



VOLUME II OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

رسالة

TOP INSIGHTS

- Climate Governance and Sustainable Development
- Bureaucratic Leadership and Democratic Resilience
- Law, Rights, and Marginalized Communities
- Digital Governance and Data-Driven Policymaking
- Rethinking Development and Economic Futures
- Global Perspectives, Local Policy Relevance



EDITORS

USAMA RASHID

MUNEEBA NAUSHABI

MESSAGE BY

As in previous years, the academic year 2024–25 has once again affirmed the Department of Governance and Global Studies as a leader in thought, research, and innovation. Climate change—no longer a distant concern but Pakistan's lived reality—has remained at the heart of our work. We not only convened a high-level policy dialogue on the issue, but our colleague Ms. Maleeha Sattar also secured a competitive research grant to advance this critical area. Similarly, Dr. Abiha Zahra's groundbreaking work in public administration and leadership has earned international recognition, supported by new grants and amplified through her Leadership Lab, which is bringing Pakistan's voice into global conversations. My own research in legal history has led to the development of a new course, Law and Public Policy, bridging a vital yet often overlooked nexus in Pakistan's policy landscape.

Our steady stream of guest talks and events has enriched classrooms with diverse perspectives from scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders worldwide. These exchanges have broadened our students' horizons, sharpened their critical inquiry, and strengthened our department's reputation as a hub for policy innovation in Pakistan. Another milestone has been the launch of our annual conference, in collaboration with the Department of Economics, which our Dr Aftab Nasir co-convened. In just its first year, it has emerged as a platform for new academic and policy research, fostering dialogue across borders, and sparking creative, robust approaches to pressing governance challenges. The department also hosted the Pakistan leg of the Christians and Christianity conference, an initiative in collaboration with the University of Oxford, which will soon result in a number of publications.

We invite you to explore this newsletter, engage with its insights, and share your ideas for collaboration. Together, we can generate knowledge, deepen understanding, and shape informed, effective public policy for Pakistan. As you read these pages, think about how you might join us on this journey of discovery and impact.



**Dr. Yaqoob Khan
Bangash**

**Dean, Faculty of Social
Science & Humanities**

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Background and Vision

My vision is to create an innovative academic environment that equips students with both theoretical and practical skills, preparing them to address real-world governance and public policy challenges at all levels.

Program Development and Curriculum

We focus on relevance, interdisciplinary integration, and adaptability to emerging trends, ensuring a dynamic curriculum that balances theory with practical applications.

Interdisciplinary Approach

Our programme incorporates insights from economics, political science, sociology, and law to address policy issues comprehensively, equipping students to develop effective and sustainable solutions while maintaining core competencies and academic rigour within the field of public policy.

Real-World Impact

Our faculty has been part of policy advise in areas of local government reforms, climate action in Punjab and GB, and education policies through government channels, private sector and NGO's

Future Aspirations

We aim to be a leading research hub, expanding partnerships and adapting our curriculum to include areas like digital governance and global sustainability, ensuring our graduates lead in public policy and governance.

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Dr. Abiha Zahra

Chairperson

Department of Governance
& Global Studies

Dr. Abiha Zahra, holds a PhD in Public Administration from KU Leuven in Belgium. Her research focuses on structural reforms and performance management systems within state organizations.

Climate Governance and Sustainable Development Series

The "Climate Governance and Sustainable Development Series," which is part of the Jean Monnet Modules on Climate Policy, is hosted by Maleeha Sattar, addresses pressing environmental challenges and innovative solutions.

Covering diverse topics such as; Dry Wells, a documentary on the water crisis in Thar by Mr. Babar Alam and Mr. Usama Irfan; The Sky is Far, the Earth is Though by Mr. Basharat Issa; Leveraging AI & Remote Sensing for Efficient Early Warning Systems by Dr. Muhammad Adnan Siddique and Cities & Climate Action by Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhry; Ecologies of Sustainable Development Goals by Mr.Daanish Mustafa, Integrating science, technology, and policy highlights the importance of data-driven decision-making, community engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling environmental crises and driving meaningful change.



LEADERSHIP LAB SERIES

The Leadership Lab Series, hosted by Abiha Zahra, explored the complex relationship between bureaucracy and politics across various governance systems. Through case studies from Norway, Denmark, Hungary, Brazil, South Asia, and Germany, examine how bureaucracies navigate political influence, from functional politicization and patronage to resistance against authoritarianism. The talks highlight the tensions between meritocracy and political control, the impact of political appointments on democratic institutions, and the role of bureaucratic resilience in safeguarding governance.

Prof. Tobias Bach (University of Oslo)

Prof. Tobias Bach (University of Oslo) explored how political influence affects senior appointments in meritocratic systems like Norway and Denmark, highlighting the concept of functional politicization.



Prof. Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling (University of Nottingham)

Prof. Jan-Hinrik Meyer-Sahling (University of Nottingham) examined how political patronage in Hungary facilitated autocratization by replacing neutral officials with loyalists.



Dr. Nurliah Nurdin (Politeknik STIA LAN Jakarta, Indonesia)

Dr. Nurliah Nurdin (Politeknik STIA LAN Jakarta, Indonesia) addressed persistent gender inequities in civil service recruitment and emphasized the need for more inclusive and equitable bureaucratic systems.

Prof. Gabriela Spanghero Lotta (Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil)

Prof. Gabriela Spanghero Lotta (Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil) showed how Brazilian bureaucrats resisted authoritarian pressures under Bolsonaro using legal and strategic tools.



Prof. Kohai Suzuki (Leiden University)

Prof. Kohai Suzuki (Leiden University) analyzed how job security, patronage, and civil servant attitudes impact governance in South Asia, emphasizing the need for localized approaches.



Prof. Sylvia Viet (Helmut Schmidt University)

Prof. Sylvia Viet (Helmut Schmidt University) presented data on rising politicization within Germany's senior civil service, focusing on advisory roles with political ties.



Prof. Adnan Rasool (University of Tennessee)

Prof. Adnan Rasool (University of Tennessee) discussed how bureaucrats in Pakistan, Taiwan, and Turkey counter political centralization and defend institutional autonomy.



GUEST LECTURES



Reforming the State: Technology and Governance in Pakistan (18 Dec, 2024)

Mr. Omer Masud, CEO of The Urban Unit, delivered an informative talk on Reforming the State: Technology and Governance in Pakistan. In which he emphasized on how technology can enhance public administration, drive transparency, improve governance efficiency, and address challenges and opportunities in integrating technology into state functions, engaging in dialogue on the future of digital governance in Pakistan.

Zia's Islamization and Its Impact on Minorities (Dec 9, 2024)

Interactive session on Zia's Islamization and Its Impact on Minorities by Mary Hunter, a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and Contemporary Research (CSCR). She explored the overarching impacts of General Zia-ul-Haq's policies on religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan. She highlighted the social, political, and cultural repercussions of these reforms.



Law and Climate Change in Pakistan (March 18, 2025)

Mr. Ahmad Rafay Alam, a well-known environmental lawyer and climate policy expert, will lead a session on "Law and Climate Change in Pakistan." He discussed the complexities of environmental legislation, the role of courts, and the gaps between policy and implementation, and emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive legal frameworks to tackle the climate issues in Pakistan.

GUEST LECTURES



Child Marriage Laws & Policy in Pakistan (March 25, 2025)

Dr. Maryam S. Khan, a distinguished lawyer and academic, delivered a guest lecture on "Child Marriage Laws and Policy in Pakistan". She explored the country's legal and legislative landscape concerning child marriage and highlighted key policy challenges in effectively addressing this critical issue.



Christian Divorce Law in Pakistan (April 8, 2025)

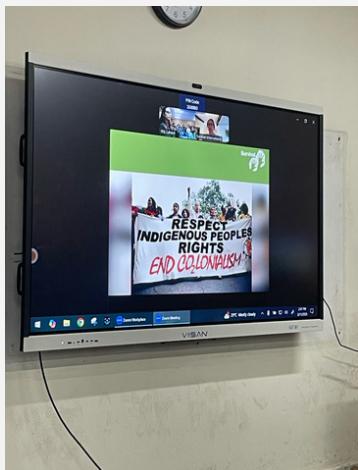
Another guest lecture by the Journalist and researcher Asif Aqeel, in which he addressed the complexities surrounding "Christian Divorce Law in Pakistan". Drawing on historical context and contemporary legal realities, he unpacked the structural gaps in the law and the social and legal challenges faced by the Christian community, sparking meaningful dialogue among students.



Different take on separatism? Identity politics in colonial Sindh (Feb 20, 2025)

Sarah Ansari, Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, delivered an engaging talk on identity politics in colonial Sindh, illustrating the complexities of separatism and how historical narratives shaped identities in Sindh during colonial rule, and fostering meaningful dialogue on the roots of identity and political movements.

GUEST LECTURES



Decolonising Conservation (March 11, 2025)

Sophie Grig, the Asia Campaigns Director at Survival International, addressed the need to decolonize conservation practices. She emphasized the vital role of advancing Indigenous rights and the necessity of safeguarding the lives and cultures of uncontacted tribes.



Impact of authoritarianism on academic spaces in the U.S (May 14, 2025)

Another informative talk on the "impact of authoritarianism on academic spaces in the U.S" by Dr. Fawzia Afzal-Khan from Montclair State University, in which she highlighted how political forces threaten intellectual freedom, the global rise of authoritarianism, and the critical importance of preserving feminist and decolonial scholarship in increasingly authoritarian environments.



Cities and Climate action with Ahmad iqbal (Dec 6, 2024)

Ahmad Iqbal Chaudhary, Member of the Provincial Assembly and former Mayor of Narowal, addressed the pressing climate issue (smog) and unsustainable urban growth. Citing models from Paris and Barcelona, he urged a shift away from car-centric planning in Lahore towards sustainable public and non-motorized transport. He proposed the electrification of public transport and rail systems, especially in logistics, as an immediate step forward. Acknowledging Pakistan's limited resources, he emphasized that citizen participation is key to achieving long-term, climate-resilient urban development.

GUEST LECTURES



Environmental policy in the EU: Actors, Institutions and Processes with Andrew Jordan (Nov 14, 2024)

Professor Andrew Jordan from the University of East Anglia delivered a guest lecture titled "Environmental Policy in the EU: Actors, Institutions, and Processes." He provided a powerful overview of the EU's environmental journey, from its early regulatory efforts in the 1970s to its current role as a global climate leader. He discussed the EU's multi-level governance system, landmark climate initiatives, and the significant financial contributions the EU makes to global climate action.

Punjab's Climate Resilient Vision and Action Plan by Saba Rafay (April 9, 2024)

Ms. Saba Raffay, a specialist in environment and climate change at The Urban Unit, delivered an engaging talk on Punjab's Climate Resilient Vision and Action Plan. She outlined its core strategies, implementation opportunities, and key challenges. Additionally, she shared updates on the progress of Lahore's Climate Action Plan, providing real-world insights into urban climate governance.



Forest policy vs practice Pakistan's case (Oct 28,2024)

Bilal A. Chaudri, founder of Restore and Agrihood Pvt. Ltd in his talk critically examined the persistent disconnect between Pakistan's forest policies and their on-ground execution. He highlighted systemic gaps in enforcement, policy implementation, and institutional accountability that contribute to ongoing deforestation and land degradation. Drawing from his practical work in ecological restoration, he proposed nature-based solutions, community-driven conservation efforts, and transparent governance models as pathways toward forest sustainability.

POLICY DIALOGUES

Dialogue on Reforming Local Govt (Nov 26. 2025)

The Department of Governance and Global Studies at ITU, in collaboration with the Local Government and Community Development (LGCD) Department Punjab, hosted a policy dialogue on "Reforming Local Governments: Autonomy, Performance and Citizen Participation" at the Civil Secretariat, Lahore. The event was part of the Jean Monnet Modules on Governance and Policy. This session brought together numerous local government officials, MPAs, and included a keynote by Mr. Fawad Hassan Fawad. Dr. Abiha Zahra also presented a policy report on local government reforms.



Dialogue Intergovernmental coordination (Feb 6, 2025)



In collaboration with the Jean Monnet Modules on Governance and Policy, a dialogue was organized on "Intergovernmental Coordination in Pakistan." Experts Ahmad Bilal Mahboob (PILDAT), Asad Jamal (Senior Lawyer and Analyst), Asma Faiz (LUMS), and Abiha Zahra (ITU) talked on the intricacies of vertical coordination following the 18th Amendment, addressing governance challenges and the rule of law. Additionally, the session explored both traditional and innovative coordination tools, drawing comparisons with South Asia to provide insights for enhancing governance in Pakistan.



Policy Briefs

Reforming Local Government in Pakistan

This policy brief, developed under the Jean Monnet Modules in Governance and Policy at Information Technology University (ITU), examines the structural, political, and administrative challenges undermining local government systems in Pakistan, with a particular focus on Punjab. Drawing on expert insights from a dedicated summer course and comparative lessons from European local governance models, the brief highlights persistent issues such as legislative instability, excessive centralisation, limited fiscal and administrative autonomy, and weak citizen engagement. It underscores the critical role of empowered local governments in strengthening democracy, improving service delivery, and fostering citizen trust.

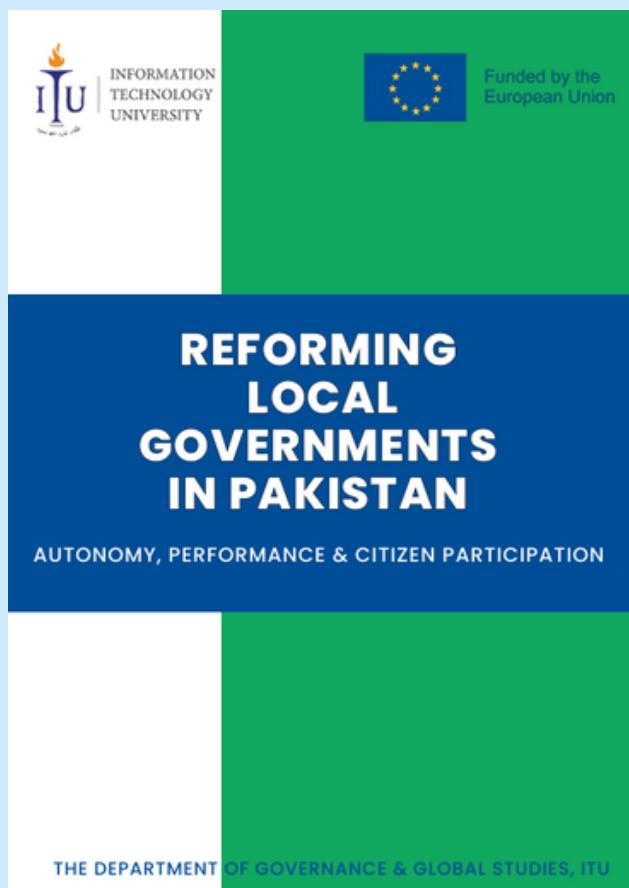


Reforming Local Government



Reforming Local Governments in Pakistan: Autonomy, Performance and Citizen Participation

The Department of Governance & Global Studies, ITU, in collaboration with the Local Government and Community Development Department, Punjab, convened a high-level policy dialogue titled "Reforming Local Governments in Pakistan: Autonomy, Performance and Citizen Participation" at the historic Darbar Hall, Civil Secretariat. Bringing together senior policymakers, academics, civil servants, and civil society leaders, the dialogue examined the persistent challenges facing local governance in Punjab, including legislative instability, limited fiscal autonomy, overlapping jurisdictions, and weak citizen participation. The policy brief captures key insights and recommendations from the dialogue, contributing to informed debate and practical pathways for strengthening local governance in Pakistan.



These briefs are part of Jean Monnet Modules on Governance and Policy.

CONFERENCES BY DGGS

CRISIS OF IMAGINATION? DEVELOPMENT AND THE END OF PROGRESSIVIST TELEOLOGY IN SOUTH ASIA: (SEPT 18, 2025)



A dynamic conference titled "A Crisis of Imagination? Development and the End of Progressivist Teleology in South Asia" brought together leading scholars to critically rethink development in the region. The panelists included Professor Barbara Harriss-White, Dr. Aasim Sajjad Akhtar, Professor Danish Mustafa, Asad Ur Rehman, Ammar Rashid, Raheem Ul Haq, Ayaz Qureshi, Ahmad Bilal, Meesum Ali, Mishal Niaz, Mihika Chatterjee, and Raza Naeem. The discussion examined themes of labor and inequality, informal economies, state-led planning, ecological sustainability, women's empowerment, and the transformative role of the middle class, emphasizing the need for inclusive and Context-specific development models.

CHRISTIANITY AND CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN (DEC 10-12, 2024)

A conference titled "Christianity and Christians in Pakistan" was held at the Information Technology University and Forman Christian College in Lahore, in collaboration with Kellogg College and the Asian Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. The event featured over 25 speakers from around the world, including Bishop Azad Marshall, Punjab Assembly Member Falbous Christopher, and Dr. Mariam Malik Richards. Dr. Yaqoob Bangash presented a paper titled "S. P. Singha, Partition and the Narrative of Christian Identity." The panels addressed various issues, such as discriminatory divorce laws, caste-based marginalization, and the normalization of Christian persecution.



CONFERENCE ON UNESCO'S GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF DIGITAL MEDIA

The Information Technology University (ITU), represented by the Policy Baithak Society, in collaboration with the Institute for Research Advocacy and Development (IRADA) and supported by UNESCO, successfully conducted a multi-stakeholder consultation at the Lincoln Corner, ITU. This event aimed to foster constructive dialogue surrounding UNESCO's Guidelines for the governance of digital media platforms in Pakistan.

The consultation brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, media professionals, and academic experts. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on critical issues such as freedom of expression, access to online information, and the governance of digital media, all vital to enhancing internet freedom and protecting human rights within Pakistan's unique legal and regulatory framework.



Key outcomes from the consultation included a comprehensive set of recommendations from stakeholders and a proposed roadmap for the effective implementation of UNESCO's guidelines. These insights are expected to play a crucial role in shaping future digital media governance in Pakistan, facilitating an environment where citizens can exercise their digital rights and freedoms without compromise.

Faculty Spotlight

Engaging in External Panels and Discussions

Data Fest - Dr. Abiha Zahra

Dr. Abiha Zahra led a workshop at DataFest 2024, Pakistan's first national-level data festival organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The event emphasized the importance of data integration, collaboration, and innovation in public policymaking. During her presentation, Dr. Zahra highlighted her research using longitudinal data of senior federal bureaucrats and discussed the complexities and challenges involved in data collection.



ThinkFest - Ms. Maleeha Sattar

At ThinkFest 2025, leading experts Stefan Dercon, Mushtaq Khan, Ishrat Husain, and Nadeem ul Haque engaged in a powerful discussion on South Asia's economic prospects, structural challenges, and strategic potential in the global economy. The session was moderated by Ms. Maleeha Sattar.



PTV Baithak - Dr. Imdad Hussain

Dr. Imdad Hussain featured on PTV's BATHAK to discuss urbanization as an inevitable global trend driven by access to jobs, health, and education, with over 70% of the world's population expected to be urban by 2050. He critically highlighted the policy failure of equating urbanization with Westernization, leading to unsuitable planning models and the erosion of local culture and language. Dr. Imdad emphasized that sustainable urban development must break this psychological dependence on foreign models and actively promote local identity and values within growing cities.



National Consultation on Heat Stress Prevention & Protection

Dr. Imdad Hussain participated as a panelist in the National Consultation on Heat Stress Prevention & Protection, organized by the Labour Education Foundation (LEF), addressing the severe impact of extreme heat on Pakistan's workforce amid rising climate risks. The consultation brought together trade unions, government officials, the ILO, Pakistan Accord representatives, and civil society to discuss policy reforms, occupational safety, and workers' rights in high-risk sectors such as agriculture, construction, textiles, and brick kilns. Dr. Imdad Hussain, alongside Mr. Khurram Shahzad Hameed, contributed expert insights to guide discussions on preventive measures and institutional responses to heat stress.



The past is a window into the future TEDxLACAS (Mar 10, 2025)

Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash delivered a powerful TEDx talk titled "The Past is a Window into the Future." He highlighted how understanding history helps us tackle today's challenges and he used real examples, like the fall of the Indus Valley Civilization and Pakistan's ongoing struggle with identity. He brings the audience on a journey through the past, emphasizing the importance of reconnecting with the past to shape the future.



A New Hope: Pakistan's Past & Future TEDxAitchison (Jun 11, 2025)

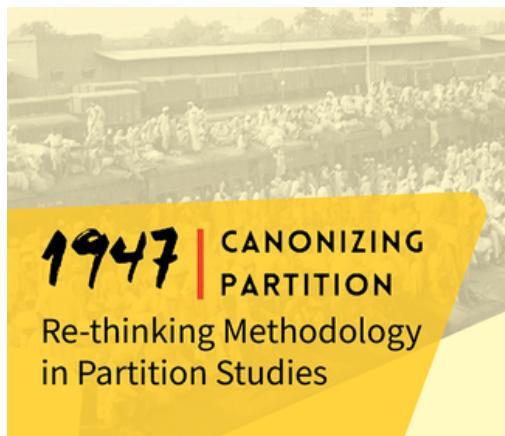
In his other TEDx talk named "A New Hope: Pakistan's Past & Future" , Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash explores how history connects the past, present, and future to offer hope for today. Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash draws on personal stories, partition narratives, and philosophical insights from Saint Augustine to German Marxists to explore how Pakistan was born out of hope. And focused on the importance of reclaiming the spirit of hope as essential for Pakistan's future.



National Representation of ITU Faculty

1947 Canonizing Partition: Rethinking Methodology in Partition Studies

During a two-day international workshop organized by LUMS titled "1947 Canonizing Partition: Rethinking Methodology in Partition Studies," Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash contributed with the paper titled "The 'Other' Community: Situating Christians in the Partition of the Punjab, 1947."



Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards the US, China, and the EU Conference by NUML.

Dr. Abiha Zahra was invited as a panelist at the Faculty of Social Sciences, National University of Modern Languages (NUML). The conference, titled "Prioritizing Economic Agenda in Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards the US, China, and the EU," convened prominent scholars and experts to discuss the critical challenges and emerging opportunities in shaping Pakistan's foreign policy.

Dr. Zahra shared her insights on the role of the European Union (EU) in promoting reforms within Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of constructive engagement and policy alignment. Dr. Riaz Shad, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, chaired the session and provided valuable leadership throughout the discussions.



International Representation of ITU Faculty

115th Annual Conference (Sept 3-5, 2024)

Dr. Yaqoob Bangash presented his paper "From Colonial to Post-Colonial: The Development of the Lahore High Court" at the 115th Annual Conference of the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), held at the University of Bristol, UK. The conference, themed "Learning from Others: Lessons for Legal Scholars."



10th Asian Constitutional Law Forum (ACLF) (Dec 9-10, 2024)

The 10th Asian Constitutional Law Forum (ACLF) was held at the University of Hong Kong. This forum brought together scholars interested in constitutional law, constitutional theory, and constitutional developments in Asia. Dr. Yaqoob Bangash delivered his paper titled "The Making of a 'Loyal' Province: Punjab and the Ushering in of the 'Rule of Law' by the British."



SANPA October 2024

Dr. Abiha Zahra participated in the inaugural conference of the South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA), which was held in collaboration with Dhaka International University and IOM - UN Migration in Dhaka. During the conference, she also presented her research on gender and merit.



THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY: BEYOND THE HORIZONS (FEB 3, 2025)

The Department hosted a seminar on the "17th Annual Report 2024 – The State of Economy: Beyond the Horizons, Exploring the Frontiers of Emerging Technologies" by the Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol. Distinguished speakers, including Shahid Javed Burki, Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, and Mr. Faisal Janjua, provided useful information on the role of AI in the economy, higher education, health, and law while addressing inclusivity challenges.



MAKING POLICY DECISIONS WITH DATA: DATA ANALYTICS FOR GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING (JUNE 19, 2025)



The Department of Governance and Global Studies, in partnership with the Sustainability Lab at Atom camp, organized an engaging seminar titled "Making Policy Decisions with Data: Data Analytics for Governance and Policy Making." The event included a panel of distinguished speakers: Dr. Naveed Iftikhar, Dr. Abiha, Marium Naveed, Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, Mishal Athar Shah, and Faisal Fareed. They discussed the importance of the data in transforming public policy and governance in Pakistan and how data empowers social scientists to generate evidence, evaluate interventions, and design policies that are both inclusive and impactful.

WORKSHOP

TEACHING GOVERNANCE WITH A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE (AUG 7, 2025)

The Department of Governance and Global Studies successfully organized a workshop under the distinguished Jean Monnet Modules on Governance and Policy, titled "Teaching Governance with a European Perspective."

Dr. Yaqoob Bangash, Dr. Abina Zahra, and Ms. Maleeha Sattar shared useful insights on how real-time European examples can enrich teaching in social sciences, public policy, and climate governance. The sessions equipped participants with innovative tools to design globally relevant academic content. The workshop also featured Special Guest Dr. Riaz Shad, Jean Monnet Chair at NUML, who shared valuable insights on EU-Pakistan relations.



FIELD LEARNING



WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS (JAN 22, 2025)

The Punjab Assembly invited ITU's Department of Governance and Global Studies to "the Curtain Raiser for the Women's Parliamentary Caucus". The event emphasized the role of women in leadership and governance, bringing together policymakers, academics, and advocates to discuss gender-inclusive policies, challenges, and opportunities in enhancing women's representation in decision-making.



EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO KARTARPUR (FEB 5, 2025)

An enriching educational trip to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur was organized for MSPPS and MSDEVS students, offering a unique opportunity to explore themes of interfaith harmony and transboundary governance. During the visit, students engaged in insightful conversations with Sikh pilgrims from across the border, fostering intercultural understanding. The experience not only deepened their academic perspectives but also signified the importance of the peaceful coexistence of different cultures.



POLICY POSTER & FILM EXHIBITION

The Policy Innovation Challenge Competition provides a platform for the presentation of innovative policy proposals through the mediums of short film and poster themes, involving Climate Change, Urban Infrastructure, Population Growth, and Religious Intolerance. Participants from various institutions (academia, NGOs, and the public sector) overwhelmingly shared their impactful contributions to pressing public policy issues. The Policy Poster and Film Exhibition was judged by a distinguished panel including Dr. Mujtaba Paracha (Former Ambassador to WTO), Mr. Abid Hussainy (GM Environment, Urban Unit), Mr. Adeel Asghar (Registrar ITU), and senior faculty members, including Dr. Yaqoob Khan Bangash, Dr. Imdad Hussain, Dr. Aftab Nasir and Dr. Adnan Siddique.

Department of Governance & Global Studies, ITU

POLICY INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Join our Policy Poster & Short Film Competition and showcase your ideas for a better society!

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

- Poster Submission
- Short Film (3-5 minutes)

KEY THEMES

- Climate Change
- Urban Infrastructure
- Population Control
- Religious Intolerance

SUBMIT & WIN

WINNER **RUNNER UP**

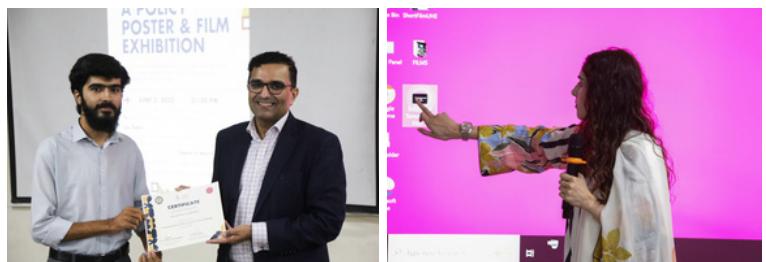
PKR 40K | PKR 20K

SUBMISSION DEADLINE March 28, 2025

SUBMIT VIA EMAIL Coordinator.ggs@itu.edu.pk

Dr. Abiha Zahra and Ms. Maleeha Sattar served as judges at the "Project Idea Elevator Pitch Competition", organized by the IEEE GRSS Lahore Chapter to commemorate Earth Day 2025.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Master's students from the Development Studies and Public Policy programs hosted a delightful dinner that brought together students and faculty in a relaxed and welcoming setting. The evening fostered meaningful connections, strengthened academic bonds, and provided a moment to reflect on a shared journey of learning, collaboration, and growth.



Master's students of Public Policy concluded their Social Science & Public Policy course with a memorable dinner alongside their course instructor, Dr. Imdad Hussain. The gathering marked the end of the semester with thoughtful conversations, celebration of academic progress, and a renewed sense of community among students and faculty.



RESEARCH, PRESENTATIONS, NEWS ARTICLES, TALKS AND PODCASTS BY FACULTY

Bangash, Y. K. (2025). JINNAH'S PAKISTAN. Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Pakistan.

MacCarthaigh, M., Zahra, A. (2025). Assessing agency autonomy. In Peters, G. (eds) Handbook of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Politics, Resources, Power. Edward Elgar. ISBN: 9781803927039

Bangash, Y. K. (2025). 'Slow death in India against quick death in Pakistan...': Indian Christian Politics During the Punjab Partition. *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 1-29.

Anjum, R., Zahra, A., Ali, F. (2025). Parallel Local Government Structures in Pakistan: Autonomy and Performance of Cantonment Boards. In Chhetri, D.P., Datta, P.K., Fernando, R.L.S., Shameem, A. (eds) Making Democratic Decentralization Work in South Asia. South Asian Public Administration. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-94468-0_7

Zahra, A., Suhail, A. (2025). The Role of Darbars (Sufi shrines in Pakistan) in the shadow of the government (Auqaf). In: Drechsler, W., Chafik, S. & Kattel, R. Islamic Public Value: Theory, Practice, and Administration of Indigenous Cooperative Institutions. Edward Elgar, UK. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035333646>

Zahra, A., Anjum, R., Sultan, I.A. (2024). Public Sector Companies for Sustainable Development: Reform Trajectory of Pakistan's Lahore Waste Management Company. In: Zafarullah, H., Azmat, F. (eds) Governance and Sustainable Development in South Asia. South Asian Public Administration. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-67616-1_13

Zahra, A., (2024). Social Balance in the Age of AI. In: Aftab, R., Ullah, R. (eds) The AI Frontiers for Pakistan. Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Islamabad & Institute of Research Promotion, Lahore. ISBN: 627-7703-25-7

Bangash, Y. K., & Devji, F. (2024). Pakistan to Bangladesh, 1947-71: Introduction. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 47(6), 1085-1095.



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