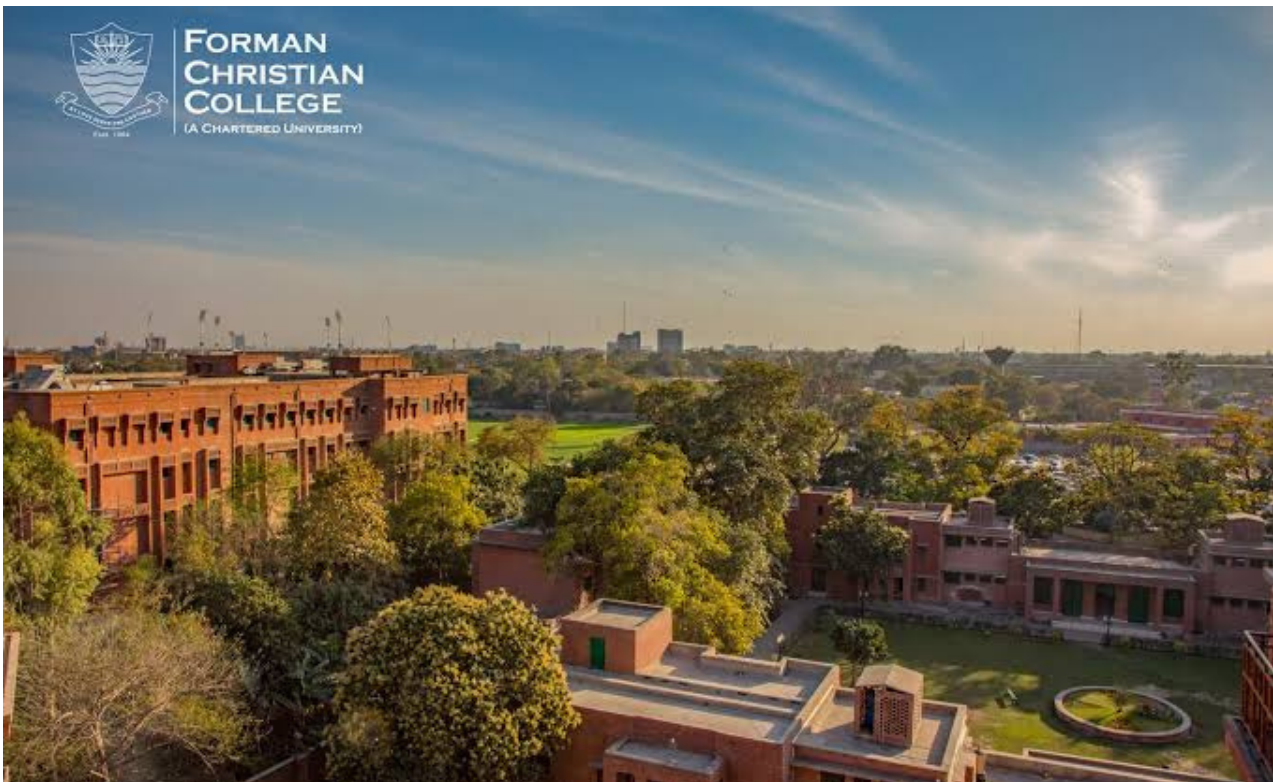




**FORMAN
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)



2022

NEWSLETTER

FORMAN POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AND SOCIETY

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Dr. Sikandar Hayat

I welcome this Newsletter of Department of Political Science covering the activities of the department, curricular and extracurricular, and thus, related both to the faculty and the students. Political Science is one of the leading departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences, with a well-qualified faculty, recognized and respected for teaching, research, indeed scholarship, ably led by its Chairperson, Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu. The department has a large, motivated, and capable student community, both undergraduate, seeking Bachelor's degree, and postgraduate, pursuing MPhil in Political Science. In the following pages, you will see a host of events covered, including that of the Forman Political Science Society, proving, yet again, to be one of the most active, dynamic student societies on the campus.

I congratulate the Editor, and indeed the entire editorial team of this Newsletter for their dedicated hard work to present the contributions of the department, its faculty and students, in such an impressive manner. I hope they will keep up the good work to ensure that the next issue comes out equally good, and thus continues to project and promote the wonderful achievements of the department for all concerned. Finally, I would like to appreciate the continued supervision and guidance of Dr. Zamurrad Awan, Associate Professor, in getting this Newsletter published and out in time.

Thank you all!

Message from the Chair



Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu

Kind Greetings! I wish you all a warm welcome from the department of Political Science. Newsletter serves as a window to view the profile, happenings, accomplishments, and direction of a department. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Dean of Social Sciences who is nurturing a research culture in Social Sciences. His leadership vision is winning trust and collegiality. Under his supervision Political Science is growing and upholding high standards for faculty, staff, and students.

I am delighted to share; Political Science faculty is setting new benchmarks of professional development. Their participation in international project DisTerrMem in Summer 2022 (Dr. Muhammad Younis, Professor Qalandar Memon & Dr. Mudassar Farooqui), giving talks at international platforms (Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras at Stanford University 2022, Professor Qalandar Memon at Warsaw University in 2022 & at Women's Global Strike, London 2022), publishing book (Dr. Shahzadi Zamurrad Awan's book published in 2022, 'Women and Social Change in Pakistan) and articles by other faculty members in national and international journals are few proud events of 2022. Indeed, faculty development is directly linked with students' achievement.

To imbibe the culture of civic skills among students, department is hosting a range of activities including organizing study circle sessions, showcasing seminar series, and offering internship opportunities. All these activities help students in building multidimensional perspectives, vigilant decision making, importance of teamwork, self-responsibility, and leadership skills. I am appreciative that Political Science Society is the main driving force behind all these proceedings.

Shakila Noor Sindhu (PhD)

Meet Our Faculty



Dr. Shakila Noor Sindhu
(Chairperson)



Dr. Muhammad Younis
(Forman Political Science
Society's Advisor)



Qalandar Memon
(Assistant Professor)



Muneeza Mirza
(Assistant Professor)



**Dr. Shahzadi Zamurrad
Awan**
(Newsletter Editor)



Dr. Abeeda Qureshi
(In-charge Research
Committee)



Dr. Mudassar Farooqi
(Baccalaureate Coordinator
and Course Scheduler)



Dr. Ayra Indrias Pataras
(Assistant Professor)



**Muhammad Usman
Farooq**
(Lecturer)



Syed Irtiza Shafaat
(Lecturer)



Dr. Asad Ur Rahman
(Assistant Professor)

Department's Administrative Staff



Mr Fayyaz Raza
Academic Associate

Mr. Fayyaz Raza, as an Administrative Associate/Academic Advisor, serves in the department of Political Science and History & Sociology . His prime responsibility is to facilitate faculty logistics, particularly while arranging meetings, seminars and thesis defense of undergraduate and postgraduate students of respective department. His remarkable administrative skills are prominent features of his personality. His commitment to his profession has made him great support for all faculty members.



Shanza Shahbaz
Teacher Assistant

I have recently joined the Political Science Department at FCCU as a Teaching Assistant (TA) . The entire staff has been so welcoming and am thoroughly impressed by their professionalism. The kind attitude of the Chairperson, Dr Shakila Sindhu has inspired me to work hard and better. In addition to that, I can proudly say that I have worked with the other professors in the department like Dr. Zamurrad Awan and Dr. Younis. I learnt so much from the department and looking forward to become more useful for the department with a positive attitude.



Zainab Abid
Teacher Assistant

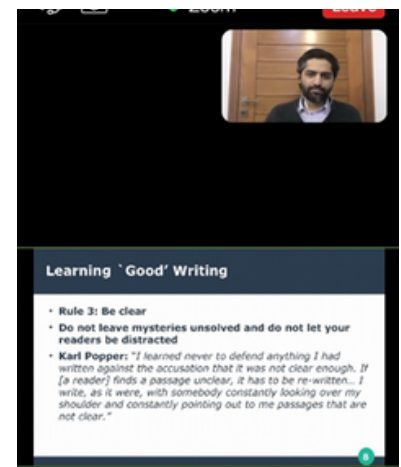
I am working as a Teacher Assistant (TA) in Political Science department of Forman Christian College Lahore. My experience as a TA has been challenging but interesting as well . I learnt so many things in my one and a half year of experience. I really enjoyed interacting with everyone in department. I learnt how to behave professionally which eventually helped me out in my academics as well.

I am glad that I got the opportunity to nourish my abilities under the supervision of such great personalities. The best part is that I feel good to help out my parents financially, because of being paid for my services and WSP Student Programme.

A Look into 2022: Events by The Department of Political Science

Promoting the Research Environment Reflections and Recommendations for Young Researchers

The research committee of the Department of Political Science, under the supervision of Dr Abeeda Qureshi has arranged research webinar and seminars to disseminate and share information for young researchers about how and where to publish. In the 1st session, Dr Syed Rashid Munir discussed the importance of Social Research and Writings. In the 2nd seminar, Dr. Athar Mansoor, Director ORIC (UCP) talked about "How to Get Publish: Steps and Techniques". In the 3rd Session, Dr Dayyab Gillani, University of Punjab presented on "Purpose of theories in International Relations". The webinar and seminars were attended by the Chairperson of Political Science, faculty members and a large number of students. The research seminars were organised by Iqra Riaz Ud Din, Arslan Dogar, Husnain, and Salman Shah.



Local Government System

A Seminar on "Local Government Systems and Citizens' Participation" was conducted on 15 March in collaboration with Sangat Development Foundation, Lahore. A resource person, Zahid Islam, discussed the legal and practical dynamics of local government in Pakistan, the women's participation in local governments was also discussed by another resource person pf the same foundation Bushra Khaliq. The seminar was well attended by almost 60 students and faculty members of the department.



A Look into 2022: Events by The Department of Political Science

Conference Title: Fall of Kabul: An Eastern IR Perspective

The Faculty and MPhil students of Political Science department presented their research in a one day student conference. Dr Samantha Cooke of Gloucestershire University, UK, participated in the conference as a keynote speaker and conference chair. There were thirty research papers, presented on Taliban Movement, Fall of Kabul and USA led war on Terrorism.



Faculty Research Seminars

The research committee of the Department of Political Science, under the supervision of Dr. Abeeda Qureshi, has organized fourth faculty research seminar on 28th November 2022. Dr. Mudassir Farooqi presented his research on "Digital Proxy Wars and Changes in the Character of 21st Century Warfare". The fifth faculty research seminar is held on 14th December where Dr Abeeda Qureshi presented her research on: "Multiculturalism or Assimilation: Conceptualizing the West-Centric Models of Integration in Pakistan". The platform has provided the faculty members an opportunity to showcase their research in front of an informed audience for valuable feedback.

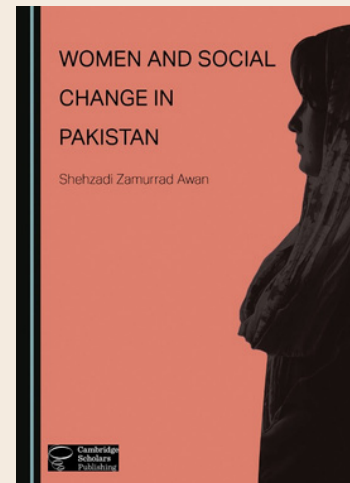


Annual Faculty Dinner 2022

The annual faculty dinner 2022 took place on 19th December 2022. It was to celebrate and appreciate our hardworking faculty and discuss the Political Science department progress.



Book Review: Women and Social Change in Pakistan by Zamurrad Awan



“Women and Social Change in Pakistan”, by Dr Shehzadi Zamurrad Awan, highlights the effects of education, media, legislation, executive measures, political process, and civil society on Punjabi women in the larger Pakistani socio-cultural milieu. The Cambridge Publishing Scholar-CSP has published this book. Dr Awan is an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department at Forman Christian College University, Pakistan. She has more than 15 years of experience in teaching and research. For this book, she conducts both qualitative and quantitative analysis through a literature review, extensive interviews, surveys, and group discussions with male and female university students, legal experts, and women rights activists.

This study presents a serious debate on socio-cultural, legal, political, and economic aspects of women's rights in Pakistan. Currently, there is not a single book available in the market that evaluates the contribution of the mentioned multiple variables in transforming women's placement in Punjabi society. The release of this book at this point, when the women's rights debate in Pakistan is going through a difficult stage, will provide an analytical and academic lens to the complex issues of gender. Dr. Awan conducted an extensive survey of male and female university students to understand their aspirations and dreams about women's placement in the changing socio-cultural environment of Pakistan. (The News , September 26, 2022)



Faculty Achievements and Contributions



Muneeza Mirza
(Assistant Professor)

Since June 2022, Muneeza Mirza and Ayra Patras conceived and planned a "Constitution of Pakistan- Seminar series"

The significance of constitution and its understanding for students has become imperative given the overpowering populist rhetoric engulfing our socio-political environment. A platform and discussion forum outside of classroom was considered vital for students to discuss and understand various aspects of constitution and its applications have been able to conduct 3 seminars with eminent speakers/public intellectuals such Scholars/researchers like Maryam S Khan, Advocate Asad Jamal and Professor Hiba Akram. They have discussed the significance of the constitution, judiciary and fundamental human rights in Pakistan for the spring 2022 semester

In continuation of our talk series, We were able to secure grant from ORIC for the Fall 2022 series. Saroop Ijaz, Dr Osama Siddique , Salman Akram Raja and Nighat Dad are the honorable speakers for the fall semester . we have received a positive response from our students and faculty members that gives us an impetus to continue creating academic spaces for deliberations and discussion on the significance of the Constitution of Pakistan, the role of judiciary,Parliament and citizens towards upholding democratic norms and institutional effectiveness. Students have raised several questions about the constitutional provisions that frame legitimacy, sovereignty, and supremacy of the rule of law.

She has been invited for talks on her Phd work by foreign universities including University of Bonn Germany in July, 2022 and Stanford University USA (November, 2022). Dr.Ayra, as a Panelist, presented her work on the politics of caste in a conference organized by University of Management and Technology Lahore on 26 Oct, 2022. Dr.Ayra in collaboration with Professor Muneeza Mirza has conducted 3 seminar series on the constitution of Pakistan in June, 2022. It discussed the significance of the constitution, judiciary and fundamental human rights in Pakistan. Dr.Ayra has placed 2 students Rabia Ashraf and Rafiq Wazir for internship in Lahore based NGOs namely *Shirkat Gah* and *Homenet* Pakistan.Dr.Ayra Indrias Patras has published an article in HEC X Category Journal of Research Society Pakistan, Vol. 58, No 4 (Oct.-Dec. 2021) on Intersectional Challenges of Interfaith Marriages faced by Women of Minority Communities in Pakistan. Dr. Ayra has authored 3 chapters on Marginality and menstrual healthcare in a book on period matters by Farah Ahamed, published by Pan MacMillan India in June, 2022.

South Asia Partnership – Pakistan, has awarded a grant of Rs 500,000 under the Nigar Ahmad Research and Advocacy Fund to Folio Books, a publishing house to publish a book authored by Dr.Ayra Indrias Patras. This book is based on the findings of Dr. Ayra's doctoral thesis, which investigated the intersection of gender, caste, labour and brought forward the perspectives of the marginalized women of religious minority in Pakistan.



Dr Ayra Indrias Patras
(Assistant Professor)

Secondment for Disputed Territories and Memory (DisTerrMem) Project

Disputed Territories and Memory (DisTerrMem) is a five-year project funded by Horizon 2020, the European Union's biggest research and innovation programme. DisTerrMem brings together an international team of researchers from seven organisations including FC-College as the partner, who are working collaboratively to explore the management of competing memories of disputed territories across borders.



Dr Mudassir Farooqi
(Assistant Professor)

In 2022 Three faculty members of Political Science department attended two months secondment for the research project in University of Bath, England and University of Warsaw, Poland.



Qalandar Memon
(Assistant Professor)

Secondment in Warsaw University, Poland

Dr. Mudassir Farooqi and Qalandar Memon attended secondment in Warsaw and spent two months for research on politics of memory and borders in University of Warsaw. They presented their research findings to project team, faculty, and staff of University of Warsaw.

Dr Farooqi presented on border dispute in Kashmir and Durand line, while Mr Memon discussed border dispute in Gilgit Baltistan. During the secondment, faculty conducted oral histories and interviews with diaspora communities in Denmark, Germany, Greece Italy, and Sweden.



Dr Muhammad Younas
(Associate Professor)

Secondment in Bath University, England

Dr Muhmmad Younas attended two months secondment in Bath University, England. During his stay he researched border disputes and politics of memory in the context of Pakistan and presented his findings to project team and faculty of Bath university. Dr Younas also visited Europe to conduct research on Borders and Memories.



**Muhammad Usman
Farooq
(Lecturer)**

Muhammad Usman Farooq is part of Horizon 2020—European Union’s biggest research and innovation program and is in process of submitting his doctoral thesis on 21st-century conditions for governance and state transformation at the University of Osnabrueck, Germany. His research interests include Democratic Governance, Civil Society, Political Economy, and Developmental State in the 21st century. From 2018 until 2021, he was an advisor to the Forman Political Science Society. His most significant achievements include as an advisor to arrange a visit to the Kartarpur Corridor on its official inauguration day and a trip to Punjab Assembly. Presently, he is the Advising Coordinator for the department of Political Science.



**Dr Zamurad Awan
(Associate Professor)**

In 2022, Dr. Zamurad Awan has published her first book, Women and Social Change in Pakistan by Cambridge Publishing Scholars. Apart, she has contributed a number of articles in the Op-ed of The Nation. Dr. Awan also presented her papers in international conferences at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and the University of Karachi. She was invited as a panelist in the discussion “Women in Arts”, organized by Women Empowerment Society FCCU, Lahore. She attended three days Training Workshop on Oral History”, organized by AMICAL Consortium Digital Oral History Institute. Her Oral History Teaching Project under Digital Oral History Cohort Program has been accepted by AMICAL Consortium for the Fall 2022 Course.



**Dr Abeeda
Qureshi
(Assistant
Professor)**

Dr Abeeda Qureshi is Department’s Program Assessment Coordinator for ‘The England Commission of Higher Education’ (NECHE) and in charge of research committee of the Department. In 2022, Dr. Abeeda Qureshi Published two articles: “Reserved seats for women in Pakistan: Reinforcement of patriarchy and powerlessness (2002–2018)” is published in a W’ category journal Women’s Studies International Forum. Her second article, ‘The Phenomenon of Far-Right Extremism in Pakistan: A Myth or Reality?’ published in the NUST Journal of International Peace & Stability. Dr Abeeda Qureshi was also invited as a key note speaker in the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (29th - 31 March 2022) organized by the department of International Relations, LCWU, Lahore.

New Faculty



Dr Asad Ur Rahman
(Assistant Professor)

Dr Asad Ur Rahman is an assistant professor at the Political Science department of FCCU. His research interests lie in the TUE domains of political sociology, political theory, South Asian and Punjab studies. He is currently working on a manuscript focusing on the contemporary social and political transformations in urbanizing Pakistani Punjab.

Syed Irtiza Shafaat Bokharee is a Lecturer at the Department of Political Science. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the Centre for Public Policy and Governance at FCCU, and working on democratic consolidation in developing countries, with a primary focus on South Asia. His research is interdisciplinary, as he works at the intersection of philosophy, history and political science.



Syed Irtiza Shafaat
(Lecturer)

Face to Face

Interview with Dr Abeeda Qureshi

By: Rabiya and Muhammad Ali Khan

How was your teaching experience during the pandemic?

It was a new experience, but when it comes to teaching, I think online teaching cannot replace in-person teaching and I'm not the type of person who likes to stay detached from my students, so I prefer to have personal contact with them. Even seeing my students gives me a lot of happiness. But I think we managed to cope with the unusual circumstances very well.

What is the nature of the Pakistan-China relationship?

I think it's a time-tested friendship. China has supported Pakistan throughout our history and at least there is one nation we can rely on. China contributed to building our defense infrastructure, and helped us during the time when we were denied such assistance from the US, France, and other countries. We need to be very careful, however, when we sign projects with China, such as the CPEC; we should not compromise our sovereignty and national interests. We need to have a transparent policy with China specifically under these agreements.

How do you think Pakistan as a society is coping with the marginalization of the religious communities in Pakistan?

I think our track record is not good and that religious minorities are marginalized in Pakistan. Usually, we don't even like to discuss certain issues because you never know whether someone could mould your narrative and rebrand it in another context.

Which book do you think is a 'must read' for every political science student?

I personally like the book "Error of Interpretation" by Maulana Wahiduddin, considering the level of extremism in Pakistan and the desire to impose Shariah Law on everyone but themselves. I think it is a pretty good book that emphasizes transforming yourself first before implementing it on others. So the change is always bottom up, not top down.



Who is your inspiration and why?

In terms of politics, the life of the Quaid-e-Azam is an inspiration for me. The way he struggled using constitutional means throughout his life to secure the rights of the Muslims in India, and achieved the separate homeland for them without resorting to violence, clearly depicts his charismatic leadership. In contrast to this, in my daily life, my mother is an inspiration for me. Her love for books and education inspires me and encourages me to strive hard to make her proud.

What do you think is the main cause of political and economic stability in Pakistan?

As there is a direct relationship between the political stability and economic development, Pakistan's economic indicators are also directly linked with political instability, and until we have a stable political system in our country, economic growth will remain a distant dream.

How do you measure success in your life?

Basically, there are no parameters upon which one can measure the success of a person. So, for me, if you are happy and satisfied with your life, you are the most successful person in the world.

Is there something you would like to share with us, related to your upcoming books, research article, or anything else?

Currently, I am working on a research paper that would apply integration models such as Multiculturalization and Integration in a non-western context. In this article, I will apply this framework in a Pakistani context to analyze which one best explains the practice in Pakistan.

Face to Face

Interview with Dr Mudassir Farooqi

By: Nadia Ali

What is your teaching philosophy?

By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn Latin Proverb respect for the learner and continuous refinement of the teaching process have remained essential elements though various iterations of my teaching philosophy. Engaging the learner is critical. A central goal of my teaching is to encourage students towards experimentation and taking chances.

How do you adjust your style to less motivated or non serious students?

I believe in Socratic method of teaching; it inspires dialogue and discussion to reflect on the issues and problems. Most of my students are motivated but there are always outliers and for less motivated students, I believe in counselling and encouragement. I talk to them, ask them about their issues that are creating problems in learning and grasping knowledge. By creating an encouraging link in a friendly atmosphere, I try them to motivate. Sometimes, on individual basis I work with them in their reading and researching activities to understand individual problem and solutions.

Would you like to share your upcoming research endeavour?

I have submitted a short book proposal on "Wahhabism: A Critical Discourse of Realities and Myths", to Manchester University Press of University of Manchester, England, its focused-on understanding Wahhabism from a historical perspective and uncovering the relationship of Wahhabi ideology with jihadi terrorism. I am also working on changing character of modern warfare and examining remote and digital warfare as the next avenues of theory and practice of warfare. From this I have submitted two research articles for publication in journal of strategic studies and journal of small wars and insurgencies. In the current year, I am part of research team of FC's research project Disterrmem(Disputed Territories and Memories), I have spend two months in Poland on researching memory politics, borders and wars in the contemporary world.



Is there something hilarious you experienced regarding students? Any story?

Covid-19 and online teaching experience has few hilarious stories, let me recall a one very interesting story on internet and online class, a student on WhatsApp informed me that he has no internet and cannot attend class, I asked him how your Whatsapp is working, he said Sir, its working without internet.

In another online session of group presentation, water was spilled on the computers of whole group (six participants).

As you are teaching the course 'Islam and Modernity' course, do you think Islam as a religion has a capacity to bring development and change in society?

Islam is a social project, promising and providing social opportunities, and Islam holds lot of potential for socio, economic and political development of young Muslims and Muslim societies in contemporary world.

How do you measure success both as a teacher and as a researcher?

Teaching is a Prophetic tradition, its value can't be measured but I believe, Teaching success measures are, student learning, satisfaction, and skills development, so that they can find next avenues of higher education and job market. Research success- Adding value to theory and practice of war and security studies so that policy makers and practitioners of war in Pakistan can incorporate new and emerging trends and technologies.

Alumni in the Field

Farzeen Shahzadi



I attended BISA 2022 3 days international conference from June 15-17 in Newcastle upon tyne, UK. My paper title was "South Asian Women Diaspora in UK & USA: Problems and Prospects" in the panel titled "Diasporas around the world". My paper talked about problems of South Asian women who live in UK and USA, the traumas they had to go through because of patriarchal society back home and lastly their identity crises. The conference was a great experience for me. I met with research scholars from different countries and also discussed my findings with them. Their feedback was valuable. This experience broadened my knowledge.

Maryam Nazir

On 14th September 2022, I attended a conference named "BISA CPD Annual Workshop: Refusing Carcerality" at Kings College London (KCL).

My paper's title was "Memories across the border" presented under the segment "Carceral Borders".

The session was quite informative, I presented my finding on the crisis and after effects of independence movement of subcontinent from criminology perspective.

My interaction with different university scholars helped me to broaden my knowledge about the subject.





Student Spotlight

Socio -Cultural Challenges to Tribal Pakhtun Women

By: Shahid Kamal

The world has experienced the first, second, and third wave of feminism in the last two centuries, thus recognizing the social, political, legal, and economic rights of women not only in the western developed world but also in the developing world including Pakistan. Despite these international and national commitments, the women of tribal areas are still facing multiple challenges as they are trapped in a centuries-old system of Riwaj (socio-cultural tribal code of conduct). Under Riwaj, they are treated like second-class citizens of the country and denied their rights. In the sections below, I will be discussing the four socio-cultural practices under Riwaj, which cause the suffering of Pukhtun women: Nang, Badal, Khawara, and Ghag. However, it is important to mention that the codes of Riwaj are weakening after each passing day and the tribal societies are moving towards progress and change. These anti-women social practices are particularly followed by the Pashtun tribes living in the areas bordering with Afghanistan like South Waziristan and Bajaur.

Nang and Ghariat, which are interchangeable words that mean the honor of the entire tribal family, lie in the hands of women in the tribal society of erstwhile FATA. The tribal woman, like private property, is considered the honor of the entire family. It classifies her in the category of "his honor", takes away her rights, and justifies her killing with impunity. She is his personal belonging, and if she does something against his honor, then the man can punish and kill her anywhere. Because of maintaining the Ghariat of the family, the tribal women remain silent about getting property share and economic

rights because of maintaining Nang the tribal women cannot choose their life partner by themselves and can't go for higher education without the consent of male adults.

Badal is also one of the tribal customs of the Riwaj in which a tribal woman is exchanged or bartered for a father or brother's bride. In the case of an exchange for a bride, there is no amount paid. In such cases, if one bride gets divorced, the other is also divorced in revenge. Hence, in such exchange—marriages, a sense of insecurity amongst the brides prevails—if one of them is unable to develop good relations in the family.

Khawara Rasnama/Valver is also one of the principles of the Riwaj. After marriage, a woman's honor/ownership automatically shifts to her husband when the husband pays the amount to the bride's father or brother and in some instances to a former husband. In this, the fate of the tribal woman belonging to the upper class and working class is not different, but the difference is the bride price. Under this, the tribal women suffered throughout their life after marriages and at the mercy of their husbands because the husband paid for it.

Ghag literally a masculine roar, is the anger of the man if his marriage proposal for a woman is turned down. He expresses his dismay and anger by aerial shooting outside his proposed woman's house; such a declaration is a symbol that if anyone tries to propose to her, he will have to first deal with him. It is not a romantic gesture, but a reflection of the tribal mindset of a woman being a

commodity and property, devoid of choices, rights, and feelings. It is to humiliate and disgrace the woman and her family how dare they refuse a proposal. Ghag is taken the choice of marriage from tribal women and subjected to marry a person by force.

To conclude I must say that I have tried to develop an argument and case for tribal feminism in the context of given circumstances. It is also pertinent to mention that unlike other women in traditional societies, tribal women have no qualms about the practices that deprive them of social and economic rights including their right to life. Born and raised in such an oppressive patriarchal structure and system, she has reduced herself to a bare life too. Ingrained and brainwashed with the 'honor discourse', she accepts her deprivations including honor killings. In many instances, the mother, aunt, and elder sister are also colluders in the killing of a woman if she trespasses the set values of pakhto or ghariat. To instigate a man, the mother or other elderly women use paigore (taunts), challenging his masculinity and bravery. For her, a man's masculinity is attached to a woman's honor. To conclude I must say that such inhuman practices need to end, and the state must take responsibility for her protection and grant tribal women fundamental rights prescribed in the constitution.

The writer is a research associate at LUMS and pursuing MPhil in Political Science Department at Forman Christian College University Lahore.



Student Spotlight

Militancy is back in Erstwhile FATA

By: Muhammad Sohail

Ex-FATA is the most volatile region of Pakistan situated on the country's northwestern border—the Durand Line that separate Pakistan and Afghanistan. The journey from FATA to Erstwhile-FATA was followed by the administrative notion to integrate FATA into state affairs so that it would have an appropriate constitutional standing like the rest of the state, which made way for the successful merger with KPK in 2017.

The merged civilians of Erstwhile-FATA have dreamt of peaceful days and end of militancy in the region, but they are again witnessing the regrouping of terrorist militants in the merged regions. According to sources, in August 2022, the Taliban have reportedly begun to reassemble in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Swat, Dir, South and North Waziristan. This is not the first time that FATA and other regions of KPK is facing militancy. From 2002 till yet, both the local Taliban and Afghan Taliban has made FATA the hotbed of militancy and insurgency. There have been continuous terrorism, military operations. Military operations has made the civilians internally displaced from 2009 and were officially repatriated in 2017. The past few decades of cold war, the USSR invasion, and the US arrival in Afghanistan after 9/11 has turned FATA into a buffer zone.

According to Human Rights Report 2.7 million were displaced during the mentioned time period but after short period of repatriation of IDPs, the “unknowns” have started target killing and enforced abduction of local repatriated civilians.

Many hundreds of extra judicial killings and enforced disappearances have been recorded by local activists from 2017's repatriation till yet 2022. The new wave of the paused episode of previous militancy in erstwhile-FATA is resumed due the regime changes in Afghanistan in August 2021, which has strengthened the position of religious militants in Ex-FATA. In the recent months, Taliban militants were seen roaming freely in Frontier Regions, Swat and Ex-FATA. The local resistive movements like Pashtun Tahafuz Movement have been constantly threatened and its members got killed because they are resisting the “back of militancy” in the region. The surrendered—the so-called Good Taliban have started their activities charging illegal taxes, threatening progressive activists, ban on girls' education, abduction, and thefts. The current National Assembly representative of North Waziristan Mohsin Dawar has constantly been mentioning the “new wave of terrorism” in Erstwhile-FATA on the floor of Parliament.

The local residents are feeling unsecured because of the target killing and enforced disappearances. Questions have been raised on military for their

claim of “successful re-establishment of peace”. The resistance of local civilians was followed by many questions from state authorities. Ex-FATA, having a geographical importance for Taliban, started experiencing the “return of militancy”. Taliban has also started showing their resistance against the merger following the demand of ruling the region through Sharia. The local social and progressive political activists have constantly been killed in target killings. Those who are asking the state for the establishment of democratic system are either threatened or killed by “unknowns”. Recently a young political activist Sunaid Dawar who was a student at University of Lahore was shot dead by unknown gunmen in 2022.

The impact of the recent militancy has effected the sociopolitical structure of the region. Girl education is effected due to Taliban warnings. Peace has been completely disturbed and fear is overlapping the region.

As the new wave of militancy and terrorism is a new challenge for KPK government. The immediate security measures, proper investment on development from allocated funds, establishment of sound judiciary system and establishing a proper bureaucracy in Merged FATA can combat the new rise of militancy/terrorism in the region.

Internship Experiences

Mohammad Salman Khan Niazi



I want to extend my thanks to the Political Science Department and Career Services Office of FCCU for my placement as an intern at Community World Service Asia (CWSA). This internship has helped me acquire real field experience as I have travelled to different cities in the north of Pakistan. The opportunities I am being provided, at CWSA, are extremely good, and at the same time, I am getting course credits for it. I would urge students of political sciences and other disciples of social sciences to look out for such opportunities that immensely facilitate our careers with real life learning experiences. Learning on the frontline is extremely valuable and much needed.

Sitara Sardar

I would like to thank the Department of Political Science and Career Services Office of FCCU for providing me with an opportunity to work as an internee at Sangat Development Foundation (SDF), a non-profit, non-religious and a welfare society. During my internship period, I attended training sessions on Election Observations for the Cantonment Board Elections held on September 12, 2021. I particularly experienced direct interaction with MNAs and MPAs of mainstream political parties that I found useful in expanding my understanding of practical politics in Punjab. I read about local government system of Pakistan and other countries. Above all, this six weeks' internship experience has enhanced my active listening, planning and computing skills. SDFs' working environment is women-friendly, conducive and positive. Their staff is quite cooperative which helped me to quickly adjust to their office environment. I encourage students of Political Science, who want to increase their knowledge about local government system in Pakistan to go for SDF.



Tanveer Alam



During my internship experience with Shirkat Gah, I was able to develop many skills such as data collection, data analysis, and data entry. I particularly found interacting with people and discussing different social issues with them to be useful in improving my research skills. Shirkat Gah organized a convincing campaign on women empowerment for males, I was part of that campaign where I visited Mardan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Okara (Punjab). I am very grateful to Dr. Ayra Indrias Patras who helped me to achieve this internship. This real field experience enhanced my knowledge.

Rabiya Ashraf

I did my internship in an NGO named as Shirkat Gah which is a women's resource centre and its main office is located in Lahore. The organization works for oppressed women and against early marriages and different kinds of violence like domestic abuse etc. The nature of my work was mostly attending Zoom meetings, entering data from Urdu to English,



A look into 2022: Events by Forman Political Science Society

Event Title: Politics and Political Science.

Speaker: Dr. Mudasir Farooqi

FPSS has arranged its introductory session on interrelation of politics and political science, where different concepts were discussed by the respected Dr Sir Mudasir, Assistant Professor in Political Science Department, FCCU. The discussion revolved around the future opportunities for the political science students. The President of Forman Political Science society has also introduced the society's activities and future plans. It was an insightful session for the freshman.



Event Title: "Acing CSS today"

Speaker: Romale Naeem Jhon (CSP in DMG)

After carefully understanding the interests of social science's students', Forman Political Science Society had arranged the session, "Acing CSS". The guest speaker has was Romale Jhon who shared his success story in achieving the milestone. The event was followed by a Q&A session. The young aspirants keenly participated in the Question/Answer session.



A look into 2021: Events by Forman Political Science Society

Study Circle Sessions

Title: Transgender Bill

Speaker: Ms. Shermeen Bano

Forman Political Science Society (FPSS) has collaborated with Forman Sociological Society to arrange a productive study circle on emerging issue of Transgender Bill. The Speaker Shermeen Bano, who is a lecturer at Sociology Department of FCCU, discussed in detail the different causes of Transgender Bill, which cleared the prevailed misconception about the Bill in different sections. The students showed their interest by asking questions. It was a great collaborative event for FPSS and FSS.



Title: Violent and Non-Violent Mobilization:

Speaker: Qalandar Bux Memon

FPSS has engaged students for a productive study circle in the presence of Speaker Qalander Memon, Assistant Professor Political Science Department. The topic was "Violence and Non-violence". The audience have learned the difference between ethical and political perspectives of violence and Non-violence. The speaker also discussed the nonviolent views of Bacha Khan and Mahatma Gandhi.



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Notable Alumni of FCCU

Qamar Zaman Kaira

The former Minister of Information and Mass-Media Broadcasting in the Government of Pakistan.



Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari

The eighth president of Pakistan.



Tassaduq Hussain Jilani

The 21st Chief Justice of Pakistan. He previously served as a Justice of the Supreme Court from 2004.



Rao Sikandar Iqbal

The Defense Minister of Pakistan from 2002 to 2007.



Amanullah Khan Yasinzai

21st Governor of Baluchistan. The former Chief Justice of the Baluchistan High Court (BHC).



Roedad Khan

Secretary General Ministry of Interior, Minister of accountability.



Mohammad Yousuf

Pakistani cricket coach and captain, who played all three formats.

