

### Second Biennial International Conference of Pakistan Studies:

### Pakistan in World-Historical Context



April 29th – May 1st, 2005

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology 3260 South Street Philadelphia, PA 19104

American Institute of Pakistan Studies http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org info@pakistanstudies-aips.org

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American Institute of Pakistan Studies

Established in 1973

April 29, 2005

Dear Pakistanist,

Welcome to the Second Biennial International Conference of Pakistan Studies. We are very

happy that you have been able to join us.

We have a full program. Besides the eight panels that cover the full disciplinary range of

interest in Pakistan and related topics, we hope you will appreciate the special exhibit "Re-

figuring Tradition: Contemporary Art from Pakistan", curated by Murtaza Vali, Institute of

Fine Arts, New York University, on display for the duration of the conference. In addition to

this, we have arranged a screening of the newly released Pakistani feature film Khamosh Pani

(Silent Waters), directed by Sabiha Sumar, that will be shown after dinner on Saturday evening.

Please note also that we are serving complimentary refreshments and soft drinks throughout,

but making a nominal charge for lunch and dinner for guests who are non-members (excepting

students) or whose names do not appear on the program. Please review the enclosed materials

and let us know if you have any questions.

We look forward to your full participation throughout the sessions, and hope you will favor

us with your comments and suggestions at the end.

Sincerely,

Brian Spooner, President

American Institute of Pakistan Studies

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### HOTEL INFORMATION:

The official Conference hotel is the Marriott Residence Inn Philadelphia Center City, located at One East Penn Square. in the heart of Center City is just steps away from magnificent City Hall and the Reading Terminal Market. The Pennsylvania Convention Center, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and world class restaurants and shopping are all within walking distance. Just a short taxi ride away are the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute Science Museum, and Independence Hall, all within one mile of the hotel.

# CONFERENCE SITE INFORMATION: UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology is dedicated to the study and understanding of human history and diversity. Founded in 1887, Penn Museum has conducted more than 400 archaeological and anthropological expeditions around the world. Three gallery floors feature materials from Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Bible Lands, Mesoamerica, Asia and the ancient Mediterranean World, as well as artifacts from native peoples of the Americas, Africa

and Polynesia. The Museum offers a glass-enclosed Museum Café overlooking the inner gardens, and three shops—the Museum Shop, the Second Site shop and the Pyramid Shop for children. With an active exhibition schedule, a membership program, and educational programming for children and adults, Penn Museum offers the public an opportunity to share in the ongoing discovery of humankind's collective heritage.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology is located on the Penn campus, across from Franklin Field, at 3260 South Street in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays, holidays and summer Sundays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Admission donation is \$8 adults, \$5 students and senior citizens; free to Members, children under 6, and Penncard holders. For information, visit the Museum's website at www.museum.upenn.edu or call (215) 898-4000.

### SHUTTLE INFORMATION:

A complimentary shuttle service has been provided for conference guests. A shuttle will run continously during the times listed below between the Marriott Residence Inn Philadelphia Center City and the University of Pennsylvania Musuem of Archaeology and Anhtropology. Because of PennRelays we advise all participants to utilize the shuttle service to minimize delays for parking and traffic. All times listed are for departures starting from the Conference Hotel, Residence Inn Center City, except the last run each day. which initiates at the Conference site. The ride may take as long as 20 minutes each way.

### FRIDAY APRIL 29:

11am-12:30pm

3-4pm

6:30-7:30pm

8:00-9:30pm

### SATURDAY APRIL 30:

8:30-9:30am

12:30-1:30pm

6-7pm

8-9pm

10-11pm

### SUNDAY MAY 1:

8:00-9:30 am

10:30-11:30am

1-3:30pm

### SCHEDULE SUMMARY

### FRIDAY APRIL 29

10:30 am

Registration

Mosaic Gallery

12:00 pm

Lunch

Lower Egypt Gallery

1:15 pm

**Opening Remarks** 

Rainey Auditorium

1:30 - 3:15 pm

Session One: The Economics of Pakistan, A

Roundtable

Rainey Auditorium

3:45 - 5:30 pm

Session Two: Recent Developments in Pakistan

Archaeology

Rainey Auditorium

6:00 pm

Reception

Mosaic Gallery

7:00 pm

Dinner

Lower Egypt Gallery

Plenary Address: Social Sciences in Pakistan: Contextualizing the Learning and Research Deficit

SATURDAY APRIL 30

8:30 am

Registration

Mosaic Gallery

Coffee

Children's Cafe

9:00 - 10:45 am

Session Three: Computing in Pakistani Languages

Co-sponsored with the South Asian Language

Resource Center (SALRC)

Rainey Auditorium

11:00 - 12:45 pm

Session Four: The Politics of Pakistan, A Roundtable

Rainey Auditorium

12:45 - 2:15 pm

Lunch

Lower Egypt Gallery

Plenary Address: The Development of Philosophical

Thought in Pakistan

2:15 - 4:00 pm

Session Five: Beyond the State: Interregional

Histories of Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

4:15 - 6:00 pm

Session Six: Literature

Co-Sponsored with the Annual of Urdu Studies

Rainey Auditorium

6:00 pm

Reception

Co-Sponsored with the South Asia Studies Department of the

University of Pennsylvania

Mosaic Gallery

7:00 pm

Dinner

Upper Egypt Gallery

Plenary Address: The Future of Pakistan Studies

8:30 - 10:00 pm

Special Event: Film: Khamosh Pani (Silent Waters)

Sabiha Sumar/2003/95 min/video/Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

SUNDAY MAY 1

8:30 am

Coffee

Children's Cafe

9:15 - 11:00 am

Session Seven: Historical Correctness: Writing and

Teaching the Pasts of Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

11:15 - 1:00 pm

Session Eight: Adab and its Sources

Co-sponsored with the Center for South Asia Libraries (CSAL)

Rainey Auditorium

1:15 pm

Lunch

Upper Egypt Gallery

Concluding Remarks and Plans for Third Biennial

Conference

### **DETAILED PROGRAM**

### FRIDAY APRIL 29

10:30 am

REGISTRATION

Mosaic Gallery

12:00 pm LUNCH

Lower Egypt Gallery

1:15 pm

**OPENING REMARKS** 

Rainey Auditorium

Peter Conn, Interim Provost, University of Pennsylvania

1:30 - 3:15 pm

SESSION ONE: THE ECONOMICS OF PAKISTAN, A ROUNDTABLE

Rainey Auditorium

Chair: Robert LaPorte, Jr., Pennsylvania State University

Shahid Javed Burki, formerly World Bank

Faisal Bari, Mahbub ul-Haq Institute

John Adams, University of Virginia

3:45 - 5:30 pm

Session Two: Recent Developments in Pakistan Archaeology

Rainey Auditorium

This panel will focus on the current state of the academic field of archaeology in Pakistan, with a focus on different aspects of training, research and conservation, both in the Department of Archaeology and Museums, as well as in the Universities. The first paper will summarize the efforts by US and Pakistani scholars involved in the Harappa Archeological Research Project who have been involved in archaeological training in the course of field research conducted in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums. The second paper will summarize the state of archaeology in a relatively small university campus, at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Sindh. The third paper will present the challenges and future goals of the newest academic department of archaeology established at Punjab University, Lahore. The goals of this panel are to highlight recent achievements as well as the challenges that face the advancement of archaeology in Pakistan. The panel will also hopefully provide future directions for developing strong collaborative programs between US and Pakistani academic institutions.

### CHALLENGES IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH: A PERSPECTIVE FROM HARAPPA

Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Abstract: This paper will discuss recent contributions of the Harappa Archaeological Research Project with a focus on the integration of research and conservation with training. It will also discuss some of the challenges facing the field of archaeology in Pakistan today. The project was established in 1986 by Dr. G. F. Dales (University of California at Berkeley) and Dr. J. Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin, Madison) in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan. Since 1992 the project has been co-directed by Dr. Richard H. Meadow (Harvard University), Dr. J. Mark Kenoyer (UW Madison) and Dr. Rita Wright (New York University). A large number of US and Pakistani students and staff have been involved with the research and many students and staff who received training at Harappa are now in government or university jobs related to archaeology. This project has made a significant impact on the field of archaeological research through the close association of research and training.

### ARCHAEOLOGY AT KHAIRPUR UNIVERSITY: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES.

Nilofer Shaikh, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur Mirs, Sindh

ABSTRACT: The Department of Archaeology Shah Abdul Latif University has played an active role and has conducted several projects in the Rohri hills, within Thar Desert and adjacent alluvial plains of the Sindh province of Pakistan. This is first time that Thar Desert of Sindh Pakistan and Rohri hills are investigated intensively. In this major focus area a total of 328 sites and workshops ranging from Palaeolithic to Mature Indus times have been recorded. The recorded archaeological sites in fact represent a complete profile of cultural growth and development chronologically. The data presented in this paper is gathered after conducting several survey and excavation projects between 2000 to 2005. The preliminary examination of cultural objects indicated that majority of settlements were reoccupied for several times.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB

Farzand Masih, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Discussant:

Richard Meadon, Harvard University

6:00 pm RECEPTION

Mosaic Gallery

Page 6

### 7:00 pm

#### DINNER

Lower Egypt Gallery

PLENARY ADDRESS: SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PAKISTAN: CONTEXTUALIZING THE LEARNING AND RESEARCH DEFICIT

Zulfiqar Gilani, Director, Centre for Higher Education Transformation, formerly Vice Chancellor, Peshawar University

### SATURDAY APRIL 30

8:30 am

REGISTRATION

Mosaic Gallery

**C**OFFEE

Children's Cafe

9:00 - 10:45 am

SESSION THREE: COMPUTING IN PAKISTANI LANGUAGES Co-sponsored with the South Asian Language Resource Center (SALRC)

Rainey Auditorium

Chair: Steve Poulos, SALRC

### DIGITAL DICTIONARIES OF INFREQUENTLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES OF PAKISTAN

Wilma Heston, University of Pennsylvania & Elena Bashir, University of Chicago

ABSTRACT: This presentation by two of the participants in the Digital Dictionaries of Infrequently/Less commonly taught languages of Pakistan will demonstrate the materials developed so far, discuss the status of the work and possible future developments, and, importantly, discuss some of the problems encountered.

### SINDHI ON THE BRINK: LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE IN THE GLOBAL AND NETWORKED COMMUNITY

Jennifer Cole, University of Illinois

ABSTRACT: Sindhi has survived a history of more than 1,000 years of contact with languages of foreign rulers, and today boasts a population conservatively estimated at 30-40 million in Sindh, with another several million speakers in India and beyond the subcontinent. These numbers suggest a secure future for the language in the global context, yet closer inspection reveals cause for concern. This presentation considers the linguistic, sociological and technological factors impacting Sindhi today, and assesses the status of the language for future generations. We will discover a language on the brink of renewal, and at the same time a language threatened by contact-induced

change and generational decline. The outcome—rejuvenation or rapid decline—will depend on the success of the networked electronic medium in linking speakers across national boundaries, in facilitating the exchange of information and ideas and the sharing of a common cultural and literary heritage. The talk will highlight recent developments in electronic access to Sindhi, and the Sindhi Online language learning project.

### BACKGROUND, ISSUES, CURRENT WORK AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN URDU LANGUAGE COMPUTING

Sarmad Hussain, Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Lahore

11:00 - 12:45 pm

# Session Four: The Politics of Pakistan, A Roundtable

Rainey Auditorium

Chaired by: Robert LaPorte, Pennsylvania State University Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Lahore University of Management Sciences Marvin Weinbaum, Middle East Institute Stephen Philip Cohen, Brookings Institution

#### 12:45 - 2:15 pm

#### LUNCH

Lower Egypt Gallery

PLENARY ADDRESS: THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILOSOPHICAL

THOUGHT IN PAKISTAN

M. Ashraf Adeel, Peshawar University

2:15 - 4:00 pm

# Session Five: Beyond the State: Interregional Histories of Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

Chair: Rubab Qureshi, University of Pennsylvania

### Pashtun Diaspora: Migration to the Gulf, 1970-2000

Robert Nichols, Richard Stockton College

ABSTRACT: This paper on Pashtun migration for labor in the period 1970-2000 is a part of a larger study of ethnic circulation, migration, and social change in the Indian Ocean region in the modern period, from the late eighteenth century to the present. The discussion focuses specifically on Pashtuns from districts in the northwest of Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan who have worked in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf since the oil boom of the early 1970s. A general theoretical approach framing my focus on social dynamics at the village and regional level derives from Appadurai's notion that a specific place of research becomes less a case study than, "a site for the examination of

how locality emerges in a globalizing world, of how colonial processes underwrite contemporary politics, of how history and genealogy inflect one another, and of how global facts take local form".

### LABOR MIGRANTS' CALL TO THE UMMAH IN KUWAIT: CONTRADICTIONS AND INTERCONNECTIONS

Attiya Ahmed, Duke University

Abstract: This paper addresses an apparent contradiction. In recent years, numerous domestic servants in Kuwait, largely women from South India and Southeast Asia, have converted to Islam. While several reasons for these conversions have been propounded, many of the Pakistanis among whom I conduct research interpreted these acts as misguided attempts on the part of these workers to wrest better treatment from their employers. My interlocutors perceived these attempts to be misguided because Pakistani laborers in Kuwait, a population that is overwhelming male, argue that their employers are wary, or at best ambivalent about their shared Muslim identity. Employers, they told me, tend to prefer hiring non-Muslims because there is less chance of 'trouble' with them. Using this seeming contradiction as an entry point, this paper examines how different groups of laborers' 'call to the Ummah' helps us to unfurl and begin to understand the interconnections between labor migration, social constructions of gender, processes of racialization and religious difference in Kuwait.

### THE STATE AND DIASPORA: THE PAKISTANI TRANSNATIONAL AND THE NEW RETURN MIGRATION

Junaid Rana, University of Illinois

ABSTRACT: The period from the early 1970s to the First Gulf War in 1992 was a watershed in the movement of transnational labor from Pakistan to the Middle East, primarily Gulf countries. This transregional phenomenon was the result of a boom in construction contracts and the proliferation of the petrodollar economy. Transnational migrants returned the fruits of their labor through remittances that made a distinct impact on the GDP of many South Asian countries. Indeed, the return of the labor migrant from assignments in the Gulf often heralded, on the one hand the success and dignity of work abroad, but also the uncertainty of local options for employment and the accrual of capital. Since this period of high volume in Gulf labor contacts, such migrations have continued but with increased complexity. This change is significant both in terms of migration experience, that facilitates a growing knowledge base of transnationalism, and the locations sought for work and employment. This multi-layered system of migration and transnational work is more aptly referred to in terms of a Pakistani labor diaspora. More recently return migration has

taken on a new significance in Pakistan. In particular I refer to the forced and unforced return migration of Pakistani's from the United States. Estimates place this return migration at around 100,000 since 2001. In large part this migration has been the result of voluntary return to preempt forced deportation and the possibility of the separation of families to different continents. This large return migration has had significant repercussions in Pakistan. This paper will explore how this recent trend has benefited from previous discourses of return and the shift that has occurred in transnational migration itself as a result of direct state intervention.

#### DISCUSSANT:

David Gilmartin, North Carolina State University

### 4:15 - 6:00 pm

### **SESSION SIX: LITERATURE**

Co-Sponsored with the Annual of Urdu Studies Rainey Auditorium

Chair: Daisy Rockwell, University of California, Berkeley

### PRUDERY IN SOUTH ASIAN MUSLIM LITERATURE: THE BRITISH LEGACY

Tariq Rahman, University of California, Berkeley

ABSTRACT: Muslim literature in Persian and Urdu, the main languages of North Indian high culture during British rule, underwent several changes because of the British influence. One of these changes was that erotic references which were part of this literature were bowdlerized. This movement was part of modelling literature on the British Victorian model so as to make it look respectable. The earlier literature was the product of a male dominant, fatalistic society and it justified this dominance as well as the arbitrariness of feudal rule. The new literature, purged of its erotic content by reformers, justified the Victorian values and colonial rule. One of the results of this movement was to make South Asians embarrassed about their literary heritage which, in turn, justified British cultural and intellectual hegemony.

### Fugitive Meanings and Veiled Resistance in an Oral Narrative

Maggie Ronkin, Georgetown University

ABSTRACT: James C. Scott (1990) metaphorizes as 'hidden transcripts' texts of the oppressed, which project reversals of existing distributions of status and rewards in discourses of dignity, negation, and social justice. This paper focuses on the narration of one socially just upside-down world to elucidate what its language reveals of the speaker's perspective on lived experiences of subordination. The narrator is Tahira, a domes-

tic worker in the household of a military officer in Lahore. I interpret Tahira's narrative as a moral drama that she anchors in a literal world and then imaginatively shifts to model contrasting kinds of characters and situations with which she artfully composes commentary. Tahira portrays her liberation in discursive moves, with which she manipulates interwoven properties of textuality to contrast actual and hypothetical situations, and to support existing and new positions. Though these moves, and through projections of facets of her own and others' agency, she constructs a fantasy of rising from subservience into a position occupied by 'perpetrators' of injustice to become an 'enabler' of a more equitable distribution of rewards. However, in the end, Tahira's narrative offers a limited instantiation of the arts of resistance. Her re-figuration of social legitimacy stops short of aligning with struggles to erase lines of demarcation that define servants' subjugation, and to overturn hierarchies of her own society. At the same time, she demonstrates strategies for 'getting away with' verbal aggression by re-framing her telling as joking and creating ambiguity as to whether her enactment is a call for justice.

### Sheba in Ruins: Urdu Modernism's Imaginative Geography

A. Sean Pue, Columbia University

ABSTRACT: This paper examines the role of imaginative geography within literary modernism in Urdu. It focuses on the poetry of N. M. Rashed (1910-1975) and argues that from his earliest to his most mature poetry, Rashed moves from an historical to a geographical imaginary. This shift was prompted by decolonization, which Rashed saw as a moment of potential for a rupture with World History.

### 6:00 pm

### RECEPTION

Co-Sponsored with the South Asia Studies Department of the University of Pennsylvania
Mosaic Gallery

### 7:00 pm Dinner

Upper Egypt Gallery

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE FUTURE OF PAKISTAN STUDIES Brian Spooner, University of Pennsylvania, President American Institute of Pakistan Studies

ABSTRACT: Pakistan Studies was formulated in the age of area studies with the goal of guaranteeing due attention to Pakistan in the allocation of resources to the study of the various countries of the South Asia region. Over the past generation the area-studies framework has lost focus, and Pakistan has gained interest for scholars in other fields. What was once a

marginal part of South Asia now draws interest for the study of particular globalizing processes. Scholars from other areas now attend to events and processes in Pakistan's short history that give it unique significance in a global context and bring otherwise neglected parts of Pakistan into analytical view. Some of these new academic focuses are positive; some are negative. Pakistan was the first new state to emerge in the postcolonial age. But its founder's vision of nationhood remains unfulfilled. Its experience with issues of language, ethnicity, border maintenance, Islamicizing thought, and the development of democratic institutions has been played out in the clear light of bureaucratic and literary documentation. But it has been plagued by civil violence, ethnic rebellion, and evidence of terrorist involvement. The future of Pakistan will no doubt depend on the continuation of the precarious balance between provincial and national politics and international opinion and support. But the future of Pakistan Studies will play beyond the area-studies context, in which it was developed, into the globalization studies for which it provides so much fascinating material.

### SUNDAY MAY 1

8:30 am

**C**OFFEE

Children's Cafe

9:15 - 11:00 am

Session Seven: Historical Correctness: Writing and Teaching the Pasts of Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

Chair and Discussant: Aslam Syed, University of Pennsylvania

SHIFTING ARCHIVES IN PAKISTANI HISTORIOGRAPHY: THE ROLE OF LITERATURE.

Farina Mir, University of Michigan

# Grain from Chaff: the Incredible Lightness of Pakistan's History in the U.S. College Classroom

Richard Barnett, University of Virginia

ABSTRACT: My two decades of teaching Pakistan's history have been highly challenging but rewarding. Student expectations, opinions, pronouncements, performances and triumphs, the constant search for the best teaching materials, and the best major themes to pursue in the undergraduate classroom form the main topics for this talk

### PAKISTAN'S STRATEGIC PERCEPTION AND HISTORY: THE PROBLEM OF LINEARITY

Ayesha Siddiqa, Woodrow Wilson International Center Fellow, the University of London

#### 11:15 - 1:00 pm

### SESSION EIGHT: ADAB AND ITS SOURCES

Co-sponsored with the Center for South Asia Libraries (CSAL) Rainey Auditorium

This panel features reports on the investigation of various aspects of Pakistan's place in the larger world of Urdu and Persian literacy in South and Central Asia.

#### Adab and the Library Dunya

James Nye, University of Chicago & Center for South Asia Libraries

### LITERACY AS ADAB

Brian Spooner, University of Pennsylvania & William Hanaway, University of Pennsylvania

ABSTRACT: The history of the relationship of written to spoken language in Persianate civilization has received little focused attention. This literate tradition is unbroken from the Sumerians and the Egyptians to the present. Despite the script changes in the first millennium we may assume some continuities in what might be called the culture of literacy. We can also hypothesize continuities in the way written language has been conceived, organized, produced and consumed, and in its relationship to the forms of organization involved in administration and other historical processes. The universal adoption of Persian in the courts of the Eastern Caliphate in the 9th century appears to have been accompanied by the resumption of certain earlier protocols and practices that are no longer possible to discern with certainty, but may perhaps be reconstructed. The organization of information on the written page became in subtle ways the model of the society at large and continues to influence certain forms of behavior down to modern times. We need to look more carefully into a number of social, linguistic and historical factors in order to understand more fully the role of literacy as a core institution in the vast area of Asia (centered on Pakistan) in which Persian served as the administrative and literary koine over the past millennium.

### BETWEEN DOCUMENT AND CULTURE: SURVEYING PRIVATE LIBRARIES IN PAKISTAN

S. Nomanul Haq, University of Pennsylvania and AIPS

ABSTRACT: S. Nomanul Haq will explain how the Private Library and Archival Survey Project (PLASP) embodies a process that steers through a path where culture intersects with the preserved document and written material, and how this process has already shown a rich promise to bring about a structured coherence between different entities and interests both inside and outside Pakistan.

### 1:15 pm Lunch

Upper Egypt Gallery

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND PLANS FOR THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday April 30: 8:30 - 10:00 pm FILM SCREENING: KHAMOSH PANI (SILENT WATERS) Sabiha Sumar/2003/95 min/video/Pakistan

Rainey Auditorium

Khamosh Pani is set in 1979 in Pakistan, when General Zia-ul-Haq took control of the country and stoked the fires of Islamic nationalism. Ayesha, a Muslim woman who gets by on her late husband's pension and by teaching young girls the Koran, invests her hopes in her beloved son Saleem. But when Saleem takes up with a group of Islamic fundamentalists just as a group of Sikh pilgrims come to town, Ayesha's haunted past turns her present life upside down.

#### ABOUT THE FILMMAKER:

Sabiha Sumar was born in Karachi in 1961. She studied filmmaking and political science at the Sarah Lawrence College, New York, and International Relations at the University of Cambridge. Her first documentary, "Who Will Cast the First Stone?" was about the protest of working-class women against the imposition of Islamic law in Pakistan in 1979. In 1992, she founded Vidhi Films. Her 1999 documentary, "Don't Ask Why?" explores the dreams and aspirations of a young Muslim girl against the backdrop of increasing religiosity in Pakistani society. "Silent Waters" is her debut feature. "Khamosh Pani" has won tremendous critical acclaim, 14 international awards, and has been presented at numerous film festivals around the world.

## **Re-Figuring Tradition:**

# Contemporary Art from Pakistan

Curated by Murtaza Vali, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

This exhibition brings together the work of four young artists trained at the National College of Art in Lahore. Uniting these four artists is an interest in exploring the political, social, and cultural realities of contemporary Pakistan through varying uses of the figure, rearticulating tradition.

As the oldest art school in Pakistan, located in the historic Mughal summer capital, the National College of Art has played a central role in the history of modern art in Pakistan. Three of the four artists presented in this show have been schooled and work in the miniature painting tradition. The National College of Art is the only art school in the Subcontinent that offers miniature painting as a program of instruction, under the guidance of Professor and artist Bashir Ahmed. This contemporary revival of the miniature as an artistic medium has been especially successful in the global art arena, increasing the visibility of contemporary Pakistani art and artists on the international stage.

The neo-miniaturists included in the show demonstrate the vitality and flexibility of this traditional medium, each adapting the taught techniques to produce significantly different results. Fasiullah Ahsan, updates the Mughal portrait tradition to humorously portray a much reviled figure of contemporary Pakistani society, the corrupt policeman. Saira Wasim, revives the Mughal tradition of illustrated royal histories, creating a series of illustrations that mimic Shah Jahan's famous Padshahnama (AD 1624), using the format to present and critique the reign of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Talha Rathore rejects the human and her paintings are populated instead with metonyms, a series of simple forms, each imbued with particular personal meanings; paper boats evoke childhood memories, while trees, derived from traditional miniature idioms, serve as standins for people. In contrast to the contemporary miniature, which has emerged as a dominant form, other artists have achieved acclaim for work in other mediums. Ruby Chishti's sculptures, created from discarded scraps of fabric bursting with straw, evoke children's stuffed toys, here reconfigured to criticize the still prevalent gender bias against female infants.

Image: My birth will take place a thousand times no matter how you celebrate it, cast fabric, stitched and stuffed with straw, yarn, 2001, 15" x 16" x 18" — Ruby Chishti

### CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

JOHN ADAMS specializes in the study of the societies, politics, and economies of the South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. He is a former Departmental Chair, and is now Professor Emeritus, on the Faculties of Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park, and Northeastern University, Boston. He is presently Visiting Scholar in the Center for South Asian Studies, University of Virginia-Charlottesville. Adams consults with the Asian Development Bank and other international agencies on financial sector reform, trade promotion, institutional economics, and rural development. He is a coauthor of Exports, Politics, and Economic Development: Pakistan, 1970-1982 and India, The Search for Unity, Democracy, and Progress. Adams's work on India centers on policy and sectoral issues in the framework of long-term growth. About Pakistan, he has written on demographic and political economy issues, while his interest in Bangladesh has centered largely on human rights and civil society topics.

M. ASHRAF ADEEL is Professor of Philosophy and former Director of Institute of Education and Research at the University of Peshawar. He also served as the Vice Chancellor of Hazara University, Pakistan and was a Senior Visiting Fellow at Linacre College, Oxford University. His areas of specialization include Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Logic, Logic, and Epistemology.

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RICHARD BARNETT has taught South Asian history since 1974 at the University of Virginia, and since 1984, he has taught the history of Pakistan. His research is on early modern states and societies (Awadh, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Bhopal). He has produced North India Between Empires, and Rethinking Early Modern India (as editor), as well as several articles on Bahawalpur and Cholistan. His fellowships include SSRC, AIPS, AIIS, NEH and Fulbright. He has driven all over Pakistan with his family, and survived. While in Pakistan he makes his HQ in Lahore.

**ELENA BASHIR** is a linguist (Ph.D., linguistics University of Michigan, Dissertation topic: "Topics in Kalasha Syntax: An areal and typological perspective") who works primarily on the languages of northern and western Pakistan. She has spent most of her life in Pakistan, and has been teaching in the U.S. since 1997. She is currently working on a reference grammar of Khowar.

Shahid Javed Burki's career at the World Bank began in 1974 with appointment as senior economist of the Policy Planning and Program Review Department. In 1982 he was appointed Director of the International Relations Department, and later served as Director of the China Department. He served as Finance and Planning Minister of the Pakistan for 2 years. Burki was a member of the care-taker government that took office following the dismissal of Ms. Bhutto; he was in charge of the portfolios of finance, planning and economic affairs. Mr. Burki has since re-joined the World Bank as vice-president of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office. Burki has written extensively on the political economy of both China and Pakistan. Burki was educated at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and at Harvard University as a Mason Fellow.

STEPHEN COHEN has been Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies program at The Brookings Institution since 1998, and is an expert on India, Pakistan, and security issues. He is the author of ten books, including the recently published The Idea of Pakistan, a book on Pakistan's future as a state, and the implications for Pakistan's neighbors and America. Current projects include a book on the Kargil and 2002 crises and another on the origins of war and peace in South Asia. In 2004 Dr. Cohen was named by the Association of Foreign Policy Associations as one of the five hundred influentials in the making of American foreign policy. He taught at the University of Illinois for many years, where he co-founded the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security. He has also taught at Keio University (Tokyo) and Andhra University (India), Georgetown University, and the School of Advanced International Studies, Washington. He served on the Policy Planning Staff, U.S. Department of State (1985-87) and was Scholar-in-Residence, Ford Foundation, New Delhi (1992-93). Dr. Cohen speaks Hindi and Urdu.

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PETER CONN, the Interim Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, is the Andrea Mitchell Term Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. Conn is also Board Chairman Emeritus of Pearl S. Buck International and has served as Dean of the College, chair of the graduate groups in American Civilization and English, and Faculty Master of Robert Hill College House and Community House. A John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, Conn has also directed National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seminars for college and high school teachers. He has received several awards for distinguished teaching, and has served as literary consultant on numerous television projects, including "The American Short Story" series, and adaptations of novels by James Baldwin and Saul Bellow. He is currently serving as principal advisor to Oprah's Book Club which is reading the *Good Earth*.

### CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

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SARMAD HUSSAIN is associate professor and head of Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing at National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES), Lahore, Pakistan. He is actively involved in the development of local language computing and coordinates the Script, Speech and Language Processing program at NUCES. He also serves on committees formed by Ministry of IT and National Language Authority to develop national IT standards for Pakistan and has represented Pakistan National Body at ISO's JTC1 SC2 WG2, and is also a member of Bidi-List of Unicode, which looks into the standardization issues of bidirectional languages. He has completed many script and language processing projects, including the Nafees Nasta'leeq and Naskh fonts and Urdu Spell-Checker and is currently leading development of English-Urdu

Machine Translation, Urdu Text-to-Speech system and Urdu Computational Lexicon systems through a project funded by E-Government Directorate of Government of Pakistan. He is also leading PAN Localization project focusing on developing local language support for Asian languages, which specifically includes teams in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal and Sri Lanka and is funded by IDRC, Canada. Sarmad Hussain has been awarded Dr. M. N. Azam Prize for Computer Science by Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Government of Pakistan, for his work in language computing in Pakistan.

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RICHARD H. MEADOW holds the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He is Director of the Zooarchaeology Laboratory at the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Senior-Lecturer on Anthropology at Harvard, and Project Director of HARP, the Harappa Archaeological Research Project. He has been excavating at sites in Pakistan since 1974, first at the Harappan and early Harappan period site of Balakot near Karachi with the late Professor George F. Dales, then at the Neolithic and Chalcolithic site of Mehrgarh near Sibi in Baluchistan with the French Archaeological Mission directed by Dr. Jean-François Jarrige, and most recently at Harappa where he continues his 30-year collaboration with Dr. J. Mark Kenoyer. Meadow's technical specialty is the study of the remains of animals found in archaeological sites (Zooarchaeology). His main research interests include the domestication and exploitation of animals during the pre- and proto-historic periods in the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia, the development of the Indus Civilization, and the provisioning of ancient urban settlements. He has authored or edited over 100 papers and books, including Harappa Excavations 1986-1990: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Third Millenium Urbanism.

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