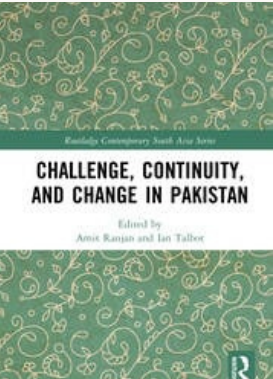
Amen Jaffaer’s (Associate Professor, HSS) published a book titled “*The Social Life of Islam: Sufi Shrines in Urban Pakistan*” by Cambridge University Press and in Pakistan by Readings.

BOOK CHAPTERS



The following MGSHSS faculty and alumni published book chapters in the Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Pakistan, 2nd Edition:

- **Ali Hasanain** (Associate Professor, Economics) "*Crises on Repeat*"
- **Sher Afghan Asad** (Assistant Professor, Economics) "*Taxation in Pakistan: Challenges, Reforms, and the Case for a Scientific Approach*"
- **Sana Khosa** (Assistant Professor, HSS) and **Shanzay Khanzada** (alumna, Class of 2025) "*From Victimhood to Action: Understanding Pakistan's Climate Narratives*"
- **Ahmer Naqvi** (alumnus) "*The Inevitability of Cricket*"
- **Taimur Rahman** (Associate Professor, HSS) "*Class Struggles and Political Islam in Pakistan*"
- **Hafiz Muhammad Salman Rafi** (Assistant Professor, HSS) "*Over and Above the Constitution: Pakistan's Descent from Cooperative to Militarised Federalism*"



Asma Ul Husna Faiz (Associate Professor, HSS) published a chapter titled “*Mapping Federalism in Pakistan*” tin the Challenge, Continuity and Change in Pakistan (Routledge).

JOURNAL

Ali Khan “*Seventy-five Years of Partition: Rupture and Connectivity: India-Pakistan Cricketing Relations*”. *Critical Pakistan Studies*, 2025, 1–21.

Ali Khan & Ali Ahmad Nobil “*Sport in Pakistan: Highs and Lows amidst Structural Decline*”. In Ranjan, A., & Talbot, I. (Eds.), *Challenge, Continuity, and Change in Pakistan* (1st ed., Routledge, 2025).

Ali Khan “*Indo-Pak Cricketing Relations in the Shadow of the Rise of Hindutva*”. In Souvik Naha (ed.), “*Cricket and Nationhood in the Twenty-First Century: Identity Projects in Uncertain Times*” (Oxford, 2024; online edition, 28 Nov. 2024).

Ilyas Chattha “*Stop Playing Cricket with Pakistan*”: *Protesting the 1971 Pakistan Cricket Tour of England*. The Journal of Sport History (Dec 2025).

Saba Pirzadeh & Tehmina Pirzada “*Entangled Futures: Energy Production, Ecospirituality, and Decolonial Hope in Indian Solarpunk Fiction*.” Journal of Postcolonial Writing, Nov 2025, 1–16.

Warda Riaz “*The Health Effects of In Utero Exposure to Cash Transfers*”. Journal of Human Resources, 2025.

Saman Tariq “*Articulating the Woman ‘Lay’ Historian: The Twentieth-Century Archive of Begum Noor-us-Sabah*.” South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, Vol. 49, Issue 1, Dec 2025. Also published in Critical Stages, Issue 32, Dec 2025.

Aneeqa Mazhar Wattoo Poetry: “*Animal Love*”, The Aleph Review, Vol. 9, 2025; “*Apartment Life*”, Lakeer Magazine, Issue 6, Autumn 2025.

Dominic Elser “*An Integrated Approach to Caste in Sri Lanka*.” CASTE / A Global Journal on Social Exclusion.

Tania Saeed “*Pakistan and its Diaspora(s): An Exploration of Economic and Political Mobilization for the (Mother)land*.” In Ranjan, A., & Talbot, I. (Eds.), *Challenge, Continuity, and Change in Pakistan* (Routledge, 2025).

IN THE PRESS

Salman Rafi published several op-eds in *Himal Southasian*, including:

- *The Pakistan Military’s Constitutional Coup*
- *Can China and Saudi Arabia Succeed in South Asia?*
- *Pakistan’s Struggle to Reshape its Fiscal Federalism*