

FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PAKISTAN STUDIES (I)

THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

Why Should Pakistan
and India Revive Back-
Channel Diplomacy?

Contribution of
Christian Leaders in
The Pakistan
Movement



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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PAKISTAN STUDIES (I)

Forman Christian College University
Address: Ferozpur Road, Lahore 54600, Pakistan
Telephone: (92 42) 99231581-8, Ext: 570
Email: intermediate@fccollege.edu.pk

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Department Chair's Message



Having now completed my sixth year as the head of the Department, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of my faculty, students, and alumni. Our 2019 newsletter is full of recent successes which the Department has made and I would like to share some of the highlights here.

The most important news is that FCC has a new Vice Rector. Dr. Ivan has done PhD in Clinical Psychology from UMT and MS and MSc from GCU and PU respectively. Dr Ivan has been working at FCCU since 2010. Currently, he is the Chairperson of the Department of Psychology as well. We very warmly welcome Dr. Ivan Suneel and look forward to working with him to take this institution to new heights of academic glory.



The Department's results from the previous session were excellent and we were able to achieve our grade targets set for the previous year. The Department's faculty did a tremendous job in ensuring that we meet our required results.

Our faculty actively published during the last session with Umair traveling to the United States to participate in a Fellowship at the Stimson Center in Washington D.C. Usman and Nadia were resourceful in the smooth functioning of the Department's society which organized some excellent events. Last year, we welcomed Shahzad Ali as the newest faculty member to the Department. During the last session, the Department was also able to integrate technology into our teaching methodology. At the Department, we believe that tech-based learning can be more effective in achieving not only good grades but also inculcating learning culture among students. We plan to continue this tradition.

Last but not the least, I am thankful to Umair Jamal for compiling, editing and publishing this year's Newsletter. The efforts of other faculty members in publishing the newsletter have been noteworthy. In the end, I am very grateful to all of you for your hard work and dedication and look forward to many new accomplishments and successes in the new year.

Saleem Masih Asim
Assistant Professor
HOD, History and Pakistan Studies

Coordinator Intermediate Program Message



The teaching of Pakistan studies and history as a subject at intermediate level is extremely important for shaping young minds of future leaders of Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the teachers to equip themselves with adequate techniques and methodologies so that these young minds are trained to be unbiased about the history and creation of Pakistan. Forman Christian College has witnessed the creation of Pakistan and played its role effectively by offering space for sick and injured migrants in 1947.

At present Forman Christian College is playing its role in healing Pakistan from the wounds of terrorism and corruption by educating youth of Pakistan. In line with this Department of History and Pakistan studies is producing excellent results for which efforts of the teachers and Head of Department are admirable.

Makhdoom Sarfraz
Coordinator Intermediate
Program
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry

Department News

EVENTS FROM THE 2018 SESSION

A TALK ON INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Guest: Dr. Farzand

The History and Pakistan Studies Society at the Department of History and Pakistan Studies (I) recently organized a talk to explore the wider significance of the Indus Valley civilization. The society invited Dr. Farzand, a renowned archeologist to speak at the event. Dr. Farzand who has worked for more than two decades in Pakistan and globally, shared some very interesting insights concerning the contribution of the Indus era civilization towards the development of the contemporary civilization and the way we understand the history of this region broadly. Dr. Farzand's focus on the origin and development of the Indus Valley civilization was very informative for not only students but also the faculty in attendance. A novel and rich perspective shared by Dr. Farzand paved the way for many questions that were asked during and after the event. On the whole, the event ended on a note that students can benefit from more archeological perspectives to understand the history in a novel perspective.



CELEBRATING PAKISTAN DAY

Guest: Dr. Sikandar Hayat

History and Pakistan Studies society organized a session on the eve of "Pakistan day". The guest speaker Dr. Sikander Hayat, Dean and Faculty of social sciences in FCCU elaborated the historical context of the "Lahore Resolution". As an eminent historian, he explained how this Resolution of Pakistan proved to be a milestone in the course of Indian Muslims struggle for an independent homeland. Dr. Hayat eloquently discussed the entire agenda of the annual session of All India Muslim League in a very comprehensive way. His insightful comments on the significance of the "Lahore Resolution" gave the audience a lot to learn. He also narrated the events that led to the changing of the name of "Lahore Resolution" into "Pakistan Resolution". The session was very helpful for young students who want to pursue History and Pakistan studies as majors in undergraduate studies. Intermediate student sang the national anthem to pay tribute to this memorable and historic day.



DEBATING COMPETITION

History and Pakistan Studies society arranged a debate competition among intermediate students of Forman Christian College. The main objective of the competition was to make our students confident. Public speaking can teach a lot to young students and the department is focused on carrying out such activities to ensure that take a lot more from this institution than just excellent grades.



DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: SAVING FACE

The documentary's screening was organized by Usman Sial. The Documentary focuses on the work of a Plastic surgeon Dr. Mohammad Jawad who returns to his native country, Pakistan to help those left horribly scarred by acid attacks. The film won an Emmy Award and the 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject, making its director, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Pakistan's first Oscar winner.

IQBAL DAY CELEBRATION

Earlier this year, the 142 birth anniversary of the Poet of the East and the National Poet was celebrated with full zeal and zest in FCCU; Thanks to ALC and History and Pakistan studies Society collaborating to make the day more memorable.

The event was loaded with poetic floration the much loved 'Bait Baazi' got the crowd clapping for long times. Most appreciated acts were the singing of Iqbal's Kalaam.

Many students highlighted the concept of "khuddi" by Iqbal by their debates both in English and Urdu. One of the important events of this memorable day was the sketching of Iqbal's work, it was really outstanding to see the unusual sketch of IQBAL's personality from his daily life. Later on in the day, the society platform spoke for the first time and ensured a great year ahead. The event folded with certificates awarded to the sketchers, speakers, poets, singers and Iqbal lovers.

LECTURE ON "STATE OF BASIC FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN

Guest: Dr. Ammar Ali Jan

Shahzad Ali invited Dr. Ammar to give a talk on the state of basic fundamental rights in Pakistan. The talk mainly focused on the history of human rights in Pakistan and how the idea of human rights has evolved over the past few decades. Dr. Ammar's comments on the lack of understanding among the masses when it comes to basic human rights were insightful. Moreover, Dr. Ammar shared his concerns about a number of threat posing to human rights in Pakistan. The students and the faculty enjoyed the talk and thanked Dr. Ammar for his time.



Department's Publications

Why Should Pakistan and India Revive Backchannel Diplomacy?

By Umair Jamal



Last week, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in a Twitter message congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his remarkable electoral victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. "I congratulate Prime Minister Modi on the electoral victory of BJP and allies. Look forward to working with him for peace, progress, and prosperity in South Asia," the Pakistani PM tweeted. Responding to Khan's tweet, the Indian Indian Prime Minister said that he had "always given primacy to peace and development in our region."

So, where does Pakistan and India's relationship go from here? Apparently, tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors have started to subside with India entering the post-election phase.

Last week, Pakistan's Foreign Minister and India's External Affairs Minister met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Their interaction was significant: the fact that India and Pakistan's delegation met at the summit shows that both states are interested in focusing on rapprochement again after an active conflict phase earlier this year. It's possible that Sushma Swaraj and Shah Mahmood Qureshi wouldn't have met had the summit been planned during the midst of India's election.

The good news is neither India nor Pakistan is in the favor of carrying forward the hostility that ensued after the Pulwama incident in February. Reportedly, the government in Pakistan is planning to appoint a National Security Advisor (NSA) to establish a back-channel with India's newly elected government. Pakistan and India have a rich history of back-channel efforts achieving outcomes that would hardly be possible otherwise. In Pakistan and India's case, the more bilateral interaction stays away from the media's glare the better. At times, the coverage and spin given to talks in local media can become an impeding element itself.

After a severe conflict phase, back-channel efforts can repair more confidence than public statements given from both sides, aimed at gauging the other actor's response. Arguably, it's always better to have informal yet structured contacts in place to agree on the agenda of potential talks or on what both countries expect going forward.

Another reason that Pakistan and India should use their NSAs for talks is because of the mandate such appointments carry. In Pakistan as well as in India, the appointment of an NSA is made at the highest of policy-making levels. This effectively means that a back-channel contact can not only establish a direct line of contact between the two countries leaderships, but can also prove fruitful in constraining trust deficits.

Moreover, after severing ties to a level where war seems like a real possibility, governments in both states cannot approach each other without expecting major resistance domestically. Under current circumstances, this is more relevant in India's case than Pakistan's. NSA-level dialogue that takes place behind closed doors can be used by Islamabad and New Delhi to formulate responses and come to an understanding when it comes to the intent of policymakers in both countries.

It's expected that Pakistan will appoint an NSA soon. Usually, NSAs in Pakistan come from a military background and they not only have the trust of the country's national security establishment, but also of the elected governments. A previous such appointee was Lt. Gen. (retd) Naseer Khan Janjua. In 2015, Pakistan's Janjua and his Indian counterpart, Ajit Doval, were influential in breaking the ice. Reportedly, the two held meetings privately before a composite dialogue began between India and Pakistan.

In 2007, Pakistan and India's foreign ministers, after a long phase of back-channel negotiations, were able to put together some very creative ideas concerning the issue of Kashmir. In another case, after the 2001-02 India-Pakistan crisis, ground for peaceful diplomacy became possible after an intense back-channel diplomacy, in which secret talks were held in 2003 between India's NSA Brajesh Mishra and Tariq Aziz, a senior advisor to President Pervez Musharraf.

Given that the elections are over in India, it's possible that any offer of rapprochement either from India or Pakistan will be taken seriously by the other side. It's expected that both countries will create more opportunities to make sure that dialogue between them begins at some level.

However, if the cooperation between India and Pakistan is to survive, both states need to neutralize the effects of potential spoilers. The appointment of NSAs and the revival of back-channel diplomacy is one way to achieve that.

Department's Publications

Contribution of Christian Leaders in the Pakistan Movement



By Saleem Asim

Jinnah believed in constitutional and legal ways. His whole struggle for achieving a separate homeland for South Asian Muslims is based on constitutional ways. When Khalfat Movement was started after First World War (1914–1918), Jinnah didn't take part in it and said "Mine is the right way, mine is the constitutional way". He reorganized the All India Muslim League in 1934 as a permanent president and took part in Elections of 1937 held under the Government Act of India 1935. The election results were quite embarrassing as the Muslim League was left alone and almost all the seats were won by the Congress and her allies. And the original face of many Muslim parties was seen clearly. When Congress representatives resigned from Congress Ministries in 1939, Jinnah appealed to all the Indian Muslims and Pro-Muslim League parties for celebrating this event as Day of Deliverance on 22 December, 1939). All the oppressed communities participated in the celebrations. Though, some of the historians have not mentioned about the participation of the Christians in the said event, however, a renowned journalist of "Paisa Akhbar", Maqbool Anwar Dadu reported that on the salvation day, not only the Muslims but also the Christians, Parsies and the millions of the scheduled castes participated. At the event of Lahore Resolution on 23rd March, 1940, according to Muslim League sources, some Christians, Sikhs and Schedule Caste leaders were specially invited as observers. Joshua Fazal-ud-Din, Ch. Chandu Lal, and Dewan Bahadur S.P. Singha were prominent Christian Leaders among the invitees. It is believed that paragraph no. 2 of the resolution was added to represent their sentiments. This was turning point where the final phase for making of Pakistan started and the British started winning the support of Indians for the war efforts during II World War (1939–1945). The Britain Govt. promised through Cripps Mission in 1942 that Indians would be granted independence after the war. The Christian leaders stood with Jinnah and continued their unconditional support till the creation of Pakistan and even till today.

This is the reality that creation of Pakistan is not an achievement made by some individuals or a party, section or a nation, rather it is a result of the unity of all minorities of the Sub-Continent. The Christians strongly supported Quaid-e-Azam and the Muslim League at that critical time when there was lot of opposition to the formation of a new Muslim state. During struggle movement, the Christian leaders who supported Jinnah were criticized severely by those opposing Jinnah's struggle for separate homeland. Almost all religious leaders and religious organizations stood in the opposition of Jinnah's idea of separate country for the Muslims of the sub-Continent. (Reference: "Tahreek-e-Pakistan Ke Gunnar Kirdaar by Prof. Salamat Akhtar" pg. 9).

Jinnah struggled in a legal and constitutional manner. On November 20th 1942, the European and Indian Christian members of the Punjab Assembly arranged a reception in the honour of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at Loring Hotel Lahore (This hotel was situated at the place where grand building of Wapda House is located today). S.P. Singha declared his support by uttering a slogan "Aaj se Quaid-e-Azam meray Quaid hain" (from today onward, Jinnah is my leader) and in reciprocal speech Jinnah stated "Hum aap ka yeh ahsaan Kabhi nahi bhulain ge" (we shall never forget your this favor).

The crucial role of the Christian population of the region was recognized by the founder of Pakistan and All India Muslim League at all levels. In 1981 Rt. Rev. Alexander John Malik (Bishop Emeritus of Lahore) stated while giving an interview to Wasif Nagi, a renowned journalist of "Daily Jang" that "Christians have the pride of the casting vote in the making of Pakistan".

The Christian's role before Boundary Commission was the only decisive role for the true foundation of Pakistan. The Christian leaders formed Joint Christian Board comprising All India Christian Association Punjab, All India Christian League Punjab, All India Anglo-Indian Association Punjab and Catholic Association. They prepared a MEMORANDUM in favour of Pakistan and Muslim League and presented to the Boundary Commission. Chaudhary Chandu Lal (advocate) prepared the viewpoint of the Indian Christians and S.P. Singha presented it before the Boundary Commission on 25th July, 1947.

Heera Lal Hayat known as H.L. Hayat was a senior educationist and true Christian Politician. He started taking part in politics since his student life from Murrey College. H.L. Hayat criticized the dual socialism of Nehru and Gandhi's hypocritical policy of Herigins, the "Achoots". He reorganized Punjab Christian League and popularized it during the elections of 1945–46. Heera Lal's party candidate Fazal Elahi won election of 1945–46, who later gave vote for the annexation of Punjab with Pakistan.

Dr. Satty Parkash Singh commonly known as S.P. Singha was the last speaker of the Punjab Assembly (United Punjab). He was great admirer of Jinnah. Jinnah had a meeting with Singha in April 1947 in Lahore and it was on his urging that he decided to support the politics of Pakistan. It was the critical "deciding" vote of this one man that West Punjab came to Pakistan in "Legislative" terms, his vote won the day.

This was unforgettable feat of S.P. Singha in the United Punjab Assembly at historical session held on 23rd June 1947. The three members of United Punjab Assembly Mr. Fazal Elahi, Mr. C. E. Gibbon and S.P. Singha cast their vote in favor of Pakistan without caring the life threats of Nehru. Patel, Sardar Baldev Singh and Master Tara Singh.

When the resolution, to join Pakistan or India was moved and voted upon in the Punjab Legislative Assembly, the three Christian members voted in favor of Pakistan and saved the situation. 88 and 91 votes were casted in favor of India and Pakistan respectively. At this critical situation, S.P. Singha used his right of casting vote as speaker of Punjab Assembly. In 1981 Rt. Rev. Alexander John Malik (Bishop Emeritus of Lahore) stated while giving an interview to Wasif Nagi, a renowned journalist of "Daily Jang" that "Christians have the pride of the casting vote in the making of Pakistan".

Feasibility of Democracy in Pakistan



By Usman Sial

The emergence of Pakistan in 1947 was accompanied with horrific mass migration of twentieth century. With these miseries there was a hope that in the new country life of subcontinent Muslims would change for better socially, economically and democratically. Unfortunately very first decay after independence proved otherwise for Pakistanis as its failure with democracy and the unsettled socio-economic issues. Families supported by tribe, Bradism and shrine elites as non political elements have used the electoral process to maintain their dominance in the state governance. Dynasty and democracy are entirely opposite terms but still they have coexisted around the globe raising concerns about unfairness of power distribution in political process. Usually these families are carrying the legacy of one of their charismatic personality and rest of family member using his name to remain in political power. They are professional politician and certainly will have economic pursuits ignoring very basic of democracy that is self less service to a nation. Pakistan is one of those countries where election has played a vital role even before its inception in August 1947 to its disintegration in 1971. Indian subcontinent has experienced the long spell of kingship and then colonial rule of British Empire which is resulted in lack of institutional building. Kind of political maturity we are looking forward in Pakistan will need some time as the political history of Pakistan is a continuous struggle against military coups, conspiracies for power and influence of non political charters in power politics. Irrespective of all the social, economical and technological changes that might have occurred in 21st century Pakistan but still the electoral politics has remained largely a family business. Limited number of political families have changed Pakistani parliament into oligarchy.

It is often assumed that the Glorious Revolution settled these crucial questions in favor of a sovereign and effectively 'modern' Parliament. Dynasticism, if it figures into the picture at all, is supposed to have disappeared as a meaningful political principle then or shortly thereafter (Adams, 2005). It is not unexpected that elite class wants to achieve and continue their dominance over the less organized masses through the elections by having connection other elites and using their wealth. Emergence of Pakistan was accompanied with dreadful mass migration of twentieth century as two mighty provinces Punjab and Bengal were divided. But along side with grief and sorrow there was a silver lining to night mare that now Muslims of new homeland would enjoy better life with more income opportunities, religious freedom and democratic system primarily based on Islamic system of social life. But within first decade, skepticism had replaced that expectation. "A passive population looked to a military ruler to offer the prospect of a renewal of state and society" (TALBOT, 2012)

In Pakistan democracy has many dimensions of social, cultural and economic nature. There for its never easy to govern the state where so much of linguistic, social, cultural and regional diversity and disparities with some serious issues of human development and human rights. There for it is still unable to relish the dividends of democracy which is being enjoyed by the west in abundant. Growth of democratic culture and tradition in slow or even declining because of many elements as we were not able to build institutions over certain period of time due to lacking of effective judicial system, weakening of political parties with the hold of dynasties and families in electoral process, malfunctioning of parliament and the crises of federalism, the result that today we have controlled institutional democratic system. Different views on Islamic system of democracy by the Islamic scholars making it even more difficult to understand by an ordinary Muslim. The implementations of dynastic politics and how it is weakening the democratic system in Pakistan is clear to us. Dynasticism also suggests that candidates are powerful enough of their own in constituencies and without having the party tag can win the elections as presently there are more than three hundred political parties registered with election commission and only six have more than ten seats in national assembly. There power of winning elections is drive from different segments of socio economic nature.

Reason why Pakistan is hoping for democratic hopefulness is because those political elites and all the major political parties have agreed to continuity of democratic process. They have learned that becoming part of any effort which weakened the democratic system is not in the interest of any political party "After aligning with the military or playing games in pulling down a rival party government, major sections of political elites, if not everyone, believe that democracy with all its flaws is a better option than military"(RAIS) Without any doubt there are certain factors in case of Pakistan which have resulted in depletion of democratic norms and values in our society. This on one hand have promoted extremism in neglected and relatively less developed areas and provinces and on other hand have broken the fabric of pluralism of our society. This has flamed slightest difference of intra provincial, social, religious and ethnic nature. No single civilian democratic government could maintain the pace of civic development equally through the four provinces. Rather one can experience the lack of civic amenities even in the different areas of same city. This only promotes class difference in society and mistrust on political system. As it has failed to provide very basic needs have prosper society that include education, health, jobs and law and order.

Our failure to solve the core issues of identity in the guts of open-mindedness. Socio-political conflict in Pakistan revolve around caste, sect and within the religion itself. Politics of Bradism can be curtailed only when we learn to live as Pakistani only. As long as there are Bradism and grouping in our society on the bases of language, clan, caste and tribe, modern concept of democratic values is hard to achieve. These links could remain for recognition purpose but not for voting pattern.

Faculty Updates

Saleem Masih Asim

The Department of History and Pakistan studies is lucky to have Saleem Asim as the Head of the Department. He serves as an Assistant Professor in the department and is widely known among the FCC community for his contributions to the college.

He recently completed his M Phil in History from the University of Gujrat. He also got a Christian leadership diploma from Hagai Institute, Singapore. He has over 12 years of teaching and administrative experience under Lahore Diocesan Board of Education (Church of Pakistan) and about 12 years teaching and administrative experience at DHA Education System, Lahore including Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore. Moreover, he has also been serving as the Resident Inspector (RI) since 2014 at FCC examination centers. Currently, he has been appointed by the BISE to serve as the head examiner of Pakistan Studies. The board recently took action against a number of cheating cases which were identified by him. He is also the founder of History and Pakistan Studies Society.

His research interests focus on the missionaries role and contributions in the subcontinent education system. Currently, he is working on publishing his MPhil's thesis which focuses on the Missionary educational institutes contributions in Punjab after the partition of the subcontinent.

Umair Jamal

Umair Jamal is a Lecturer at the department. He has done MA from the University of Durham, United Kingdom. Umair was the SAV Visiting Fellow at the Stimson Center in Washington D.C. in 2018. His work has been featured in a number of renowned media outlets including Foreign Policy, Al-Jazeera, The National Interest, The Huffington Post, South China Morning Post, The Straits Times, The News on Sunday and others. He has given interviews to various media outlets including BBC, Al-Jazeera, WION News, NDTV, INDUS News, Express News and others. Previously, he has worked as a Research Fellow with the Centre for Governance and Policy where he managed the Asia's region's Track-II diplomacy stream for the institute.

Umair has also taught at the University of Management and Technology (UMT) and FC College University as a visiting faculty.

His research interests focus on the South Asian security and politics. He recently published a chapter titled '*Populism and Higher Education in South Asia: Implications and the way forward*' in an edited volume, titled '*The implications of 'New Populism' for education*' which was published in the United Kingdom.

Faculty Updates

Usman Sial

Usman Sial is a Lecturer at the Department of History and Pakistan studies. He has done MSc in Pakistan Studies from University of Sargodha and has submitted thesis to achieve MPhil from Alama Iqbal Open University. He has been teaching at Forman Christian College for more than five years and has contributed a lot to the department's growth.

During the last session, Usman arranged the screening of two documentaries. The one discussed the issue of honor killing in Pakistan and other about explored the partition of the subcontinent.

Usman's research interests focus on the political parties and the dynamics of local politics in Pakistan. Usman is working on a research article which he expects to publish later this year.

Nadia Khushi

Nadia Khushi joined Forman Christian College University in 2016. Since then, she has been serving as a Lecturer in the Department of History and Pakistan Studies. Before joining FCCU, she also worked as a visiting faculty at the History Department in University of Education Lahore campus. She has done MA in History and MA in political science. Her MPhil thesis research focused on the "Muslim Response Toward Globalization." She is the founder advisor of the Intermediate History society while also serves as the member of FCC intermediate proctorial board.

For future, Nadia plans to do further research on her thesis as she believes that it still carries tremendous research potential when it comes to exploring the third world Muslim majority states acceptance of the globalization phenomena

Shahzad Ali

Shahzad Ali joined the Department in August 2018 as a Lecturer. He completed his MSc in History from Quaid-I-Azam University Islamabad in 2010. He recently completed his M.Phil from National Institute of Pakistan Studies, QAU, Islamabad. His master's thesis was under the title of "The Role of Bureaucracy in First Decade of Pakistan 1947-58" while, his M.Phil research work is titled as "Land as a Diminishing Source of Power in Rural Punjab: A Case Study of Chak Mehdi Khan in District PakPattan".

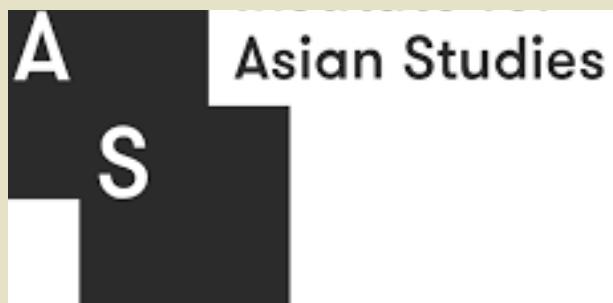
Besides, he is a social activist and currently part and parcel of Haqooq-e-Khalqa Movement-HKM and Progressive Academic Collective PAC, which work for the betterment of Pakistan's education system.

His research interests focus on sub-altern history, bureaucracy, the economic history of Pakistan, constitution, federation, basic fundamental rights to education and health, class structure in Punjabi Village, the role of feudalism and industrialists in power politics of Pakistan.

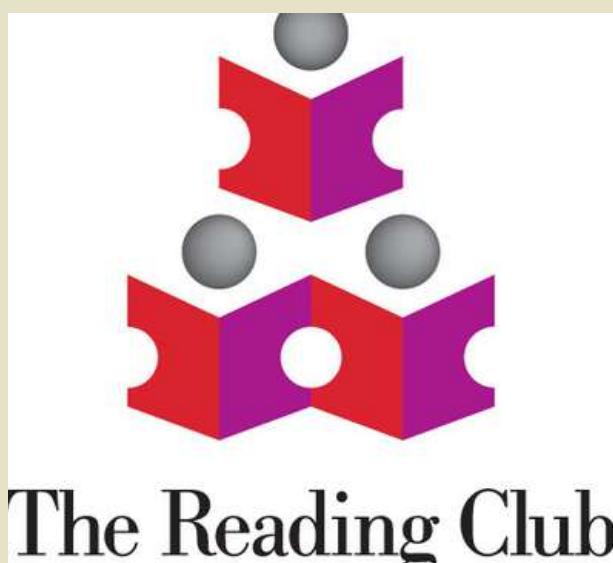
Achievements and Next Year's Goals



In the 2018-19 session, the Department of History and Pakistan Studies achieved 99% pass grade with the majority of the teachers scoring 100%. Our results are among the top scoring department's on the college side: out of 1555 students that appeared in the board exam, 778 scored A+ grade and 294 scored A grade which means around 70% of students fall in A+ and A category. Our commitment to the 2019-20 session is to maintain these excellent records and produce 100% pass grade.



In the upcoming session, the Department is planning to organize a major conference on Asian Studies. The conference's key focus is going to be on identifying some of the gaps in the existing literature available at the intermediate level and making the public books more inclusive and progressive.



The Department is planning to launch The Reading Club in the upcoming session. Research has proven that promoting reading as a form of escapism from the general pressures of schools and social lives encourage students to see reading as a form of self-indulgent relaxation, instead of another intelligence test. Becoming a lifetime reader is based on developing a deep love of reading. This is what the Department aims to achieve through this initiative.