



LOOKING BACK, INFORMING THE FUTURE: THE 1947 PARTITION OF BRITISH INDIA

MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2017

Lahore, Pakistan

6:00-8:30pm

Ali Institute of Education, Ferozpur Road

Harvard **South Asia Institute**
and **Faiz Foundation Trust**



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
**SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE**

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WELCOME

The Harvard South Asia Institute, along with the Faiz Foundation Trust, welcomes you to a roundtable discussion on its Partition Project, **"The 1947 Partition of British India: Looking Back, Informing the Future"** and a poetry performance titled **Hum DekheiN Gey**. Participants will share their research and art, on an event that forever has reshaped the relationships and politics in South Asia.

The discussion will explore fertile ground for building scholarship not only on the Partition but also more generally on mass migrations, forced population displacement, and other emerging research areas relating to involuntary population movement. The performance will include readings from the writings of Alys and Faiz.

Thank you for joining us!

Regards,

Harvard University **South Asia Institute Team** and **Faiz Foundation Trust**

SESSION 1

MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2017

Ali Institute of Education, Lahore, Pakistan

6:00 – 6:15 pm **Welcome**

Meena Sonea Hewett, *Executive Director, Harvard South Asia Institute*

6:15 – 7:15 pm **Roundtable Discussion:**

“Implications of Mass Dislocation Across Geographies”

Facilitated by **Professor Jennifer Leaning**, *Harvard T. H Chan School of Public Health*

Presenters:

Yaqoob Bangash, *Assistant Professor, History, Information Technology University, Pakistan*

Nabil Khan, *Research Associate, South Asia Institute, Harvard University*

Nadhra Khan, *Assistant Professor, Art Historian, Lahore University of Management Sciences*

Ali Raza, *Assistant Professor, History, Lahore University of Management Sciences*

The research focus is on the immediate and wide-ranging humanitarian consequences of the Partition of British India, a forced movement of millions of people across what suddenly became international borders. The aim of the research is to focus on the relief efforts and rehabilitation of refugees by all level of government and by local and national organizations. A burgeoning facet of the project seeks to understand the multiplex links between narratives, history, memory and geopolitical mobilization.

Through the oral narrative, we seek to learn how people suffered, how they survived, who helped them along the way, their contacts with religious orders, the medical establishment, charities, the government, military and police, the railway official, and ordinary people living near the roads or in villages.

7:15 – 7:30 pm **Tea Break**

SESSION 2

MONDAY, AUGUST 07, 2017

Ali Institute of Education, Lahore, Pakistan

7:30 – 8:15 pm **Performance**

Hum DekheIN Gey

Performers: **Adeel Hashmi, Mira Hashmi, Asad Anees**

The performance will consist of the two narrators (Adeel and Mira) reading selected passages from the writings of Alys and Faiz. The couple wrote letters to each other during the 1950s when they were separated because of Faiz's imprisonment.

The narrators will read two poems written on the Partition. One by Ustad Daaman and the other by Ahmad Faraz. These recitations will be knitted together with Western Classical music performed by arguably one of Pakistan's best pianists, Asad Anees. The poems of Faiz will be selected keeping in mind that now that the two countries are separate — where do we go from here?

8:15 – 8:30 pm **Closing and Thanks**

Professor Jennifer Leaning, *Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

SESSION 1: PANELISTS



YAQOOB BANGASH

Grounded in the government reports on refugee influx and resettlement and rehabilitation, this presentation will focus on the generation, importance and impact of 'statistics' in West Punjab following partition. How the government treated the issue of refugees as a statistical and/or humanitarian issue, and how far did the statistics collected actually reflected the reality of the situation, will be topics discussed in the presentation.



NABIL KHAN

is a Research Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard/South Asia Institute, Harvard University. He is interested in issues of medical, humanitarian and bio-ethics; mental health and public health policy; community health and administration; and the history of public health and medicine.



NADHRA KHAN

Khan's research explores Lahore's pre-Partition architectural spaces in the private sphere that offer narratives of resistance, defiance and endurance. These buildings played multiple roles – they raised families, housed revolutionaries and offered space to voices of dissent in a politically charged atmosphere where they could find the perfect pitch in unison before echoing in the colonial echelons. Most of these buildings now stand forgotten and weary but not spent as they still exude strength and spirit that set them apart from countless blank architectural structures around them. These places and spaces need to be read, revised and revived as markers of people who spearhead several anti-colonial movements that resulted in Independence of Pakistan and India.

SESSION 1: PANELISTS



ALI RAZA

The presentation will focus on the question of organized violence in the Punjab during Partition. My work seeks to move away from some of the dominant ways in which Partition violence has been understood by historians. I will be exploring the nature of organized violence through an overview of the source materials I have collected over the course of my project.



JENNIFER LEANING

is the François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. Dr. Leaning's research and policy interests include issues of public health, medical ethics, and early warning in response to war and disaster, human rights and international humanitarian law in crisis settings, and problems of human security in the context of forced migration and conflict.

SESSION 2: ARTISTS



ASAD ANEES

Asad Anees began to play the piano at the age of six and made his stage debut at the age of twelve. Asad has taken piano master classes at the State University of New York from Prof. Garry Busch, and was one of the finalist of the Julia Crane International Piano Competition in State University of New York.

He has been a part of Faiz International Festivals, for which he has been performing every year since 2013 and has performed in UAE and USA. He is also the only Pakistani pianist who has performed solo at the Carnegie Hall in New York City.

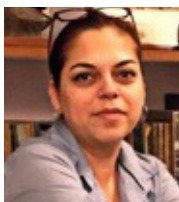


ADEEL HASHMI

With a Masters in filmmaking from Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California, Adeel Hashmi is one of Pakistan's most loved and popular actors. He has appeared in several television productions, advertisements and Pakistani films. He is also a brilliant stage performer, and has performed nationally and internationally including India, UAE, UK, and USA.

Adeel is revered not only for his comic timing on screen but also for his insightful and motivating public speeches. He is regularly invited to speak on public forums. He has won many awards and is associated with several philanthropic and cultural organizations.

He is the grandson of poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz.



MIRA HASHMI

Mira Hashmi, granddaughter of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, is a graduate of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema at Concordia University in Montreal. She has been teaching the discipline of Film Studies since 1998, and is currently Assistant Professor at the Lahore School of Economics. Mira has also been writing about film for various publications for the past twenty years. Her areas of special interest include the cinema of Alfred Hitchcock, and she also has a special affinity for Hindi masala movies.

NOTES

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PARTITION TEAM

The Harvard University South Asia Institute works with faculty and researchers from across the globe to explore issues in the context of the Partition, and together examine their relevance and impact today, both in South Asia and beyond.

PROFESSORS



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