

Nasir Iqbal

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Google Scholar

Fields of interest: [*Economic Policy, Governance, Environmental Economics*]

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A highly experienced academic leader with over 17 years of expertise in research, teaching, and institutional governance. Committed to fostering a data-driven approach to socio-economic research and policy formulation. Proven ability to lead institutions toward academic and research excellence through strategic vision and collaboration with national and international partners. Committed to evidence-based policymaking.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)** Islamabad, Pakistan
Associate Professor of Economics [BPS-20] Aug 2018 - present
- **Duke University** NC, USA
Postdoctoral Fellow at Department of Economics Sep 2022 - May 2023
- **PIDE** Islamabad, Pakistan
Registrar [BPS-20] Jun 2021 - Sep 2022
- **Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)** Islamabad, Pakistan
Additional Director General (Research & Development) [BPS-19] Apr 2015 - Jul 2018
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** Boston, USA
Evaluating Social Programs, J-PAL Executive Education Jun 2018
- **PIDE** Islamabad, Pakistan
Assistant Professor of Economics [BPS-19] Apr 2014 - Apr 2015
- **German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)** Bonn, Germany
Young Professionals Fellow (Managing Global Governance (MGG)) Jul 2012 - Dec 2012
- **Kingston University** London, UK
Visiting Fellow Nov 2012 - Dec 2012
- **Kingston University** London, UK
Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting Jan 2012 - Jun 2012
- **PIDE** Islamabad, Pakistan
Staff Economist [BPS-17] Nov 2006 - Apr 2014

EDUCATION

- **Duke University** NC, USA
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Economics Sep 2022 - May 2023
- **PIDE** Islamabad, Pakistan
PhD Economics Sep 2007 - Apr 2013

LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- **Head Macro Policy Lab, PIDE,** Jun 2023 -Present
Major Achievements
 - Managed multiple policy research initiatives on macroeconomic stability, poverty alleviation, and social protection.
 - Facilitated interdisciplinary research and policy discussions between economists, political scientists, and government officials.

- Developed collaborations with government ministries and international organizations to address economic policy challenges.
- Authored and co-authored numerous policy briefs, working papers, and research reports on pressing economic issues facing Pakistan.

- **Registrar, PIDE,** Jun 2021 -Sep 2022
Key Reforms and Initiatives
 - Successfully led administrative tasks, developed institutional policies to promote research, and streamlined processes.
 - Led efforts to digitize key functions, improving efficiency in admissions, student records, and faculty management.
 - Spearheaded the development of a new academic calendar and scheduling system to better accommodate research and teaching responsibilities.
 - Established the "PIDE Alumni Network" to enhance engagement with graduates and secure opportunities for collaboration and fundraising.
 - Conduct regular Senate and Syndicate meetings
 - Develop new rules/SoPs.
 - Conduct regular performance and deal promotion cases.

- **Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, PIDE** Jun 2019 -Sep 2021
Key Initiatives
 - Led faculty strategy aimed at enhancing research output and academic excellence.
 - Consolidated multiple departments to reduce administrative burden and increase cross-departmental collaboration.
 - Introduced new teaching methodologies to foster interactive and interdisciplinary learning.
 - Improved academic governance by streamlining decision-making processes and establishing clear accountability measures.
 - Developed and implemented new graduate and undergraduate programs based on market needs and socio-economic relevance.
 - Introduced faculty development programs to enhance teaching and research capabilities.
 - Established new partnerships with international universities and development organizations for joint research and faculty exchange programs.

- **Additional Director General (Research and Development), BISP** Apr 2015 -Jul 2018
Reforms and Initiatives
 - Created a Design Document for the Updating of NSER, the largest survey in Pakistan covering more than 27 million households.
 - Created Policy Document on Approaches of Data Collection, namely Desk Based (Self Registration) and Door-to-Door Survey
 - Created Policy Document in the Choice of Districts for Pilot Phase and National Roll out.
 - Created Policy Document for updating of targeting formula: NEW PMT formula
 - Created a design document on graduation framework for ultra-poor BISP families
 - Hold meetings and discussions on policy issues with development partners including World Bank, DFID, and ADB
 - Organize high-end seminars chaired by the dignitaries including President of Pakistan and other for the launch of Impact Evaluation Reports, Annual Progress Reports, and Demographic Directories

- **Associate Editor, The Pakistan Development Review (PDR)** Jun 2013 -Sep 2014
Technical Assistant, PDR - quarterly journal published by the PIDE

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Awarded Postdoctoral Fellowship at Duke University** for significant contributions to social protection policy. Fellowship was supported by the *Higher Education Commission (HEC)* of Pakistan, 2022
- **Won the Policy Pak award** for the policy brief titled "*Policy Framework for Vaccinating All*", 2022
- **Won best paper award** at 1st International Conference on *Energy, Regional Integration and Socio Economic Development*, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2013
- **Recipient of the Merit Scholarship** for PhD studies, awarded by *PIDE*, 2007.
- **Achieved 3rd position in MA Economics** at the *University of Punjab*, Lahore, Pakistan, 2005.
- **Honorary Executive Director** at the *Social Protection Resources Center*, Islamabad, Pakistan, 2022
- **Member of the PIDE Senate**, the highest decision-making body at the institute, [Jun 2021-Sep 2022]
- **Member of the PIDE Syndicate**, the main decision-making body at the institute, since 2019

COLLABORATION WITH MINISTRIES, IFIs, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Over the course of my career, I have collaborated extensively with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), government ministries, and international organizations to promote evidence-based policy solutions. These collaborations have resulted in impactful contributions to Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape. Key Collaborations include

- **World Bank, ADB, and IMF:** Provided critical research input, policy analysis, and data-driven insights on social protection, taxation reforms, poverty alleviation, and financial inclusion. Actively participated in research programs focused on understanding the economic implications of reforms initiated by IFIs.
- **Federal and Provincial Ministries** Supported the development of fiscal policies, macroeconomic frameworks, and national growth strategies. These contributions were aimed at ensuring that policy decisions were backed by rigorous empirical research and analysis.
- **BISP, PSPA, PPAF, and NPGP:** Engaged in comprehensive evaluations of large-scale social protection programs aimed at alleviating poverty, providing recommendations to improve effectiveness and targeting mechanisms.
- **UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, and GIZ (Germany):** Conducted field research and contributed to policy discussions on climate change, labor markets, gender equality, and migration, fostering partnerships with these organizations to promote sustainable development initiatives in Pakistan.
- **Collaboration with Academia:** Engaged in multiple collaborative research projects with prestigious institutions such as MIT, Duke University, Boston University, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), RMIT University, London School of Economics, and Oxford University, integrating global best practices with local insights to improve the quality of policy analysis.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Churchill, S. A., **Iqbal, N.**, Nawaz, S., & Yew, S. L. (2024). Unconditional Cash Transfers, Health and Savings. *Economics and Human Biology*, 53(2024), 1-13
2. Churchill, S. A., **Iqbal, N.**, Nawaz, S., & Yew, S. L. (2024). Do unconditional cash transfers increase fertility? Lessons from a large-scale program. *Economic Inquiry*, 62(1), 74–96
3. **Iqbal, N.**, Nawaz, S., & Anwar, M. A. (2022). The Socio-economic Analysis of the Street Economy in the Twin Cities of Pakistan. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 61(3), 335–363

4. Mustafa, G. & **Iqbal N**, & Rehman, F. (2022). Evaluating the Short Run and Long Run Impacts of Unconditional Cash Transfers on Food-Seeking Behaviour: New Insights from BISP, Pakistan. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 61(1), 85-102
5. Alvi MH, Shiri T, **Iqbal N**, Husain MO, Chaudhry I, Shakoor S, Ansari S, Kiran T, Chaudhry N, Husain N. (2022) Cost-Effectiveness of a Culturally Adapted Manual-Assisted Brief Psychological Intervention for Self-Harm in Pakistan: A Secondary Analysis of the Culturally Adapted Manual-Assisted Problem-Solving Training Randomized Controlled Trial. *Value Health Regional Issues*. 27, 65-71
6. Churchill, S. A., **Iqbal, N.**, Nawaz, S., & Yew, S. L. (2021). Unconditional cash transfers, child labour and education: theory and evidence. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 186, 437-457
7. Nawaz, S. & **Iqbal, N.** (2021) How cash transfers program affects environmental poverty among ultra-poor? Insights from the BISP in Pakistan. *Energy Policy*, 148(2021), 111978
8. **Iqbal, N.** & Nawaz, S. (2021) Cash transfers and residential demand for electricity: Insights from BISP, Pakistan, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 28, 14401-14422
9. Nawaz,S. & Anwar, S. & **Iqbal, N.** (2021). The Spatial Effects of Road Infrastructure on Employment in Pakistan: Quantifying the Role of Complementary Factors. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 60(3), 309-330
10. Nawaz, S. & **Iqbal, N.** (2020) The impact of unconditional cash transfer on fuel choices among ultra-poor in Pakistan: Quasi-experimental evidence from the Benazir Income Support Program, *Energy Policy*, 142, 111535
11. Arif, G. M. & Farooq, S. & **Iqbal, N.**. (2020). Labour migration from Pakistan to the Gulf countries: An investigation of regional disparities in outflows of workers, remittances and poverty. *Asianization of migrant workers in the gulf countries*, 189-217.
12. Ullah, I., Khawaja, M. I., & **Iqbal, N.** (2019). Sustainability, market conditions and outreach: the vicious misconception of the win-win proposition in the microfinance industry. *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 32(1), 2122-2137
13. Mustafa, G. & Ali, A. & **Iqbal, N.**. (2019). Impact of unconditional cash transfer on child nutrition in Pakistan: Evidence from benazir income support program (BISP). *Global Economics Review*, 4 (4), 71-88
14. Ahmed, A. **Iqbal, N.**, & Siddiqui, R. (2018). Determinants of Housing Demand in Urban Areas of Pakistan: Evidence from PSLM. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 57(1), 1-25
15. Ali, M. & Khan, K. & **Iqbal, N.**. (2018). Volatile discretionary public spending and economic growth: A comparative evidence of developed and developing countries. *Pakistan Business Review*, 20(2), 403-416.
16. **Iqbal, N.**, & Nawaz, S. (2017). Pakistan's Bilateral Trade under MFN and SAFTA: Do Institutional and Non-Institutional Arrangements Matter? *The Pakistan Development Review*, 56(1), 59-78
17. **Iqbal, N.**, Din, M., & Ghani, E. (2017). The Fiscal Deficit and Economic Growth in Pakistan: New Evidence. *The Lahore Journal of Economics*, 22, 53-72
18. Nawaz, S. & **Iqbal, N.**. (2016). Education poverty in Pakistan: A spatial analysis at district level. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 10(2), 270-287
19. **Iqbal, N.**, & Awan, M. S. (2015). Determinants of urban poverty: the case of medium-sized city in Pakistan. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 54(4), 719-738
20. **Iqbal, N.**, & Daly, V. (2014). Rent seeking opportunities and economic growth in transitional economies. *Economic Modelling*, 37(0), 16-22
21. Nawaz, S., **Iqbal, N.**, & Anwar, S. (2014). Modelling electricity demand using the STAR (Smooth Transition Auto-Regressive) model in Pakistan. *Energy*, 78, 535-542

22. **Iqbal, N.** (2013). Fiscal decentralization, democratic institutions and inflation. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 52 (3), 207-220
23. **Iqbal, N.,** Din, M., & Ghani, E. (2012). Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth: Role of Democratic Institutions. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 51(3), 173-195
24. Azam, M. & Khan, M.R. & **Iqbal, N.** (2012). Impact of political risk and uncertainty on FDI in South Asia. *Transition Studies Review*, 19, 59-77
25. Awan, M.S. & **Iqbal, N.** & Muhammad, W. (2009). The impact of human capital on urban poverty: The case of Sargodha city. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 4(1), 143-150

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

- **IGC:** Empowering Rural Communities for Climate Change Adaptation: Evaluating the Impact of the National Poverty Graduation Program in South Punjab, Pakistan [(PI), Grant: GBP 19,500; Period: 2024]
- **HEC & World Bank:** Efficacy of the Poverty Graduation Model and its Impacts on Socio-Economic Wellbeing and Governance of Poor Youth [(PI), Grant: PKR 23 million; Period: 2022-2023]
- **IFPRI:** What happens when cash transfers suddenly end? Quasi-experimental evidence from Pakistan [(PI), Grant: \$160,000; Period: 2022-2023]
- **IPA:** What happens when cash transfers suddenly end? Quasi-experimental evidence on Intimate Partner Violence”, [(PI), Grant: \$29,900; Period: 2022-2023]
- **RASTA-PIDE:** Revitalization of the Street Economy in Pakistan: The case of Islamabad [(PI), Grant: PKR 4 million; period: 2021-2022]
- **ICIMOD & SANDEE:** Tenurial contracts, women participation and reforestation in KP, Pakistan [(PI), Grant: \$25,000; Period: 2021-2023]
- **CoE-CPEC:** CPEC an Engine of Employment: A Situational Analysis and Policy Framework, [(PI), Grant: PKR 350,000; Period: 2017]
- **PIDE:** Spatial Differences and Socio-Economic Determinants of Health Poverty, [(PI), Grant: PKR 400,000; Period: 2014]
- **PIDE:** Electricity Demand and Policy Framework in Pakistan, [(PI), Grant: PKR 100,000; Period: 2013]
- **SANEI:** Pak-India Trade and MFN: Short Run vs. Long Run Impact, [(PI), Grant: \$10,000; Period: 2012-2013]
- **IFPRI & Planning Commission (GoP):** Determinants of the Expansion of Micro and Small Firm and the State of Entrepreneurship in Pakistan [(Co-PI), Grant: \$10,000; Period: 2011-2013]

WORKING PAPERS/DISCUSSION PAPERS

- **Iqbal, N.** (2024). How does social media influence voting behavior? Unpublished SSRN
- Nawaz, S. & **Iqbal, N.** (2024). The Power of Assets: A Catalyst for Multidimensional Well-Being, SSRN, Unpublished
- **Iqbal, N.** & Zulfiqar, F. (2021). COVID-19, Irregular Migration and Asymmetrical Dependency, PIDE Working Paper, 2021:4
- **Iqbal, N.** (2021). The Pandemic and Socio-Economic Vulnerabilities among Poor: A Qualitative Assessment on Poor Women and Youth, Technical Paper, PPAF, Pakistan

- **Iqbal, N.** (2021). Evaluating Impact of COVID-19 on Microeconomy of Poor, Technical Paper, PPAF, Pakistan
- Ahmad, A. & **Iqbal, N.** & Mustafa, G. (2020). Measuring the Impact of Remittances on Housing Demand: Evidence from Large Cities in Pakistan, PIDE Working Paper, 2020:10
- Khawaja, I. & **Iqbal, N.** (2019). Determinants of Expansion of Micro and Small Firms and State of Entrepreneurship in Pakistan, PIDE Working Paper, 160
- Hyder, A. & **Iqbal, N.** (2016). Socio-Economic Losses of Flood and Household's Coping Strategies: Evidence from Flood Prone District of Pakistan, PIDE Working Paper, 142
- **Iqbal, N.** & Farooq, S. (2015). Migration and Health Outcomes: The Case of a High Migration District in South Punjab, Population & Health Working Paper Series, PIDE-CPHSP-4
- **Iqbal, N.** & Nawaz, S. (2015). Spatial Differences and Socio-economic Determinants of Health Poverty, Population & Health Working Paper Series, PIDE-CPHSP-1
- **Iqbal, N.** & Din, M. & Ghani, E. (2013). Fiscal Decentralisation and Economic Growth: Role of Democratic Institutions, PIDE Working Papers, 89
- **Iqbal, N.** & Daly, V. (2013). Rent Seeking Opportunities and Economic Growth in Transitional Economies, PIDE Working Papers, 87
- Arif, G.M. & **Iqbal, N.** & Farooq, S. (2011). The Persistence and Transition of Rural Poverty in Pakistan: 1998-2004, PIDE Working Paper, 74
- Awan, M.S. & **Iqbal, N.** (2010). Determinants of Urban Poverty: The Case of Medium Sized City in Pakistan, PIDE Working Papers, 60

RESEARCH REPORTS AND MONOGRAPHS

- Haque, N., Salman, A., Kardar, S.H., Zaidi, S.S., Haq, I., Ahmad, M., **Iqbal, N.**, Khalid, M. & Ahmad, K. (2024). Tax Reforms Revenue With Growth, PIDE-PRIME Tax Reforms Commission Report, Pakistan
- **Iqbal, N.** & Nawaz, S. (2023) Empowering the Ultra-Poor: Evaluating the Impact of Pakistan's National Poverty Graduation Program, PIDE Report
- **Iqbal, N.** (2021) Assessing Impacts of Macroeconomic Shifts on Microeconomy of Pakistan's Poor and Ultra-Poor Households, The Report of National Poverty Graduation Program (NPGP), PPAF, Pakistan. PPAF Report
- Haque, N., Nazuk, A., Burgess, R., Rasul, I., Albasit, S.J., Ahsan, H., **Iqbal, N.**, Bandiera, O., Khan, A.Q., Shoail, A., Afzal, H. & Zulfiqar, F. (2021). The State of Poverty in Pakistan, PIDE Research Report
- Nasir, M., Khalid, M., Jalil, A., Faraz, N. & **Iqbal, N.** (2020). Covid-19 and Pakistan's Economy Recovery Scenarios for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, PIDE Research Report
- **Iqbal, N.** (2020) Nexus between economic growth, poverty, inequality, and food security, Background Report Prepared for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation, Pakistan Office.
- Arif, G.M., Zafar, N., Khan, A.H., Idrees, M., **Iqbal, N.**, & Hassan, Z. (2017). National Poverty Report 2015-16, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Planning Commission Report, Pakistan
- **Iqbal, N.** (2016). Labour migration from Pakistan: 2015 status report. ILO Pakistan and Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Government of Pakistan. Report

- Amjad, R., Arif, G. M., & **Iqbal, N.** (2016) The cost of migration: What low-skilled migrant workers from Pakistan pay to work in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, International Labour Organization (ILO) Islamabad: Pakistan. Report: ISBN: 9789221311614; 9789221311621
- Amjad, R., Din, M., Khawaja, I., **Iqbal, N.** & Qasim, A.W. (2012). The 7th NFC Award: An Evaluation, PIDE Monograph Series, 5
- Amjad, R., Din, M., Khawaja, I., **Iqbal, N.** & Qasim, A.W. (2012). Fiscal Federalism in Pakistan, PIDE Monograph Series

POLICY BRIEFS AND KNOWLEDGE BRIEFS

Policy Briefs

- **Iqbal, N.** (2024). Using Cash Transfer Programmes to Get Children Back to School from Work, The Pakistan Development Review, Special Policy Supplement, 9–12
- **Iqbal, N.** (2024). Policy Framework for Vaccinating All, The Pakistan Development Review, Special Policy Supplement, 13–15
- Ahmad, I., **Iqbal, N.**, & Khalid, M. (2024). Fiscal Federalism in Pakistan: Need for a Revisit, The Pakistan Development Review, Special Policy Supplement, 47–2
- Jalil, A., Zulfqar, F., Anwar, M.A. & **Iqbal, N.** (2023). Wheat Support Price: A Note for Policymakers, The Pakistan Development Review, 62(1), 115–124
- **Iqbal, N.** & Mustafa, G. (2023). A Review of Accountability Systems: Learning from Best Practices, The Pakistan Development Review, 61(4), 681–691
- **Iqbal, N.** (2021) Diluting Impacts of Macroeconomic Shifts on Poverty Graduation Capacities of the Poor, PPAF Policy Brief, Pakistan
- **Iqbal, N.** (2021) The Poor’s Readiness for Climate Emergency Improving What They Know and How They Respond, PPAF Policy Brief, Pakistan
- **Iqbal, N.** & Javid, M. (2020). COVID-19 and Remittances, PIDE COVID-19 Bulletin, 20
- **Iqbal, N.** (2020). Protecting the Internal Migrant Workers, PIDE COVID-19 Bulletin, 16
- Haque, N. & **Iqbal, N.** (2020). The Corona War: Funding the Affected and Mechanisms to Reach Them, PIDE COVID-19 Bulletin, 07
- **Iqbal, N.** (2020). Caring for the Poor and Vulnerable, PIDE COVID-19 Bulletin, 1
- **Iqbal, N.**, Din, M. & Khawaja, I. (2011). PIDE Macroeconomic Brief No. 2, PIDE Macroeconomic Brief

Knowledge Briefs

- Haque, N. & **Iqbal, N.** (2024). From Crisis to Reforms in Argentina: Learning for Pakistan, PIDE Knowledge Brief, 128, 1-12
- **Iqbal, N.** (2022). Food Subsidies Programs In Pakistan: A Review PIDE Knowledge Brief, 66
- **Iqbal, N.** & Mustafa, G. (2023). A Review of Accountability Systems: Learning from Best Practices, PIDE Knowledge Brief, 82
- **Iqbal, N.** (2022). Food Subsidies Programs In Pakistan: A Review, PIDE Knowledge Brief, 66
- **Iqbal, N.** (2020). National Poverty Estimates 2018, PIDE Knowledge Brief, May 2020
- **Iqbal, N.** & Nawaz, S. (2020). Moving Up The Energy Ladder: The Impact Of Bisp Cash Transfers On Fuel Choices, PIDE Knowledge Brief, 10

PIDE Policy and Research

- **Iqbal, N.** (2023). Enhancing Electoral Trust for Economic Stability, PIDE Policy and Research, Discourse 06,
- Bashir, M. & **Iqbal, N.** (2021). Role of the Middleman & Neglected Aspects, PIDE Policy and Research, 2(10)
- **Iqbal, N.** (2021). Let's Have a New Discussion on Poverty, PIDE Policy and Research, 2(4)
- Jalil, A. Khan, S.A. & **Iqbal, N.** (2021). Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat and Inflation, PIDE Policy and Research, 2(4)
- **Iqbal, N.** & Khalid, M. (2020). Tax Policies for Growth, PIDE Policy and Research, 1(3)
- **Iqbal, N.** (2020). Economic Cost of Political Conflict, PIDE Policy and Research, 1(3)
- **Iqbal, N.** & Daly, V. (2020). Rent-seeking Opportunities and Economic Growth in Transitional Economies, PIDE Policy and Research, 1(3)
- **Iqbal, N.**, Din, M. & Ghani, E. (2020). Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Growth Role of Democratic Institutions, PIDE Policy and Research, 1(3)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- **Iqbal, N.** (2021). Irregular migration and Covid-19: The case of Pakistan. In N. M. Shah (Ed.), COVID-19 crisis and Asian migration (pp. 185-200). Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Arif, G. M., Farooq, S., & **Iqbal, N.** (2019). Labour Migration from Pakistan to the Gulf Countries: An Investigation of Regional Disparities in Outflows of Workers, Remittances and Poverty. In S.I. Rajan, G. Z. Oommen (Ed.) Asianization of Migrant Workers in the Gulf Countries (pp. 189-217). Springer, Singapore.
- **Iqbal, N.** & Nawaz, S. (2019). Targeting efficiency and effectiveness of national cash transfers program: Lessons from BISP, Pakistan. In R. A. Chaudhry; T. T. Chaudhry (Ed.) Economic Challenges Facing Pakistan in the Regional and Global Environment 2017-2019, (pp. 337-357). Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Amjad, R., Arif, G. M., & **Iqbal, N.** (2017). The cost of migration from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In R. Amjad (Ed.), The Pakistani Diaspora: Corridors of Opportunity and Uncertainty (pp. 137-160). Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan
- Arif, G. M., **Iqbal, N.**, & Farooq, S. (2015). Poverty and Pakistan's 2010 Flood. In A. Sinha, A. Bauer, & P. Bullen (Ed.) The Environments of the Poor in South Asia: Simultaneously Reducing Poverty, Protecting the Environment, and Adapting to Climate Change (pp. 169-190): Oxford University Press.
- Arif, G. M., & **Iqbal, N.** (2009). Infrastructure and Poverty Nexus: the Case of Rural Pakistan, Socio-Economic Challenges Faces by Pakistan: Islamic International University, Islamabad.

OPINIONS, BLOGS AND COMMENTARY

- A manifesto for reform The NEWS, 2024
- Message from Reformistan The NEWS, 2024
- Fixing fiscal policy The NEWS, 2023
- Charter of power The NEWS, 2023
- Enhancing Electoral Trust for Economic Stability Discourse, 2023
- Path to prosperity: budget priorities The NEWS, 2023

- Legalizing street business, The NEWS, 2022
- Economics of Political Strikes, Blog, 2022
- Business of the street, The NEWS, 2022
- Political economics, The NEWS, 2022
- A new economic model, The NEWS, 2022, with Muhammad Aqeel Anwar
- Fiscal federalism, The NEWS, 2021, with Iftikhar Ahmad,
- Education is key, The NEWS, 2021
- Employment policy, The NEWS, 2021
- Enrolment matters, The NEWS, 2021
- The gender gap, The NEWS, 2021
- Wheat price game, The NEWS, 2020
- Migration and Covid-19, The NEWS, 2020
- Cost of protest, The NEWS, 2020
- Cost of corona, The NEWS, 2020
- Caring for the poor, The NEWS, 2020
- Sustainable housing, The NEWS, 2020
- Doing taxes better, The NEWS, 2020
- CPEC: phases and challenges, The NEWS, 2020
- The Quaid's Economic Model, Blog, 2020
- Irregular Migration During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Blog, 2020
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Wheat and Inflation, Blog, 2020
- The Economic Cost of Political Protests, Blog, 2020
- Are we ready to reap CPEC benefits?, PIDE Press, 2020
- Pakistan Needs A Market-Based Solution To The Recurring Wheat Crises, PIDE Press, 2020
- Tax Policies for Growth, Blog, 2020
- Estimating poverty, The NEWS, 2019
- The cost of the march, The NEWS, 2019
- Inclusive industry, The NEWS, 2019
- Time for a rethink, The NEWS, 2019
- From the shadow of poverty, The NEWS, 2019
- The importance of human capital. The NEWS, 2018
- Streamlining the EAC, The NEWS, 2018
- Ten million jobs, The NEWS, 2018
- Our safety nets, The NEWS, 2018
- Institutional poverty, The NEWS, 2017
- The optimal level, The NEWS, 2017

- Getting regional trade right in Central Asia, East Asia Forum, 2017
- The visa trade, The NEWS, 2016
- Pakistan can't reap the benefits of CPEC, East Asia Forum, 2016
- Pakistan needs to look beyond China for FDI, East Asia Forum, 2016
- Why has SAFTA failed to boost Pakistan-India trade?, East Asia Forum, 2016
- FDI key to the future of South Asian regional integration, East Asia Forum, 2016

RESEARCH PROJECTS (IN PROGRESS)

- The Economics of State-Led Afforestation: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from KP, Pakistan. [Supported by ICIMOD & SANDEE] [Completion date: June 2024].
 - The study involves a quasi-experimental welfare analysis of the Billion Tree Project in KP, employing rigorous research methods to assess its impact on local communities and the environment. In addition, the study aims to explore the factors that explain the participation rates in the project.
- What Happens When Cash Transfers Suddenly End? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Pakistan [Supported by IFPRI & IPA] [Completion date: July 2024].
 - This ongoing study uses quasi-experimental methods to explore how households cope when cash transfers stop, focusing on the impact of changes to eligibility criteria on households that no longer qualify for the Benazir Income Support Program. The research aims to provide information on the consequences of stopping cash transfers on poverty reduction efforts and household welfare.
- Efficacy of the Poverty Graduation Model and Mainstreaming of Poor Youth [Supported by HEC & World Bank] [Completion date: Aug 2024]
 - The research project aims to evaluate the efficacy of poverty graduation programs in breaking the poverty trap using a quasi-experimental design in Pakistan. Furthermore, the study will investigate how social mobilization and community handholding approaches impact the perception and interaction of poor youth beneficiaries with governance
- Uncovering the Ripple Effects of Political Unrest: A New Index and Analysis of Pakistan's Economy [Completion date: Dec 2024]
 - This research aims to develop a new political instability index for Pakistan based on historical strikes data collected from newspapers, and use it to measure the economic costs of political unrest in the country. The index will provide a more accurate assessment of political instability and help identify its key drivers. The main contribution of this study will be a novel tool to measure political instability and its economic costs in Pakistan.
- Reimagining Justice: The Role of Unconditional Cash Transfers in Reshaping Marginalized Communities' Preferences in Pakistan [Completion date: June 2025]
 - For many beneficiaries, the BISP represents the main engagement they have had with the state. This research project seeks to understand whether this direct engagement with the state in one area (receiving cash transfers) leads the recipients to be more likely to choose to engage with the state in another context (justice), where they have a choice of state vs. non-state actors. Empirical analysis is based on census data, which are unique in nature.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- Managed large-scale countrywide survey projects, overseeing all aspects of project planning, implementation, and reporting.
- Responsibilities included budgeting, hiring and managing staff, collaborating with stakeholders, ensuring quality control, and ensuring timely delivery of results.
- Successfully completed projects on budget and on schedule.
- Presented the findings to key stakeholders and policymakers
- Demonstrated strong project management skills and ability to handle complex, multi-faceted projects

THESES SUPERVISED

PhD Theses

- Muhammad Mohsin Latif Kiani (2023) - The Impact Of Women Empowerment And Social Protection On Mother And Child Wellbeing: Theoretical And Empirical Investigation
- Liaqat Ali (2023) - Essays On Poverty And Sustainable Development
- Muhammad Mujahid Iqbal (2022) - Essays On Social Safety Nets
- Neelum Nigar (2021) Essays On The Impacts Of Cash Transfers On Vulnerable Households: A Case Of BISP, Pakistan
- Farhat Rasul (2019) - The Economics of Terrorism and Institutions: Insight from Developing Countries
- Muhammad Javid (2019) Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Regional Connectivity: Spatial Econometric Analysis
- Ikramullah (2018) Revisiting the Rational Actor Model of Crime: A Theoretical and Empirical Supplement from KP, Pakistan
- Zafir ullah Khan (2016) Institutions, Innovation and Economic Growth
- Muhammad Azam (2016) Impact of Institutions on Sustainable Development
- Ayaz Ahmad (2015) Housing Demand in Urban Areas of Pakistan

MPhil Theses

- Talha Ghafoor (2023) - Evaluating Industrial Subsidy Mechanism in the Textile Sector of Pakistan
- Zahra Butt (2023) - The Market And Consumer's Potential Towards The Use Of Readymade Food In Pakistan
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- Fiaz Hussain Qadri (2017) - Impact of Fiscal Decentralization on the Socio-economic Development of Punjab: A District Level Analysis
- Dur-E-Sameen Durrani (2017) - Impact of Cash Transfer Program on School Enrollment: The Case of BISP
- Yasmeen Jamali (2017) - Mapping Household Vulnerability In Pakistan: Analyzing Gender Differences

- Muhammad Saqib (2017) - Environmental Kuznets Curve and Decomposition Analysis of Emissions: Empirical Evidence from Pakistan
- Naveed Mahmood (2015) - Inflation Uncertainty and Output Uncertainty Nexus: The Case of Pakistan
- Muhammad Hassan Akhtar (2015) - Residential Demand For Electricity In Pakistan: A Cross-sectional Analysis
- Liaqat Ali (2015) - Dynamic Relation Between Inflation And Economic Growth In Pakistan: Linear Vs. Non-linear Approach
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- Ameer Hyder (2015) - Households Losses in 2014 Floods and Coping Strategies: A Study of Chiniot Punjab
- Naeem Asghar (2015) - Impact of Rural Infrastructure on Development of Pakistan: A District Level Analysis
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- Muhammad Iqbal (2015) - Foreign Direct Investment, Institution Quality, and Financial Development: The Case of Selected Asian Countries
- Muhammad Younas Afridi (2014) - Foreign Aid, Political Regimes, and Inflation in Pakistan
- Muhammad Umair Zafar (2014) - Impact Of Democracy On Sustainable Human Development: A Cross Country Analysis
- Munir Ahmad (2014) - Role of Demographic Transition and Human Capital Dynamics in Determining Economic Growth
- Syed Zia Ud Din (2014) - Fiscal Decentralization and Economic Development: A Cross Districts Analysis of Baluchistan
- Muhammad Islam (2014) - The Energy Output and Trade Nexus in Pakistan: An Empirical Investigation

PAPER PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- International Conferences
 - Pak-India Trade and MFN: Short Run vs. Long Run Impacts, presented in a Conference "INDIA-PAKISTAN: Regional Economic Strategies" at EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2016
 - Education Poverty in Pakistan: A Spatial Analysis at District Level, presented in a Conference "Education, Skills and Social Protection in Emerging Labour Markets: Issues and Perspectives for Inclusive Growth in South Asia" at South Asia Research Network (SARNET), Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, India, Oct 24-26, 2015
 - Fiscal Decentralization: Macro Stability and Growth: A Theoretical Analysis" presented in International Conference on Policy Modeling: EcoMod (EcoMod2015), 15-17 Jul-2015, Boston, USA
 - Pakistan's Dependency on Imports and Regional Integration, presented at 15th Annual Global Development Conference on Structural Transformation in Africa and Beyond, Accra, Ghana, (18 - 20 June, 2014)
 - Strengthening Intra-regional trade and investment in ECO region, presented at 1st International Conference on Energy, Regional Integration and Socio-Economic Development, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2013

- National Conferences
 - The Power of Assets: A Catalyst for Multidimensional Well-Being, presented at Sixth International Conference on Applied Development Economics, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan, August 15-17, 2024, (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz)
 - The Economics of Household Debt, presented at 37th AGM & Conference titled “Breaking the Aid – Debt Chains”, November 20–23 2023, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.
 - Revitalizing Street Economy: An Economic Analysis, presented at the 2nd International Annual Conference on ”Development: Discourses and Critiques” organized by CBER, IBA, Karachi, 25th March - 27th March, 2022, (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz)
 - Street Vending Economy in Twin Cities: An Economic Analysis, presented at 35th AGM & Conference titled “Opportunities to Excel – Now and The Future” November 22– 25, 2021, IMSciences, Peshawar, (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz)
 - Social Safety Net Program – the BISP in Pakistan: Effectiveness and Challenges and Future Agenda, presented at Fourteenth International Conference on the Management of the Pakistan Economy, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan, 2018 (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz)
 - Fiscal Deficit and Economic Growth in Pakistan: New Evidence, presented at Thirteenth International Conference on the Management of the Pakistan Economy, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan, 2017 (Co-Authors: Musleh ud Din & Ejaz Ghani)
 - Transforming the Lives of Ultra Poor through Skill Development: the Case of BISP’s Waseela-eRozgar Program, presented in a Conference ”Poverty and Social Inequalities in Pakistan: Inclusive Growth Perspective” at University of Sargodha, Pakistan, 2017 (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz & Waqar Sherazi)
 - Pakistan’s Imports Dependency and Regional Integration, presented at Tenth International Conference on the Management of the Pakistan Economy, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan, 2014 (Co-Authors: Ejaz Ghani & Musleh ud Din)
 - Electricity Demand in Pakistan: A Non-linear Estimation, presented in a conference “Energy Security and Economic Sustainability: The Way Forward” at Islamabad, Pakistan organized by PIDE, 2013 (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz & Saba Anwar)
 - Fiscal Decentralization and Macroeconomic Stability: Theory and Evidence, presented in a conference “Fiscal Decentralization: Empowering the Provinces, Strengthening the Federation” at Islamabad, Pakistan organized by PIDE, 2010 (Co-Authors: Saima Nawaz)

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Courses Taught

- Advance Macroeconomics
- Public Policy Analysis
- Development Economics
- Research Methodology

Refereeing

- Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization
- Journal of Macroeconomics
- Energy Economics
- Energy Policy
- The Energy
- Economic Modelling

- Pakistan Development Review
- Environmental Science and Pollution Research
- Economics of Transition and Institutional Change
- Empirical Economics
- Journal of Economics and Development
- Economics and Human Biology