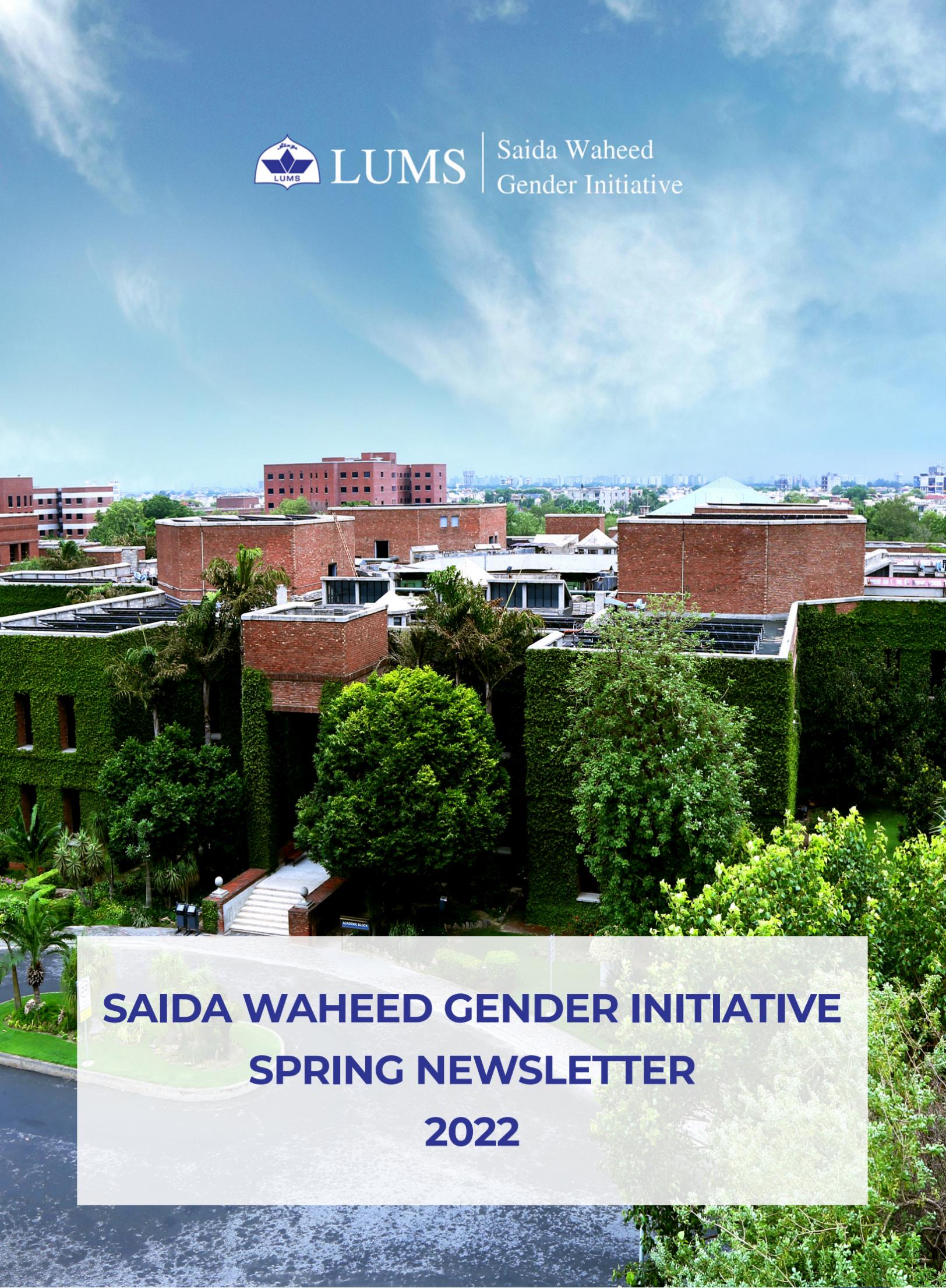




LUMS

Saida Waheed
Gender Initiative



**SAIDA WAHEED GENDER INITIATIVE
SPRING NEWSLETTER
2022**

OVERVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE:

Webinars	1
Seminar	6
Collaborations	8
Gender Bi-Annual	12

The Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWG I) had a packed calendar of events for Spring 2022. Keeping in mind the pandemic, most of the events were online to give the audience a chance to engage with academic and practitioner work focusing on gender and sexuality. We also organised our first in-person event since the pandemic hit. Moreover, keeping in line with our vision and mission, we also released the second issue of our Gender Bi-Annual – a publication that platforms diverse voices and brings together the experience and work of academics and practitioners. The Bi-Annual also serves as a space where students can share their research work and thought pieces.

Gendering Technology

Speakers: Shmyla Khan and Dr. Maryam Mustafa

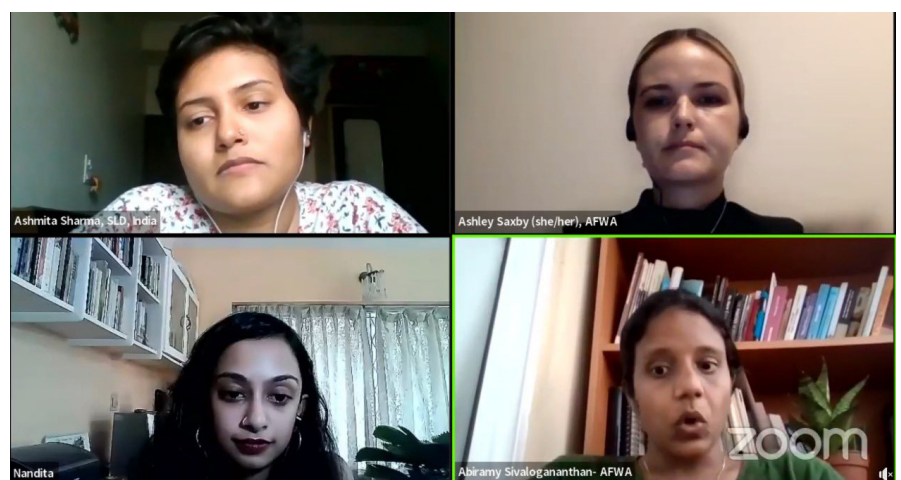
In this discussion, the speakers explored the ways in which privacy is experienced along gendered lines, undercut and reinforced by patriarchy in complex and at times violent ways. Taking a feminist perspective on privacy, Shmyla Khan and Dr. Maryam Mustafa explored how the right to privacy has been critiqued by feminists, particularly the “privacy of the home”, but also how it has been employed to make gains in areas of bodily autonomy and sexualities--leading to the critical feminist question of whether privacy truly has emancipatory potential? The talk also contextualised the discussion in Pakistan, and looked at privacy through the lens of emerging tech such as artificial intelligence and the intersectional impact it can have.



Promoting Gender Justice on Global Garment Supply Chains

Speakers: Ashley Saxby, Ashmita Sharma, Abiramy Sivaloganathan and Nandita Shivakumar
(Asia Floor Wage Alliance)

In this talk, the panelists highlighted how COVID-19 has intervened in unanticipated ways across all sectors, with devastating impacts for the women workers who dominate the Asian garment industry. Across Asia—which accounts for 60% of the 40 million garment workers worldwide—women workers have been left in desperate circumstances requiring immediate and long-term



responses. Women garment workers—including those who have returned to work and those who are unable to do so— face a spectrum of Gender-Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH), including forms of violence that inflict physical, mental, sexual, and economic harm. They further discussed the reasons why governments and brands have failed to avert and relieve this urgent humanitarian crisis and specifically have failed to include a gender lens even in limited response.

The panel provided a detailed overview of GBVH in garment supply chains, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. It also laid out critical actions needed from global fashion brands and governments going forward to mitigate the human rights impact in the short term and to transform supply chains going forward.



The Net of Kinship: Mothers, Daughters, and the Webs Caste Weaves in Pakistan

Speakers: Dr. Ghazal Asif and Dr. Amen Jaffer

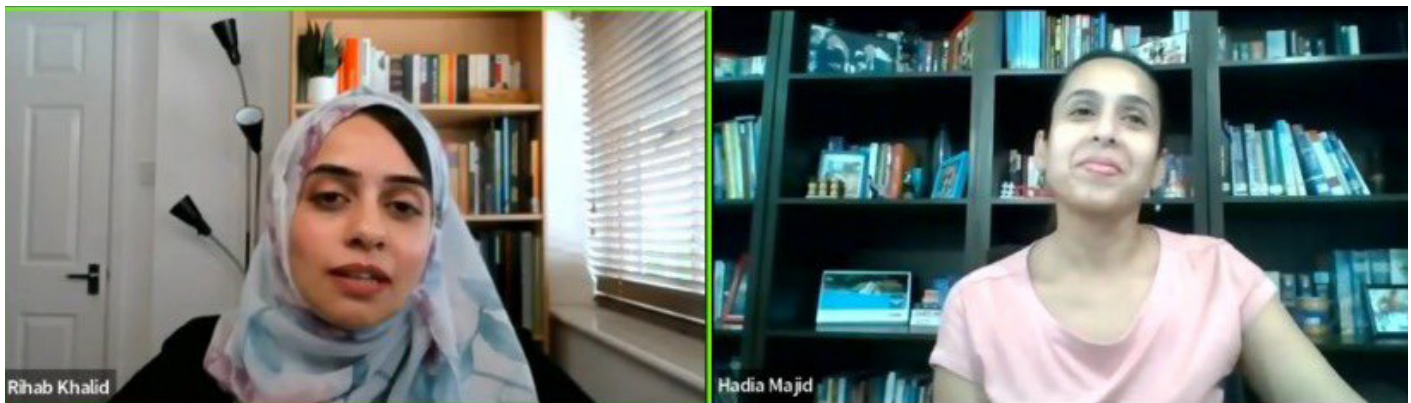
The panelists discussed the vicissitudes of a unique mother and daughter relationship in Sindh, Pakistan as they negotiate their very different outlooks on the world, aspirations for themselves and one another, and resentments. Dr. Ghazal Asif unpacked the ways in which women mediate across the tensions of their status as religious minorities within family, work, and the kind of aspirations and choices they understood as available to them. They discussed the tensions and intimacies of a mother-daughter relationship, in the context of deep-seated casteist and religious prejudice, help reveal the logics, practices, and compromises through which women mediate family, profession, and personal ambition. Dr. Ghazal Asif argued that the hard labor of sustaining the nets of kinship within which one is caught can often lead to exhaustion, even in the most intimate of relations.




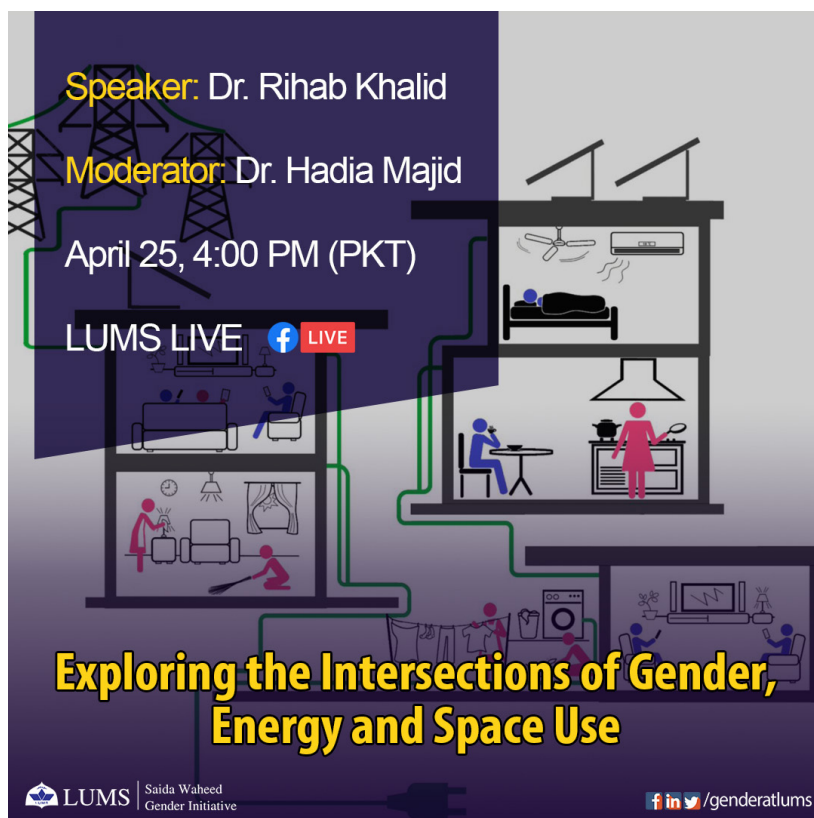
Exploring the Intersections of Gender, Energy and Space Use

Speakers: Dr. Rihab Khalid and Dr. Hadia Majid

They say that the house is the ultimate domain of women, but are contemporary houses really designed for women? This is the question Dr. Rihab Khalid and Dr. Hadia Majid explored in this talk.






Speaker: Dr. Rihab Khalid
Moderator: Dr. Hadia Majid
April 25, 4:00 PM (PKT)
LUMS LIVE  LIVE



Exploring the Intersections of Gender, Energy and Space Use

LUMS | Saida Waheed Gender Initiative

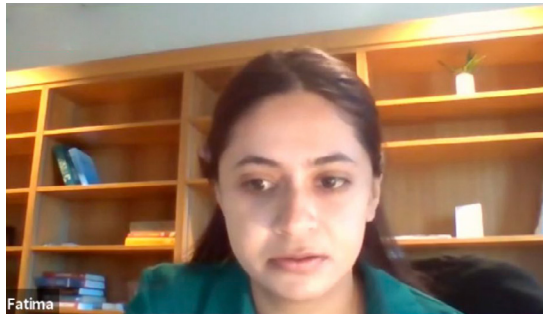
   /genderatlums

Looking at the research of Dr. Khalid, they discussed some of the impacts of current spatial configurations and household technologies on women's domestic energy and space-use. Drawing on interviews with middleclass homeowners in Lahore and Amman, Dr. Rihab Khalid unpacked some of the critical factors that result in women's differential agencies, spatial affordances, and contingent flexibilities in managing domestic energy demand. The speakers also discussed how the current gender-neutral/binary approaches in housing and energy calls for further socio-technical investigations at the intersections of gender, energy and space-use for improved equity and sustainability.

How Women and Men Search for Partners: Evidence from Newspaper Advertisements

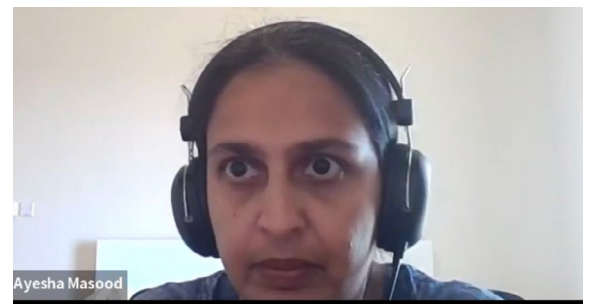
Speakers: Dr. Fatima Aqeel, Dr. Ayesha Masood and Dr. Ghazal Asif

In this talk, the speakers focused on how women and men search for marriage partners in a developing country



marriage market like Pakistan. Using a unique data set of marriage advertisements spanning two decades,

Dr. Fatima Aqeel shared her stats regarding distinct spousal search patterns based on the characteristics of the ad-poster.



The speakers also discussed how the marriage demands are highly gendered: men search for physical features and women for stable occupations; and women emphasize their own physical features while men emphasize their occupation, suggesting that both sides of the market are well-informed. Moreover, Dr. Fatima Aqeel also highlighted how women make fewer demands in prospective partners than men do, and their demands decrease relatively rapidly with age compared to men, even when they are of the same education level. Finally, the suggestive evidence by her research showed that actual matches in the Labor Force Surveys are closer to men's desires, than to women's desires; women's time-bound fecundity constrains their marriage search in a market with strong gender norms; and the potential cost of this search pattern is matching with less satisfactory partners than male ad-posters do.

An event poster for a LUMS LIVE session. It features a stylized illustration of a man and a woman in traditional Pakistani attire. The text on the poster includes: 'Speaker: Dr. Fatima Aqeel', 'Moderators: Dr. Ayesha Masood and Dr. Ghazal Asif', 'May 12, 6:00 PM (PKT)', 'LUMS LIVE' with a Facebook icon and 'LIVE' in a red box, and the title 'How Women and Men Search for Partners: Evidence from Newspaper Advertisements'. At the bottom, it mentions 'LUMS Saïda Waheed Gender Initiative' and the social media handle '/genderatlums'.

Care in Feminist Spaces: Myths and Monoliths

Speakers:

Sophia-Layla Afsar and
Dr. Shayan Rajani



This interactive session with guest speaker, Sophia-Layla Afsar (she/they), was our first in-person event since the pandemic hit. Dr. Shayan Rajani moderated the session. Layla discussed how some feminist spaces have nurtured new ways of knowing through empathic listening and further highlighted how befriending our shame is essential for uncovering historically marginalized narratives. Layla also explained how empathy isn't often associated with feminist spaces, instead such spaces are seen as a site of anger and division.

Intersections of Hostility at the Workplace

Speakers: Zehra Khan, Palvasha Shahab, Mariyah Arif and Hiba Abar



Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWG I) in collaboration with the Office of Accessibility and Inclusion (OAI) at LUMS held this online session. It was moderated by Ms. Hiba Akbar with Zehra Khan, Palvasha Shahab and Mariyah Arif as guest speakers. Hiba Akbar and Palvasha Shahab initiated the discussion with a thorough analysis on the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022. Mariyah Arif shed light on the discrimination faced by women employees, that may not always be sexual. The panelists discussed the abuse of power in the workplace, embedded within the larger social, economic, and political context. While abuse and harassment remain blatant crimes at the workplace, instances of hostility and undercurrents of (micro)aggression often get pushed aside as not significant. Besides gender, the contours of both obvious and subtle instances of harassment, their intensity and violence, are deeply affected by the class, ethnicity, and rank of the employee. The participants expanded upon the gendered realities of hostility at the workplace, and the factors that define and accentuate worker vulnerabilities. They concluded the conversation and highlighted that abuse and harassment at work can be overcome by four strategies: Implementation, monitoring, prevention and training.

Speakers: Zehra Khan,
Palvasha Shahab and
Mariyah Arif

Moderator: Hiba Akbar

February 3, 6:00PM PKT

Live on LUMS Facebook



INTERSECTIONS OF HOSTILITY AT THE WORKPLACE



Saida Waheed
Gender Initiative

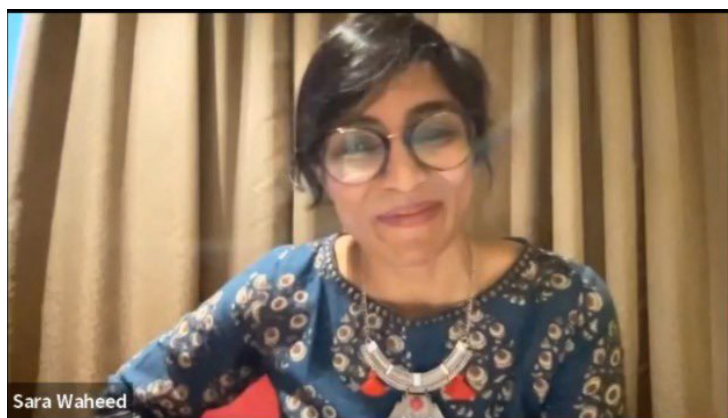


Office of Accessibility
and Inclusion

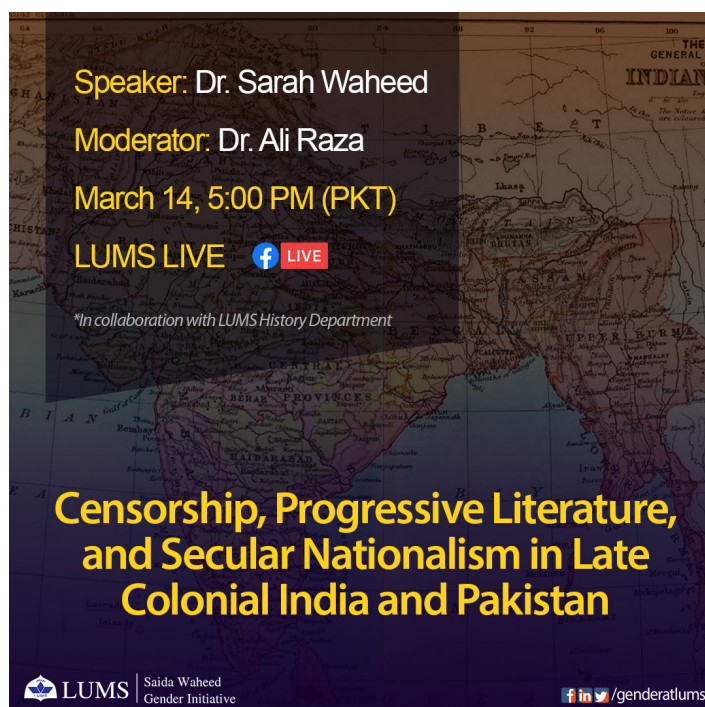
[f](#) [in](#) [t](#) /genderatlums

Censorship, Progressive Literature, and Secular Nationalism in Late Colonial India and Pakistan

Speakers: Dr. Sarah Waheed and Dr. Ali Raza

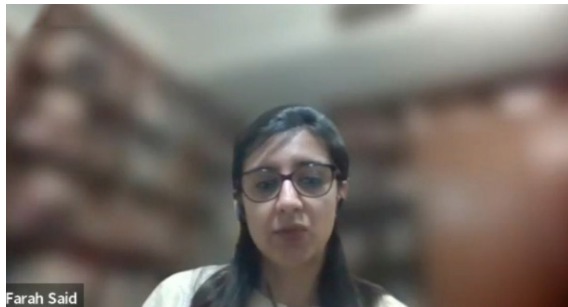


Saida Waheed Gender Initiative (SWGII) in collaboration with the LUMS History Department held this online session. Dr. Sarah Waheed discussed her work as Dr. Ali Raza moderated the session. They discussed how censorship, Urdu literature, Islam, and progressive secular nationalisms in colonial India and Pakistan have a complex, intertwined history. Dr. Waheed offered a timely examination of the role of progressive Muslim intellectuals in the Pakistan movement. Rather than seeing 'religion' and 'the secular' as distinct and oppositional phenomena, her book demonstrates how these concepts themselves were historically produced in South Asia and were deeply interconnected in the cultural politics of the left. While discussing detailed analysis of trials for blasphemy, obscenity, and sedition, and feminist writers, Dr. Waheed argued that Muslim intellectuals engaged with socialism and communism through their distinctive ethical and cultural past. In doing so, she provided a fresh perspective on the creation of Pakistan and South Asian modernity.




Negotiating Adulthood: Women's Education, Work and Family Formation in Rural Pakistan

Speakers: Dr. Tahir Andrabi, Dr. Hadia Majid and Dr. Farah Said.



Our final event for the semester was a collaboration with the Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Center at LUMS. Presenting findings from the long-term LEAPS survey, Dr. Tahir Andrabi discussed results on education, marriage and labor market aspects of the lives of women aged (20-30) in the 2018 survey. The panelists explored whether and how there has been a generational shift in educational outcomes between these women and their mothers. They also looked at the effect of education on marriage likelihood, assortative spousal matching and the quality of the in-law relationship. Dr. Andrabi examined labor force participation, occupational sorting between men and women into “brain vs brawn” jobs and, using time use-data, he looked at the variation of paid vs housework of both married and unmarried women along the education dimension.

 **LUMS** | Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre

MHRC DISTINGUISHED LECTURE, SPRING 2022

Negotiating Adulthood: Women's Education, Work and Family Formation in Rural Pakistan

Speaker: Tahir Andrabi (Pomona)
Moderators: Hadia Majid (LUMS) and Farah Said (LUMS)

**19TH MAY
8:00 PM (PKT)
LUMS LIVE**




 **LIVE**

Photo by: USAID

Gender Bi-Annual | Issue 2: January 2022

Saida Waheed Gender Initiative released the second issue of Gender Bi-Annual in January. The Bi-Annual featured a diverse range of voices from multiple fields of work. This issue brought a special focus on issues of gender inequality which affects the intimate, cultural and economic lives of women. The contributors explored various facets of the discourse through their expertise. In Practitioner Voices, a development practitioner reflected on how settings of conflict and ensuing displacement increase the prevalence of child marriages. Another piece in the section examined the challenges surrounding access to justice for cases of gender-based violence. Academic Work featured two contributors, with one discussing nuances of backlash against feminist gains; while the other looked at data from multiple countries on how education affects work opportunities available to women. In the Gender & Design section, the first piece discussed the power of advertising platforms in propelling gender equality themes; the second shed light on the gendered nature and impact of digital technologies along with how gaps in technology design can be addressed. Finally, in Student Features the contributors considered the prevalence of child marriage in Pakistan.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03.	EDITOR'S NOTE
04.	PRACTITIONER VOICES Stolen Innocence: Child Marriage in the Modern World by Amneh Shaikh-Farooqui
06.	PRACTITIONER VOICES Access to Justice for Women by Aliya Khan
09.	ACADEMIC WORK Understanding Backlash to Sustain Women's Rights by Saniyana Khan Mohmand
12.	ACADEMIC WORK Evolution of Gender Gaps in Education and Work: Evidence from Two South Asian and Two Sub-Saharan African Economies by Andy McKay
15.	GENDER & DESIGN Time To Get Angry: A Female Advertiser's Perspective by Hira Mohibullah
17.	GENDER & DESIGN Bridging the Digital Divide by Maryam Mustafa
20.	STUDENT FEATURES Nip the 'juvenile' in the bud: How Child Marriages Crush the Many Facets of Development by Rabia Saeed

EDITOR:
DR. HADIA MAJID

SUB-EDITOR:
AIMEN BUCHA

DESIGN & LAYOUT:
IZAH SHAHID

COVER:
THE GENDER INEQUALITY PARADIGMS
by MARIA ALI
(student at LUMS)

We are already planning an interesting line-up for the Fall semester and will keep you posted so stay tuned! Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!



LUMS

Saida Waheed
Gender Initiative

DHA, Lahore Cantt. 54792, Lahore, Pakistan
Phone: +92 42 35608000
Fax: +92 42 35725048

URL : swgi.lums.edu.pk
Email: gender@lums.edu.pk