

About the Contributors

Ashiq Hussain is currently working as a Visiting Lecturer 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.

Deedar Karim is a Research Associate at South Asia Times (SAT), where he works on terrorism and counter-terrorism dynamics in South Asia. He has also worked with Hong Kong University, examining the connections between religion and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Deedar received his bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations from National Defense University in Islamabad. He has written articles on terrorism for both national and international platforms.

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 to 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.

Imran Ali is an associate editor of The Karakoram Magazine and a nuclear scholar fellow at the Centre for Security Strategy and Policy Research, where his fellowship delves into the theoretical, conceptual, and practical aspects of national security and foreign policy. This experience fosters a deep understanding of their interconnectedness and enables him to critically analyze regional and global geopolitical landscapes. With a BS (Hons) in International Relations from Karakoram International University, Imran is actively engaged in shaping public discourse and addressing regional issues through his media platforms, Gilgit-Baltistan Times, and Times of Gilgit-Baltistan. Moreover, during his university years, he demonstrated strong leadership by founding three societies. His passion for education is further exemplified by his initiative, "Kitab-Stations," a mini library project aimed at fostering a reading culture within the community. As the founder of the Gilgit Study Circle, Imran remains dedicated to nurturing intellectual discourse and educational initiatives in the region.

Iram Jaffar belongs to the region of Jalalabad Gilgit. My parents, both are avid readers themselves, nurtured my love for literature by filling our home with a diverse array of books and relevant material. These hobbies evolved into a deep-seated passion for reading, and I spent countless hours immersed in the worlds created by authors like Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, and William Shakespeare and especially political essays written by Francis Bacon, Voltaire and other political essayists. As I progressed through school, my love for English literature only grew stronger. My teachers recognized my passion and encouraged me to explore the depths of literary analysis and criticism. I participated in literature clubs and debates, where I honed my skills in articulating my thoughts and engaging with different perspectives. I have completed my BS (Hons) in English Literature from Karakoram International University in 2022. Choosing to major in English Literature at Karakoram International university was an easy decision. The rigorous curriculum and the opportunity to study under esteemed professors at a renowned institution further fueled my passion. I delved into classical and contemporary authors, exploring various themes from politics, economics and poetics. Besides, I have also compiled a book on folk tales of Gilgit Baltistan in Shina language. During my time at university, I became an active member of the literary society, organizing events and discussions that brought together students and faculty to celebrate our shared love for literature. I also had the opportunity to present papers at conferences, where I engaged with scholars from around the world, enriching my perspectives and contributing to the academic discourse.

Jamal Hussain is currently working as Head Department of Economics, Karakoram International University, Gilgit, Pakistan. He holds a PhD degree in population, resources and environmental economics from Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China. He has published many research articles in the field of energy economics, resources economics, and environmental economics in prestigious, high-ranked peer-reviewed journals. Furthermore, he has established an impressive track record, publishing 40 plus papers in SCCI (Science Citation Index Expanded) and SCI (Science Citation Index) journals. In addition to his published work, he eagerly awaits the outcomes of more than ten papers currently under review by high-ranked peer-reviewed journals. This unwavering commitment to consistently producing high-quality research highlights his dedication to advancing knowledge in his field.

Khair Muhammad is a distinguished academic with a robust background in finance and economics. He holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from the University of Sindh Jamshoro and earned his PhD from the Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics in Jiangxi, China. With nine years of experience in the banking industry, Dr. Muhammad brings practical insights to his teaching and research. Since 2014, he has been dedicated to education, initially as a Teaching Assistant at Jiangxi University and, since 2017, as a Lecturer at various colleges in China. In addition to his teaching roles, Dr. Muhammad has made significant contributions to the academic community through his research. He has published several research papers related to International Trade and Economics, enhancing the understanding and knowledge within these fields. His ability to bridge theoretical concepts with real-world applications makes him a respected figure among students and colleagues alike.

Liaqat Ali is a Professor & Head of Management Studies Department-Bahria University-Karachi Campus. He is PhD -Economics (Trade, Finance, Sustainability) and has 20 years+ Academic Experience and 3 years Industry experience. There are 22 Publications in HEC W, X, Y category and peer-reviewed journals on his credit and he is also HEC Approved Supervisor (for doctoral thesis).

Mehfooz Ullah hold a master's degree in management from the University of Salford, UK, and a Ph.D. in Business Management from the University of Malaysia Pahang. His research focused on sustainable management, entrepreneurship, and the dynamics of the gig economy. These have culminated in publications in peer-reviewed journals and the successful execution of various research projects. With a unique blend of engineering and

business management expertise, He is engaged in meaningful collaborations with respected local and international organizations, contributing significantly to projects that foster enterprise development and improve techno-vocational skills. His academic journey has been enriched by securing multiple fellowships in renowned institutions across the globe, including the UK, Australia, the USA, the Middle East, Indonesia, and China. He is an Assistant Professor in the Business Department at Karakorum International University. He also tasked with leading the Business Incubation Centre as its Director, steering its operations towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

Naveed Razzaq holds a master's degree in E-commerce from Punjab University's College of Information Technology (PUCIT), Lahore, Pakistan. He also received his Ph.D. from Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China. He has diverse teaching and research experience, and linked theory with ongoing contemporary economic development around the globe. Mr. Razzaq has published research papers on corporate governance and economics in international journals, showcasing his expertise in these areas.

Nighat Moin is a Senior Faculty & Cluster Head (Economics) in 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 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, Public Policies and Education.

Nooreen Mujahid is a teacher, a professional trainer, and a seasoned researcher. Currently serving as the Director of Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi. From January 2021 till March 2023, she served as the Chairperson, Department of Economics, University of Karachi. From 2008 to 2013, she served as Additional Directing Staff at the National Institute of Management (NIM) Karachi on deputation. She has over 28 years of experience, and an impressive publication record.

Rehmat Karim is working as Associate Professor and Director, Karakoram International University, Hunza Campus and has been teaching as faculty for last 20 years in the academics, corporate and development sector. He has completed PhD. in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Universiti Sains Malaysia. Moreover, he has completed an MS degree in Tourism Management from AUT, Bangkok, MBA and master's in economics and finance from University of Karachi. His research interest is in Tourism and Hospitality Management, Environmental Management, and Sustainable Ecotourism Development. Dr. Rehmat has authored more than 30 research articles, 3 book chapters and completed various projects with national and international public and private sector organizations. Dr. Rehmat has exposure of working on research and field projects in various countries e.g. Thailand, Malaysia, UAE, Slovenia, Austria and USA.

Sajjad Haider, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Business Management at Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit, and serves as the Director of the International Office – responsible for connecting KIU with universities and research institutions globally. He holds a Ph.D. in Management and an International MBA from the School of Management, Lanzhou University, P.R. China. With a diverse background spanning both academic, corporate, and non-profit sectors, Dr. Haider brings a diverse spectrum of experiences to his credentials. He has served as a Visiting Research Scholar at Portland State University (PSU), United States, from 2016 to 2017, where he conducted collaborative research with the professors at PSU.

Shahid Hussain is currently a student at Jilin University in China, pursuing his master studies at the School of International and Public Affairs, specifically in the Department of International Relations. In the year 2017, he had the privilege of gaining admission to Karakoram International University in Gilgit Baltistan, where he pursued his undergraduate studies in the Department of International Relations. he owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to his esteemed professors and lecturers, who imparted their knowledge and played a vital role in shaping my understanding of international relations. In 2021, he completed his graduation, marking a significant milestone in my educational pursuit. Following the completion of his undergraduate studies, he was fortunate enough to be awarded a Chinese government scholarship to pursue his master's degree. Currently, he actively engaged in his master's program at Jilin University, which stands as one of China's most prestigious academic institutions. Throughout his two years of master's studies, he has demonstrated his dedication and passion for academia by publishing five research papers in various esteemed journals. Notably, two of his publications

focus on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the internal politics of Pakistan.

Shaochong Guo born in Korla city, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in July 1996, full-time lecturer at the School of Foreign Languages, Kashi University, Xinjiang, China. Research interests: legal translation and cross-cultural translation. Lecture course: "Society and Culture of English-speaking Countries" and "Spoken English".

Syed Waqas Haider Bukhari is currently affiliated with the School of International Relations, Minhaj University Lahore (MUL). He obtained his doctorate in International Relations from National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad. Prior to joining MUL, he was attached to Lahore Garrison University (LGU). Currently, Dr. Bukhari is a member of Board of Governors, in the Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) Islamabad. His broader research interests include Research Methodology, Theories of International Relations, Energy Security and Rise of China.

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 number of 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 serves as a faculty at Department of H&SS-Bahria University Karachi and Managing Director of IRP. On his research on blue economy IRP appointed her as a National Coordinator of Blue Economy (2018 till date). She is also a Member of the National Advisory Board of Innovation and Member of Health & Education Committee of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. She also served FPCCI as a member of the water resource management committee. She is a

regular writer and researcher having 33 publications in HEC recognized X & Y category journals and more than 170 publications in reputed and popular press focusing on Economy, Blue Economy, Academia Industrial Linkage, promotion of entrepreneurial culture, and social sciences. Books titled, Mapping Academic Response to COVID-19 and SILK ROUTE REVISITED: ESSAYS AND PERSPECTIVES ON CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR AND BEYOND are also on her credit.

Xu Zhijie Associate professor, School of Economics and Management, Kashgar University, Xinjiang; Director of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Research Center. Male, Han nationality, born in August 1974 (age 49), married, master's degree, MBA, School of Management, Northwestern Polytechnical University, April 2007.

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 Economics 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.