

Speakers' Profiles
Lahore School of Economics

**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
APPLIED DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS**

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Lahore School of Economics

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ALBENA SOTIROVA

PhD candidate/fellow, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



Albena Sotirova is a PhD Fellow in Development Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD). She holds a BSc in Management and Economics from Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg and an MA in International Economics and Business from the University of Passau. Prior to joining AIGHD, she was affiliated with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, where she contributed to research on international development.

Her research focuses on child marriage, adolescent wellbeing, and the role of social norms, conflict, and public policies in shaping development outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. Using quantitative and mixed-methods approaches, her work contributes to evidence that informs policies aimed at improving health, gender equality, and the wellbeing of young people.

AWAIS ALI

Research Associate, Institute of Business Administration (IBA)



Awais Ali is a Research Associate at the Centre of Excellence–China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CoE-CPEC), Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). He holds an MS in Economics from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, and a BS in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He has contributed to policy publications and national discussions on Pakistan's economy and regional connectivity.

Awais's research interests lie in applied macroeconomics, development economics, and political economy. His work focuses on consumer confidence, terrorism, regional connectivity, trade, and economic policy in Pakistan. His recent research examines consumer sentiment and the economic implications of terrorism, as well as the potential of regional integration initiatives such as CPEC to promote trade and economic development. Alongside his academic research, he contributes to policy dialogue through research articles and policy commentary.

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.

BEZAWIT BAHRU

Agricultural Economist, University of Hohenheim

Dr. Bezawit Adugna Bahru is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Hohenheim, Germany, and a CEGA Fellow affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley. She holds a PhD in Agricultural and Development Economics from the University of Hohenheim and has held international research fellowships, including the East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST) Fellowship at CEGA and the CSAE Visiting Fellowship at the University of Oxford.



Dr. Bahru's research focuses on development economics, agriculture, social protection, and gender. Her work examines the impacts of cash transfer and productive safety net programmes, gender gaps in agriculture and rural labour markets, child welfare, and women's economic empowerment. Using household survey data and experimental methods, she studies how policies can strengthen livelihoods and improve human development outcomes in low-income settings. Her research spans several countries, including Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Uganda, and aims to generate evidence that informs more effective and inclusive development policy.

DAGMARA CELIK KATRENIAK

Lecturer in Economics, City St George's, University of London

Dagmara Celik Katreniak is a Lecturer in Economics at City St George's, University of London, and a Research Associate at CERGE-EI in Prague. She holds a PhD in Economics from CERGE-EI and previously served as an Assistant Professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow.



Dr. Celik Katreniak is an applied microeconomist whose research focuses on development economics, experimental economics, the economics of education, and wellbeing. Using laboratory and field experiments, she studies issues such as poverty alleviation, inequality, discrimination, and the role of stress and happiness in shaping economic decision-making. Her research has been published in leading journals, including the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, and contributes to evidence that informs education and development policy.

DEAN YANG

Professor of Economics, University of Michigan



Professor Dean Yang is Professor of Economics and Professor of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, where he is also a Research Professor at the Population Studies Center within the Institute for Social Research. He is a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a Senior Fellow at the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), an Affiliated Professor at J-PAL, and the founding President of the International Development Economics Association (IDEA).

Professor Yang's research focuses on the economic problems of developing countries, with particular interests in international migration, microfinance, health, education, political economy, and the economics of disasters. His work frequently combines randomized controlled trials with the analysis of novel data sources to evaluate policies and better understand household decision-making and economic development.

FARAH SAID

**Executive Director Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC)
and an Assistant Professor at Lahore University of
Management Sciences**



Dr. Farah Said is the Executive Director of the Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC) and an Assistant Professor (tenure track) in the Department of Economics at Lahore University of Management Sciences. She is also an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), and an Invited Researcher at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Previously, Dr. Said served as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Economics and Business (CREB), an Assistant Professor at the Lahore School of Economics, and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Göttingen.

Her research interests include Development Economics, Behavioural Economics, and Gender.

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.

HADIA MAJID

Associate Professor of Economics at LUMS, Chair of Economics and Director of GenTech.



Dr. Hadia Majid is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). She currently serves as Chair of Economics at LUMS and is Director of GenTech. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Mahbub Ul Haq Research Center LUMS. Dr. Majid holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Economics from The Ohio State University, USA. She also holds an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Warwick, UK, and a B.Sc. in Economics from LUMS.

Her research focuses extensively on gender, Labor markets, economic development, and women's empowerment. She has led and contributed to research projects with organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Growth Centre, and International Labour Organization. Her recent research includes women's digital use, Labor markets, gender norms, and women's economic empowerment in Pakistan. Dr. Majid has presented her research at international conferences in the UK, Malta, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan. She has also received the MGSHTS Research Excellence Award and the Best Session & Conference Paper Award. She is particularly recognized for her work on women's economic participation, gender equality, and inclusive development in Pakistan.

HARMALAH KHAN

Senior Research Associate and Program Manager, Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP)



Harmalah Khan is a Senior Research Associate in the Women's Mobility Program at the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). She has contributed to the design and management of large-scale field research projects on women's economic opportunities, labour markets, and mobility in Pakistan, working with multidisciplinary research teams on policy-relevant evidence.

Harmalah's research focuses on gender, labour markets, and women's economic empowerment. She is particularly interested in understanding the barriers women face in accessing employment, including mobility constraints, job search, hiring practices, and social norms. Using field experiments and survey research, her work generates evidence that informs policies aimed at expanding women's participation in the labour market and improving employment outcomes in Pakistan.

HUMOYUN ABDUMAVLON

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Pittsburgh



Humoyun Abdumavlon is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Pittsburgh and a Visiting Graduate Fellow at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. He previously earned an MSc in Economics from Tufts University and a bachelor's degree in Economics with First Class Honours from the University of Westminster. His research has received several recognitions, including First Prize in the 2024 North American Regional Science Association Graduate Student Paper Competition and the University of Pittsburgh's Best Second-Year Paper Award in 2025.

Humoyun's research lies at the intersection of development economics, political economy, and economic history. Using quasi-experimental and other empirical methods, his work examines topics such as religion and conflict, national identity, market access, and the historical determinants of economic growth, generating evidence on how institutions and social environments influence development outcomes.

KATE VYBORNY

Economist, World Bank South Asia Region Gender Innovation Lab



Dr. Kate Vyborny is an Economist at the World Bank's South Asia Region Gender Innovation Lab. She previously served as Associate Director of the DevLab and Research Scientist in the Department of Economics at Duke University. She holds a D.Phil. in Economics from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar, and has also been a visiting faculty member at the Lahore School of Economics and the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Dr. Vyborny's research focuses on gender, public service delivery, labor markets, and institutional development in low- and middle-income countries. Much of her work examines the barriers women face in accessing jobs and public services, with a particular emphasis on Pakistan. Using randomized evaluations and other rigorous empirical methods, her research has generated important evidence on women's mobility, job search, social protection, and governance, helping inform policies aimed to expand women's economic opportunities and strengthen public institutions.

MUHAMMAD HASEEB

Assistant Professor, University of Bristol

Dr. Muhammad Haseeb is a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Bristol. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick and was previously a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Geneva. He is a CEPR Research Affiliate, and his research has been published in leading journals, including the *Journal of Public Economics*.



Dr. Haseeb's research focuses on development economics and environmental economics, with a particular interest in how institutions and public policy shape development outcomes. His work examines topics such as social protection, state capacity, and environmental regulation, using rigorous empirical methods to address policy-relevant questions. His recent research includes influential work on improving the effectiveness of cash transfer programmes in Pakistan and on how regulatory design affects the implementation of environmental policies.

NOMAN AHMAD

Assistant Professor of Economics, Institute of Business Administration (IBA)



Noman Ahmad is an economist whose research focuses on applied microeconomics, with particular emphasis on the political economy of development, human capital formation, gender, and the economics of culture. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Ahmad's research examines how institutions, social norms, and public policies shape economic and social outcomes in developing countries. His work spans across diverse topics including education, gender, political economy, and public service delivery, with a particular focus on Pakistan and South Asia. His research contributes to a deeper understanding of the factors driving human capital formation and economic development.

RIDA ALI KHAN

PhD candidate/fellow, Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI), Université Clermont Auvergne



Rida Ali Khan is a PhD candidate in Development Economics at the Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI), Université Clermont Auvergne, France. She previously completed a Master's degree in Public Policy at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, South Korea. Her research has received international recognition, including the 2024 ADB–IEA Innovative Policy Research Award, the Outstanding Thesis Award at KDI School, and research grants from J-PAL and the Reducing Conflict and Improving Performance in the Economy (ReCIPE) initiative.

Rida's research focuses on development economics, political economy, and applied microeconomics. Her work explores how public policies, information, and institutions shape education, conflict, governance, and human development outcomes. Using experimental and quasi-experimental methods, she studies topics such as social media and sectarian conflict, education interventions, and state capacity, generating evidence to inform effective public policy in developing countries.

SAQIB HUSSAIN

Post doctoral researcher, KDI School of Public Policy and Management



Dr. Saqib Hussain recently completed his PhD in Public Policy at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, South Korea. He is a Development Policy Expert with the World Bank's ImpactAI initiative and a Research Fellow at the Institute for Replication (I4R). He previously worked as a Research Associate at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and has received competitive international fellowships and research grants, including the East Asia Social Science Translation (EASST) Fellowship and the SurveyCTO Primary Data Collection Grant.

Dr. Hussain's research focuses on development economics, political economy, and impact evaluation, with particular interests in education, migration, digital governance, conflict, and state capacity. Using applied econometric methods and survey and administrative data, his work examines how public policies affect vulnerable populations in developing countries. His recent research explores the impacts of terrorism on education, land record digitisation and governance, refugee livelihoods, and the use of artificial intelligence to strengthen evidence-based policymaking.

SHEHERYAR BANBURI

Associate Professor in Economics, University of East Anglia.



Dr. Sheheryar Banuri is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of East Anglia and a By-Fellow, Dean of College, and Tutor at Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge. Previously, he worked as an Economist at the World Bank, where he co-authored the *World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society, and Behavior*. He is also the author of *Good Decisions for Strange Situations* and *The Decisive Mind*.

Dr. Banuri is a behavioural and development economist whose research focuses on motivation and incentives, governance, discrimination, and public service delivery. Using laboratory and field experiments, his work explores how people make decisions and how behavioural insights can improve public policy. He has conducted research and advised governments and international organisations in countries including Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Burkina Faso. His research has been published in leading academic journals and has informed policy discussions on governance, education, health, and institutional reform.

SONIA ALAM

Associate Lecturer, University of Reading



Sonia Jan Alam is an Associate Lecturer and researcher in the Department of Economics at the University of Reading, where she recently completed her PhD in Economics. Her doctoral research focused on environmental economics within the broader field of development economics, examining the impacts of climate change on agriculture and adaptation strategies in Pakistan.

Sonia's research explores the links between environmental sustainability and economic development, with a particular interest in how environmental challenges affect vulnerable communities in low- and middle-income countries. Using applied microeconomic methods, her work examines issues at the intersection of climate, agriculture, development, and public policy, generating evidence to support more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.

WAQAR AHMAD WADHO

Assistant Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Lahore School of Economics



Dr. Waqar Wadho is Professor of Economics at the Lahore School of Economics and Director of the Centre for Research in Economics and Business (CREB). He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Barcelona and has been a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University. His research has been supported by organisations including the World Bank, the International Growth Centre (IGC), and the Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) programme.

Dr. Wadho's research focuses on development economics, industrial organisation, innovation, and political economy. His work examines how firms, institutions, and public policies shape productivity, technological change, entrepreneurship, and economic development in low- and middle-income countries. He has led numerous research projects in Pakistan and published extensively in leading international journals, contributing to evidence that informs policy on private sector development, innovation, and economic growth.

ZAHRA SIDDIQUE

Associate Professor at University of Bristol



Professor Zahra Siddique is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Bristol. She holds a PhD in Economics from Northwestern University and a BSc (Hons) in Economics from the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Before joining Bristol, she held academic and research positions at the University of Reading and the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) in Germany, where she continues to serve as a Research Fellow.

Professor Siddique's research focuses on development economics, labour economics, and applied microeconometrics, with a particular interest in gender, labour markets, and violence against women. Her work examines how social norms, safety, and public policy shape women's economic opportunities, and she has also made important contributions to research on education, discrimination, and public policy evaluation. Her research has been published in leading international journals, including the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, and *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, and has contributed to policy discussions on gender equality and inclusive development.

ZUNIA SAIF TIRMAZEE

Assistant Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Lahore School of Economics



Dr. Zunia Saif Tirmazee is Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lahore School of Economics and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Economics and Business (CREB). She holds a PhD in Economics from the Lahore School of Economics. Her research has received support from leading international organisations, including the International Growth Centre (IGC), the IZA Institute of Labor Economics, and the Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) programme.

Dr. Tirmazee's research focuses on applied microeconomics and development economics, with a particular interest in labour markets, gender, and education. She studies the barriers that prevent women from entering and succeeding in the labour market, examining both household- and firm-level constraints. Her research has been published in leading international journals, including *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, and has contributed to evidence that informs policies aimed at improving women's employment opportunities in Pakistan.

ZUBARIA ANDLIB

Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology



Dr. Zubaria Andlib is Assistant Professor of Economics at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST), Karachi. She holds a PhD in Economics and is actively engaged in teaching and research in applied and development economics. Her research has examined issues related to labour markets, gender, education, and public policy in Pakistan.

Dr. Andlib's research focuses on development economics, labour economics, gender, and education. Her work explores women's labour force participation, human capital development, and the role of public policy in expanding economic opportunities and improving social outcomes. Through applied empirical research, she contributes to evidence that informs discussions on inclusive and sustainable development in Pakistan.