

Speakers' Profiles
Lahore School of Economics

**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
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Lahore School of Economics

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UZMA AFZAL

Assistant Professor, LUMS



Dr. Uzma Afzal is an Assistant Professor at Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences (MGSHSS), LUMS. She has a PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham and a Post-Doc from New York University Abu Dhabi. She is a Fellow at the Center for Behavioral and Institutional Design (C-BID) NYUAD and an Associate Fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternative (IDEAS), Pakistan.

Dr. Afzal's research interests lie in behavioral and experimental economics and applied microeconomics to study topics in development such as health and nutritional inequalities, household decision-making and agency, and poverty alleviation. She has also worked extensively on gender, social norms and microfinance and firm behavior.

HAMNA AHMED

Senior Research Fellow at CREB and Assistant Professor at Lahore School of Economics



Hamna completed her PhD in Economics from the University of Kent. Previously, she studied at the University of Warwick and Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Her current research studies constraints faced by young women from low-income households in entering the workforce. More broadly, her research interests lie in behavioural economics, applied development and political economy.

Hamna has been co-PI on several collaborative projects with local and international researchers from the Lahore School of Economics, LUMS, Oxford, Duke, Exeter, UofT, Texas A&M and University of Chicago in partnership with local institutions such as the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, National Rural Support Programme, Kashf Foundation, The Citizen's Foundation and Punjab Skills Development Fund. Her research has been supported by several international competitive grants such as the G2LM, PEDL, NSF and the IGC.

ALIX BONARGENT

PhD Candidate in Economics, London School of Economics

Alix is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics. She studies the determinants of research take-up in policymaking and the diffusion processes characterizing the spread of policy ideas, with the aim of supporting evidence-based decision making in development.



Prior to joining the PhD program, Alix worked in Ghana on research projects evaluating the introduction of innovative teacher trainings in pre-primary school. Alix also worked with the World Bank in Sierra Leone, supporting the Ministry of Health and Sanitation on the planning of the post-Ebola recovery strategy in the health sector.

THERESA CHAUDHRY

Professor, Lahore School of Economics



Dr. Theresa Chaudhry is Professor of Economics, Co-Director of the Lahore School of Economics Innovation and Technology Center (ITC) and a fellow of the Centre for Research in Economics and Business (CREB) at the Lahore School of Economics. She is also a research affiliate with the International Growth Centre (IGC) in the UK. She received a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2005. Prior to teaching at the Lahore School, Dr. Chaudhry worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. on issues of public finance and public sector governance.

Dr. Chaudhry teaches microeconomics for the Economics programs, and has supervised both BSc and MPhil theses. She also serves as an editor of the Lahore Journal of Economics, a bi-annual scholarly journal cited in the JEL. Her current on-going projects include survey-based and experimental research in Punjab, Pakistan on i) consanguineous marriage, ii) firm-level productivity, iii) child health, and iv) conditional cash transfers for girls' secondary schooling.

AZAM CHAUDHRY

Professor and Dean: Economics Faculty, Lahore School of Economics



Dr. Azam Chaudhry is Professor of Economics at the Lahore School and the Dean of the Economics Faculty. He has a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics from London School of Economics where he specialized in Monetary Economics, Econometrics and Corporate Finance and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University, USA. He joined the Lahore School of Economics in 2005 and before that he worked for the World Bank. His areas of interests are International Trade, Macro Economics and Economic Growth.

He teaches Econometrics and Macroeconomics at the Lahore School and his research interests include Innovation and Technological Change, Institutional Economics, Economic Growth and Development, Political Economy and Empirical Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.

DAVID EVANS

Senior fellow, Center for Global Development

David Evans is a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, working on education, health, and social safety nets. Previously he was at the World Bank, where he co-authored the World Development Report 2018, *Learning to Realize Education's Promise*, coordinated impact evaluation work for sub-Saharan Africa, and managed education projects in Brazil. Evans has evaluated education, early child development, agriculture, health, and social safety net programs in Brazil, the Gambia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. He received a PhD in Economics from Harvard University, specializing in economic development and labour economics.



HASHIBUL HASSAN

**Associate Professor at the Department of Finance,
Jagannath University, Dhaka,**



Hashibul Hassan is an Associate Professor at the Department of Finance, Jagannath University, Dhaka, and a non-resident fellow at the Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability (CDES), Monash University (Australia). Previously, he worked as Lecturer at the Department of Finance and Banking, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Trishal, Mymensingh.

He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Monash University, Australia, an MSc in Development Finance from the University of Reading (UK), and an MBA in Finance from the University of Dhaka (Bangladesh). He has also completed BBA in Finance from the University of Dhaka (Bangladesh).

His current research interests include education, human development, Bangladesh, rural household finance, etc.

SANIYA JILANI

Graduate Teaching Instructor: Economics Faculty Colorado State University



Saniya Jilani is a PhD student and Graduate Teaching Instructor in the Department of Economics at Colorado State University. She graduated from Lahore School of Economics with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Economics and Finance as well as an MPhil in Economics where her focus was on Applied Econometrics. Her current fields of interest are Feminist Economics, Political Economy, and Development Economics.

She is currently teaching Principles of Microeconomics and is engaged with the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) located in Washington DC as a Research Consultant. Saniya is currently working on the following projects: Intergenerational transmission of identity and the implications it holds for empowerment; Social reproduction and financialization; Social reproduction in South Asia as an aftermath of British Imperialism. Saniya is also actively involved in exploring the domain of US public universities and the uptake of Economics as a major among undergraduates by gender.

MUHAMMAD KARIM

PhD Student Affiliate, University of California, San Diego



Karim is a second year PhD student in the Department of Economics at UC San Diego. His research interests are in Development and Applied Economics focusing on human capital and financial inclusion. In his recent projects, he is exploring how increased competition among schools can affect educational outcomes, how Computerized Assisted Learning (CAL) can be used to improve learning, and how effective community disbursed loans can be in improving living standards. He holds a BSc in Economics from the Lahore University of Management Sciences and an MS in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

AZREEN KARIM

Research Fellow at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies



She has a Ph.D. in Economics from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Her current research interests are Environmental and Disaster Economics, International and Development Economics. Her current teaching interests are Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics, International Trade and Finance, Economics for the Built Environment and Construction Project Management. She had consulted and developed projects for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Trade Knowledge Network (TKN) and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

MUHAMMAD BIN KHALID

Research Assistant at Yale-Nus College

Muhammad Bin Khalid is a pre-doctoral fellow (Economics) at the National University of Singapore. He holds a Bachelor' in Economics and Mathematics from Yale-NUS College. His fields of interest are Development Economics, Political Economy, Environmental Economics, and Econometrics with a focus on South Asia. His research focus is on designing interventions to encourage adaptation to climate change in developing countries. Currently, he is conducting research on promoting adaptation to floods in Pakistan. He employs spatial data and machine-learning techniques in his research.



MUHAMMAD AATIR KHAN

Assistant Professor, Social Development & Policy Habib University



Dr Aatir Khan is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Social Development and Policy program at Habib University. He pursued his doctorate in public policy at Oregon State University, USA under the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. He completed his MS in Social Sciences from Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology and his BS in Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (majoring in Political Science) from the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi.

Prior to starting graduate school, he has worked in research and policy domains: first at the School Education and Literacy Department (under a World Bank contract), and then at the Pakistan Security Printing Corporation.

His research interests mostly revolve around policy issues, particularly related to education administration, climate change, and urban planning. His current research is focused on public school administration in the province of Sindh and how the school heads (and higher levels of administration) impact school resources and student learning outcomes.

TIMOTHY KÖHLER

PhD candidate at University of Cape Town and a Junior Research Fellow at the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU)



Tim is currently a Junior Research Fellow at the DPRU and a PhD candidate in UCT's School of Economics. His PhD dissertation, under the supervision of Prof Haroon Borat, focuses on a micro-econometric analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour market inequalities in South Africa. He obtained his Masters and Honours degrees in Economics from Stellenbosch University, where his research involved an analysis of the intergenerational transmission of education and the relationship between environmental degradation and economic development in South Africa. He previously worked as a research assistant on education-related work for the Research on Socio-Economic Policy (ReSEP) unit in Stellenbosch University's Department of Economics, and a research intern in the South African Reserve Bank. His research interests relate predominantly to development microeconomics.

JENNIFER OPARE-KUMI

DPhil candidate at University of Oxford

Jennifer is an applied social scientist driven by a passion for evidence-informed policy making. Her research focuses on ways to improve education and mental health outcomes for young people in the Global South through government and non-governmental interventions and policies.



She is Ghanaian, raised in Ghana, Botswana, and South-Africa. She received an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Pretoria, South Africa and Master of Health Economics from the University of Queensland, Australia. Prior to the DPhil, Jennifer worked with Young 1ove, a youth-driven, evidence-led NGO as the Research and Program Manager spearheading scaling efforts for a foundational numeracy and literacy programme—Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL). She has also previously worked for UN organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Migration Agency (IOM).

MAHREEN MAHMUD

Assistant Professor in Economics, University of Exeter



Dr Mahmud is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics at the University of Exeter Business School-Department of Economics. She has previously worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Development Economics with the Mind and Behaviour Research Group at the Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Dr. Mahmud works on topics related to development and behavioural economics with field experiments in Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa and Uganda. She is particularly interested in women's low labour force participation rates and lack of enterprise growth in low and middle-income countries.

ABDULLAH MEHTA

Consultant, Impetus Advisory Group



Mr. Abdullah Mehta is currently supporting public health sector reform in Sindh's Expanded Program of Immunization at Impetus Advisory Group. He has recently graduated with a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics from the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi. His undergraduate studies have explored gender inequalities within Pakistan's context, as well as the effectiveness of machine learning algorithms in predicting microeconomic behaviour.

He has served as a Research Assistant at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, as well as at the IBA for a paper that studied factors affecting the subjective well-being of rural migrants in Karachi.

Abdullah plans to pursue an MPhil in Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. With further educated insights, he hopes to support public sector reform within Pakistan's health and education sectors.

CHRISTIAN JOHANNES MEYER

Associate Member Department of Economics, Lead Researcher, University of Oxford



Dr Christian Johannes Meyer is the Lead Researcher of the Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Development at the University of Oxford. He is also affiliated with the Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) and the Mind & Behaviour Research Group.

Christian's research interest lies at the intersection of development, labour, and behavioural economics. Most of his work uses laboratory and field experiments in close cooperation with partner organizations, combined with original data collection. His fieldwork currently focuses on Ethiopia.

SANVAL NASIM

Assistant Professor of Economics, Colby College

Dr. Nasim is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Colby College. He is an applied economist with an active research portfolio in the areas of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy. He obtained his PhD in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Policy from the University of California, Riverside in 2015.



Before joining Colby, he was an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Pakistan. He has also served as a research fellow at the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), the Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC), and the Center for Water Informatics and Technology (WIT) in Pakistan.

FAIZ UR REHMAN

**Associate Professor at the Department of Economics,
Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi**



Dr. Faiz Ur Rehman is an Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at IBA. He holds a joint Ph.D. degree in Law and Economics from the Universities of Bologna, Hamburg, and Erasmus Rotterdam, acquired under the Erasmus Mundus Doctorate Fellowship. He joined IBA in 2021, and prior to that, he was associated with Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

His areas of interest encompass the economics of conflict, political economy, and applied economics. Presently, his research focuses on projects including Frontier Governmentality, Frontier Rule and Long-Term Development, as well as Firms' Public Credit and Default Rate.

His instructional portfolio at IBA covers Macroeconomics, Applied Economics, and Institutions and Development.

ANRI SAKAKIBARA

PhD researcher at King's College London and Graduating Teaching Assistant at University College London



Anri is an applied economist and joined the Department of Political Economy at Kings College London in September 2020. Her research focuses on trade-induced structural transformation and its effects on gender equality in Vietnam. As part of her PhD, she has seconded at the Innovation Trade Policy Team at the Department for International Trade.

Anri's doctoral research concerns the intersection of trade and gender in Vietnam. In particular, Anri looks at changes in how the US-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement closed the spousal wage gap in Vietnam, and its effects on household consumption patterns. Anri also looks at how structural transformation affects gender norms and values in Vietnam. Finally, Anri's research also leverages the Trump trade war with China as a natural experiment to look at how exogenous trade shocks can result in poverty reduction and upskilling in Vietnam.

MUHAMMAD NADEEM SARWAR

Visiting Faculty at IBA Karachi and Senior Research Officer at OICCI



Muhammad Nadeem Sarwar successfully defended his PhD Dissertation on the topic, "Essays in Taxation; Evasion, Reforms and Morale" very recently from the School of Economics and Social Sciences, IBA Karachi where he is also a visiting faculty member. Besides that, he works as Senior Research Officer at the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI). His research areas include Behavioral Economics, Public Finance, and Macroeconomics. His research has been published in prominent journals, including Resources Policy, Journal of Cleaner Production, and Pakistan Development Review. He has also secured research grants under the Research for Social Transmission and Advancement (RASTA) program of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiative, Government of Pakistan. By working in Pakistan's oldest and largest business chamber in terms of economic contribution, Nadeem has also developed a nice blend of strong business understanding, academic knowledge, and research skills through his experience in academia and industry.

He has done PhD in Economics. His area of interests are Behavioral Economics and Public Finance. He conducted a study for the Planning Commission on the evaluation of tax reform proposals. At present, He is carrying out an analysis of tax expenditures for the Planning Commission. His research in Behavioral Economics is in the review process in two esteemed journals of the field.

He is teaching Behavioral Economics course to undergraduate students at IBA Karachi.

SHAGUFTA SHABBAR

PhD Scholar, Institute of Business Administration



Ms. Shagufta Shabbar is currently pursuing her PhD from School of Economics and Social Sciences, IBA. Her field of interest are gender-responsive social policies, SDGs, poverty alleviation and inclusive development. She has co-authored the book, 'Development Pathways: Bangladesh, India and Pakistan at 75' and has contributed a chapter in each of the two e-books, published by IBA, on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Shagufta has provided assistance in the eBook 'Policy response during challenging times' and is the editor and co-author of the book 'Legends in Economics.' She regularly writes articles in newspapers on various topics including poverty, digitalization and FDI. Previously she has worked as a Senior Researcher at OICCI and at CBER, IBA. She teaches macroeconomics, microeconomics, research methods and public finance at undergraduate level at IBA. Her current research project (RAASTA grant) is analysis of tax expenditures at federal and provincial level.

DANILA SERRA

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

Danila Serra is an associate professor of economics at the University of Oxford. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Oxford. She employs experimental methods to address policy-relevant questions in development, education, labour, and gender economics. She is a faculty affiliate at J-PAL, an external member of NOVAFRICA, and a research affiliate of EGAP. Her recent research has expanded to examine education choices, gender differences in education and labour outcomes, and women's empowerment.



ZUNIA SAIF TIRMAZEE

Senior Research Fellow at CREB and Assistant Professor at Lahore School of Economics



Ms. Zunia is an Assistant Professor at the Lahore School of Economics and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Economics and Business. Her primary research interest is in labor markets with a focus on gender and education.

She did her PhD in economics from the Lahore School of Economics and her dissertation topic was: “Essays on labor market outcomes of women in Punjab, Pakistan”. She also teaches graduate and undergraduate economics courses at the Lahore School.

ROCCO ZIZZAMIA

DPhil Candidate at University of Oxford



Rocco is a DPhil candidate at the Oxford Department of International Development, having returned to the department after graduating from Oxford in 2018 with an MPhil in Development Studies. He also holds a BA (Hons) in Economic History and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Cape Town.

Rocco has worked as a researcher for the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at the University of Cape Town since 2016. His previous experience also includes consulting work for the World Bank (2017-2018) and a visiting appointment at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies in Hamburg (2018).

His research interests are regionally focused on South Africa, where he studies poverty, inequality and labour markets. He is currently pursuing an interest in using experimental methods to investigate policies to improve youth employment in South Africa.

AYESHA TUZ ZEHRA

Research Analyst

Research and Development Solutions (RADS)



Ayesha tuz Zehra, a Research Analyst at Research and Development Solutions (RADS), also an ardent PhD Scholar at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), where her focus lies in innovative research using agent-based modeling for macro-level decision-making. Her academic journey is anchored in mathematics, earning her degrees from International Islamic University (IIU) and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST). Ayesha's adeptness in econometrics, showcased through her doctoral work, underpins her commitment to evidence-based policy advancement. Her expertise spans development economics, social protection, health economics, and policies, offering fresh insights into societal challenges. Notably, she pioneered Pakistan's Social Protection Index, adeptly addressing labor force dynamics. In this modest role, Ayesha reinforces her position as a proponent of evidence-based policy formulation.