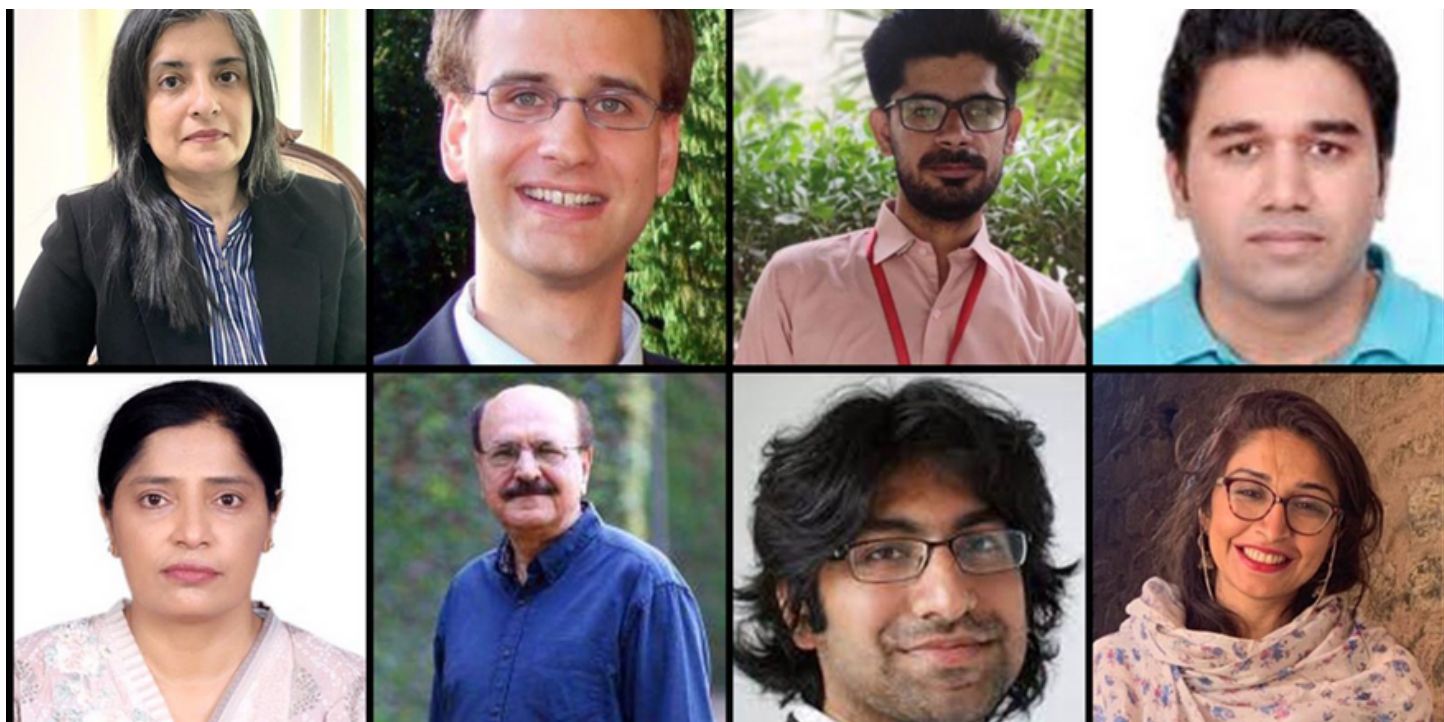




THE SESS NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: SYEDA ALIZA HAIDER



ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY LAB

A team of Social Inequality Lab was formed which includes Dr. Asma Hyder as the Director, Dr. Moritz Meyer, Senior Economist from World Bank as a Senior Fellow and Coordinator from World Bank, and Shujaat Hussain, a PhD Scholar SESS as a Coordinator. The Fellows include Dr. Muhammad Nasir and Dr. Lubna Naz from SESS, Dr. Abid Aman Burki from LUMS, Dr. Sultan Mehmood from the New Economic School in Moscow, and Dr. Sumrin Kalia from University College London & IBA.

Moreover, the team also comprises of three interns, namely, Fabiha Shahid, Faran Waleed and Yahya Shahid who have also written book reviews. Fabiha Shahid wrote a review on Dominik Pesche’s book “Reducing Inequality in The People’s Republic of China Through Tax and Fiscal Reforms (2021)”. Faran Waleed wrote a book review on “The New Power Elite: Inequality, Politics and Greed (2018)” by Alan Shipman, Bryan Turner, and June Edmunds. Furthermore, Yahya Shahid wrote a review on James Midgley’s book “Inequality, Social Protection and Social Justice”.



In partnership with the World Bank, the lab aims to promote research on social issues in Pakistan. The core mission is to maintain and expand the social inequality database, including income and consumption, health inequalities, education, land, gender, and other social inequalities. Examining environmental and climate change imbalances and their impact on different regional and social groups are also the Lab's focus areas. It also produces inequality reports and working papers addressing substantive and methodological issues. The lab is a venue for undergraduate and graduate students to work on social inequalities and to get engage with professors and scholars working on the same domain.



MUSLIM DEVOTIONAL POETRY OF SOUTH ASIA

On 21st April, 2022, Ms. Zahra Sabri from the Department of SSLA, SESS, IBA, organized a session titled “Muslim Devotional Poetry of South Asia”. Paying tribute to the holy month of Ramzan, the event featured recitation of naats written in Urdu, Persian, Sindhi and Punjabi. The IBA faculty and students recited devotional verses of renowned Sindhi poet Maulvi Ahmad Mallah and famous Urdu and Persian poets, including Mir Taqi Mir and Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib. The well-known Coke Studio singer and naat-khwaan, Zara Madani, was invited as the guest of the event. Distinguished faculty of SSLA, including Ms. Zahra Sabri, a Lecturer and literary translator, and Mr. Syed Muhammad Baqar Mehdi Rizvi, a Lecturer and poet, presented their contributions in praise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). They also discussed the importance of Muslim women poets in the domain of South Asian devotional poetry.



LAUNCH OF PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE 2022: FINANCING THE REAL ECONOMY

On 18th May 2022, the department of Economics hosted the World Bank Pakistan team at IBA Main Campus for the launch of its biannual report entitled “Pakistan Development Update 2022: Financing the Real Economy”. Ms. Namoos Zaheer, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, and Mr. Rafay Khan, Economist, from World Bank, presented the findings and recommendations of the report to the faculty, staff, and students of IBA. During the session, the participants learned of the numerous ways in which access to loans and other financial services can be improved to boost economic growth, with special focus on digitalization of financial services to improve inclusivity. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session in which students and faculty posed some hard-hitting questions.



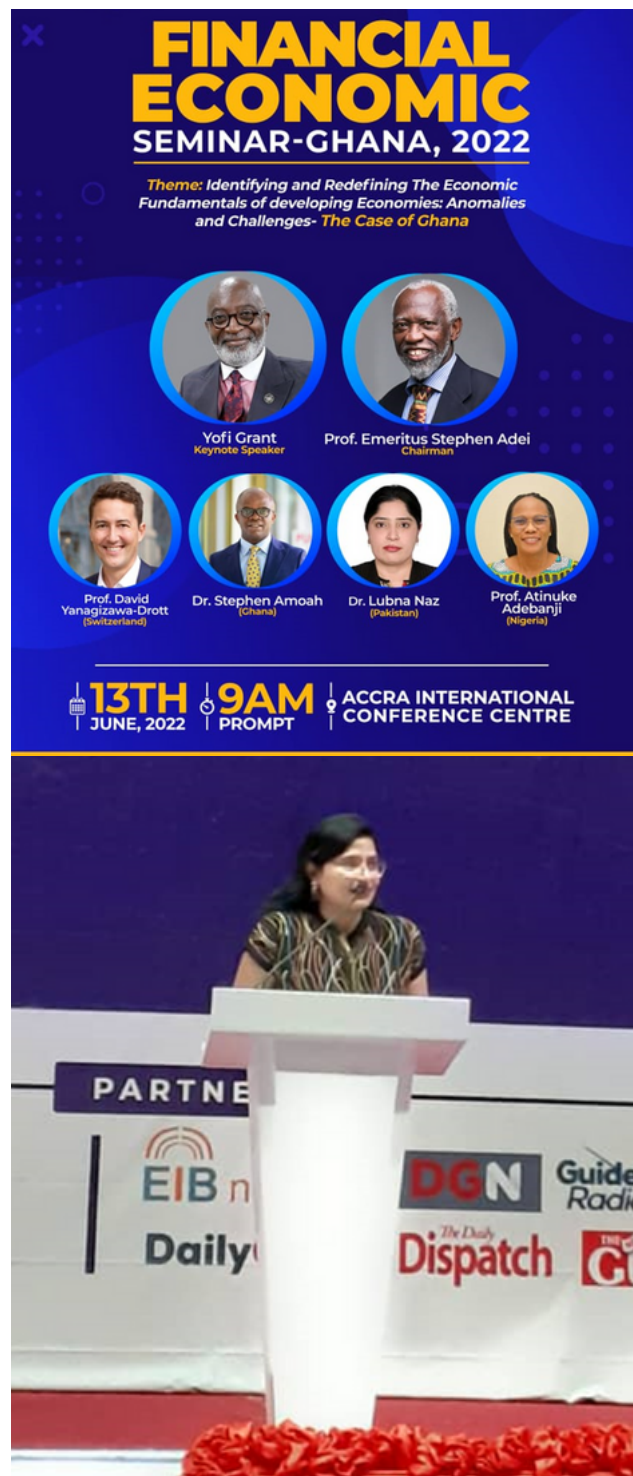
DR. CHANG'S LECTURE ON "THE CONJECTURE OF PEOPLE'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES: LEARNING THROUGH GEOGRAPHIES OF DEVELOPMENT"

On 22 June 2022, Dr. Abdul Haque Chang, Assistant Professor of anthropology at the School of Economics and Social Sciences delivered a lecture on the topic "The Conjecture of People's Health and Environmental Changes: Learning through Geographies of Development" in Community Development Program, Sebelas Maret University, in Surakarta, Indonesia. This lecture aimed to describe the relationship between health and environmental changes and their impact on the life of ordinary people in Indonesia and Pakistan. The lecture focused on the processes leading to change, whether for better or worse. Dr. Chang used a simple and straightforward definition of development as positive or negative change. He argued that development is social change, regardless of where or how it is occurring.



DR. LUBNA'S LECTURE ON "IMPORTANCE OF COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"

On 13th June 2022, Dr. Lubna Naz, Assistant Professor of Department of Economics, gave a lecture on the topic "Importance of cost of doing business in developing countries" at Financial Economic Seminar – Ghana, 2022 held at the Accra International Conference Centre, Ghana. A good number of parliamentarians, CEOs of Banks, financial institutions representatives, business community leaders, faculty, and students joined the seminar. Her lecture mainly focused on the implications of neoliberalism in developing countries, challenges in the implementation of regulatory reforms, and converting "business as usual" into "business as development".



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS - A ROUNDTABLE

On 9th June 2022, the South Asia Centre London School of Economics (LSE) invited Dr. Asma Hyder in an online Roundtable “The Importance of Being a Woman Business School Dean”. The roundtable discussed if & how women Deans of Business Schools have a role to play in addressing the prevailing gender imbalance and preparing their students for success. It explored questions like whether business areas themselves need to be less male-centric, barriers women face as managers, and what are possible pathways to bringing balance and countering inequities.

The event was chaired & moderated by the Director of the South Asia Centre LSE, professor Alnoor Bhimani. The audience was varied who joined from different parts of the world, including academics like teaching faculty, researchers, students, Fellows, etc., and non-academics like journalists & media personnel, people in think tanks, diplomats and civil servants, policy wonks, and other interested laypeople.



INAUGURATION OF EASY DATA PORTAL BY STATE BANK & PARTICIPATION OF SESS

On 1st June 2022, the State Bank of Pakistan invited Dr. Asma Hyder as a panelist for the webinar for launching innovative data portal, EasyData. Governor SBP Dr. Murtaza Syed virtually launched EasyData during the webinar. EasyData is an online portal with an intuitive and user-friendly interface, with economic and financial time series data on more than 7,000 variables. It is a singular platform in Pakistan that is unmatched in its scope elsewhere in the country. Mr. Abid Qamar, Director External Relations Department, SBP, moderated the subsequent session.




DR. HEMAN'S PARTICIPATION AT 43RD BIANNUAL RESEARCH & TRAINING WORKSHOP, NEPAL

From 24-27 June 2022, Dr. Heman Das Lohano Professor at the Department of Economics participated as a Faculty Advisor at the 43rd Biannual Research & Training Workshop organized by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) in Kathmandu, Nepal. SANDEE grantees and faculty advisors were expected to review the progress of the research under past SANDEE grants and develop an action plan for each project for the next six months. SANDEE is an initiative of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) under the regional programme on Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks (MKAN). SANDEE is a research capacity and leadership building network that supports South Asian and Hindu Kush Himalaya researchers and institutions interested in the connections between economic development, the environment, and the use of natural resources.




MS. NUDRAT'S READING & WRITING COURSE

Ms. Nudrat Kamal from the Department of SSLA initiated and taught a six-week (18th June – 23rd July) long course, titled “Reading and Writing Monsters” that consisted of both literature and creative writing components. This course covered a wide variety of genres, cultural and historical traditions, and literary styles. It examined the role of literal and metaphorical monsters in fiction.



Reading and Writing Monsters



Nudrat Kamal teaches comparative literature at IBA. She has a Master's degree in Comparative Literature from Stony Brook University, which she attended as a Fulbright scholar. Her teaching and research focuses on the literary traditions of science fiction and fantasy in South Asia as well as in the intersections of postcolonial theory, gender and sexuality studies, and ecocriticism.

Her recent publications include the chapter “The Postcolonial Cyborg in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Calcutta Chromosome*” (Palgrave Macmillan’s *Ethical Futures and Global Science Fiction*) and the chapter “Dreaming Futures: The Risks and Rewards of South Asian Futurisms” (*Hybrid: Interdisciplinary Journal of Art, Design and Architecture*). She will begin her doctorate in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia in Fall 2022.

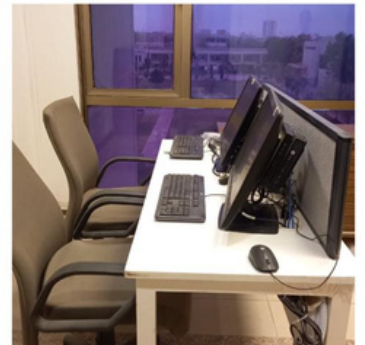
BOOK LAUNCH - TRADE CONNECTIVITY

Dr. Aadil Nakhoda, faculty Department of Economics & member of Economic Advisory Group presented his findings at book launch of “Trade Connectivity” by EAG Pakistan. Trade Connectivity is a collaborative book by EAG Pakistan and Prime Institute and supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Pakistan. This is a collective contribution by the members of Economic Advisory Group, an independent group comprising individuals from academia, policy, and the private sector. At the book launch of Trade Connectivity, Dr. Aadil Nakhoda discussed the challenges regarding the participation in global value chains and the distortions due to the mobile phone manufacturing policy. He articulated that “Pakistan needs to make significant strides in participating in global value chains. The current situation is dire. However, there are opportunities if Pakistan undertakes regional trade agreements, reduces tariffs, focuses on improving quality of products through technical non-tariff measures (NTMs) and attract FDI in the manufacturing sectors. The government needs to ensure greater competition to foster innovation and improvement in productivity levels. Trade connectivity is an important vehicle for Pakistan’s progress”.



ESTABLISHMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH & TESTING LAB (PsyResT)

Psychology research and testing lab is developed to scientifically study processes linked to human behavior. It aims to facilitate students, faculty and research scholars in building applied knowledge of psychology by conducting psychological experiments, assessment of personality and human behavior and data analysis. The work in the lab focuses on various intersections of psychology such as social, cognitive, clinical, behavioral, development, organizational and education. It also brings forward opportunities to conduct cross-disciplinary research thereby contributing to both, theory and method. The lab is multifunctional and is currently equipped with latest computer systems. The experimental area is equipped with recording facilities, one-way mirror, LED and DVR monitoring system.



THE STATE OF PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY: STRUGGLING WITH UNCERTAINTY | 2022-23

In 2020, the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) at IBA initiated a yearly report to keep citizens, business community, and other stakeholders informed on the state of Pakistan's economy. The current report, The state of Pakistan's Economy: Struggling with Uncertainty | 2022-23, is third in the series and is compiled by the Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER). It is a contribution by the SESS faculty and consists of 12 chapters. The introductory chapter is followed by chapter 2 which deals with macroeconomic projections for 2022-23, chapter 3 is a thorough commentary on the federal government's fiscal performance and outlook, chapter 4 is the disaggregated inquiry into monetary policy, chapter 5 talks about institution building focusing on autonomy of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and higher education reforms, chapter 6 unpacks Pakistan's import composition, chapter 7 explores the potential of the agricultural value chains, chapter 8 analyses the SBP-IBA data to offer insights in business confidence in Pakistan, chapter 9 deals with the undocumented sector and its resilience and chapter 10 addresses food security issue. Based on the insights from these analyses, the report ends with a way forward chapter.

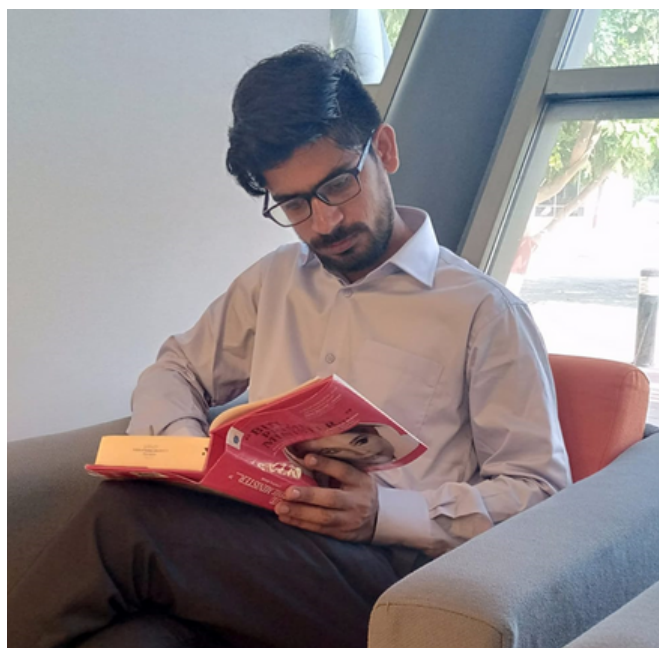


ACHIEVEMENTS OF SESS STUDENTS

HSF Research Grants

The School of Economics and Social Sciences is pleased to share that its students, four from the Economics department and one from SSLA department, received HSF Research Grant on 11th May 2022.

Shujaat Hussain, a PhD scholar of the Economics department, received the grant with the proposal title, “Local government autonomy and governance. A case study of Karachi Sindh” under the supervision of Dr. Asma Hyder, Professor and Dean School of Economics and Social Sciences.



Asim Bashir Khan, a PhD scholar of the Economics department, received the grant with the proposal title, “Political Economy of Local Governments Reforms: How Fragmentation, affected the Fiscal Sustainability, and Service Delivery in Largest City Karachi” under the supervision of Mr. Syed Arif Raza, Ex-Director Local Fund Audit, Associate Internal Auditor Local Government Department, Government of Sindh.



Tahreem Fatima, a student of MS Development Studies of the Economics department, received the grant with the proposal title, “Climate Change and Food Security in Pakistan: Impacts and Recommendations through a Gendered Lens” under the supervision of Dr. Ahmad Azhar, Assistant Professor of SSLA.



Aisha Zia Khan, a student of MS Development Studies of the Economics department, received the grant with the proposal title, “Technological Transformation of the Informal Domestic Work Economy in Pakistan: Impact on the Economic Security of Female Domestic Workers” under the supervision of Dr. Ahmad Azhar, Assistant Professor of SSLA.



Lastly, Muhammad Hasnain, a student of BS Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, received the grant with the proposal title, “Managing and Preserving transboundary Water in Pakistan” under the supervision of Dr. Junaid Alam Memon, Professor of SSLA.



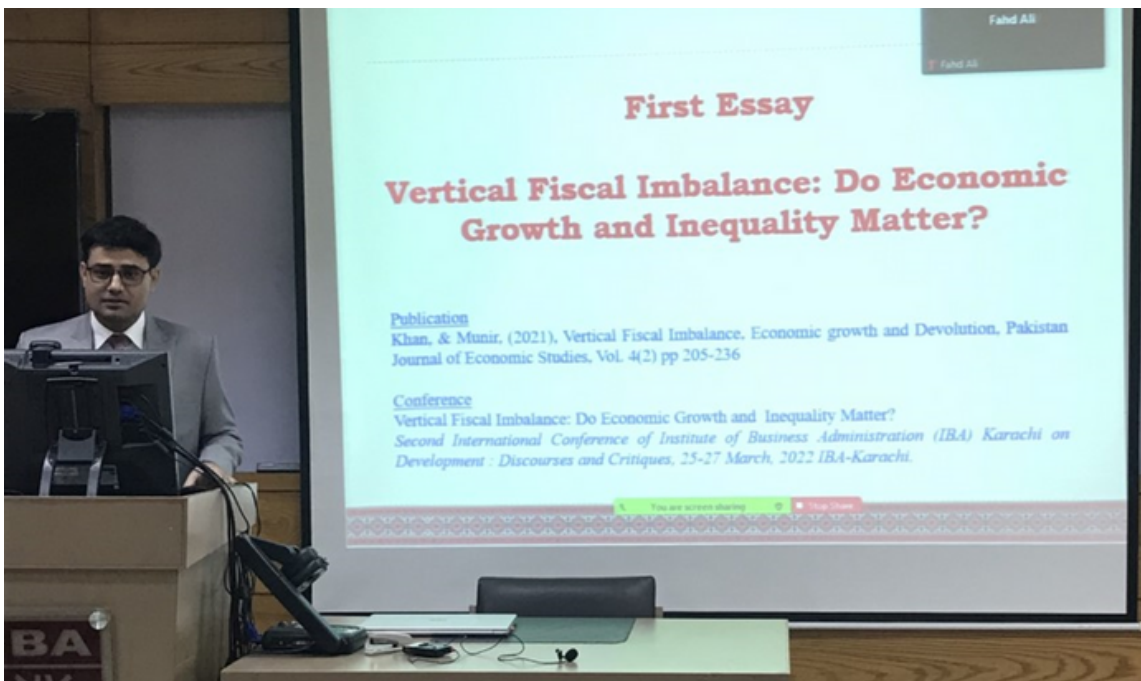
Nadeem Sarwar - Paper Presentation at 2nd RASTA Conference

On 1st & 2nd June 2022, Mr. Nadeem Sarwar, PhD Economics scholar shared a stage with Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue by presenting a policy paper, titled, “Evaluation of Different Tax Reform Proposals” at the 2nd RASTA Conference – Research for Social Transformation and Advancement organized by PIDE, Islamabad. This study aimed to identify and quantify the direction and magnitude of impacts of proposed changes in direct and indirect tax rates and tax structure on various sectors of the economy, economic growth, employment level, government revenue and income distribution, etc., using a general equilibrium framework. Given the low tax to GDP ratio and economic growth in Pakistan, this study intended to help choose a better tax rate structure.



Asim Bashir – 1st PhD Economics Graduate

On 10th June 2022, the first PhD Candidate of IBA Department of Economics, School of Economics and Social Sciences, successfully defended his PhD thesis titled, “Essays in Public Finance and Fiscal Federalism”. The dissertation provided an evidence based on an exclusive disaggregated balanced panel data of subnational governments in Pakistan, which is the major contribution to existing national and global literature. The research covers topics of both first- and second-generation fiscal federalism.



Bilal Channa, a Student of SSLA Got Published in DAWN

On 20th June 2022, the student of SSLA, Bilal Channa got published in DAWN. The article "Why Pakistanis are Balking at Ahsan Iqbal's Suggestion of Austeri-tea", in essence, intends to talk about the cultural economy of tea in Pakistan and its inevitably intimate connection to the British colonial period. By briefly explicating the historical route tea took to end up in the cups of the Pakistanis that now consume it, the article highlights how chai - milk tea - is a provocative symbol of our colonial cultural heritage. By understanding the set of attitudes, ideas, beliefs, and discourses that surround tea, the article has briefly illustrated the kind of subtle cultural impact colonization has had on the identities manifest in the post-colonial landscape.



Zoya Taufeeq a Student of SSLA Received a Scholarship

Zoya Taufeeq, a student of SSLA received a scholarship for MSc in Clinical Psychology from the University of Plymouth that will start in Fall 2022. Zoya shared that her experience at the IBA was well-rounded that has helped her get the right exposure for academic and personal growth, and equipped her with the skillset and knowledge required to pursue higher education in the field of Psychology.



SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES WELCOMES

DR. JUNAID AS THE NEW DIRECTOR-CBER

Dr. Junaid Alam Memon, Professor of the department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts has become the Director of Centre for Business & Economics Research (CBER) with effect from 1st July 2022.



NEW FULLTIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Zaheer Ali, Assistant Professor, SSLA
Dr. Anum Tariq, Assistant Professor, SSLA
Dr. Mushtaq Bilal, Assistant Professor, SSLA
Safia Mahmood, Lecturer, SSLA
Ramsha Siddiqui, Lecturer, SSLA
Hajra Rehman, Lecturer, SSLA
Yumna Fatima, Lecturer, SSLA
Shumaila Omer, Lecturer, SSLA
Zunaira Nadeem, Lecturer, SSLA
Irum Iqbal Hussain, Lecturer, SSLA
Faseeh Ahmed, Lecturer, SSLA
Javeria Younas Abbasi, Lecturer, Economics

In its vision to promote research culture and to create opportunities for practical experiences for its students, the School of Economics and Social Sciences (SESS) widely promotes academic dialogues of all nature. The Dean's office is willing and ready to facilitate all faculty members, students and staff in their efforts to organize such events.

To feature events on the SESS Newsletter, email details of the event to:

**syedaalizabeth@iba.edu.pk
and
anoor@iba.edu.pk**