

## List of Participants

**Kamran Asdar Ali**, Austin; Ph.D. in Anthropology from John Hopkins University; Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin:  
“The New TV Adaptation of *Umrao Jan Ada* – Proto-feminist Invocations of the Figure of the Prostitute in Popular Culture”

**Kiran Nazir Ahmad**, Islamabad, M.A. in Philosophy from Brock University, Canada; Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute Islamabad:  
“Urban Women Rebels: Voices of Dissent in Urdu Popular Fiction”

**Saher Ansari**, Karachi, Professor, Urdu Department of Karachi University; renowned literary critic and poet:  
“Is Literary Urdu a Dying Language? The Relationship between Spoken Urdu and Written Urdu in Pakistan”

**Anwaar Ahmad**, Multan, PhD, Professor, Department of Urdu, Bahauddin Zakariya University:  
“Ideological Perceptions of Establishment and Cultural Acceptability of the Deviation of Representative Writers of Urdu”

**Alain Désoulières**, Paris, Ph.D., Maître de Conférence (Associate Professor), South Asia Department, National Institute of Oriental Languages & Civilisations:  
“From *Moth Smoke* to *Daira*”

**Asif Farrukhi**, Karachi, prose writer, literary critic, editor and translator:  
“Pakistani Literature or Pakistan's Literatures: The issue of Identity in Literature from Pakistan”

**Fateh Muhammad Malik**: Islamabad, Chairman, National Language Authority; literary critic:  
“The Place and Function of Urdu as Compared to Other Pakistani Languages (English and the Regional Languages)”

**Øyvind Johan Stenberg**, MA, Oslo University: "Allegorical subterfuge and poetical disclosure:  
“The Film Shaheed (1962) as Criticism of Ayub's State Policies”

**Harris Khalique**: Islamabad, poet, critic, currently working for SPO (Strengthening Participatory Organization):  
“The Urdu-English relationship and its impact on Pakistan's cultural and social development.”

**Muhammad Umar Memon**, Madison/Wisconsin, Ph.D., Professor of Urdu, Persian and Islam, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Editor of the *Annual of Urdu Studies* and Oxford University Press' *Pakistani Writers Series*. (discussant)

**Frances W. Pritchett**, New York, Ph.D., Professor, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University. (discussant)

**Sameea Jamil**, Lahore, Head, Department of Mass Communication, Kinnaird College for Women:

1. "Portrayal of Women in Urdu Movies"
2. "Urdu Language as Unifying Force for Pakistan"

**Fahmida Riaz**, Karachi, Director, Women and Development Association, Karachi. Poet and novelist; author of a study on Pakistani literature.

"The Drowning Man and the Straw(s)"

**Zahida Hina**, Karachi, eminent prose writer, journalist and literary critic with a focus on feminist issues:

"The Role and Space of Urdu Literature and Urdu Media in Public Discourse and in Civil Society"

**Yousuf Khushk**, Khairpur, Head, Urdu Department, Shah Abdul Latif University:

"Observation and Commitment in Women Short story writers from Pakistan"

**Amina Yaqin**, London, Ph.D. in Urdu Literature, University of London; Lecturer in Urdu, Department of South Asia, Faculty of Languages and Cultures, SOAS.

"Feminism and the Postcolonial Nation in Pakistan: the Writings of Kishwar Naheed and Fahmida Riaz"

**Christina Oesterheld**, Heidelberg, Ph.D. in Urdu Literature; Senior Lecturer in Urdu, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg:

"Alternative Visions of Religion in Urdu Autobiographies"

**Amtul Manan Tahir**, Darmstadt/Heidelberg:

"Popularity of Political Commitment in Poetry" (Tentative title)

**Ali Usman Qasmi**, Heidelberg:

"On Democracy and Terrorism: Three Urdu Columnists of Post-9-11 Pakistan". The three Urdu columnists selected for this purpose are Irfan Siddiqi (Nawai Waqt), Atta-ul-Haq Qasmi (Jang) and Zahida Hina (Jang). All three of them are among the most popular Urdu columnists. It would be interesting for the audience to know about the views of these columnists on such important issues as terrorism and democracy.