

Research Projects

a) On-going Projects

Historians of Pakistan: An Introductory and Analytical Survey

I am compiling and editing a two volume study of major historians of Pakistan. National Book Foundation, Islamabad has agreed to publish it. The tentative date of Publication is 2022.

Jesuits in Medieval India and their Depiction of Society and Religion

The Project aims to study the accounts of the Jesuits and to understand their perspective about the medieval society and culture, particularly religion. It aims to analyze the inter-faith dialogue and mutual religio-cultural perceptions in the early modern period. University of the Punjab has granted this research project for the academic year 2021-2022.

b. Completed Project

Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia (Istanbul: IRCICA, 2020)

Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), an organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, located in Istanbul launched a mega-project to prepare an anthology of the history and culture of all Muslim states. It comprises of ten volumes, focusing on various regions of the world where Muslim states have emerged and will be compiled in three languages, Arabic, English and Turkish. One volume on *Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia* (in English language) has been compiled and published in 2020. I worked as Associate Editor of the volume and also contributed one chapter on 'Baburis/ Mughals'.

<https://www.ircica.org/publications/history-of-islamic-civilization/asia/south-asia-southeast-asia/islamic-history-and-civilization-south-asia>

Research Publications

a) Book Chapters

"Baburis/ Mughals," in *Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia* (Istanbul: IRCICA, 2020): 203-265.

"Hajj and Islamic Revivalism in Mughal India," in *Armaghan-e-Imam-e-Rabbani*. Ed. Muhammad Humayun Abbas Shams. Vol. IX Lahore: Imam-e-Rabbani Publications, 2018. PP. 3-26

"Source Material on Mughal India in the Iqbal Mujaddadi Collection," in *Zakhira-i Kutub-i Professor Muhammad Iqbal Mujaddadi ki Iftitahi Taqrib ki Roedad*. [Account of the Inaugural Ceremony of Books Collection of Professor Muhammad Iqbal Mujaddadi] Comp. Syed Jamil Ahmed Rizvi. Lahore: Punjab University, 2015.

"Encounter with Mughal Orient: A Study of European Traveller's Representation of Jahangir's India," in *Pakistan: Dimensions of History*. Ed. Syed Jaffar Ahmed. Karachi: Pakistan Historical Society & Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi, 2013. PP. 234-46.

b) Articles in Research Journals

“Bâbürlüler diyarını Avrupalı seyyahların gözünden” (Mughal India as Seen by European Travellers), *Derin Tarih*, Istanbul, February 2022.

(with Ren Guangxu) “Traffic and Urban Culture: A Case Study of Chinese Eastern Railway’s Impact on Harbin City, 1903-1931,” *Asia-Pacific: Annual Research Journal of Far East and South East Asia*, 39 (2021): 131-146.

“Islami aur Maghrabi Tasawwur-i-Tarikh: Aik Taqabali Mutalaa” [Islamic and Western Concept of History: A Comparative Study], *Al-Ayyam*, Karachi, 9 No. 1 (Jan.-June 2018): 9-38.

“‘And Never the Twain Shall Meet’: Pre-colonial European Travellers and the ‘Reality’ of India,” *The Historian* 16 (Summer 2018): 1-13.

“Education and Learning in Mughal India” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 55 No. 1 (Jan.-June 2018): 83-94.

“Annales School and Pakistani Historiography,” *Journal of the Punjab University Historical Society*, 31, No. 1 (Jan. – June 2018): 51-59.

“Islam and Hinduism in the Eyes of Early European Travellers to India,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 54, No. 1 (Jan. – June 2017): 52-67.

“Travel Writing, History and Colonialism: An Analytical Study,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 51, No. 2 (July-December 2014): 191-205.

“Human Rights, Cultural Relativism and Islam,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 50, No. 2 (December 2013): 160-189.

“Silencing the Past: Role of the Army in 1970-71 Conflict and its Depiction in Pakistani Textbooks,” *Pakistan Vision*, 14, No. 1 (Jan-June 2013): 202-231.

“Crisis of Muslim Civilization in Modern Times: Some Insights from Ibn-e-Khaldun’s Thoughts and Ideas,” *Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization* [Department of Islamic Thought and Civilization, University of Management and Technology, Lahore], 1, No. 2 (Fall 2011): 169-184.

“Mughal Religious Policy and its Depiction by European Travellers: A Critical Analysis,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 48, No. 1 (Jan.-June 2011): 123-148.

“Strangers’ Gaze: Mughal *Harem* and European Travellers of the Seventeenth Century,” *Pakistan Vision*, 12, No. 1 (June 2011): 70-113.

“Conditions of Common People under the Mughals: A Critical Study of Representations of European Travellers,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 47, No. 2 (July-December 2010): 33-64.

“Rights of Women and Children in Pakistan: A Study of US Perceptions,” *Pakistan Vision*, 11, No. 2 (December 2010): 149-179.

“Oriental Despotism and Mughal Imperial Ideals: A Comparative Analysis,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 47, No. 1 (Jan-June 2010): 97-126

“European Travel Writing and Western Perception of Indo-Muslim Civilization in India in the Seventeenth Century,” *Journal of the Research Society of Pakistan*, 44, No. 2 (December 2007): 115-137.

“Nadir Shah’s Invasion of India and Fall of the Mughal Empire,” *Historicus: Journal of Pakistan Historical Society*, LIII, No.1 (Jan-March 2005): 101-111.

“U.S. Human Rights Policy: A Case Study of Political Freedom in Pakistan,” *Journal of Punjab University Historical Society*, XXVI, No. 1 (July 2003): 40-58.

d) Presentations and Participation in Some Notable Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

“Regional Connectivity in the Pre-Modern World: A Study of Chinese Admiral Zheng He’s Voyages in the Indian Ocean,” a paper presented in *China Pakistan International Symposium on History and Culture* at Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, China, on June 26, 2023.

Book Talk on Mahpara Safdar’s *Mera Zamana Meri Kahani* in the Department of History and Pakistan Studies, organized by Ibn Khaldun Society on April 14, 2023.

Book Talk on Manan Ahmed Asif’s *Loss of Hindustan, Invention of India* in the Book Club of Punjab University Library on March 15, 2023.

“Central Asian Influence in Mughal Administration: Legacy of Zaheer-ud-Din Muhammad Babur,” a talk given in the One Day Seminar entitled, *Babur: A Symbol of Shared Legacy between Pakistan and Uzbekistan*, organized by Babur Legacy Centre, University of the Punjab and Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan, on the eve of Babur’s 540’s Birthday on February 13, 2023.

Book Talk on the Launch of Manan Ahmed Asif’s Book, *Loss of Hindustan, Invention of India* in Urdu Development Committee, University of the Punjab on January 20, 2023.

“Religion in Mughal India,” a talk given in School of Religion and Philosophy, Minhaj University, Lahore on December 17, 2022.

“Encountering the Other: Jesuit Accounts about Islam and Muslims of South Asia,” a paper presented in the *Workshop on Two Early Modern Global Networks in Asia: The Society of Jesus and the Dutch East India Company*, organized by Faculty of History, University of Warsaw, Poland on December 2-3, 2022.

Participated in an interactive discussion on Dr. Shahid Imtiaz’s book, *Amorphous Lahore: Colonial and Postcolonial, A Journey through History and Fiction*, organized by English Literary Society, Institute of English Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore on November 17, 2022.

“History-Writing in Pakistan: An Overview of Major Trends and Key Issues,” a paper presented in the *National Conference on the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations: A History of*

Pakistan, 1947-2022, organized by Department of History and Pakistan Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad on September 7-8, 2022.

“Regional Connectivity in the Pre-Modern World: A Study of Chinese Admiral Zheng He’s Seven Voyages in the Indian Ocean,” a paper presented in *International Conference on Significance of the Belt & Road Initiative in Regional Connectivity*, jointly organized by Regional Integration Centre, University of the Punjab, Centre for Global and Strategic Studies, Islamabad and Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of China on July 6-8, 2022.

“Zaheer-ud-Din Muhammad Babur: Antecedents and Precedents,” a paper presented in *International Conference on Legacy of Zaheer-ud-Din Muhammad Babur and its Relevance in Contemporary Bilateral Relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan*, jointly organized by Regional Integration Centre, PU, Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Centre for Global and Strategic Studies, Islamabad, at University of the Punjab, Lahore on 11th February 2021.

Webinar on “Decolonizing Humanities in Pakistan: Theoretical and Institutional Dimensions,” organized by Indigenizing Knowledge (InK) Forum, University of the Punjab on January 16, 2021.

“Punjab in the Eyes of Early European Travellers: A Critical Analysis,” a paper presented in *International Conference on Punjab History and Culture*, organized by National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad, at University of Lahore on 6-8 January 2020.

“Education and Learning in Medieval India: A Study of Colonial Perceptions,” a talk given at Hast-o-Neest Institute of Traditional Sciences, Lahore on 7th March, 2020.

Book talk on “Aurangzeb: the Man and the Myth” by Audrey Truschke, at Punjab University Library Book Club Event, on 13th March, 2019.

“Piety, Politics and Polemics: Hajj in Medieval India,” a seminar presented in History Forum of the Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab on 13th February, 2019.

Coordinated a workshop on “Writing Academic History in Pakistan” conducted by Prof. Dr. Sarah Ansari, in the Department of History, University of the Punjab, on 15th December, 2018.

Book Talk on “Maasir-i-Rahimi” compiled by Dr. Hasan Beg in Lahore Press Club on 8th November, 2018.

“Medieval in the eyes of Modern: Colonial Construction of Indian History,” a presentation in the Indigenizing Knowledge (Ink) Forum at Punjab University Library on 30th May, 2018.

Participated in *Two-Day Workshop on Research Methods for the Study of Persian Manuscripts* organized by Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS with the support of University of Exeter, at LUMS, Lahore, 24-25 March, 2018.

“Piety, Politics and Polemics: Hajj in Mughal India,” Paper presented in *26th Pakistan History Conference on State and Society in South Asia: Historical Perspective* at University of Peshawar, 9-11 October, 2017.

“Silencing the Past: Role of the Army in 1970-71 Conflict and its Depiction in Pakistani Textbooks,” a paper presented in International Conference on *History As Controversy: Writing And Teaching Contentious Topics In Asian Histories*, jointly organized by the Singapore Heritage Society, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore and the Humanities and Social Studies Education, National Institute of Education, Singapore, held in National University of Singapore, Singapore, on 14 – 15th DECEMBER 2011.

“Oriental Despotism and Mughal Theory of Kingship: A Comparative Analysis,” a paper presented in *International Pakistan History Conference*, (22nd Session), organized by Department of History, Bahauddin Zikriya University Multan and Pakistan Historical Society Karachi, held at Multan, on 17-18 March 2010.

“French Historiography and the *Annales* Paradigm: Some Random Thoughts for Pakistani Historians,” a paper presented in the Symposium on *State of Historical and Cultural Research in Pakistan*, organized by National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, held at Baragali Campus, University of Peshawar, on 19-21 August, 2009.

“Deconstructing Colonial Discourse: A Critical Study of British Views on Learning and Education in Mughal India,” a paper presented in *Annual Conference of British Association of South Asian Studies*, held at University of Cambridge, Cambridge, on 28-30 March 2007.

“Encounter with Mughal Orient: A Study of European Traveller’s Representation of Jahangir’s India,” a paper presented at the *Pakistan History Conference*, (Twentieth Session) held at Karachi, on 13-15 April, 2005.