

REPORT

National History Workshop
**Emerging Trends in
History Writing & Teaching**

**Held on
Monday 28th March 2022**



Organized by:
Department of History & Pakistan Studies
University of the Punjab, Lahore

Introduction:

It is an established fact that history plays critical role in nation building. In fact, one eminent scholar has wisely mentioned that those who do not understand history are like trees without roots. It is history that helps us to understand the past and to predict the future. It is therefore an undeniable fact that, history is far more significant and valuable than the other disciplines that fall under the domain of social sciences. It enables us to learn about the construction, functioning, and evolution of past communities, institutions, ideologies, governments, cultures, and technology. Moreover, it enhances the ability to re-examine the past and thus to reevaluate the present and foresee the future. Its significance and scope are beyond our imagination.

Despite its immense significance, it is also a fact that in an increasingly digitized and globalized world, there is a need for constant rethinking on history syllabi, teaching methodologies and evaluation procedures. There is a growing realization in the modern world that research and teaching of history can help foster active citizenry and widen our understanding of the past; it can help open up new possibilities for the creation of a knowledge-driven, cosmopolitan and mature society. However, it is generally recognized that teaching of history at various levels in Pakistan is not up to the mark. History syllabi are outdated, teaching methodologies are obsolete and evaluation system is faulty. In order to address these issues, a National History workshop on *Emerging Trends in History Writing and Teaching* was organized and hosted by Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore on 28th of March 2022. The department of history is one of the oldest departments of the Punjab University, that was established in 1932. It is also one of Pakistan's most active and largest history departments. The hosting of the National Workshop is one example of the department's contributions to the subject of history in the country. The workshop was attended by historians from over twenty Pakistani universities, Chinese students, research scholars, and undergraduate students.

Aims and Objectives:

The prime objectives of the workshop were to highlight the importance of the subject of history, to explore and deliberate on emerging trends in historiography and teaching, to establish connection and promote cooperation among historians who are attached with the discipline of history in Pakistan and beyond, to revitalise the discipline of history on local and national level, and to provide opportunity to young Ph.D. and M. Phil scholars to learn the art of history writing and teaching.

Proposed Themes:

The Workshop was designed to provide a platform to discuss various issues related to history writing and teaching with diverse perspectives. Talks, presentations, and research papers that were given at the workshop highlighted the following key themes:

- New emerging trends in history writing
- Types of historical writing
- How to develop an effective historical writing technique
- The varieties of history
- Locating the sources for writing history
- Tools for the analysis of historical sources
- Evaluating the archival sources of all types
- Causes and Remedial Measures for the Decline of the Discipline

Inaugural Session:



The workshop was inaugurated by the Punjab University Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Saleem Mazhar along with Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Professor Dr Amra Raza, and chairperson Punjab University History Department, Professor Dr Mahboob Hussain. The inaugural session was moderated by Professor Dr Faraz Anjum. In his inaugural speech, Professor Dr Saleem Mazhar said progress in the fields of science and technology is never complete without a parallel development in social sciences. Both sciences and social sciences go hand in hand to develop a better future. The role of history in this regard, according to him, is critical. He said the subject of history can also be influential in fostering Pakistan's relations with neighbouring countries. Specifically highlighting the significance of Persian language in the history of Sub-continent, he urged the participants to use classical Persian sources to revive and forge linkages between Pakistan and Central Asia. He congratulated Chairperson Dr Mahboob Hussain and his faculty members for organizing such a workshop to promote the subject of history.

Dr Amra Raza said the history is much more than just an outline of facts. She said that there was a need to promote academic collaboration between the fields of history, philosophy, and literature. Dr Mahboob Hussain, in his welcome speech, gave a brief introduction of the Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab. He said that the department was the oldest in South Asia. It was established in 1932 with J.F. Bruce as its first ever chairperson. Ever since, the department has been a prestigious seat of historical studies. He said that the subject of history was not given the importance it deserved in schools and colleges. He said that the workshop would provide a platform to Pakistani historians to deliberate on new trends in history writing and explore ways to work jointly. Dr. Mahboob highlighted the objectives and background of the workshop, he thanked to the university administration for providing the support to arranging this important event.

Prof. Faraz Anjum in his concept note about the workshop said: "History is a discipline which can be called as the collective memory of a group of people. It does play a major role in creating a sense of separate identity and national consciousness. When Pakistan came into being in 1947, our pioneer historians conceived of constructing the past of South Asian Muslims in the light of new circumstances. Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi along with Prof. Dr. Mahmud Hussain, Dr. Syed Moin ul Haq, Dr. Riaz ul Islam and others thought of the main features of a new paradigm of history in Pakistan, different from the British colonial traditions and drafted the new curricula and syllabi of history courses in Pakistan in 1950s and early 1960s. According to the two nation paradigm, more focus was on creating a separate Muslim consciousness and therefore, new courses on Muslim rule in the Subcontinent and Pakistan Movement were introduced. Along with general history, separate new departments of Islamic History were opened in Karachi and Sindh Universities while Muslim history courses were introduced in other universities. Thus from 1960s onwards, post-graduate teaching of history revolved around three modules or types of courses: Muslim South Asia, Classical Islamic period and Modern European history. All three areas focussed mainly on political history,

with hardly any emphasis on role of the masses or socio-cultural, economic or intellectual factors. This structure of teaching history continued with minor variations in coming decades and is still valid for most of the universities of Pakistan. As teaching guides research, our history- writing and research also remained confined to these areas.

At a time when our pioneers were laying down the foundations of our historiography, at the global level, history as an academic discipline was changing its complexion. From 1960s onwards, totally new forms of history writing began to emerge. With more focus on marginalized and subaltern classes, feminist and public domains, literary and intellectual discourses, development and urban spheres, postcolonial, linguistic, global and environmental turns, this new history began to replace traditional and old-fashioned history which revolved around kings and their courts, great personalities, diplomatic niceties and high politics. This workshop is an attempt to re-think and re-evaluate this structure. The task is not an easy one as the old habits die hard but we feel that it is high time that we seriously think about it and implement it in our universities.

We have arranged this workshop at a critical juncture of our history. First and foremost, this year we are celebrating 75th year of our freedom and there is a dire need to reassess our past performance and chalk out the future path. Secondly, as per new HEC educational policy, all universities have started BS 4 year History programme which has more capacity to incorporate new approaches of history. Thirdly, new universities are being established where teaching of history and related disciplines has just begun and lastly in the last 10 years, a new breed of young historians equipped with fresh ideas, novel concepts and innovative methodologies, with foreign and local PhDs, have come to the fore. This is therefore the right time to rethink our position in the academic world and to revise our curricula and our priorities according to modern developments. In 2005, veteran Pakistani historian, Prof. Sharif al-Mujahid while delivering his keynote address to the 20th session of Pakistan History Conference, advised the Pakistani historians to “dart out in the direction of New History, familiarize himself with new approaches and new techniques, assimilate modern trends in historiography, and to go in for innovation and experimentation.” After nearly 17 years later, his advice is still very much valid and this is the very idea which compelled us to organize this workshop.”

Academic Sessions:

After the inaugural session, the participants read their individual papers in two parallel academic sessions. The theme of the academic session A was *Politics, Institutions and Historical Sources* The academic Session B was proceeded under the theme *Subalterns, Ideas and New Tropes of History*. In each session eight papers were read.

Session [A] was conducted by Prof. Dr. Faraz Anjum and Mr. Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah in this session Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shafiq Bhatti, Chairperson, Department of History & Civilization, BZU, Multan, talked about the problems of “temporality and spatiality’ in the historical constructions of the genealogy of Pakistan. In the official histories of Pakistan, according to Dr Bhatti, ‘the major spaces of concern remain outside the region of Pakistan’’. This trend, Dr Bhatti argued, has resulted in the marginalization of local and regional identities. He said, Pakistani state and society are struggling to construct a political identity leaping between different markers of nationalism, with a little consciousness of how historical memory contributes fundamentally to the formation of Political identity. Human thought and action are bound to what is cooked in mind and memory and collective memory in the form of historiography reflects potentially to the Problems of Memory, Identity and Nationalism in Pakistan. One can observe a heavy debate on the construction of National narrative yet ignoring the fundamental issues of a systematic construction of Historiographic narrative. The purpose of this dialogue is to focus on three spaces of intellectual debate reflecting the problematics in the construction of national narrative: temporality, spatiality, and centrality. Temporality focuses on the continuities and discontinuities in the understanding of human past in Pakistani historiography. Spatiality points out the world view that reflects how while even understanding the history of Pakistani the major spaces of concerns remain outside the region

of Pakistan and centrality expands the problem of spatiality to a multi-cultural and racial mantra that ignore rather marginalize the regional identities and continuities. Still a linear understanding of temporality and spatiality put a heavy curtain on the evolutionary understanding of historical process. Such problems can be considered major hinderances in the formation of national narrative.

Dr Farooq Ahmad Dar from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad read a paper on “Challenges of History Writing in Pakistan”. In addition to conventional problems that historians face across the world, Dr Dar highlighted some of the challenges that Pakistani historians face in Pakistan. Most of which, Dr Dar believed, its product of mindset of those who control the sources of history writing. History writing is always a challenging job. Historians, around the world, concentrate on academic questions and issues while writing history. Methodology, sources, objectivity, etc. are their major concerns. However, for historians working in Pakistan, in addition to these problems, there are many other challenges that they have to face. Most of them are obstacles created because of social behavior and mindset prevailing in the country.

Dr Moiz Khan from University of Karachi talked about the importance of the histories of Institutional and associated policies that Pakistan inherited from the British colonial State. This, Dr Moiz argued, would help us to explore how far those institutional and discursive structures were designed to serve the British colonial state in the Sub-continent. These historiographical explorations, he emphasized, would ultimately help decolonize those colonial structures.

Dr Irfan Ahmad Sheikh from Sindh University, Jamshoro talked about the 'Scope and Importance of History and Historiography in Pakistan.' Historiography is an essential and integral part of the discipline of history. The Pakistani historians, according to Dr Sheikh, needed to look beyond conventional areas of research. He argued that history is defined as the study of an event in a particular time and space. The particularity or specificity of time and space makes an historical event unique in itself. In other words, due to particular time when an event takes place, and particular space where it takes place an event becomes unique. Historiography is an essential and integral part of the discipline of history that explores what kind of history has been written so far by the historians of the past and the present. Historiography is defined as “the study of the way history has been and is written—the history of historical writing. When you study 'historiography' you do not study the events of the past directly, but the changing interpretations of those events in the works of individual historians' Historiography does not merely include the writing of history but also the study of historical writings. So a historian is the one who writes history, but a historiographer writes about the earlier written works of history and also about the nature of historical research.

Dr Sumaira Noreen, Chairperson, Department of History, Lahore College for Women University, talked about the craft of history writing. She termed history writing as “a continuous conversation' between historians, existing literature, primary sources, and reviewers. It is only after this kind of conversation that a piece of history writing becomes ready for publication. History writing is a continuous conversation which takes place between the historian and her/his thoughts, sources of evidence, peers and peer reviews, etc. Preliminary reading of secondary sources guides initial thoughts of the historian leading to first paragraph writing being submitted for a critical but constructive peer review. Later writing seeks guidance from the available data evidence which sets the direction of writing along different approaches to history writing. Based on an informed decision about adopting narrative, descriptive, interpretative and/or persuasive approaches, the piece of writing is then ready to submit for evaluative conversation of readers.

Dr Fakhar Bilal from QAU, Islamabad, talked about various methods and techniques to locate sources for history writing. Interest in the topic, and availability of sources and proper expert guidance, accord to Dr Bilal, are the basic requirements of a good research project. He said good research and good writing go hand in hand, probably the single most important key to successful research is having a good topic. For that, all you need at the beginning are two things: (a) a problem that you are genuinely interested in and (b) a specific issue, controversy, technique, instrument, person, etc. that is likely to offer a fruitful way forward for exploring your problem. In the early stages,

it's often a good idea to be general about any of the two above mentioned things. So, you might be interested in why people decide to become what they are in their careers or profession etc. One can think about places to look for topics, especially if you combine this with reading in areas of potential interest etc.

Dr Ghulam Shabbir from University of Gujrat, discussed in detail Max Weber's 'Theory of Charisma' and told the audience how it could still be used to explore and examine the role of 'great men' in history. He said History as a discourse mostly deals with the personalities, especially, their failures, achievements, role in history, heroism or spinelessness, life and times. A personality has some important traits, like, way of thinking, feelings, behaviour, leadership abilities, task orientation and management characteristics. These features play a vital role to turn a personality into a leader by adopting some exceptional traits, like, moods, expression, attitude, opinion and behaviour with others. These traits can be inherited or acquired and make a personality distinguished from others. A personality having strong above-mentioned traits gradually becomes influential among the social groups and masses. In the light of personality traits, Thomas Carlyle coined the 'Great Man Theory' and claimed that "the history of the world is but the biography of great men.' He advocated this theory along with the hero-worship and heroic in history. Later on, different theories regarding the study of personality have emerged, for instance, Humoral theories, morphological theories, psychoanalytical theories and physiological types of theories. Moreover, Max Weber coined a new theory to study a personality widely known as the "Charismatic Authority" acknowledge as the 'Theory of Charisma. His standing was in contrast to the legal authority and traditional authority. The study of a personality or leadership has a prodigious place in modern historiography and without it no one can understand the lesson of history.



Session [B] was conducted by Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar and Dr. Maqbool Ahmad Awan. Prof. Dr. Aftab Gilani, Chairperson, Department of Pakistan Studies, The Islamia University, Bahawalpur, emphasized on the importance of writing local history and regional histories. Focussing his paper on the princely State of Bahawalpur, the largest Muslim State of its kind in colonial Sub-continent, Dr Gilani highlighted the place of the princely state within the larger story of Pakistan. About his paper on regional history he said, Bahawalpur is a city of South Punjab province Pakistan. It is also one of the largest district and the biggest administrative division of Pakistan. Geographically it is at the midpoint of Pakistan and therefore is the Qalb or core of the heart of Pakistan. In the past Bahawalpur was an independent princely state which was instrumental in the survival of Pakistan in 1947. The rulers of Bahawalpur have great contributions for Pakistan. They succeeded all their assets and territory to Pakistan to make it a stronger nation. Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abassi V, was the last ruler of Bahawalpur State. During his era Bahawalpur also defended the honour of Prophet PBUH in 1935 by being the first nation to rule against the Ahmadiyya community something later adopted by Pakistan in its 1973 constitution. Nawab Sadiq and his state officials wore Turkic styled Fez hat instead of a throne or British style caps to show utmost respect and love for the deposed Ottoman Caliphate and the Turkish people's centuries old heritage. This was the past of Bahawalpur.

Dr Hussain Ahmad Khan, Director, Institute of History, Government College University, Lahore, read a paper on how best to make one's research 'global, methodological, and accessible' to a larger readership. His paper was based on his personal experiences as a PhD scholar at National University of Singapore. He said While doing MA and MPhil in History, I developed my interest in Cultural History. My MA thesis was on the Siraiki Movement which looks at the language and cultural politics of South Punjab; while my MPhil thesis was on the representation of Punjab in the colonial Exhibitions and Museums. I learnt new techniques when I went to Singapore for PhD. My paper is about those experiences in Singapore, which taught me to be global, methodological, and accessible to a larger audience. How did he learn and employ these experiences is the main discussion point of his talk.

Dr Rizwan Ullah Kokab, Chairperson, Department of History, Government College University, Faisalabad, talked about various characteristics of "Movements" and highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to explore and examine their histories. The framework of historical study of a movement has been offered in his talk. The movements in this regard include political, social and religious movements. Political movements such as separatist movements, freedom movements and movements for political change take place in the political sphere of life. Social movements are raised for the betterment or change in the society. The religious movements rise to achieve some religious goals.. His talk contends that during the historical pursuit or quest for the social, religious and political developments in result of or resulting from any movement historians must follow the definition and characteristics of a movement that are defined in the discipline of sociology. The edifice of the historical narratives through historical methodologies can thus be built on the basis of theoretical framework built on sociological foundation. This interdisciplinary merger would strengthen all the disciplines of social sciences with the help of history.

Dr Qurat ul Ain Bashir from University of Gujrat, discussed in detail the concept of subaltern studies. She said that the subaltern studies originally emerged as an academic endeavour to challenge dominant colonial narratives and discourses. Therefore, she emphasized, the study of silence and silenced histories could be historian's contribution to resistance against empire and its surviving structures. In the post-colonial age, the writing technique to the "no voice" class of actors in history creating is the most shunned concept. The term is related to non-constituencies, which exist in dominant hegemony but lack political authority. People who consent to political regimes ruling are referred to be subalterns that is recovered within dominant history and generally muted or obliterated. By studying the historiography published about then-power political circles, this approach is tied to systemic colonial struggles and processes. It runs counter to Europe's dominant history which was related to bourgeois classes. The ten-volume collection of literature on subaltern studies referred to subaltern groups as erased histories. The subaltern studies groups attempt to incorporate the stories of isolated classes and juxtapose them with dominant history. The importance of this method is that it seeks to complicate historiography narrations by delving into the understanding of general theory of ideology and global division of labor. The strategic subaltern essentialism is that it must be voiceless and politically impotent; thus, it is the historian's obligation to reflect the holistic version by including them into the process of historiography. Subaltern studies began in the subject of Indian historiography in the 1980s. It is officially recognized in India and other regions of South Asia, but not yet in Pakistan. It does not imply that intellectuals have not authored subaltern versions in Pakistan, but rather that the national narrative has been compromised to the point where subaltern studies have been unable to advance in their own area and at their own pace. This strategy allows subalterns to assert their opposing histories and cultures inside dominant classes. The British wrote the official history of India, and the Indian people's own history must be recovered. The subaltern groups embarked that accounts, narratives, stories, and histories of local subalterns should be preserved. This groups argues that accounts, narrative, stories and histories of India's local subaltern people must be brought to light by putting the essence of both politically strong and powerless people into action.

Dr Akmal Hussain Shah from International Islamic University, Islamabad, talked about the

importance of writing what is called 'history from below.' Political history, according to Dr Shah, has been the focus of historians in Pakistan. He outlined various techniques and theoretic frameworks to explore the histories of marginalized groups. The general historiographical trend is to mainly focus on records of political, administrative or military aspects of history, and offer very little information about socio-cultural aspects of history especially marginalized groups. Because, most of the historians remained directly or indirectly affiliated with the courts, and resultantly produced court histories. The Subaltern School of writers presented the idea of filling that emptiness of normative historiography written by the colonial and nationalist intellectuals by giving the representation to the People's version of history. They believed that anyone, a product of the hegemony could not be a part of Subaltern as it lacked consciousness of its own. The distinguishing aspect of this history is to center the people and de-center the hegemonic version of the elite's perspective. They tried to represent the suppressed and hegemonized groups of society like peasants, workers, women, etc. i.e. the subordination in terms of social, political, religious, class, caste, gender, race, language, culture and economic hierarchies etc. They upheld those voices, symbols and cultures which had been erased due to the domination of elite cultural practices. They have highlighted the role of people in history, the contributions and the collective efforts of the masses. The people's history is to analyze the condition of 'lower' classes who were under the subjection of power mechanism- 'the history from below'. Particularly in the historical situations where the power exist in the hands of ruling classes while ignoring the working classes or all other subaltern classes who are part and parcel of 'wretched of the earth'. This 'alternate history' (of masses) neither belongs solely to socially subordinated or subalternized groups, nor to 'minority' identities alone but elite and dominant groups can also have subaltern pasts. In Pakistan, the people's aspiration has always been ignored. Many groups have been sent to the margins of the mainstream cultures due to their difference in terms of socio-political, religio-ethnic, class, caste, gender, race, language, culture and economic hierarchies

Dr Bilal Zahoor Bhatti from University of Sargodha, talked about the 'history of ideas. A focus on 'ideas', according to Dr Bhatti, shows 'a smooth progression of human intellectual development'. Dr. Sumara Jawad from Collage of Art & Design, Punjab University, Lahore discusses about History of Art Image and Imagery. Although the term 'philosophy of history' was invented by Voltaire, it has been understood and interpreted differently by various ideologues of history. R. G. Collingwood termed it as 'the idea of history,' whereas E. H. Carr liked to mean answering the question, 'what is history.' The idea of history has passed through ages as understood under the influence of particular age, since ideas are necessarily influenced by material conditions and knowledge/power episteme. Nonetheless, being a distinct branch of history, history of ideas straddles philosophy of history. A history of ideas might be expected to show a smooth progression of human intellectual development through the primitive to the modern ages, but it is not in a linear or teleological manner. Resultantly, certain countries and civilizations have glittered for a while, then for one reason or the other been eclipsed, giving way to yet others.

Dr Sumera Jawad, Principal Collage of Art & Design Punjab University, shared her ideas about History of Art Image and Imagery.

Roundtable Session:

After individual presentations, lunch was served. In the second half, all participants joined together in a round table sitting to discuss *What and How to Teach History in Pakistan?* This discussion conducted by Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain and Prof. Dr. Tahir Mahmood; Participants highlight important outcomes of the workshop. Following are the recommendations that were put forwards by the participants.

Initiating the discussion, Prof. Dr Aftab Hussain Gillani emphasized that the university history courses should be redesigned to make the subject more relevant to the problems and challenges Pakistan faces today. Dr Hussain Ahmad Khan shared his experience of establishing the Institute of History at GCU, Lahore in which he founded two new departments, i.e., Department of Archival

Studies and Department of Art History, the first of their kind in Pakistan. The purpose of these new departments, he said, is to train history students for jobs in archives, art galleries, museums etc. He also mentioned about the rubric he developed to evaluate history dissertations. According to him, the rubric not only helps standardization of marking regime but also provides the students a roadmap to follow. Dr Irfan Ahmad Shaikh recommended the use of social media to promote the subject of history. He also proposed that a National History Forum should be established for coordination and to hold regular national history workshops. Dr Farooq Ahmad Dar believed that the focus should be on producing quality historians and not on quantity. Speaking on how to make the subject of history interesting for students of other departments, he said that we should focus on the 'idea of history' rather than simply talking about events and personalities. Mr Taranjeet Singh, a guest participant from USA, emphasised that a calendar should be prepared to commemorate important historic events. Dr Rizwan Ullah Kokub, Chairman, Department of History, GCUF, endorsed the proposal that a National History Forum should be established to have a collective voice. He recommended to call that forum "Pakistan History Society" The Society should also organise at least one conference in a year. In addition, the Society should also collect and manage archives. He also proposed that steps should be taken to include history as a compulsory paper in various provincial and federal exams to increase the market value of the subject of history. Prof. Dr Faraz Anjum emphasised the need to review and redesign history courses that are being offered in history departments across Pakistan. He pointed out that Medieval History is neglected. To revive that period of history, he recommended to teach languages that are needed, for example Persians and other languages. He recommended to teach at least one vernacular language to history students. He also highlighted the other neglected fields of history writing such as History of Technology, Urban History, History of Development etc. Mr. Ghazi Abdullah, on the other hand, was of the view that we do not need to redesign courses. Instead, the way history is taught should be changed. Secondly, he thought that history textbooks should be written only by well-established historians, preferably by a panel of historians. Dr Shafiq Bhatti, Chairman, Department of History, BZU Multan, endorsed the point that quality of teaching should be improved. He also believed that guiding history students in their pursuit of Superior Civil Services of Pakistan could enhance the market value of the subject. Dr Iram Rana from FCCU, suggested that the students should not only be taught objective history and but be trained to become relevant. Prof. Dr Rukhsana Iftikhar criticised the content of Pakistan Studies course currently taught in Pakistan and urged the delegates to radically redesign it that can help students to become better citizens. Ms. Amna Latif, a PhD scholar in the Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, was concerned about the availability and accessibility of archives. The delegates agreed that the issue of accessibility of both primary and secondary sources is a major stumbling block in the production of quality historical research. There was a recommendation by Ghulam Abbas, a faculty member at GCU, Lahore, that research students should be allowed to work under a supervisor other than from his/her own department especially if the required expertise is not available in that department. Another participant suggested to let students have more than one supervisor. This also raised the question of coordination between both the supervisors and how the student would balance the advice of his/her supervisors. Usman Janjua, another PhD scholar, urged the delegates to introduce special courses on Academic Writing for research students. A Chinese PhD student talked about James C. Scot's influential book *The Art of not being Governed* as an example of how the students can borrow certain theoretical frameworks to make sense of their own research.

Concluding Session/Recommendations:

At the end, delegates unanimously favoured the recommendations to (a) organise regular history conferences and seminars on rotation basis, (b) establish a representative body of Pakistani historians. The name of the body should be "National History Forum" or "Pakistan History Society". The body will not only be responsible to organise regular conferences and seminars but also to devise a mechanism to share list of topics that are being researched in each and every History department across Pakistan. New topics will also be shared annually to avoid repetition. An interim four-member

committee was formed under Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairperson, Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, along with Dr Rizwan Ullah Kokab (GCUF), Dr Moiz Khan (UoK), and Dr Fakhar Bilal (QAU), to draft the constitution of the proposed representative body. It was also agreed that on the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Pakistan, a special document will be prepared which will include dissertations of people from different universities and colleges. The participants lauded the efforts of Department of History & Pakistan Studies, Punjab University for organizing a fruitful workshop. Certificates and shields were distributed at the end.

List of the Speakers & their topics:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shafiq Bhatti

Bahauddin Zakria University, Islamabad
Struggling for a National Narrative:
paradoxes/problems of Temporality,
Spatiality and Centrality in Pakistani
Historiography

Prof. Dr. Farooq Dar

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
Challenges of history writing in Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Aftab Gilani

The Islamia University, Bahawalpur
Concept of Local History

Prof. Dr Sumera Jawad,

CAD, Punjab University, Lahore
History of Art Image and Imagery

Dr. Syed Akmal Hussain Shah

International Islamic University,
Islamabad.
Peoples History: Marginalized People

Dr. Sumaira Noreen

Lahore College for Women, University,
Lahore.
History Writing: A Continuous
Conversation

Dr. Rizwan Ullah Kokab

Govt. College University, Faisalabad
History of Movements

Dr. Qurat ul Ain Bashir

University of Gujrat, Gujrat
History Writing Approaches: A Concept of
Subaltern Studies

Dr. Moiz Khan

University of Karachi
History of politics and institution building

Dr. Irfan Ahmad Shaikh

University of Sindh
Institutional History Writing

Dr. Husain Ahmad Khan

Govt. College University, Lahore.
Cultural History Writing

Dr. Ghulam Shabbir

University of Gujrat, Gujrat
History of Personalities: Concept and
Model

Dr. Fakhar Bilal

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
Locating the sources for writing history:
Methods & Techniques

Dr. Abrar Zahoor Bhatti

University of Sargodha, Sargodha.
Idea(s) of History and History of Ideas

Dr Akhtar Hussain Sandhu

Govt. Islamia College Civil Line, Lahore.
Intellectual History Writing

Participants for discussion:

Along with main speakers some other scholars from different universities participated into the ongoing debate and shared their ideas, they were Dr. Muhammad Altaf (PU), Dr. Yawar Haroon (MAO Collage) Dr. Iram Naseer (FCCU, Lahore) Ms. Saira Ramzan (PU), Uzma Yasmeen (COMSATS Islamabad), Abdul Sattar (FAST), Ghulam Abbas (GCU, Lahore), Imran Jaffar (Sahiwal), Imran Ullah Khan, (Town Ship Collage), Tahir Khan (UOL), Iqbal Mughal (Okara), Amna Latif, Asif Usman, Usman Janjua, Muhammad Yasir (PhD Scholars) and MPhil, MA and BS students of the different universities.

Organizing Committee:

- Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain (Chairman)
- Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar
- Prof. Dr. Tahir Mahmood
- Prof. Dr. Faraz Anjum
- Mr. Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah
- Dr. Maqbool Ahmad Awan
- Dr. Muhammad Altaf

