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NEWSLETTER



# The Chronicle

Department of History & Pakistan Studies



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## A New Chapter Begins: Faculty Get-Together to Welcome Prof. Kiran Siddiqui

(7th Jul, 2024)

A faculty get-together was held at the PU Executive Club to welcome new colleague, Prof. Kiran Siddiqui. The event provided an opportunity for faculty members to connect, share experiences, and extend their support to Prof. Siddiqui as she joins the team.



## Board of Studies Meeting

(25th July, 2024)



The Meeting of Board of Studies took place in the department where academics gathered to discuss and make decisions about curriculum, courses, and other academic matters.

It also assessed whether academic programs are up-to-date and aligned with current trends.

## Academic Writing Workshop

(7th Aug, 2024)

The Department arranged an informative Academic Writing Workshop with Irfan Waheed Usmani as the resource person. His session provided practical tips and strategies to enhance and improve writing skills.







## Regional Implications of Political Change in Bangladesh

(15<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2025)



Dr. Moonis Ahmar, Meritorious Professor of International Relations and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Karachi, delivered an insightful talk on the regional implications of political change in Bangladesh. His lecture explored how shifts in Bangladesh's political landscape affect South Asia and broader regional dynamics.

## Department Organises Book Talk

(20<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2024)

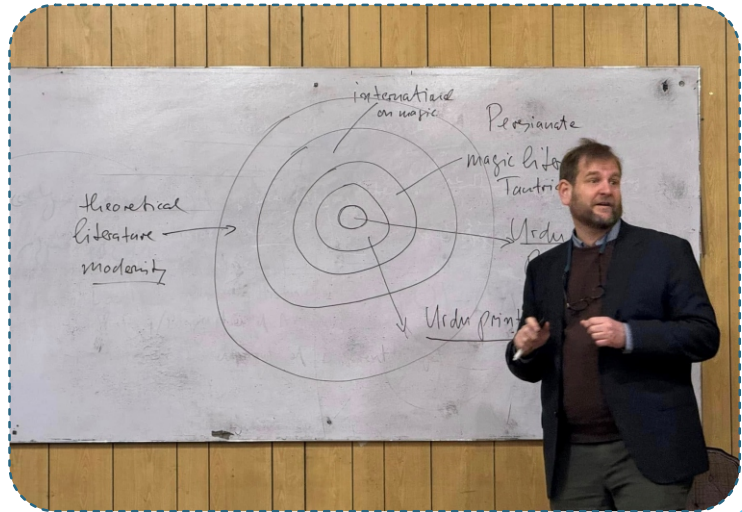
Prof. Aman Ullah, Principal of Punjab University Law College, gave an engaging talk on his book *Meine Ain Bante Daikha* at the Department. He talked about constitutional journey of Pakistan and highlighted the significant events that shaped the legal and political framework of the country. He said that the book also covers process of constitution-making, political struggles, and the role of various key figures in this transformative period.



## Academic Writing Workshop

(10th Sep, 2024)

The department organized an academic writing workshop with Dr. B. Markus Daechsel from Royal Holloway, University of London, as the guest speaker. His session provided valuable guidance on enhancing academic writing skills, offering students and faculty expert advice on research and publication processes.



## Department Publishes a Book

(16th Sep, 2024)



The book *Pakistan@75: History, Politics, Culture* got published. This marked another significant milestone for the department, showcasing its commitment to enriching academic resources and contributing to a deeper understanding of Pakistan's history and socio-political landscape.

(23rd Sep, 2024)



### **Prof Dr. Muhammad Ali Resumed the Charge of VC of University of the Punjab.**

The University of the Punjab, Lahore, proudly welcomes Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali as its new Vice Chancellor, appointed on 23rd September 2024 for a four-year term. With his vast experience in academia and administration, Dr. Muhammad Ali is committed to leading the university toward new heights of academic excellence and institutional development.



## Department's Research Journal Gains Recognition in HEC's New Publication List

(27th Sep, 2024)

The department's research journal gains recognition in the HEC's newly uploaded list, marking a significant milestone. This recognition highlights the journal's academic credibility and commitment to promoting high-quality research in its field.



## A New Chapter: Orientation for the Incoming BS, MPhil, and PhD Scholars

(9th Oct, 2024)



The department organized a comprehensive orientation session for the incoming BS, MPhil, and PhD batches. This event provided the new students with essential information about their academic journey, resources available, and opportunities for personal and professional growth during their time at the university.

## A Special Talk on Constitutional Court, Parliament and Contemporary Issues

(17th Oct, 2024)

Zafarullah Khan, a journalist and expert on parliamentary studies, visited Department to discuss Pakistan's constitutional issues. He emphasized that a constitution must evolve with time and stressed the importance of understanding it to avoid crises. He outlined two approaches to constitution-making in Pakistan, highlighted judicial and political challenges, and criticized the lack of respect for democratic values. He called for greater public awareness, especially among youth, to improve understanding of constitutional matters and address the country's ongoing challenges. At the end, Dr. Mahboob Hussain presented him with a book and thanked him for his visit.



## Dr. Dalvir S. Pannu Talks About His Book and the Journey of Writing

(1st Nov, 2024)



Dr. Dalvir S. Pannu gave a talk on his book *Tawarikh Sikhi: Pakistan Mein Sikh Aasaar* at the Department of History. He discussed the historical significance of Sikh artifacts in Pakistan. Dr. Pannu also visited the Punjab University Library, where he expressed his delight in seeing the rare Sikh religious and historical books written in Gurmukhi, commending the library for its excellent preservation efforts.

## Chairman's Talk on Civic Education

(22nd Nov, 2024)



Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain delivered an insightful talk on the importance of Civic Education at the University of Home Economics. His presentation highlighted the crucial role of civic awareness in shaping responsible and engaged citizens, emphasizing its relevance in today's societal context.

## In Search of Babar: A Cinematic Journey from Andijan to India

(27th Nov, 2024)

Dr. Hasan Baig gave a talk on Zahiruddin Babar, during which he presented a 49-minute video and sound piece titled *In Search of Babar*. The film traces Babar's journey from Andijan to India, following in his footsteps. This insightful work would be a valuable resource for historians and students alike and is highly recommended for screening.





## A Special Book Talk

(19th Dec, 2024)



Professor Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah gave a talk on the book *Safarnama Mashriqi Pakistan*. He highlighted the key themes and narratives in the book and emphasized how the text contributes to historical knowledge and appears as the alternate source of history.

## PhD Defences



**Mr. Khizar Jawad**  
*Governor Mudie and the Politics of West-Punjab, 1947-1949. (2nd August 2024).*

**Mr. Tian Chong**  
Cinematic Representation of Shaolin Culture: A History. (2nd August 2024)



**Miss Wang Tianyi**  
*Language and Politics in Modern Nation States: A Comparative Study of Pakistan and China (2nd August 2024)*

**Muhammad Sajid Hameed**  
*Socio Economic Reforms in Pakistan: A Case Study of Punjab (2002-2007). (13th August 2024)*





### **Ma Chunying**

*National Identity and Sports: A Study of Cricket in Pakistan (10th October 2024)*



### **Xue Chennan**

*The Blending of Jataka Stories with Ancient Chinese Social Life: An Analytical Study (10th October 2024)*



### **Mr. Zhu Kecheng**

*Public Art and National Identity: A Comparative Study of Pakistan and China (7th November 2024)*



### **Mr. Yuan Bolan**

*Development of Vocational Education in Wu-Ling Ethnic Areas: An Analytical Study (7th November 2024)*



### **Mr. Yuan Xuyang**

*the Influence of Bilateral Political Relations on China-Pakistan Trade During the Cold War 1951-1991 (7th November 2024)*

### **Mr. Sun Ce**

*India-Pakistan Disputes: The Role of People's Republic of China (7th November 2024)*



### **Manzoor Abbas**

*Maken, Socio-Political Transformation in the Colonial Punjab (1849-1947): Role of the Landed Elite of District Shahpur (6th December 2024)*



### **Miss Rahat**

*Ara British East India Company, its Economic Activities & Impact in India 1700-1799. (20th December 2024)*



### **Mr. Zhang Tong**

*Provincial Administration in China and Pakistan: A Comparative Study of Heilongjiang and Punjab Provinces. 20th December 2024.*



## **Alumni Get-together**

Department is going to organize Annual Alumni Get-together on 12th April 2025



# Remembering Our Pioneers

## Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Syed

(1946-2024)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Syed was a prominent historian in the contemporary world, born on August 15, 1946. His family migrated from India to Pakistan during the partition. Dr. Syed earned his master's degree in history from the University of Punjab in 1968. He then pursued an MPhil and a PhD at Columbia University in New York, completing these degrees in January and May of 1978, respectively. While he possessed ordinary language skills, he was fluent in English, Urdu, and Punjabi, and he had expertise in translation and research in Persian, Arabic, French, and German.

Dr. Muhammad Aslam Syed began his professional career as a research scholar at the Pakistan Research Society in Lahore from 1968-1969. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Department of History at the University of Punjab in Lahore as a lecturer, a position he held until 1973. In that same year, he became a Lecturer in the Department of History at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, where he advanced from lecturer to professor between 1973 and 2003, achieving full professorship in 1987. During this time, he also served as a Quaid-i-Azam Distinguished Professor at Columbia University, where he earned his MPhil and PhD. Additionally, he was the Director of the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research in Islamabad from 1996 to 1997.

From 1980 to 2003, Dr. Syed frequently delivered lectures as a visiting fellow at several prestigious universities, including: The South Asia Regional Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the Centre for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University, the Department of Religion, at the City University of New York, and both Humboldt University and Freie Universitat in Berlin.

After retiring from Pakistan, he began an international journey dedicated to serving humanity through education. For nearly two decades, he worked at various international academic institutions, including the East-West Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii; the Institut für Asiatische und Afrikanwissenschaften at Humboldt University in Berlin; and the International Consortium for Research in Humanities at Ruhr University in Bochum.

His research interests included transcultural historiography, Urdu literature, the relationship between Islam and the West, the Middle East and South Asia, Islamic mysticism and philosophy, the philosophy of history, as well as topics related to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Throughout his academic and professional career, he received various awards and honors, including: the Asia Foundation Fellowship (1975-78), the Presidential Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement at Columbia University (1977-78), the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Award (1980), the Senior Fulbright Award at Harvard University (1987-88), the Pakistan Television Award for Pride of Performance (2001), the Freeman Professorship at the University of Hawaii (2005), and the Mercator Professorship at Humboldt University in Berlin (2006-07). Additionally, he had the honor of representing Pakistan at the International Seminar on the Science of History organized by UNESCO in New Delhi (1987) and led the Pakistan delegation to Uzbekistan for the Anniversary Celebrations of Amir Taimur in 1997.

Dr. Aslam Syed presented his research at numerous national and international conference and seminars. His notable publications include:

- *Muslim Philanthropy and Engagement* (coauthored with Peter Heine), Berlin: Maecenata Verlag, 2005.
- "Islam: Enduring Myths and Changing Realities", Special Editor, *the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, Vol. 588, July 2003.
- *Islam and Democracy in Pakistan*. Islamabad: National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, 1995.
- *Islam and Other World Civilizations: Cultural and Military Aspects*, Monograph, ISESCO, Rabat, 1992.
- *Muslim Response to the West: A Study of Muslim Historiography in India*. Islamabad: National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, 1988.
- Additionally, he published an extensive list of articles in various international journals, including:
  - "A Muslim Contribution to Confidence-building", *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, Temple University Philadelphia, No. 39 (2002).
  - "From the Rhine to the Indus: The Intellectual Journey of Schimmel", *Spectrum Iran*, 17 (2004).
  - "The Idea of the Islamic State: East-West Connections", *Review of Asian Studies*, Atlanta, No. 7 (2007).

Dr. Aslam Syed left this world on November 3, 2024. His writings, and audio-video lectures across various platforms will serve as a valuable source of knowledge for future generations.

