

Seminar

"Contested Spaces, Competing Narratives: Towards Human Rights and Democracy in Pakistan" April 6 – 7, 2007, Tufts & Harvard Universities

Concept note: Current events in Pakistan make the focus of this seminar, the struggle for human rights and democracy in Pakistan even more relevant. The seminar brings together diverse perspectives on the struggle for democratic spaces in the face of increasing militarization and militancy. What is the role of the media in supporting the democratic struggle and in countering 'disappearances', air-strikes, and attacks on journalists, gender violence and increase in 'religious' extremism? What are the broader implications of these trends for Pakistan, South Asia and beyond? What is the role and impact of US foreign policy? What are the positive trends and how can they be strengthened?

Event format: A keynote speech and discussion sets the conference agenda on Friday evening, with brief presentations, roundtable discussions and question and answer sessions on Saturday. The event is open to the public and will engage students as well as the expatriate community that since 9/11 has been increasingly engaged in democratic politics in the US as well as 'back home' in Pakistan. The seminar proceedings will be made available as resource materials for future work on the area and for policy makers.

Sponsors:

- ❖ South Asia Initiative, Harvard University
- ❖ The American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)
- ❖ Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University
- ❖ Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School
- ❖ Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School of Government
- ❖ International Relations Department, Boston University
- ❖ Women's Studies Program, Boston University
- ❖ Syed Mohammad Jafri Foundation, Boston
- ❖ Friends of South Asia (FOSA), Boston
- ❖ University Committee on Human Rights Studies, Harvard University
- ❖ Association of Pakistan Professionals (AOPP)
- ❖ Dr Fauzia Wali Khan, Boston

Conference curator:

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Agenda

Friday, April 6, 2007: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm – Inauguration, Keynote Speech, Discussion.
Venue: Barnum Room 104 (163 Packard Ave, Medford, MA 02155 – in Academic Quad across the Fletcher School & next to a Tufts shuttle stop, close to the Fletcher parking lot
<http://www.tufts.edu/home/maps/medford/?p=zoom&fid=m004>)

Time	Event
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Coffee & tea
6:15 pm – 6:20 pm	Welcome & Introduction
6:20 pm – 6:50 pm	Keynote: Ayesha Jalal: ‘Contested Spaces, Competing Narratives: Human Rights and Democracy in Pakistan’
6:50 pm – 7:25 pm	Discussion (Moderator: Jacqueline Bhabha)
7:25 pm – 7:30 pm	Close and thanks

Roundtable Seminar

Saturday, April 7, 2007: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Belfer Case Study Room (S-20), Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS-South), 1730 Cambridge Street, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, Opp. the Graduate School of Design, close to Harvard Sq)

Time	Event
9:30 am – 9:50 pm	Coffee
9:50 am – 10:00 am	Welcome; introduction to seminar
10:00 am – 11:10 am	<u>Session I: Contesting the ideological/military model</u> Moderator: Hasan Askari Rizvi
10:00 am – 10:40 am Presentations	Kamran Ali Asdar: Secular vs. religious nationalism Humaira Rahman: Nationalist identity vs. unionist state Christopher Candland: Labor unions and the military Saadia Toor: Progressive politics in the post-Zia years
10:40 am – 11:10 am	Discussion and Q&A

Time	Event
11:20 am – 12:30 pm	Session II: Religion, politics and NGOs Moderator: Shahnaz Rouse
11:20 am – 12:00 pm Presentations	Andy McCord: Suppression of left/labor politics Beena Sarwar: Peace activism in nuclear South Asia Shahla Haeri & Ayesha Siddiq: Contradictions of women’s empowerment
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Discussion and Q&A
12:30 pm – 12:45 pm	Documentary: <u>Mukhtiar Mai: The Struggle For Justice</u> , duration 10 min, dir. Beena Sarwar, Pakistan, 2006
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch break
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Session III: Making connections, building democratic spaces Moderator: Adil Najam
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Presentations	Asif Alam: The Diaspora, entrepreneurs and professionals Sehba Sarwar: Cross cutting cultural-political linkages Ethan Casey & Imtiaz Ali: The media and the new public debates
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Discussion and Q&A
2:55 pm – 3:15 pm	Concluding session: Dialogue: Khaled Ahmad & Ayesha Siddiq The Struggle for Democracy in Pakistan: Implications for South Asia and Beyond Moderator: Sugata Bose
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm	Discussion, closing remarks and thanks

Presenters & Moderators:

- **Khaled Ahmed**, senior journalist (Consulting Editor, *Daily Times* and *Friday Times*, Pakistan) currently at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC, researching "Sectarian Violence in Pakistan and Its Linkages to Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States".
- **Syed Asif Alam**, Reuters (technical account management), co founded the Association of Pakistani Professionals (<http://www.aopp.org>) shortly after 9/11 that aims to engage media in a proactive manner to help create a better understanding about Pakistan.
- **Kamran Ali Asdar**, Associate professor of anthropology, Middle East studies and Asian studies at the University of Texas, Austin, TX.
- **Jacqueline Bhabha**, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy. A graduate of Oxford University, executive director of the University Committee on Human Rights Studies at Harvard University and a lecturer at Harvard Law School.
- **Sugata Bose**, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, head of South Asia Initiative at Harvard University. Main areas of research: modern South Asia and history of the Indian Ocean region; publications include *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (2004, with Ayesha Jalal).
- **Christopher Candland**, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Wellesley College; teaches courses related to politics, literature and political economy of South Asia; (<http://www.candland.info>).
- **Ethan Casey**, journalist, editor, radio show host (<http://www.pakcast.com>); author of *Alive And Well In Pakistan*; Seattle, WA.
- **Shahla Haeri**, Director of Women’s Studies Program and Associate Professor in Boston University’s Department of Anthropology, has researched and written extensively on religion, law and gender dynamics in the Muslim world; publications include *No Shame for the Sun: Lives of Professional Pakistani Women* (2004) and *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage, Mut’a, in Iran* (1989, 1993).
- **Ayesha Jalal**, Professor of History, Tufts University; author of several books including [Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: A Comparative and Historical Perspective](#) & *The State of Martial Rule: The Origins of Pakistan's Political Economy of Defence*.
- **Andy McCord**, freelance journalist, poet, Pakistan and South Asia specialist.
- **Saadia Toor**, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, College of Staten Island, NY.
- **Adil Najam**, Associate Professor of International Negotiation & Diplomacy, The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University.
- **Humaira Rahman**, Director of the World Sindhi Institute (Canada); founder member Women's Action Forum, Pakistan; founder and first general secretary Shehri-CBE, Environmental advocacy and pressure group; founder and former Editor *Shehri* newsmagazine (English, Urdu and Sindhi); post graduate student York University, Toronto, Canada.
- **Hasan Askari Rizvi**, political analyst, columnist, former professor of political science, Punjab University; 2006-07 Pakistan Studies Scholar at School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University.
- **Shahnaz Rouse** teaches sociology at Sarah Lawrence College, has written on agrarian transformation in Pakistan and is currently working on the social history of pre-Partition Lahore. Her many publications include *Shifting body politics: gender, nation, state in Pakistan* (2004).
- **Sehba Sarwar**, poet, fiction writer (*Black Wings*, 2004); Founding Director of Voices Breaking Boundaries, a non-profit multi-media arts organization in Houston –

(<http://www.vbbarts.org>) – co-hosts a radio show and is involved in the anti-war/ pro-immigration movement.

- **Beena Sarwar**, journalist and documentary filmmaker; Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Kennedy School.
- **Ayesha Siddiqi** is a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College, London. She is the author of *Pakistan 's Arms Procurement and Military Buildup, 1979-99 In Search of a Policy* (2000) and *Military Inc, Inside Pakistan 's Military Economy* (2007).

Roundtable Participants:

- **Hassan Abbas**, Research Fellow at the Belfer Center's International Security Program and Managing the Atom Project; author of *Pakistan's Drift into Extremism: Allah, the Army and America's War on Terror*; freelance columnist for various publications.
- **Imtiaz Ali**, reporter, BBC Pashto Service, Peshawar, currently International Knight Fellow at Stanford University, study focus: role of the news media in the growing divide between the West and the Muslim world since 9/11.
- **Husain Haqqani**, Director, Center for International Relations at Boston University (Department of International Relations), columnist for *The Nation* (Pakistan); author of *Pakistan: Between Mosque and Military*.
- **Asim Khwaja**, Associate Professor of Public Policy, KSG; areas of interest include economic development, corporate finance, education, and political economy.
- **Waqas Khwaja**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English, Agnes Scott College, poet and writer, who has compiled two anthologies of Pakistani literature, *Mornings in the Wilderness* (1988) and *Short Stories from Pakistan* (1991). Formerly a newspaper columnist and practicing lawyer in Pakistan.
- **Emran Qureshi**, author and freelance journalist, Fellow at the Harvard Labor and Worklife Program, former Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.
- **Jamil Rashid**, economist & political science professor, Kingston, Canada.
- **Nasim Yousaf**, independent researcher and author focusing on Pakistan-India studies. His works include two chronologies on the Khaksar Movement and a recently completed manuscript on: “Hidden Facts Behind British India’s Freedom: A Scholarly Look into Allama Mashraqi and Quaid-e-Azam’s Political Conflict.” (<http://www.allamamashraqi.com>).
- **Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar**, Assistant Professor of History, Brown University, teaches modern South Asian history, and her book “The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia” is forthcoming in Fall 2007 by Columbia University Press.

Unable to attend:

- **Hamid Kizilbash**, Principal Research Analyst at American Institutes for Research, Washington, D.C; founding member of SAHE, the Society for the Advancement of Education, and former Professor of Political Science at Punjab University.

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