

The Chronicle

Department of History & Pakistan Studies

Vol. 6 no. 1
Jan-June 2025

Newsletter



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A Session with Prof. Ayesha Jalal



Visit of Mushaal Malik



Dr. Mahboob Hussain as Dean



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EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO LAHORE MUSEUM (9TH JAN, 2025)

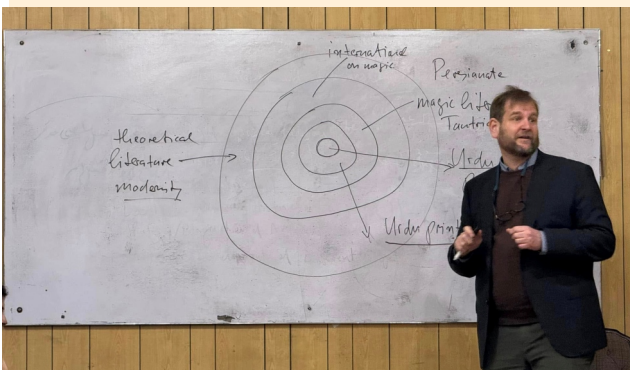


Students of MPhil History visited the Lahore Museum as part of their academic study under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Kiran Shahid Siddiqui. The students explored various galleries gaining hands-on experience with historical artifacts. This visit provided them with valuable insights into Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and helped them connect theoretical knowledge with practical observations. The students' curiosity and enthusiasm were evident as they engaged with museum staff and asked questions about the exhibits.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY WITH DR. B. MARKUS DAECHSEL (14TH JAN, 2025)

The Department hosted Dr. B. Markus Daechsel, Associate Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London (UK), for a thought-provoking and enriching talk on research methodology. During his session, Dr. Daechsel shared his deep expertise on navigating the complexities of historical research. He offered valuable guidance on formulating compelling research questions, designing robust methodologies, and critically analysing sources—skills essential to any serious historian.

The talk was followed by an engaging Q&A session, where students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to interact directly with Dr. Daechsel and gain further insights into academic research practices.



HISTORY AS METHOD: A SESSION WITH PROF. AYESHA JALAL (20TH JAN, 2025)

The Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab hosted an insightful session featuring Prof. Ayesha Jalal, a renowned historian and Professor of History at Tufts University. The talk, titled "History as Method," attracted a keen audience eager to engage with one of the field's most influential scholars.





Prof. Jalal emphasized the importance of viewing history as an investigative and analytical discipline rather than a vehicle for ideological messaging. She expressed concern over the prevalence of ideology and propaganda in Pakistani historiography, noting how such tendencies have profoundly influenced the narrative of the nation-state.

"History is not just about dates, names, and events," she asserted, urging a shift toward critical inquiry. She underscored the multicultural and heterogeneous nature of Pakistan, arguing that the elevation of national myths to historical fact has contributed to a deep-seated identity crisis within the country. Calling for the creation of alternative popular histories and a more balanced national discourse, Prof. Jalal advocated for a nuanced understanding of the past. She also highlighted the practical challenges facing historians in Pakistan, including restricted access to archives and poor archival management.

In an effort to make history more accessible and engaging, Prof. Jalal championed the integration of literature into historical narratives. She voiced concern over declining Urdu literacy among youth and stressed the need to revive studies in Persian and early modern history to broaden historical consciousness. In her view, cultivating a robust



national identity depends on fostering critical and balanced historical narratives.

The session concluded with a dynamic Q&A segment, reflecting the audience's strong engagement. Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of the Department of History, expressed heartfelt thanks to Prof. Jalal for her thought-provoking lecture and the stimulating dialogue it inspired.

This event marked another significant step in the Department's ongoing efforts to encourage meaningful academic discourse on the vital role of history in shaping national identity and progress.

THE ILLUMINATING LEGACY OF IQBAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A SPECIAL LECTURE (21ST JAN, 2025)



A special lecture titled "Middle East Mein Iqbaliyat ke Chirag" was organized by the Iqbal Academy Pakistan and the Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of Punjab. The event was presided over by Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of the Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of Punjab. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Khalid Abbas Asadi, while Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi, Director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan, gave the concluding remarks. The event was hosted by Amal Islam. In his address, Dr. Khalid Abbas Asadi stated that Pakistan is the beautiful opening verse of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's modern ghazals.



The Muslims of the subcontinent made their journey from the green dome to the green flag through Iqbal's poetry. Egypt is often referred to as the mother of all civilizations, and even today, Iqbal's poetry is cherished in Egypt. The renowned Egyptian singer who has sung Iqbal's verses is loved worldwide. Dr. Asadi highlighted the efforts of Pakistan's Ambassador to Egypt, Abdul Wahab Azam, the Ambassador for Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Manzoor-ul-Haq, Hussein Jamal Al-Masri, Dr. Jamal Ibn Mahboob, and Ahmad Saeed in promoting Iqbal's thoughts.

Dr. Mahboob Hussain expressed his gratitude to the esteemed guests and emphasized that the Department of History's platform is always available for intellectual and scholarly engagement. He stated that Allama Muhammad Iqbal's thoughts serve as a guiding light for today's youth. Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi addressed the youth, saying that they are destined to shape a new world from this very soil, and that the Muslim Ummah has high expectations from them. He further mentioned that Iqbal's ideas have many admirers across Africa, the Middle East, and the Arab world. Iqbal is one of the most written-about figures in the world, second only to the Prophet's biography. Prosperity, progress, and greatness stem from Iqbal's philosophy.

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi congratulated Dr. Mahboob Hussain and Dr. Naumana Kiran for organizing this remarkable gathering.

SEMINAR ON KASHMIR DAY (4TH FEB, 2025)



The Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab organized a thought-provoking seminar on the Kashmir issue, chaired by Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of the Department. The guest speaker, Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah, Assistant Professor, offered a compelling analysis of the complexities surrounding this longstanding conflict.

Describing Kashmir as far more than a simple territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah highlighted its deeply rooted historical, political, and social dimensions. The issue has long served as a flashpoint in South Asia, with far-reaching implications for regional stability.

Tracing the origins of the conflict back to the 1947 partition of British India, he emphasized the critical role played by the British Empire, the controversial accession of Kashmir to India, and the series of wars and military standoffs that followed. The conflict has not only led to repeated confrontations but also triggered insurgencies and grave human rights violations, leaving lasting scars on the region.



Mr. Abdullah stressed the importance of understanding the historical context in order to fully grasp the present-day challenges. He argued that any sustainable resolution must acknowledge the aspirations and voices of the Kashmiri people.

The seminar served as a timely reminder of the urgent need for peaceful dialogue. Mr. Abdullah called for renewed diplomatic efforts between India and Pakistan, aimed at reaching a mutually acceptable solution that respects both regional stability and the will of the Kashmiri population.

SCREENING OF BOHAY KHULLAY RAKHNA AT THE DEPARTMENT (12TH FEB, 2025)



A documentary film titled “Bohay Khullay Rakhna” was screened at the Department of History, University of the Punjab. The film, based on the painful stories of the partition of Punjab and the separation of families, sheds light on the deeply human aspects of this historical event. It is a significant and timely contribution that helps in understanding the complex events surrounding Punjab's division, particularly by presenting first-hand accounts from witnesses and families directly affected by the partition.

The active engagement and questions from students highlighted the ongoing need for deeper research and dialogue on the subject. The documentary reflects the dedicated efforts of LUMS professors Dr. Ali Usman Qasmi and Dr. Ilyas Chattha, who brought forward these untold narratives through this powerful visual medium.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Mahboob Hussain, Chair of the Department of History at Punjab University, appreciated the filmmakers' initiative. He emphasized that such scholarly activities not only provide young researchers with new perspectives on history but also underscore the value of oral history as a research method.



BOOK LAUNCH CEREMONY OF MOUNTBATTEN, CABINET MISSION, AND PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES (19TH FEB, 2025)



The Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, hosted the launch ceremony of *Mountbatten, Cabinet Mission, and Provincial Boundaries*, a new book authored by renowned historian Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chawla. The event brought



together esteemed scholars and academicians to discuss the book's significance in the historical discourse on the partition of India. The panellists for the talk included Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman, Department of History, University of the Punjab; Prof. Naumana Kiran; Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah; Dr Muhammad Altaf and Dr. Adnan Tariq from Government College University, Lahore. Each panellist shared their insights on the book's scholarly contributions and its critical analysis of the political developments surrounding the Cabinet Mission and the role of Lord Mountbatten in shaping the subcontinent's boundaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chawla, the author, provided an in-depth overview of his research, highlighting the key findings and the implications of British policies



on the partition process. He emphasized how the book offers a fresh perspective on the historical debates surrounding the partition and provincial demarcations.

The event concluded with a lively Q&A session, where the audience, comprising students, faculty members, and researchers, engaged in discussions on the book's themes. The launch ceremony marked an important academic contribution to studying South Asian history and the partition narrative.



VISIT BY SIKH NUMISMATICS EXPERT (19TH FEB, 2025)

The Department welcomed Tanveer Singh, an independent researcher from Canada specializing in Sikh numismatics, to the Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab.



VISIT OF MUSHAAL MALIK AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KASHMIR (20TH FEB, 2025)



The Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab hosted a thought-provoking seminar featuring Mushaal Hussein Malik, wife of prominent Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik. In her powerful address, she shed light on the ongoing human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir and the sacrifices made by Kashmiris in their decades-long struggle for self-determination.

Mushaal Malik emphasized that the Kashmiri people are standing against India's massive military presence—claiming that without their resistance, India would have advanced towards Pakistan. She described the region as “the worst prison in the world,” particularly after the Indian government's revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, which she said has led to increased repression and killings.

Reflecting on the intergenerational nature of the struggle, she noted, “We are throwing our generations into the freedom movement. My mother made both her daughter and granddaughter the vanguard of this cause.” She asserted that when the history of Kashmir is written, it will expose atrocities even greater than those witnessed in Palestine.

Malik reiterated that Kashmir is not just a regional issue, but a deeply rooted conflict in international law and human rights, where people have long been denied their UN-mandated right to self-determination.

Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of the Department of History, also addressed the gathering. He emphasized the academic importance of critically examining the Kashmir conflict, noting that Mushaal Malik's call to study Yasin Malik's sacrifices and the biases within the Indian judicial system had drawn the attention of students and faculty alike. He further highlighted ongoing research on Kashmir at Punjab University and the Department's continued efforts to foster informed, scholarly dialogue on this pressing issue.

Faculty members and a large number of students participated in the session, making it a meaningful contribution to the academic and national conversation on Kashmir.

ANNUAL SPORTS GALA (25TH FEB, 2025)



The Department of History at Punjab University launched its three-day annual sports event with great enthusiasm and celebration. The inauguration was formally conducted by Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain, Chair of the Department, accompanied by the faculty. The event aimed to promote physical well-being and foster a spirit of healthy competition.



among students. Both teachers and students participated with great zeal, creating an energetic and vibrant atmosphere. Competitions are being held across a variety of sports, including cricket, football, badminton, and other engaging events.

PRIDE FOR THE DEPARTMENT: KASHIF AFZAL SECURES THIRD POSITION IN GHAZAL RECITATION CONTEST (26TH FEB, 2025)

Kashif Afzal, a talented student from the Department of History, earned third place in the Ghazal Recitation competition held at the University of Central Punjab as part of the event "Takra". His outstanding performance not only reflects his personal dedication and talent but also brings pride to the department.



UNLOCKING CIVIL SERVICES EXAM: A SEMINAR (13TH MARCH, 2025)



The Department of History & Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, successfully organized a special seminar on "Unlocking Civil Services Exam" on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at the department's Seminar Room.

The event featured Dr. Ahtasham Jan Butt, Director (General) Colleges, Punjab, as the distinguished guest speaker. Dr. Butt provided invaluable insights into the structure, preparation strategies, and key challenges of the Civil Services Exam. His address aimed to equip aspiring candidates with practical guidance and motivation to excel in one of the country's most competitive examinations.

The seminar was well-attended by students, faculty members, and civil service aspirants who actively participated in the interactive discussion. The session highlighted the significance of perseverance, analytical skills, and strategic preparation for achieving success in the exam.

Chairman of the Department Prof Dr Mahboob Hussain, said the Department of History & Pakistan Studies remains committed to organizing such educational initiatives to empower students with knowledge and career guidance.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. MAHBOOB HUSSAIN AS DEAN (10TH APRIL, 2025)



Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain Appointed Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Punjab University.



ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER (13TH APRIL, 2025)



The Department of History and Pakistan Studies at Punjab University hosted a graceful alumni dinner to honour its former students. The event witnessed a large turnout of alumni who joyfully reunited and reminisced about their academic journey and cherished memories from their time in the department.

Distinguished guests, including Punjab University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood, and Chairman of the Department Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain, delivered speeches highlighting the department's rich academic legacy and the notable achievements of its alumni both nationally and internationally.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Ali commended the department for upholding strong academic traditions and praised its graduates for their impactful roles in various fields. He noted that such gatherings not only reconnect alumni with their roots but also serve as an inspiration for current students. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Khalid Mahmood emphasized the significance of alumni engagement in academic and institutional development.

Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain expressed his vision for the department's continued progress and thanked the esteemed guests for their presence. Former Chairpersons Professor Syed Qamar Abbas and Professor Dr. Iqbal Chawla also shared their reflections, adding warmth and wisdom to the evening. Faculty members including Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar, Dr. Faraz Anjum, Dr. Naumana Kiran, Dr. Kiran Siddiqui, Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah, and Dr. Muhammad Altaf, among others, spoke and relived fond memories.

The event concluded on a delightful note, with informal conversations and the sharing of old stories, making it a truly memorable evening. Participants emphasized the need for such gatherings to continue, fostering lasting bonds between the department and its alumni.



CROSS-CULTURAL WORKSHOP (22ND APRIL, 2025)



The Department of History and Pakistan Studies, University of the Punjab, in collaboration with The Mehfil-Cèilidh, hosted a cultural workshop featuring stone carving, instrumental music, storytelling, and talks.

This event is part of an international cultural exchange project connecting the communities of Lochalsh and Skye in Scotland with Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Lahore in Pakistan. The project explores themes of cultural memory, conviviality, and connection.

Supported by the British Council's International Collaboration Grants, the workshop celebrated shared heritage through art, dialogue, and performance—strengthening cross-cultural ties and mutual understanding.

SEMINAR ON WELL-BEING AT WORKPLACE: AN INSIDER OUTSIDER PERSPECTIVE (24TH APRIL, 2025)



Vice Chancellor of Punjab University, Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, emphasized the under appreciation of history as a discipline in Pakistan, in contrast to its high regard in Western countries. He made these remarks while addressing a seminar titled "Workplace Health: Internal and External Perspectives" organized by the Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the Institute of Chemistry Auditorium.

The event was attended by Pakistan's



Ambassador to Spain, Dr. Zahoor Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain, faculty members, and a large number of students.

In his speech, Dr. Muhammad Ali highlighted how history is a core subject in American universities and stressed its importance in understanding the past, evaluating the present, and planning for the future. He noted that many distinguished civil servants and bureaucrats have emerged from history departments,

particularly at Quaid-e-Azam University. He expressed his desire for Punjab University students to engage with successful individuals and benefit from their experiences. Dr. Ali also encouraged students to work hard during their academic years to ensure a fruitful professional life.

Ambassador Dr. Zahoor Ahmed delivered a thought-provoking presentation on workplace health, emphasizing the overlap between mental and physical health. He pointed out that while people seek medical attention for physical ailments, they often turn only to friends or well-wishers rather than professionals for psychological issues. He stressed the need to change negative mind-sets and attitudes to foster peace and improvement in society. Dr. Zahoor noted that students of history tend to have a broader vision and advised them to embrace lifelong learning, rather than viewing education solely as a path to employment.

Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain praised Dr. Zahoor for his three decades of diplomatic service and his ability to address complex topics, including human psychology, with clarity and depth. He stated that the seminar aimed to raise awareness among students about mental health challenges and their possible solutions.

DEPARTMENT WELCOMES CHINESE DELEGATION TO FOSTER ACADEMIC COLLABORATION (2ND MAY, 2025)

The Department of History and Pakistan Studies at the University of the Punjab had the honour of welcoming a distinguished delegation from China. Prof. Dr. Mahboob Hussain warmly received the guests and provided a comprehensive overview of the department's academic programs, research initiatives, and esteemed faculty.

The visit centered on discussions around academic collaboration, cultural exchange, and prospects for future partnerships between the department and Chinese universities. Both sides expressed a strong commitment to



fostering mutual understanding and cooperation in the fields of historical and regional studies.

This visit marks a significant step toward building enduring academic ties and promoting shared learning experiences. The department looks forward to deepening engagement with international institutions in the spirit of scholarly exchange and global collaboration.

BOOKS DONATION BY DR. HASAN BEG (16TH MAY, 2025)



The Department of History and Pakistan Studies extends its sincere gratitude to Dr. Hasan Beg (UK) for his generous donation of thousands of books. This remarkable

contribution is not only a valuable academic resource but also a testament to Dr. Beg's enduring commitment to Pakistan's intellectual and cultural heritage. The collection will significantly enrich research, stimulate critical thinking, and support scholarly pursuits in history and Pakistan studies for years to come.

A SEMINAR ON STATE, IDENTITY AND ARCHITECTURE (21ST MAY, 2025)

An important and scholarly seminar was held at the Department of History, University of the Punjab, where renowned writer, researcher, and intellectual Dr. Ghaffar Shehzad delivered a keynote address. The title of his talk was "State, Identity, and Architecture", in which he analysed various historical buildings, monuments, and urban projects across Pakistan.

Dr. Ghaffar Shehzad emphasized how architecture not only reflects state identity but also encapsulates the civilization, power, religion, and political ideologies of the past. Using examples such as the Badshahi Mosque, Faisal Mosque, Minar-e-Pakistan, Aiwan-e-Sadr, and many others, he demonstrated that a building is not merely a structure of bricks and stones, but a mirror of the intellectual, ideological, and cultural landscape of its time.



BOOK TALK ON GOHAR-E-FARDA (22ND MAY, 2025)

A ceremony was held at the Department to honour Professor Javed Iqbal Nadeem's book "Gohar-e-Farda". It was presided over by renowned journalist and intellectual Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami. Distinguished speakers at the event included Qayyum Nizami, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Professor Dr. Mahboob Hussain, former Chairman of the Department of Philosophy Dr. Sajid Ali, Dr. Jawad, Dr. Uzma Zareen, among others.



A SPECIAL LECTURE ON HOW TO WRITE A GOOD DISSERTATION (2ND JUNE, 2025)

Renowned historian Professor Dr. Sikandar Hayat delivered a special lecture in the Department of History, titled: "How to Write a Good Thesis?" In this lecture, he shed light on various aspects of research methodology and presented useful tips to guide students in the field of research. A large number of PhD, MPhil students, and faculty members participated in it.



PHD PUBLIC DEFENCE

- Abdul Sattar, Z.A Bhutto Regime and the Politics of Religious Parties: A Study of Punjab (17th Jan 2025).
- Zhang Wei titled "Islamic Culture In China: Perspective Of Hui Muslim Traditional Sports History", 17 February, 2025.
- Ms. Zhou Wei titled "Cultural Collaboration and Exchange between China and Pakistan under the Belt and Road Initiative: A Case Study of Films from 1980 to Present, 17 February, 2025.
- Mr. Sun Bowen, History and Culture of Pakistani Tea: An Analytical Study (14th May, 2025)

