

Dr. Ghulam Hussain

Anthropologist of Politics and Governance

Georg Forster Research Fellow
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology,
Ludwig Maximilian University Munich

Website: <https://drghulamhussain.com/>

Email: ghulam.hussain@lmu.de

Google Scholar: [155 citations](#) | h-index 7 | i10-index 3

ORCID: [0000-0002-9538-1840](#)

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFILE

I am an anthropologist of politics and governance whose research examines how institutions produce and govern social inequality through the intersecting dynamics of caste, ecological transformation, and development. Bringing political anthropology, Critical Caste Studies, and political ecology into dialogue, I investigate how bureaucratic practices, expertise, and environmental governance shape political recognition, citizenship, and collective futures. My scholarship contributes to comparative debates on caste, state power, environmental governance, and social transformation. I have authored *Architecture of Caste in Pakistan* (Routledge) and *Secular Sufism and the Politics of Difference in Pakistan* (Bloomsbury Academic).

RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

Before entering academia, I worked as a sharecropper and fisherman (1999–2008) in a Pasmanda fishing community in Sindh while pursuing my education. This experience informs my long-term ethnographic research on caste, agrarian livelihoods, governance, and environmental change, grounding my scholarship in political anthropology.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2025–Present

Georg Forster Research Fellow (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Germany

Project: *Researching Caste-Based Discrimination in Pakistan: Denial of the Problem, Epistemic Blind Spots, and Pathways toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*

Funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

2026–Present

Visiting Lecturer (Lehrbeauftragter)

Institut für Ethnologie, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Germany

Course: *Caste, Race and Class in South Asia* (Sommersemester 2026)

Mentoring graduate students

2022–Present

Assistant Professor of Anthropology (W1-equivalent according to Alexander von Humboldt Foundation classification)

Department of Anthropology, Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Cluster Head, Applied Anthropology | 2023–2025

Lead academic planning, curriculum development, and research coordination for the Applied Anthropology Cluster.

Coordinate undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Political Anthropology, Research Methods, Anthropology of South Asia, and Classical Anthropological Theory.
 Supervise MS and BS research projects, mentoring graduate research in political anthropology, climate change, environmental justice, and governance.
 Led the development of MS Engaged Anthropology and MS Criminology curricula.
 Assist in organizing conferences, distinguished lectures, webinars, and research workshops on climate governance, sustainability, public anthropology, and engaged anthropology.
 Facilitate institutional partnerships with universities, policy institutes, and civil society organizations to strengthen research collaboration and academic exchange.
 Coordinate Community Support Programme (CSP) initiatives linking teaching, research, and community engagement on environmental sustainability and climate action.
 Serve on the Internal Audit Committee, contributing to academic governance and quality assurance.

2022–2023**Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**

Flood Rehabilitation Project, Roshan Samaj Development Organization (RSDO), Mirpurkhas, Pakistan
 Monitored and evaluated post-flood housing, WASH, and solar-energy interventions
 Conducted field assessments, monitoring activities, data collection, and reporting
 Supported rehabilitation and resilience-building initiatives in flood-affected communities across Sindh

2019–2022**Research Fellow, Faith and Society Desk and IPS LEAD**

Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan
 Coordinated in [Promoting Indigenous Policy Research Initiative \(PIPRI\)](#), and organized research brainstorming sessions, interdisciplinary workshops, [inter-cultural dialogue](#), and academic networking initiatives to strengthen indigenous policy research and collaboration between IPS and universities across Pakistan.
 Organized seminars on Indigeneity, Critical Cultural Heritage, Sufism and the status of religious minorities
 Conducted research on religion, caste, social cohesion, and community development in Pakistan
 Contributed to policy research, consultancy, and public engagement initiatives
 Supported flood-relief and humanitarian interventions in collaboration with Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan

2019–2022**Visiting Faculty**

Department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. Courses taught on:
 Anthropology of Learning and Education
 Political Anthropology
 Social Anthropology

SELECTED FACULTY AND RESEARCH INTERVIEWS

- 2022** Shortlisted and interviewed for a Tenure-Track **Assistant Professor** position, [Department of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, Institute of Business Administration \(IBA\) Karachi](#), Pakistan.
- 2023** Shortlisted and interviewed for a **Postdoctoral** position, [Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences \(MGSHSS\)](#), Lahore University of Management Sciences, (LUMS) Lahore, Pakistan
- 2022** Shortlisted and interviewed for a Tenure-Track **Assistant Professor** position, [Department of Anthropology, International Islamic University Islamabad \(IIUI\)](#), Islamabad, Pakistan. The Department offers undergraduate and graduate programmes in anthropology within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRAINING**2014–2018****Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Anthropology**

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan / Bielefeld University, Germany
 (Bi-nationally Supervised Doctoral Programme)
 Dissertation: *Identity Politics in Pakistan: An Ethnographic Study of Dalit Activism in Sindh*

Supervised jointly under a bi-national DAAD doctoral programme between Quaid-i-Azam University and Bielefeld University

Resident Fellow, Bielefeld University, Germany (2016–2017)

2016–2017

Doctoral Resident Fellow

Bielefeld Graduate School of History and Sociology, Bielefeld University, Germany

DAAD-funded doctoral fellowship under the bi-nationally supervised PhD programme

Supervised by Prof. Dr. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Conducted doctoral research on caste, identity politics, and Dalit activism in Pakistan

2012–2014

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Social and Cultural Anthropology

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

2012–2013

Research Fellow

Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan

Research fellow under the supervision of Prof. [Dr. Andrea Fleschenberg](#), [Humboldt University of Berlin](#)

Assisted and participated in research and seminar activities on nation-building, citizenship, and governance in Pakistan

MPhil research project: [Peasant Identities and Activism: Creating Space for the Marginalized](#)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS)

[American Psychological Association](#) (APA)

Pakistan Anthropological Association

EDITORIAL AND PEER-REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Invited Peer Reviewer for leading international journals, including:

American Ethnologist (Wiley / American Anthropological Association)

Antipode

Critical Sociology (SAGE)

History and Anthropology (Taylor & Francis)

Cultural Dynamics (SAGE)

International Social Science Journal (Wiley / UNESCO)

Psychology of Religion and Spirituality (American Psychological Association)

Asian Journal of Women's Studies (Taylor & Francis)

Reproductive Health Matters (Taylor & Francis)

Verified reviewer record: Web of Science Researcher Profile (ResearcherID: [P-7210-2018](#)).

BOOKS (Monographs)

2026: [Architecture of Caste in Pakistan: Dalit Assertions in a Culture of Denial](#). London and New York: Routledge.

2027 (In production): [Secular Sufism and the Politics of Difference: Caste, Aesthetics, and Political Theology in Sindh, Pakistan](#). Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies in Religion and Theology. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

BOOKS MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Governing Inequality: Dalitisation, the Making of Political Community, and Democratic Futures in

***Pakistan*. Book manuscript in preparation.** Invited for submission of the completed manuscript for

consideration in the [B.R. Ambedkar Book Series](#) (Series Editor: Prof. Anupama Rao), [Columbia University Press](#).

EARLY PUBLICATIONS ON AGRARIAN LABOUR, PEASANT POLITICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (2013–2015)

2015 "[Encountering Peasant's Exploitation in Sindh through Translocal and Transnational Agrarian Citizenship](#)." *Science International (Lahore)* 27 (3): 2543–2550.

- 2014 "[Historical Sketch of Peasant Activism: Tracing Emancipatory Political Strategies of Peasant Activists of Sindh.](#)" *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 3 (5): 23–42.
- 2014 "[Virtues of Food Autonomy, Cooperative Farming & Sufi-Socialist Regimes.](#)" *Mystic Thoughts: Research Journal of Sufism and Peace* 1 (1).
- 2013 "[Nature of Conflicts, Tensions and Exploitation in Sharecropping in Rural Sindh.](#)" *Open Journal of Applied Sciences* 3 (8): 482–489.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS (selected)

- 2024 "[Historiography of Caste](#): The Notion of the 'Declassed' Castes in Michel Boivin's 'Sufi Paradigm.'" *Contemporary Voice of Dalit* 16(3): 335–350.
- 2022 "[Ethno-Nationality of Caste in Pakistan](#): Privileged Caste Morality in Sindhi Progressive Literature and Politics." *Critical Sociology* 48(1): 127–149.
- 2022 "[The Myth of Sufi Sindh](#): Reflections on the Orientalist and Nationalist Historiography." *Interventions* 26(2): 317–337.
- 2022 "[Politics of Sufism in Pakistan](#): Contemporary Relevance of Shah Abdul Latif as an Icon of Sufi Sindh." *Religions of South Asia* 15(3): 240–273.
- 2022 "[The politics of metaphor](#): traces of casteism and patriarchy in the work of Shah Abdul Latif." *Postcolonial Studies*, 25(4), 469–488
- 2021 "[Bhil \(of Pakistan\)](#)." In *Brill's Encyclopedia of the Religions of the Indigenous People of South Asia Online*. Leiden: Brill.
- 2019 "[Understanding Hegemony of Caste in Political Islam and Sufism in Sindh, Pakistan.](#)" *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 54(5): 716–745.
- 2019 "[Dalits Are in India, Not in Pakistan](#)': Exploring the Discursive Bases of the Denial of Dalitness under the Ashrafia Hegemony." *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 55(1): 17–43.
- 2019 "[Appropriation of Caste Spaces in Pakistan](#): The Theo-Politics of Short Stories in Sindhi Progressive Literature." *Religions* 10: 627.
- 2018 "[Legitimacies of Caste Positions in Pakistan](#): Resolving the 'Upper-Caste' Dilemma in Shared Spaces of Knowledge Production and Emancipation." *Panjab University Research Journal XLV* (1).

FORTHCOMING PAPERS

- Forth.. "From Drought to Drain: Anti-Caste Environmental Justice in the Age of Climate Catastrophe." *Oxford Human Rights Hub Journal*, special issue "Unearthing Eco-Casteism: A Socio-Legal Exploration of Caste and Environmental Law" (forthcoming).

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Hussain, G., and Mosvi, Sayeda Sakina. "Sacred Ice, Shifting Lives: Glacial Melting and Climate-Induced Insecurities in Northern Pakistan." *Human Ecology* (revise and resubmit).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 "Biopolitics of the Frontiers: Investigating Identity Shifts among Parkari Communities during and after the 1971 Indo-Pak War." *The Familiar Stranger: Exploring Sindh–Gujarat (Dis)Connections*, SOAS South Asia Institute, SOAS University of London, United Kingdom, 18–19 January 2019.
- 2019 "[Hindutva: Views of a Dalit Activist.](#)" *International Conference on Hindutva Policies and the State of Minorities in India*, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan, 19 February 2019. (The co-panelists were Dr Akis Kalaitzidis (USA), Dr Nitasha Kaul (UK), Dr Mujeeb Afzal, Amb (r) Jalil Abbas Jillani, Amb (r) Zamir Akram).
- 2018 "[Sayedism and Casteism in Sindh: Possibilities of Dalit Emancipation.](#)" *25th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS 2018)*, Paris, France, 24–27 July 2018.
- 2017 "Caste Politics and Anti-Caste Dalit Assertions in Sindh." *RINDAS International Conference*, Kyoto, Japan.
- 2017 "Caste Politics and Anti-Caste Dalit Assertions in Sindh." 5th International Conference, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland.
- 2014 "Parkari and Katchchi Kolhi Migration: Assessing the Socio-Political Impact of Migration on the Kolhi Community of Barrage-Irrigated Areas of Lower Sindh." *Migration, Education and Development in South Asia Conference*, Department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, 27–28 April 2014.
- 2014 "Environmental Justice and Community Empowerment: A Case Study of the Kolhi Peasant Community of Sindh." *International Conference on Environmental Issues of Sindh and Remedies (ICEISR)*, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Pakistan, 9–10 April 2014.

SELECTED WORKSHOPS AND RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

- 2022** [Workshop Facilitator, *Research Methodology: Theory and Practice in Activist Policy Research*](#), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and University of Karachi.
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PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP, MEDIA, AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES (Selected)

- 2026** [“The Architecture of the Caste in Pakistan.”](#) [Advanced Seminar, Institute of Ethnology, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich \(LMU\), Germany, 4 May 2026.](#)
- 2025** [“Caste in Pakistan.”](#) Invited speaker in the Caste in Pakistan Conversations series organized by the Ethnic Studies Department, University of California, San Diego (USA), and the UC Collective for Caste Abolition, online colloquium marking Dalit History Month.
- 2023** Speaker, [Interfaith Harmony Seminar](#), organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad. Delivered the invited lecture "Religious Conversion and Dalit Rights."
- 2022** – Panelist, [Borderland Ethics and Borderline Communities in Cholistan](#), webinar organized by the Department of Anthropology, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, with support from the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The webinar featured Dr. Phillip Johannes Zehmisch (Heidelberg University) as guest speaker and was attended by the Vice Chancellor and senior faculty of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.
- 2022** – Invited Speaker, [Faith Conversions and Shah Latif](#), National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS), Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. Delivered a lecture to doctoral students on Sufism, Shah Abdul Latif, religious conversions, interfaith relations, and contemporary debates on minority rights and identity politics in Pakistan.
- 2021** ["Criminalising Forced Conversion in Pakistan"](#), organized by Islamabad Bar Council, Islamabad. October 2021.
- 2021** [“The State of Minorities in Pakistan”](#) organized by Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University (USA).
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ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

- 2024** Organized the distinguished lecture ["Pakistan: A Natural Geopolitical State" by Owais Ahmed Ghani \(Former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan\)](#); hosted by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad.
- 2024** Organized the distinguished lecture ["75 Years of the Objectives Resolution: Impact and Significance,"](#) featuring Syed Muaz Shah, at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), on constitutional development, national identity, and governance in Pakistan..
- 2024** Facilitated and coordinated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bahria University and Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit-Baltistan, promoting collaborative research, faculty and student exchange, internships, joint academic programmes, and institutional partnership.
- 2024** Facilitated and coordinated the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) between Bahria University and Save the Children Pakistan, establishing collaboration in research, advocacy, knowledge exchange, dialogue, capacity building, internships, and child- and youth-centred policy development.
- 2023** Facilitated and coordinated the signing of [a Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) between Bahria University and the Institute of Policy Studies \(IPS\), Islamabad](#), establishing collaboration in research, joint publications, faculty and student engagement, capacity building, internships, academic resource sharing, and the organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, and policy dialogues.
- 2023** Organizer and Host, Distinguished Lecture by Prof. Dr. Martin Sökefeld (LMU Munich), [The Multi-Sided Ethnographer: Living the Field Beyond Research](#), Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2022** Coordinator, IPS participation at the **27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP27)**, supporting policy dialogues and knowledge exchange on climate resilience, environmental governance, and Pakistan's climate policy priorities.
- 2022** Organizing Committee Member, [CSR Initiatives in Gwadar: The Gateway to CPEC](#), two-day media conclave and policy roundtable on corporate social responsibility, socioeconomic development, and community

engagement under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan.

- 2022 Co-organizer**, International conference on [Post-Truth Era: Trends in Media](#), interdisciplinary policy dialogue on misinformation, digital media, public trust, and democratic governance, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2021 Lead Organizer**, Book Discussion on [A Book of Conquest: The Chachnama and Muslim Origins in South Asia](#), featuring Prof. Dr. Manan Ahmed Asif (Author) and Prof. Dr. Dilip Menon, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2021 Lead Organizer**, Book Discussion on [The Sufi Paradigm: Vernacular and Colonial Impressions in Sindh](#), featuring Prof. Dr. Michel Boivin (Author), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) and Decolonial Dialogues, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2021 Organizing Committee Member**, *International Media Conference* (co-organized with the University of Karachi, Higher Education Commission (Sindh), and Greenwich University), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 2020 –Lead Organizer and Panelist**, [international webinar South Asia, Neo-Communal Settings and Implications for Social Democracy](#), Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, featuring **Prof. Meena Dhanda** (University of Wolverhampton), **Prof. Sumeet Mhaskar** (O.P. Jindal Global University), **Prof. Amit Thorat**, **Heba Ahmed**, and **Dr. Sunaina Arya** (Jawaharlal Nehru University), on caste, minority rights, and social democracy in South Asia.
- 2020 Co-organizer and Moderator**, [Exploring Religious Conversions](#), public webinar organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, Pakistan.

PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY

NATIONAL POLICY ADVISORY

2024

[Invited collaborator, Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Section, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives](#), Government of Pakistan, on caste-disaggregated data, social inclusion, and SDG implementation.

FEATURED IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

2020-2024

Research on Dalits, Caste and Conversion was resorted to by Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights and Religious Minorities, and featured in [Al Jazeera English](#), [Dawn](#), [Pakistan Today](#), [The Express Tribune](#), and [Anadolu Agency](#), and Indian Marathi newspapers.

ENGAGED ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

2016-2019

Event Organizer and Social Media Coordinator, [Dalit Sujaag Tehreek](#) (DST), Pakistan. As an engaged anthropologist, organized meetings, coordinated social protests, and led digital outreach and public-engagement activities for DST representing Scheduled Caste and Pasmanda communities in Pakistan. Coordinated awareness campaigns and dissemination of advocacy and research-informed content on caste discrimination, citizenship, representation, and social justice.

PUBLIC ETHNOGRAPHIES

Authored vernacular ethnographic pieces, essays, ethnographic reflections, and analytical commentaries published in [Round Table India](#), a leading South Asian anti-caste platform. Topics include: [Dalit activism and political mobilization in Pakistan](#); [Caste discrimination and minority rights](#); [Dalit-Bahujan perspectives in academia](#); [Religious conversion and caste](#); [Public policy and social justice](#); [Ethnographic documentation of anti-caste movements](#)

DIGITAL RESEARCH ARCHIVES

2020–Present – Creator and Curator, *Open Research Data Repository on Caste, Religious Minorities, and Faith Conversions in Pakistan* ([Mendeley Data](#))

Developed and maintain an open-access digital repository of 80+ research datasets comprising ethnographic field materials, [interview transcripts](#), legal documents, court judgments, policy reports, archival records, [quantitative datasets](#), photographs, and multilingual primary sources on caste, Dalit activism, religious minorities, governance, and faith conversions in Pakistan.

Curated research data generated through doctoral and postdoctoral research to advance research transparency, reproducibility, and open scholarship.

2020–Present – Creator and Curator, *Digital Video Archive on Religious Minorities and Faith Conversions in Pakistan*

Conceived and curated a digital audiovisual archive documenting ethnographic interviews, public dialogues, expert testimonies, policy discussions, and life histories relating to religious minorities, faith conversions, caste, legal pluralism, and minority rights in Pakistan.

Developed a publicly accessible collection of [70+ documentary interviews and discussions featuring academics, legal experts, policymakers, religious scholars, civil society representatives, government officials, and members of minority communities](#), supporting research dissemination and public engagement.

GRADUATE SUPERVISION (Selected)

MS Applied Anthropology, Bahria University

2024–2025

- *Impact of Climate Change and Glacier Melting on Subsistence Patterns: A Case Study of Sadpara Village, Skardu District.*
- *Social Capital and Career Aspirations: Preserving Yidgha Language as Critical Cultural Heritage in the Pamir Region of Chitral.*
- *Decolonizing Pakistani Culture: Western Values and Muslim Students at Bahria University and Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.*
- *Ethnic and Sectarian Dynamics of Shrine Culture in Pakistan: A Case Study of Kalyam Sharif.*

2023–2024

- *Political Ecology of Caste and Class: An Ethnographic Study of the Masih Community of Islamabad, Pakistan.*
- *Decolonizing the Curriculum: Indigenous Knowledge and Elite Schools in Islamabad, Pakistan*

2022–2024

- *Socio-Cultural Responses to Dementia: An Ethnographic Study of Bahawalnagar, Pakistan*
 - *Experiences at the Police Station: An Ethnographic Study of the Women Police Station, Islamabad*
-