

## About the Contributors

**Abid Hussain** is a visiting lecturer at the Department of Economics at Karakorum international university Gilgit, Pakistan. He earned his BS (Hons) in Economics from Karakorum international university, MS in Development Economics from International Islamic University, Islamabad Pakistan, and PhD in progress from Karakorum international university, Gilgit. Pakistan. In 2013, he served as a lecturer at The Gilgit College of Commerce and Economics, Gilgit. He is currently employed as visiting lecturer in the Department of Economics at Karakoram International University Gilgit. He has written a book titled; The local government, community mobilization, and living standard, A case study of devolution plan 2001 of Pakistan. As well as he Published more than 7 research papers in national and international journals.

**Ajaz ul Haq** did his masters in Sociology from University of Karachi back in 2011 and then he got Fulbright scholarship to study in China in 2015. In 2019 Mr. Haq, completed his M.Phil degree in Chinese Language and Culture from Sichuan Normal University China. He has a strong grip in Chinese language as he passed Chinese Language Proficiency Test HSK-6 and Chinese Language Spoken Proficiency Test, HSK-K advance level. He worked with Chinese Consulate Karachi for about 3 years as Chinese Language Interpreter and Assistant Visa Officer. Currently, He teaches Chinese Language to students of BS programs at Karakoram International University, Under the China Study Centre Teaching Chinese Language program since November 2021. Mr. Haq, imparts knowledge, fostering appreciation for Chinese language richness and cross-cultural understanding. Pursuing a PhD at Central South University China, he contributes to Chinese studies. He has vast experience of writing articles related to Chinese and Pakistani cultures and language both in local and Chinese magazines. As an accomplished writer, Mr. Haq, aims to bridge cultural gaps through his publications, promoting dialogue and deeper appreciation for language and culture nuances. His commitment extends beyond the classroom, inspiring others to embrace cultural diversity and the power of language.

**Akber Ali** is currently working as an assistant professor and Head of Department in the department of Media & Communication Studies, Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit, Pakistan. He earned his PhD in Communication Studies from Shanghai University, P.R. China focusing on international communication. He did his master's in media studies from the University of the Punjab Lahore. He is the current head of the department. He has more than 15 years of teaching and research experience. He has authored two book chapters on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Non-Governmental Organizations in Pakistan in the book titled, "The Politically Economy of China Pakistan Economic Corridor' published by the Social Sciences Press China". He has published many academic papers both in national and international journals. Besides, he has worked on various projects including the UNDP, the WHO on environment and public health. His research interests include Intercultural communication, Health communication and Environmental Communication.

**Ali Haqiqat**, possesses a unique perspective on the profound connection between his homeland and China. Growing up near the Chinese border, Ali's childhood was marked by frequent interactions with Chinese culture and language. Recognizing the immense power of language, he embarked on a remarkable journey despite numerous obstacles, limited resources, and financial setbacks. In 2015, Ali's unwavering determination bore fruit when he was awarded a prestigious scholarship to pursue his passion for Chinese language and culture. He seized the opportunity and excelled in his studies, ultimately earning a master's degree in teaching Chinese Language to Speakers of Other Languages from Beijing Language and Culture University in 2020. A true scholar at heart, Ali conducted extensive research during his academic journey. His thesis, titled "A Research Survey on the Motivation of Pakistani Students Studying Chinese - A Case Study of Pakistani Students at Beijing Language and Culture University," showcased his meticulous approach. The empirical research, employing questionnaires and a micro application of macroscopic theory, focused on Pakistani students studying Chinese in China and explored the impact of their motivation on language acquisition. Ali's research garnered accolades for its profound analysis, systematic methodology, and insightful recommendations, making a significant contribution to the promotion of the Chinese language on a global scale. As an author, Ali is set to captivate readers with his profound understanding of the intricate ties between China and Pakistan, drawing from his personal experiences and rigorous academic pursuits.

**Amjad Ali** holds the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Development Studies at Karakoram International University, Hunza Campus. Additionally, he is pursuing his PhD in Economics at the Department of Economics, KIU Main Campus in Gilgit. Mr. Ali is currently serving as a Research Fellow at the Institute of Sustainability Academy (ISA) in Hamburg, Germany. With a focus on the economics of the environment and tourism, particularly in high mountain regions, Mr. Ali has contributed extensively to the field. He has authored 15 research articles published in reputable international journals such as *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, *Geo Journal*, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, *Irrigation and Drainage*, and *Journal of Public Affairs*. Furthermore, Mr. Ali has actively participated in research and training workshops held in China, Thailand, and Nepal. He has also worked as a lead consultant on various projects related to environmental issues, tourism, and economic development. Notably, Mr. Ali was awarded the SANDEE research grant for the period 2020-2022, showcasing his expertise and dedication in his field of study.

**Amjad Ali** currently working as assistant professor in department of agriculture and food technology, Karakoram International University Gilgit, Pakistan. Amjad does research in starch-based antimicrobial, environmental edible & biodegradable films. He is also working on the post-harvest shelf extension of life of fruit and vegetables by edible coatings. He has obtained his doctoral degree from the renowned South China University of Technology Guangdong Guangzhou P. R. China. Till now he has published above 25 research articles in international journals as a first author, coauthor and as corresponding author in different jour-

nals having more than 100 impact factors and 900 citations in google scholars. Currently working as a course coordinator in the department of agriculture and food technology.

**Ashiq Hussain** is currently working as a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Politics and International Studies KIU. Besides, he is an alumnus of PAIS KIU, and he has done M.Phil. in International Relations. Moreover, he has completed a diploma from alumnus of PAIS KIU, Academy of Sciences under the title Belt and Road international innovation development institute network (ANSO\_BIDI 2022). He has also served as Social Mobilizer Forest and Wildlife Department Gilgit Baltistan. Furthermore, he is one of the young emerging syndicated authors of Gilgit Baltistan. So far, he has compiled two books on the antiquity and freedom movement of Gilgit Baltistan and currently he is working on his third book. He has also articulated many journal articles and newspaper articles as well.

**Azhar Hussain** has completed B.Sc. (Hons) in Agriculture with a specialization in the field of plant pathology at the University of Arid of Agriculture Rawalpindi (UAAR). Then he did a Master of Philosophy in the Department of Biological Sciences Quaid-E-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad with a specialization in Microbiology. During his stay at UAAR and QAU, he was involved in many research projects in the field of agriculture and published research articles and papers. In 2005, he joined Karakoram International University as a Lecturer in the Department of Agriculture and Food Technology. After his inception at KIU, he was deeply involved in teaching and research activities at both undergraduate and graduate levels. He is deeply involved in curricular activities as well as serves as co-curricular activities in-charge in the department. In 2011 he was promoted to assistant professor in the same department and left University for a Ph.D. He got EVK2-CNR Italian scholarship to pursue Ph.D. studies. Dr. Hussain is 1<sup>st</sup> Ph.D. alumni of Karakoram International University Gilgit. After completion of studies, he rejoined University. He has more than 70 scientific publications published in both National and International journals. So far, he has won seven competitive funding projects worth 13.748 million from HEC, PSF and HRI. Currently, he is working on projects; Disease management through trunk injection delivery system, Indigenous Production technology of morel mushrooms, Biodiversity conservation of high-value medicinal plants through farming as well as an Epidemiological study of Skin fungal Infection of School Children. He also worked as a consultant for the GB Government to develop Gilgit-Baltistan Agriculture and Food Security Policy. Dr. Hussain is also a country representative of the Himalayan University Consortium for Sustainable Mountain Agriculture and is a member of the Pakistan Phyto pathological Society and the Pakistan Botanical Society. Dr. Hussain participated in several National and International seminars/Workshops/conferences.

**Garee Khan** has completed his bachelor's program (Hons) in the department of Computer science from Karakoram International University Science. Soon after he was awarded Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing from the Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG),

Peshawar. In 2017 he has completed his Ph.D. degree from Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing China. Since 2018 he has been serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, Karakoram International University, Gilgit 15100 Pakistan. Being a faculty and a research scholar at KIU he has been taken a keen interest in research activities more particularly in Spatial modeling, Assessment of Natural Hazards, Climate Change impact on natural resources such as hydrology, Glaciers, and agriculture pattern, GIS/RS application for natural resource management, etc. He has been able to Principal investigator (PI), Co-principal Investigator (Co-PI), and author/co-author a number of scientific articles, and contributed in two book chapters, mapping for a field guide, as well as developed maps, brochures, fact sheets, posters, and wall charts on different themes and sustainable use topics for different target groups as awareness/educational material. He has supervised thesis and dissertation research of BS/MS Geology students, KIU on topics of common interest and value. His research approach emphasizes the need for interaction between modeling, analysis, scientific analysis with GIS/RS applications.

**Hassan Daud Butt** is serving as Associate Professor at Bahria University, Islamabad, and Advisor on China & Blue Economy at SDPI. He was the former Project Director CPEC. He also worked on HEC CPEC vision 2030 and university to university ALLIANCE with China. He was the project CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BOIT), SEZA and the Focal Person for the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) initiative of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Government.

**Junaid Alam Memon** is a Professor of Development Studies at IBA Karachi and the current director of the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). He has a Ph.D. in Regional and Rural Development Planning from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. For the last two decades, he has been studying the society-natural resources nexus, encompassing land, ground and surface water, forest, and energy resources with community and marginalized groups' participation as the cross-cutting theme. He has published in top academic journals in the field including but not limited to Environmental Management, Environmental Science and Policy, Environment, Development and Sustainability, and Energy Policy.

**Kifayat Ullah** has been a faculty member in the Department of Economics at Karakoram International University Gilgit (KIU) since 2004. He obtained his master's degree in economics from University of Karachi and MS Economics from the International Islamic University (IIU) Islamabad with distinction. He has completed his PhD degree in Economics from Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), Pakistan. He has been awarded 'Best University Teacher Award from Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan in recognition of his contribution to the teaching and research field. Dr. Ullah's primary areas of interest are Applied Economics, Development Economics, Environment, and Natural Resource Economics, Tourism Development and Management, Energy Economics and Financial Economics which is evident from

his research publications in these fields at various reputed national and international journals. Dr. Ullah is also a reviewer of several reputed National and International journals. He has been actively participating in national/international conferences and seminars.

**Masroor Alam** is working as a lecturer in the department of Earth Sciences Karakoram International University Gilgit. He did his PhD from Department of Earth Sciences and resources China University of Geosciences Beijing. His research interests are mineralogy, petrology, and mineral deposits with focus of gold deposits in Pakistan and China. He is also interested in studies related to climate change induced geological hazards such as GLOF, debris flows, landslides, flash floods etc.

**Muhammad Idrees** is a lecturer at the Department of Economics at Karakoram International University Gilgit, Pakistan. He earned his MSc in Economics from Karakoram International University, MS in International Political Economics from COMSATS University, Islamabad Pakistan, and a PhD Scholar at Karakoram international university, Gilgit. Pakistan. He has published research articles in national and international journals.

**Muhammad Ismail** is a Visiting Lecturer at Department of Politics and International Studies in Karakoram International University Gilgit, Pakistan. He earned his BS (Hons) in Politics and International studies from Karakorum International University Gilgit and an M. Phil in Political Science from the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology in Karachi. In 2018, he served as a Lecturer at Ideal Grammar Degree College in Karachi. He is currently employed as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Studies at Karakorum International University Gilgit (DPIS). He has written a Book titled: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): A Case Study of Strategic-Economic Implications for Pakistan which is in publication process. As well as he Published more than ten research papers in national and international journals, he has also written at least one hundred Columns and features for local and national newspapers.

**Nighat Moin** is a Senior Faculty & Cluster Head (Economics) in the Management Studies Department at Bahria Business School, Bahria University-Karachi Campus. She has served as a permanent faculty member in various esteemed Universities of Pakistan named Jinnah University for Women, Dadabhoy Institute of Higher Education, Indus University, Karachi University Business School (KUBS), Hamdard University-Karachi since 2003-Date as faculty member in the subject of Economics. Her academic qualifications include MS (Economics) and she is currently pursuing a PhD (Management Sciences) from the University of Karachi. She has produced almost 18 research articles in National and International HEC recognized research journals and presented many research articles in National and International HEC recognized conferences. She is also a certified member of National Testing Service (NTS), Headquarter-NTS, Islamabad, Pakistan since 2012 as subject expert of NTS content bank. Having interest of research in area of Economics Development, Business, Employees Retention,

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**Sher Sultan Baig**, currently working as Assistant Professor at Department of Earth Sciences, Karakoram International University Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan. He has perceived his PhD from Kunming University of Science and Technology Yunnan China. His research focuses on Geological evolution of Karakoram Mountains. He has carried out extensive geological mapping and reported oldest rock from Karakoram dated 150 million years and published in *Lithos*.

**Sartaj Ali** has been holding a PhD degree in Food Science & Technology and serving the Karakoram International University (KIU) since 2003. He has previously served as Food Processing Expert in Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) in whole apricot drying. He was responsible for training the farming community to produce export-quality dry apricot from Hunza and Nagar region, Gilgit-Baltistan. He has served the Ministry of Science & Technology as Scientific Officer for three years at PCSIR Skardu (2000-2003) and was involved in product development and entrepreneurship training for the farming community. His areas of interest are postharvest technology, product development, food composition, and food entrepreneurs. He has more than 35 publications and a US patent on his credit, along with one book, some book chapters and two manuals in press. He is also a member of the Pakistan Society of Food Scientists and Technologists (PSFST). He has won competitive funding projects from PSF and HEC and is currently working on two projects with four MS and one Ph.D. student. He also provides community services in food processing, preservation, and product development to promote small-scale food businesses in the region. He has served KIU as the founder head of Department of Agriculture and Food Technology, Assistant Faculty of Sciences, Director Academic Planning & Review and currently as Chairperson of the department.

**Tahir Mahmood** is working as professor of economics on A.G. N. Kazi memorial Chair of State Bank of Pakistan at Karakoram International University, Gilgit. He previously held the position of associate professor at Quaid-i-Azam University's school of economics. His post-Ph.D. research and teaching career spans 12 years. Macroeconomic dynamics and energy economics are his main research areas. He has served as the thesis advisor for two PhD theses and over 35 MPhil theses in the field of macroeconomic dynamics and energy economics. He has published several papers and completed national and international projects. In 2006, he earned a master's degree in economics from Denmark's Aarhus University. In 2011, he earned a PhD in economics from the University of Eastern Finland. "Sector Dynamics, Labor Productivity and Economic Growth in Europe" is the title of his PhD thesis. The primary goal of this thesis was to examine the long-term relationships between sector-level dynamics (i.e., those in the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors) and increases in labor productivity in the Schengen area.

**Urooj Aijaz** is an Economist by education and currently serve as a Managing Director IRP and as a faculty at Bahria University Karachi. She is also heading

(a subsidiary unit of media and broadcasting committee of FPCCI) as a Managing Director of WIO. She is appointed as the National Coordinator of Blue Economy (2018 till date). She is a Member of the National Advisory Board of Innovation and Member of Health & Education Committee of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. She is also working as a member of the water resource management committee of FPCCI. She is a regular writer and researcher having more than 100 publications in reputed journals and popular press focusing Economy, Blue Economy, Academia Industrial Linkage, promotion of entrepreneurial culture and social sciences. A book titled, Mapping Academic Response to COVID-19 is also on her credit.

**Wajid Ali** has a Baccalaureate degree with honors in Political Science and English Literature from Forman Christian College, Lahore, and a MPhil degree in Public Policy from PIDE (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics) in Islamabad. Currently, he serves as a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer at the Forest, Wildlife, and Environment Department in Gilgit-Baltistan. His role involves assessing and analyzing the effectiveness of various projects and initiatives related to forestry, wildlife, and environment management, with a focus on governance and institutions. Wajid Ali's research interests encompass areas such as stakeholder analysis, tourism governance, environmental policy, and climate change.

**Zaigham Ali** is an esteemed academic professional currently serving as an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Management Sciences at Karakoram International University's (KIU) main campus in Gilgit. With a Master of Science degree from the University of Bradford in the UK and a Doctorate from Dalian University of Technology in China, he has acquired a solid educational foundation. Dr. Ali's research focuses primarily on project management, project governance, and project sustainability. His expertise in these areas is evident through his numerous research papers published in reputable national and international journals. His contributions to the field have significantly advanced knowledge and understanding in project-related disciplines. With an impressive teaching career spanning two decades at KIU, Dr. Ali has honed his instructional skills and become a highly respected mentor to countless students. His passion for education extends beyond the confines of the university, as he has also served as a research associate at the University of Oregon in the USA. During his tenure there, he actively participated in various conferences and training sessions, ensuring that his knowledge and expertise remained at the forefront of his field. Dr. Ali is a certified trainer for esteemed organizations such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and YES (Youth Employability Services). Leveraging his extensive experience, he conducts diverse training programs on entrepreneurship and general management for various organizations. Through these initiatives, he helps individuals and businesses develop crucial skills necessary for success in the modern professional landscape.

**Zia Ud Din** has been a permanent faculty at the Directorate of Education (Colleges), Gilgit-Baltistan since January 2007. Before joining as lecturer in Eco-

nomics at Government Boys Degree College Skardu in July,2022. He taught Economics at Different Govt. Colleges in Gilgit-Baltistan, spanning from Higher Secondary to BS levels. Currently, Mr. Zia Uddin is pursuing his Ph.D. Degree in Economics from Karakorum International University (KIU). Prior to his Ph.D. studies, he completed his M.Phil. Degree from the Applied Economics Research Center (AERC), University of Karachi. Furthermore, He obtained his master's degree in economics and B.A. (Honors) from the esteemed Department of Economics, University of Karachi.