

# THE SESS NEWSLETTER

IBA



Economics | SSLA | CBER | PRC  
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## The 2nd Annual International Conference Development: Discourses and Critiques

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) hosted the 2nd Annual International Conference entitled "Development: Discourses and Critiques" from 25th to 27th March 2022 at the IBA, Main Campus.

Academics and policymakers from a wide range of disciplines were invited to critique, question, and reconsider the experiences of transnational, national, and sub-national actors in the development process. What does "development" mean for different actors, and how has this narrative shifted over time? How does development define and redefine power relations and what implications does this have for different groups? How have colonial experiences shaped futures and how does one deconstruct ideas rooted in these experiences?

The conference program included keynote speakers, technical research paper sessions, and panel discussions on the actual effects of development in terms of human experiences. Student circles were led by student societies, who along with their faculty mentors organized workshops on calligraphy, poetry, and wellbeing. University students from across Pakistan were invited to attend the conference, especially those from indigenous regions so they could benefit from the knowledge sharing and networking opportunities at the event.



The first keynote speaker at the conference was Dr. Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics at Yale University. He talked about his research on "Seasonal Poverty and Seasonal Migration" in South Asian countries. The second keynote speaker at the conference was Hans Timmer, World Bank's Chief Economist for South Asia.



National and international government officials and several other renowned personalities, including Najy Benhassine, World Bank Pakistan; Barbara Harriss-White, Oxford University; Cass Sunstein, Harvard University; Haben Girma, Harvard Law School; Ishrat Hussain, Professor Emeritus and Former Advisor to the Prime Minister; Aasim Sajjad Akhtar, Quaid-i-Azam University; Sultan Mehmood, New Economic School, Moscow; Hafeez Jamali, Anthropologist and Civil Servant; Abid Burki, LUMS; Mubbashir Rizvi, American University; Sanval Nasim, LUMS; Sheema Kermani, Artist; and Asma Shirazi, Journalist; participated in the conference.

## SESS Announces Establishment of “Social Inequality Lab” and “Economic Growth and Forecasting Lab” at IBA



SESS IBA partnered with a number of international collaborators including the World Bank to establish two labs, namely, "Social Inequality Lab" and "Economic Growth and Forecasting Lab", that will support research on inequality and economic forecasting.

## Honorable President of Pakistan as the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the 2nd Annual International Conference



The Closing Ceremony of the 2nd Annual International Conference was held at the IBA, City Campus. The Chief Guest at the ceremony was the Honorable President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, who talked about how policymakers and government officials fail to understand, and hence meet the needs of the common man.

# Workshop titled 'Doing History' in Pakistan

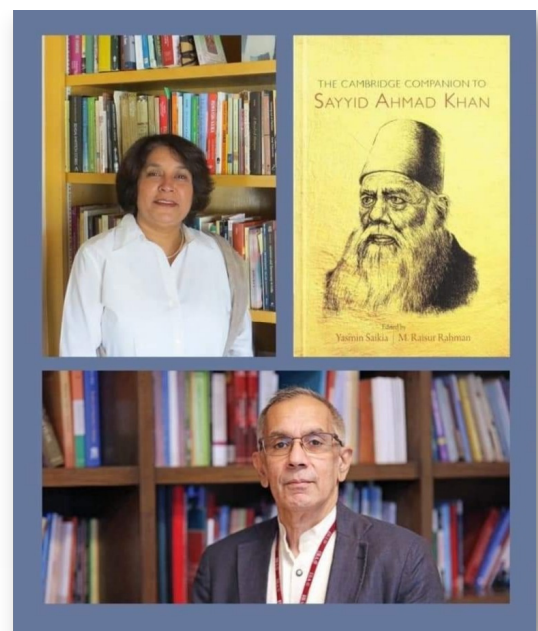
The Department of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts (SSLA) organized a two-day workshop titled 'Doing History' in Pakistan on the 7th and 8th March 2022 at the Main Campus and City Campus of IBA, Karachi. The conference was organized by Ms. Zahra Sabri, Lecturer, IBA. The workshop comprised three panels and one roundtable discussion. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Dr. Katherine Butler Schofield, King's College London.

The workshop offered a platform for historians working in, and on, Pakistan to discuss discipline-specific topics and think about innovative approaches to the themes and subjects they teach and the modes of teaching they employ to make history, especially Pakistan's History, interesting for the students.



## A Conversation with Dr. Yasmin Saikia on Indo-Muslim History

On 30th March 2022, Department of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts (SSLA) hosted a conversation with Dr. Yasmin Saikia on "Indo-Muslim History" moderated by Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA. Dr. Saikia is a Professor of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at the Arizona State University, USA. With a specific focus on religion, gender, identity, and memory, and on contestations and accommodations in South Asia between local, national, and religious identities, she examines the Muslim experience in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and the discourse of nonviolence against women and vulnerable groups.



# Editing Primary texts in Urdu: What is a Primary Text? And How to Read it?



On 31st March 2022, the Department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (SSLA) organized a discussion with Dr. Syed Nomalul Haq, Visiting Faculty, SSLA department, IBA, and Dr. Muhammad Athar Masood, a Persian scholar and musicologist, on the book “Kuliyat-i-Faiz (2019)”, the first critical edition of all published poetry of Faiz Ahmad Faiz, edited by Dr. Haq. The book establishes the correct text of Faiz’s verse, without interfering with the original or emendations. The discussion on the book served as a window to develop a discourse generally on textual research, its methodology, and its significance.

# Distinguished Lecture Series: “Census 2022: Pakistan First Digital Census”

On 25th February 2022, Population Research Centre (PRC) organized a seminar conducted by Chief Statistician, Government of Pakistan, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, who presented the pilot project conducted for the Digital Consensus 2022. He discussed about the issues of the project and the solutions adopted to solve them.

IBA POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER  
School of Economics and Social Sciences

**Distinguished Lecture Series**

**CENSUS 2022**  
Pakistan's First Digital Census

By: **Dr. Naeem uz Zafar**

Dr. Naeem uz Zafar is currently working for the Government of Pakistan as Chief Statistician. Before joining GoP, he has worked for the Government of Sindh as Chief Economist. He has also worked for the UNDP as Senior Advisor and for the Planning Commission for three years. He has also served as Head of Graduate Economics Program at IBA, Karachi during 2000 and 2014. He has diverse background in engineering, university teaching, research & development policy and management. His research interests includes development management, value chains, cluster development, urban development, and impact evaluation.

Feb 25, 2022  
2:30 PM

ROOM MAS 1  
1st Floor, Adamjee Building  
Main Campus, IBA

Meeting ID: 812 7806 9936  
Passcode: 377714

# Webinar: Domestic Violence against Women in Pakistan: Exploring the Role of Marriage Arrangements, Autonomy, and Experiences of their Mothers

On 21st Jan 2022, Population Research Centre (PRC) organized a webinar titled, "Domestic Violence against Women in Pakistan: Exploring the Role of Marriage Arrangements, Autonomy, and Experiences of their Mothers". The Guest Speaker Dr. Nisha Malhotra is an Associate Professor of Teaching at Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia. She studied marriage arrangements' role in intimate partner violence. The study found out that consanguineous marriages in Pakistan have one of the highest rates in the world (56%) and these marriages are associated with high cases of domestic violence. The study also mentioned that if husbands are educated, intimate violence is less likely to happen. The study concluded that educating young children about respecting women can help decrease the rate of domestic violence. Also, properly managing the allocation of resources can further solve the disagreement in family life.



## Lecture: Crony Globalization, Evidence from Muslim Societies

On 21st Jan 2022, the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) hosted a guest lecture by Mr. Faisal Z. Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Politics at Princeton University. Mr. Faisal presented his study which explored how less democratic regimes leverage economic globalization to entrench their rule.

The findings of the study showed that the hesitant and partial approach in many Muslim societies towards economic globalization may comprise a strategy of regime stability. To draw causal inferences, the study used a difference-in-differences research design that leveraged the timing of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) establishment in 1995.



Using this plausibly exogenous (global) shock to trade liberalization, the study revealed that Muslim societies have systematically lagged in relative terms (to non-Muslim countries) on measures of de jure globalization capturing various economic restrictions expressed through tariffs, hidden import barriers, taxes on international trade, and investment and capital account restrictions. The findings suggested that partial liberalization can be a strategy for regime stability in many Muslim societies.

The lecture was followed by lunch where the faculty and doctoral students had the opportunity to discuss the topic further.



## Book Title: Crony Capitalism in the Middle East: What Do We Know and Why Does it Matter?

On 23rd December 2021, the School of Economics and Social Sciences hosted a seminar with Dr. Adeel Malik, Associate Professor in Development Economics at the University of Oxford's Department of International Development, who discussed the book "Crony Capitalism in the Middle East: What Do We Know and Why Does it Matter? Dr. Malik discussed the empirical insights of the book project, the nature of cronyism, the types of mechanisms that political cronies use to benefit from crony capitalism, The impact of cronyism on firm performance in the Middle East, and the role and nature of politically connected firms.

The approach of the project was to focus on post-liberalization basically mid 1990s and late 1990s, to create qualitative databases of fine-grained political connections and, to combine the data set with other quantitative data sets like world bank enterprise survey, trade data sets etc. Dr. Adeel Malik also engaged the faculty and students in an interactive question and answer session.

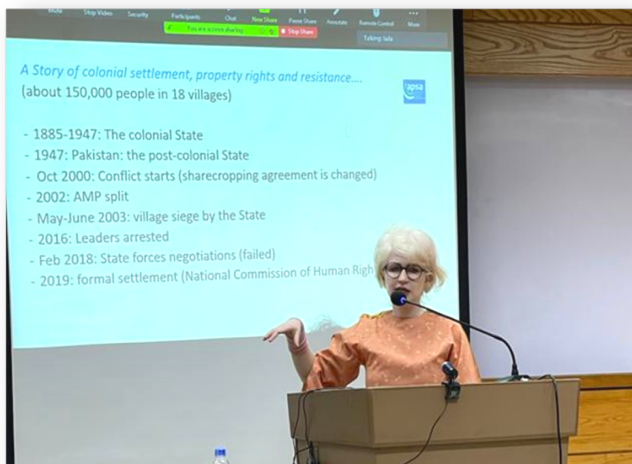


# Brown Bag Seminar Series

The CBER regularly hosts the Brown Bag seminar series to provide a platform to students, staff, and faculty members to present their on-going, or published research work.

## SESSION 5: TIES THAT HELP OR TIES THAT HURT: ADVOCACY NETWORK CONNECTIONS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

On 4th February, Dr. Laila Farooq, Assistant Professor and Director CBER, presented at the Brown Bag Seminar. Her research focused on transnational advocacy networks and grassroots' movements. The research proposed revisiting the framework to incorporate the findings from the qualitative work and including them in the quantitative models.



## SESSION 6: BETWEEN THE VAST WHIRLPOOL OF IDENTICAL FEMALE TWINS AND THE CLASHING ROCKS OF FRATERNAL MASCULINITY - AN ODYSSEY THROUGH FICTIONAL AND IMAGINATIVE WATERS

On 18th February, Dr. Nadya Chishty-Mujahid presented her research at the seminar. The research mentioned that novels about fraternal twin male pairs are extremely rare. The study concluded that much work remains to be done on the sundry portrayals of twins in literature, fiction, and entertainment and highlighted that the more masculine and genetically diverse the duo, the less inclined authors appear to be to write creatively about them.

## SESSION 7: GENEALOGY, CRITIQUE, AND DECOLONIZATION: IBN KHALDUN AND MOVING BEYOND FILLING THE GAPS

On 18th February, Dr. Sertaç Sehlükoglu presented her research study. Dr. Sehlükoglu is a Senior Research Associate at the UCL Institute of Global Prosperity and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge. Her research aimed to locate critique at the intersections of the genealogy of knowledge in anthropological thinking and decolonizing movement. To illustrate, the paper used the case of Ibn Khaldun, an Arab scholar of social sciences and historical analysis from 14th Century - who is often referred to as the first sociologist. The researcher questioned the limits and possibilities of critical thinking within and beyond the decolonizing movement.



## SESSION 8: DOCUMENTING VAGHRI LANGUAGE

On 18th March, Ms. Maria Hassan presented at the fourth brown bag seminar semester. Her research focused on how amid looming water stress and rapid population growth, food loss and waste (FLW) are emerging concerns for Pakistan but without macrolevel understanding of the issue. Based on the review of global best practices of managing FLW to curb this hidden driver of hunger and alleviate unnecessary pressure from our food production systems, his paper recommended policies promoting circular economic model of food production and consumption.

# Students' Achievements

**Aisha Zia Khan, a student of MS Development Studies, presented her paper at the 2nd Annual International Conference - Development: Discourses and Critiques, March 2022, held at IBA, in the category of Doctoral Symposium.**

Her research study, titled, "Coastal Development: Scenic Belts of Socio-economic and Ecological Relations" offered an exploration of the factors and forces which contribute to the development of, and the transformation of, coastal landscapes. The paper also reviewed the consensus and contradictions in discourses and in practice of the development of and the accompanying gentrification along coastal landscapes.



**Shagufta Shabbar, a Ph.D. scholar of Economics, SESS, IBA, edited a book, titled, "Life and Work of Great Economists (2021)".**

The book is an effort to shed light on the lives and work of some notable economists. With brief bios of key thinkers in the field, the book attempts to present a succinct and lucid account of the development of the discipline focusing on the contributions of the originators of some great ideas.

**Ayaz Nizamani, a student of MS Development Studies, SESS, IBA, presented his research paper at the University of Hawaii, USA, in February 2022.**

His research study, titled, "Traditional Healing Practices: Being Modern and Un-modern in Rural Sindh" focused on traditional and non-traditional healing practices in the traditional and modern society of Sindh.







***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:**

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and  
anoor@iba.edu.pk**