

Sorayya Khan  
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Final Report

I participated on two panels at the Islamabad Literary Festival, a book launch of my new novel, CITY OF SPIES, and a panel on WHY WE WRITE. Bilal Tanweer (novelist, *The Scatter Here is Too Great*) and Haris Khalique (poet, writer) were discussants for my book launch. Our discussion involved the relationship between politics and fiction and, for me, the necessity of highlighting silences in Pakistan's history, including the hanging of Prime Minister Bhutto in 1979, a critical piece in my new novel. Shandana Minhas (novelist, *Tunnel Vision* and *Survival Tips for Lunatics*), Paul Harding (Pulitzer Prize novelist, *Tinkers* and *Enon*) were part of the WHY WE WRITE panel which was moderated by Framji Minwalla (Professor at Institute of Business Administration, Karachi). Our discussion, among ourselves and with the audience, revolved around our subject matter, inspiration, and craft, and highlighted our similarities as writers, regardless of where we currently live.

I gave a public lecture, *Where Do Stories Come From? A Journey Through My Novels* at Habib University in Karachi. Asif Ali Farrukhi (Habib University, author of many books) and Kamran Asdar Ali (UT Austin, author, academic, AIPS) moderated the discussion. The students were most interested in the relationship between my fiction and Pakistan's political landscape and asked many questions about my research process.

The significance of my presentations on Pakistan Studies was in audiences examining my work as historically based literature and precipitating discussions about the role of literature in offering interpretations of history and political events.