

2022 AAS-in-Asia Symposium  
Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences:  
Addressing the Multiple Marginalities of South and Southeast Asia  
8-10 December 2022  
UNISERV, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Panel  
“Emerging Fields in Pakistan Studies”

Organized by  
**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan**

**Part 1 with Furrukh Khan**

Contemporary research in the humanities and social sciences attempts to understand and reformulate complex situations in Pakistan. The social scientists in this panel are chosen from participants who attended the capacity-building workshop at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The research topics are of their own choosing and reflect their material reality. Papers in this panel address diverse subjects to explicate how personal, social, and national factors intermix and how attempts are set in motion for nuanced analysis.

The four presentations in this panel cover the following subjects:  
Ranging from the connections between political instability and ecological challenges  
Representation of an ethnic identity in popular TV drama serials  
Predicament of refugees’ identity as they inhabit a temporary encampment  
Alternative counter-discourse of collective identity in response to governmental and global political narratives

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**Part 2 with Shabbir Ahsen**

The panel tries to understand the issue of sectarianism in Quetta and the problems faced by the education sector in the marginalized regions of the country. These regions have witnessed conflicts, terrorism, and have recently been exposed to floods and other natural disasters. There is an acute dearth of study on the regions mentioned here. Topics discussed here, it is hoped, could lead us to further research in the area and could have an impact on policymaking.

The Hazara community in Quetta has been at the receiving end of sectarianism for a considerable period now. This is a Persian speaking Shiite community that migrated from Afghanistan and settled in the Southwest city of Pakistan, which is close to Afghanistan. Our panelist aims to take

us through the history of the conflict, measures taken to resolve it, and the collective consciousness of the community bringing into prominence the plight of the people.

Issues relating to education are presented from three different far flung and conflict-ridden areas in Pakistan, namely Panjgur and Turbat in Balochistan [close to Iran], and the newly merged areas in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that were previously under the federal government. Our panelists will highlight the problems in the post flood regions and the lived experiences of those affected by it. Issues relating female education, special education and the use of technology shall also be discussed.

The panelists come from the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which border Afghanistan. Given their familiarity with language, culture and history of the region, and a first-hand exposure to the problems, they provide a unique perspective on the topics in question.