

Shahram Azhar

Assistant Professor
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences,
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Education

PhD. Economics, University of Massachusetts- Amherst, September, 2016
Thesis: *Colonial and Post-Colonial Origins of Agrarian Development: The Case of Two Punjab*s.

Advisors: Mwangi wa Githinji, Deepankar Basu, Priyanka Srivastava
Field Qualifiers: Political Economy, Economic Development.

MSc. Economics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, September 2012

MSc. Economics, University of Warwick (Coventry, U.K), August 2008
Thesis: *Speculative Bubbles as Determinants of Hyperinflation: A Mathematical Model*
Advisor: Marcus Miller
Specializations: Economic Development, Monetary Theory and Policy.

BSc. (Hons) Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences, August 2006

Employment

September 2015-Current: Assistant Professor
Habib University, Karachi.

2008-2010: Lecturer, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad.

2006-2007: Research Economist, Save the Children-UK, Islamabad.

2005-2006: Research Assistant, Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Center, Islamabad.

Fields

Political Economy, Development Economics, Economic History, Applied Econometrics,
Social Network Analysis.

Research Affiliations

2016-Present: Harvard University South Asia Institute, *1947 Partition of British India Project*

2015- Present: Political Economy Research Institute (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), *Asian Political Economy*.

January-May 2016: Special Assistant to the Minister Ahsan Iqbal, *Ministry of Planning & Development, Government of Pakistan*, on economic development.

Primary roles included:

- 1) Devising Sustainable Development Goals for Pakistan Vision 2025
- 2) Developing National Data Center in Islamabad
- 3) Devising Employment Strategy via rural worker cooperatives

Research

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles (Published or Revise & Review Stage)

Azhar, S (2017) The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Labor: A Marxian Theory of Digital Production, *Review of Socio-Economic Perspectives*, Vol 2(1), pp. 103-124

Azhar, S (2017) Capital and Class in Digital Space: The Political Economy of *Facebook*, *YouTube*, and *Uber* Business Models, *submitted to Capital & Class*

Azhar, S and Pasta, Q (2017) Interlocking Directorates and Monopoly Power: A Social Network Analysis of Corporate Pakistan, *submitted to Social Networks*

Book Chapters

“*Class, Ethnicity, and Gender: A Structural Social Network Analysis of Migration at Partition in 1947*” , ‘Essays on the Partition of India’ , *Cambridge University Press* (forthcoming 2018)

“*Education Outcomes and Poverty in the Global South: A reassessment*”, published by *Routledge* publishers, ‘Education, Poverty and International Development Series’, 2012

Working Papers (To be Submitted for Review)

Azhar, S (2017) Colonial Institutions, Geography or Post-Colonial Policy? Evidence on Long-Term Development from the Natural Experiment of Punjab Partition in South Asia,

Was Marx a Eurocentric Thinker? Revisiting the Theory of the Colonial Economy, to be submitted in *Rethinking Marxism*

Rethinking Historical Materialism: Towards A Synthesis of Traditional and Post-Modern Marxism, to be submitted in *Historical Materialism*

The Property and Surplus Theories of Class: A False Dichotomy, to be submitted in *Rethinking Marxism*

Macroeconomic Performance of Neoliberal Institutions in Pakistan: Evidence from 1991-2016, to be submitted in *Economic and Political Weekly*

Comparative Performance of Neoliberal Institutions in South Asia: Evidence from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, to be submitted in *Economic and Political Weekly*

Journalistic and Invited Articles

Azhar, S (2017) People's Movements in Pakistan (Book Review), *The Herald Tribune*, May 2017

Azhar, S (2015) Remembering Jalib, *The Friday Times*, March 2015

Azhar, S (2014) Why Revolution is not a Conspiracy?, *The News International*, September 2014

Azhar, S (2014) The Struggle Over Information, *The News International*, March 2014

Azhar, S (2014) The Myth of the Youth Card, *The News International*, March 2014

Azhar, S (2013) Myth of Musharraf's Economic Boom, *Express Tribune*, January 2013

Azhar, S (2013) The 'Rational' Way of Being a Fascist: A Critique of Neoclassical Economics, *The Friday Times*, December 2013

Azhar, S (2012) Reshuffling a Torn Deck of Cards: Can it Solve the Problem?, *The Friday Times*, August 2012

Presentations (Includes Scheduled Future Invitations)

"Economic Growth and Unemployment During Neoliberal Period in South Asia: Evidence from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan" , *5th Multi-disciplinary Conference, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, November 2017*

"Was Marx a Eurocentric Thinker?" , *3rd Post-Colonial Conference on Higher Education, Habib University, Karachi, October 2017*

"Development of Pakistan's Agrarian Sector and Impact on Employment and Inequality", *Ministry of Planning and Development (Government of Pakistan), Islamabad, August, 2017*

"Capitalist Production in Digital Space: Facebook and Uber Model" , *4th Multi-Disciplinary Conference, Prague College, Prague, June 2017*

“Looking Back, Informing the Future: The 1947 Partition of British India” , *South Asia Institute*, Harvard University, Cambridge, May, 2017

“Revival of Classical Urdu Poetry and Social Development in South Asia” , *Trinity College*, Dublin, April 2017

“Pakistan Modernity and Post-Coloniality” , *7th Karachi Literature Festival*, February 2016

“Political Economy of Imperialism: The Case of Waziristan”, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*, New York City, June 2014

“Drone Warfare in Pakistan and its Socioeconomic Impact: Past and Future” at *University of Connecticut Law School*, Harford, September 2013

“Why is there no Agricultural Tax? A Critical Take on Income Inequality in Pakistan” *15th Annual Conference of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics*, Islamabad, August 2011

“Military Capital and Praetorian Accumulation: The state and economy of Pakistan” , , *Lahore University of Management Sciences*, Lahore, May 2010

“The Political Economy of Terrorism in Pakistan”, *National University of Science and Technology*, Islamabad, September 2009

“Revisiting Say’s Law: Why Supply *does not* create Demand?”, *Conference on Economic Theory* at *University of Warwick*, Coventry, February 2008

Teaching

Courses

Habib University-Assistant Professor (2015-2017)	
ECON 404 Capital II and III (assigned-to be taught)	Spring, 2018
ECON 203 Advanced Quantitative Research Methods-II (assigned-to be taught)	Spring, 2018
CORE 201- Pakistan and Modern South Asia	Fall, 2017
ECON 132: Introduction to Political Economy	Fall 2017 Spring 2016
ECON 321 Political Economy of Agrarian Change	Spring 2017
ECON 202 Quantitative Research Methods-I	Spring 2017
CORE 102: What is Modernity?	Spring 2017
ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2016
CORE 101: Development and Social Change	Fall 2016, Fall 2015
ECON 242: Development and the Global Economy	Spring 2016
ECON 111: History of Economic Thought	Fall 2015

**National University of Science and Technology-Lecturer
(2008-2010)**

ECON 334 Topics in Economic Development	Fall, 2008
ECON 109 Introduction to Development Economics	Fall, 2008, Fall, 2009, Spring, 2009
ECON 111 History of Economic Thought	Fall, 2009, Spring, 2009

Theses Supervised

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Husain Zaidi, *Allotments to Landless Peasants in Sindh: Evidence from 2008-11*
Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Shahzaib Khan, *Metabolic Rift and Ecological Disaster in Karachi*

Fellowships and Grants

2010-2015: Fulbright Humphrey Fellowship for the pursuit of Doctoral Studies in the United States, >\$200,000

Awards and Prizes

2009: Outstanding Teaching Award, National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad
2008: Bestselling Music Album in Pakistan, *Umeed-e-Seher*, progressive music with purposive poetry from South Asian poets.

Service

2017-2018
Faculty Search Committee
Post-Colonial Higher Education Conference Committee

2016-2017
Faculty Search Committee
Annual Yohsin Lecture Committee

2015-2016
Curriculum Review Committee

Activism

2016: Founding Member, Thar Voice Forum; an advocacy group struggling against the environmental degradation caused by coal mining in Tharparkar, Sindh (Pakistan)

2012-2014: Founding Member, Acid Survivor's Forum; an advocacy group struggling for a national bill opposing acid attacks against women. The bill was successfully passed in 2014

2003-2006: Founding Member, People's Rights Movement; a non-government organization committed to promoting access to higher education for people from low socioeconomic backgrounds

Artistic Engagement

2017: Musical Performance in Trinity College, Dublin to promote the peaceful message of South Asian poetry

2013: Vocals and Soundtrack for *Aghaz-e-Safar*, a documentary series by *Oscar award winner* Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy on development-related issues.

2013: Vocals and Soundtrack for *Baaghi*, a revolutionary movie on the political crisis in Pakistan

2008: Vocals for *Umeed-e-Sahar*, the bestselling album of 2008 that utilized purposive poetry to raise awareness on development-related issues.

Last Updated: December, 2017