

Saima Nawaz

Associate Professor
COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan
HEC Approved PhD Supervisor

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Google Scholar

Fields of interest: [*Governance, Trade, Energy, Social Protection*]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)** Islamabad, Pakistan
Tenured Associate Professor of Economics Apr 2022 - till date
- **Boston University (BU)** Boston, USA
Postdoctoral Fellow at Department of Economics Sep 2022 - May 2023
- **COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI)** Islamabad, Pakistan
Assistant Professor of Economics Oct 2013 - Apr 2022
- **Western Michigan University (WMU)** Michigan, USA
Visiting Research Fellow Jun 2018 - Jul 2018
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** Boston, USA
Evaluating Social Programs, J-PAL Executive Education Jun 2018
- **Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)** Islamabad, Pakistan
Research Assistant Jul 2009 - Jun 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Associate Head, Department of Economics, CUI** Sep 2018 - Dec 2021
Responsible for managing administrative affairs of the department
- **Member, Institutional Scholarship Award Committee (ISAC), CUI**
Conduct campus level evaluation to award scholarships
- **Member, Campus Unfair Means Control Committee (UMCC), CUI**
Review unfair mean cases at campus level
- **Convener, Audit & QEC Committee, CUI**
Conduct internal audit at campus level
- **Member Departmental Committees, Department of Economics, CUI**
Arrange meetings, conduct reviews and manage department tasks

EDUCATION

- **Boston University** Boston, USA
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Economics Sep 2022 - May 2023
- **Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)** Islamabad, Pakistan
PhD Economics Sep 2007 - Apr 2013

TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

- Summer Research and Training Workshop 2022, Kathmandu, Nepal (June 24-27, 2022) organized by ICIMOD and SANDEE
- PYTHON: Data Analysis and Visualization, CUI, 2020
- Evaluating Social Programs, J-PAL Executive Education, MIT, Cambridge, USA, June 11, 2018 to June 15, 2018
- ISO Audit Training, CUI, August 7-8, 2018

- Labour Economics: Theories, Methodologies and Research Issues SARNET Training programme, 27 October – 7 November 2015 at New Delhi, India
- Faculty Development Training Course, CUI, 2015

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

29. Churchill, S. A., Iqbal, N., **Nawaz, S.**, & Yew, S. L. (2024). Unconditional Cash Transfers, Health and Savings. *Economics and Human Biology*, 51, 101373
28. Sharif, S. & **Nawaz, S.** (2024). The Impact of Fiscal Policy on Macroeconomic Conditions in Pakistan: Insights from a Structural Vector Autoregression Analysis. *Business Review*, 19, 1-20
27. **Nawaz, S.** & Hussain, S. (2024) Unveiling effects of cash transfers on poverty and social cohesion in conflict-affected zones: Insights from ex-FATA, Pakistan, *World Development Perspectives*, 33, 100570
26. 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
25. 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
24. **Nawaz, S.** & Gul, F. (2022) Cash transfer program and willingness to pay for environmental services among the ultra-poor in Pakistan, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 29, 30249–30264
23. 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
22. **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
21. **Nawaz, S.** (2021) Energy Poverty, Climate Shocks and Health Deprivations, *Energy Economics*, 100, pp. 105338
20. **Nawaz, S.**, & Mangla, I. U. (2021) The Economic Geography of Infrastructure in Asia: The Role of Institutions and Regional Integration, *Research in Transportation Economics*, 88, pp. 101061
19. **Nawaz, S.** Anwar, S, & Iqbal, N. (2021) The Spatial Effects of Economic Corridor on Employment in Pakistan: the Role of Complementary Factors, *The Pakistan Development Review*, 60(3), 309-330
18. Iqbal, N. & **Nawaz, S.** (2021) Cash transfers and residential demand for electricity: Insights from BISP, Pakistan, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 28, 14401–14422
17. Azam, M., **Nawaz, S.**, Rafiq, Z., & Iqbal N. (2021) A Spatial-Temporal Decomposition of Carbon Emission Intensity: A Sectoral Level Analysis in Pakistan, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 28(12), pp. 21381–21395
16. **Nawaz, S.** & Ahmad, H (2020) The Cyclical Patterns of Macroeconomic Fundamentals and Energy Consumption in Pakistan, *Journal of Social and Policy Sciences*, 3(1), pp. 27-62
15. **Nawaz, S.**, & Khawaja, M. I., (2020) The Impact of Political Regime and Institutions on Government Size in Middle-income Countries, *The Pakistan Development Review*, vol. 59(2), pp. 199-220
14. **Nawaz, S.** (2020) Institutions, Regional Integration and Bilateral Trade in South Asia: PPML Based Evidence. *The Pakistan Development Review*, vol. 59(2), pp. 221-246
13. Khan, U.S., Khan, M. A., **Nawaz, S.** & Abdul, R. (2020) Fiscal Convergence and Total Factor Productivity: Firm-Level Evidence from Pakistan, *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business*, 7(10), pp. 555-569

12. Arshad, A. & **Nawaz, S.** (2020) Impact of financial inclusion on child malnutrition in developing countries, *International Journal of Management (IJM)*, 11(9), 465-475
11. **Nawaz, S.**, & Khawaja, M. I., (2019) Fiscal Policy, Institutions and Growth: New Insights, *The Singapore Economic Review*, vol. 64(05). pp. 1251-1278
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(2020), 111535
9. Khan, M. & **Nawaz, S.** (2018) Does Pak-Rupee Exchange Rate Respond Monetary Fundamental? A Structural Analysis, *The Pakistan Development Review*, 57(2), 175-202
8. 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
7. Iqbal, N., & **Nawaz, S.** (2017). Spatial Differences and Socio-economic Determinants of Health Poverty. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 56(3), 221-248
6. **Nawaz, S.**, & Iqbal, N. (2016). Education Poverty in Pakistan: A Spatial Analysis at District Level. *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 10(2), 270-287
5. **Nawaz, S.** (2015). Growth effects of institutions: A disaggregated analysis. *Economic Modelling*, 45, 118-126
4. **Nawaz, S.**, Iqbal, N., & Khan, M. (2014). The impact of institutional quality on economic growth: panel evidence. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 53(1), 15-31
3. **Nawaz, S.**, Iqbal, N., & Anwar, S. (2014). Modelling electricity demand using the STAR (Smooth Transition Auto-Regressive) model in Pakistan. *Energy*, 78, 535-542
2. **Nawaz, S.**, Iqbal, N., & Anwar, S. (2013). Electricity Demand in Pakistan: A Nonlinear Estimation. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 52(4), 479-492.
1. Iqbal, N., & **Nawaz, S.** (2009). Investment, inflation and economic growth nexus. *The Pakistan Development Review*, 48(4), 863-874

RESEARCH PROJECTS (IN PROGRESS)

- Empowering Rural Communities for Climate Change Adaptation: Evaluating the Impact of the National Poverty Graduation Program in South Punjab, Pakistan [Supported by IGC] [Completion date: Dec 2024].
 - This study aims to examine the impact of a state-led asset transfer program on adaptation to climate change using wide range census datasets such as MOUZA Census, NSER and satellite data. The study will employ a mix-method approach to unpack the impacts.
- The Economics of State-Led Afforestation: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from KP, Pakistan. [Supported by ICIMOD & SANDEE] [Completion date: June 2023].
 - 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. Additionally, the study aims to explore the factors that explain participation rates in the project.
- Efficacy of the Poverty Graduation Model and Mainstreaming of Poor Youth [Supported by HEC & World Bank] [Completion date: Dec 2023]
 - The research project aims to evaluate the efficacy of poverty graduation programs in breaking the poverty trap using a quasi-experimental design in Pakistan. Additionally, the study will investigate how social mobilization and community handholding approaches impact the perception and interaction of poor youth beneficiaries with governance

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

- **IGC:** Empowering Rural Communities for Climate Change Adaptation: Evaluating the Impact of the National Poverty Graduation Program in South Punjab, Pakistan [(Co-PI), Grant: GBP 19,500; Period: 2024]
- **RASTA-PIDE:** Revitalization of Street Economy in Pakistan: The case of Islamabad [(Co-PI), Grant: PKR 4 million; period: 2021-2022]
- **HEC:** The linkages between infrastructure development, regional integration and economic growth [(PI), Grant: PKR 0.5 million; Period: 2018]
- **HEC:** Regional Integration and Trade Nexus in South Asia: Does Institutional Framework Matter [(PI), Grant: PKR 0.5 million; Period: 2017]
- **HEC & World Bank:** Efficacy of the Poverty Graduation Model and its Impacts on Socio Economic Wellbeing and Governance Mainstreaming of Poor Youth [(Co-PI), Grant: PKR 23 million; Period: 2022-2023]
- **ICIMOD & SANDEE:** Tenurial contracts, women participation and reforestation in KP, Pakistan [(Co-PI), Grant: \$25,000; Period: 2021-2023]
- **CoE-CPEC:** CPEC an Engine of Employment: A Situational Analysis and Policy Framework, [(Co-PI), Grant: PKR 350,000; Period: 2017]
- **PIDE:** Spatial Differences and Socio-Economic Determinants of Health Poverty, [(Co-PI), Grant: PKR 400,000; Period: 2014]
- **PIDE:** Electricity Demand and Policy Framework in Pakistan, [(Co-PI), Grant: PKR 100,000; Period: 2013]

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

- **Recipient of the Postdoc Scholarship** awarded by the *Higher Education Commission (HEC)* of Pakistan, 2022
- Winner of Local Challenge Fund (LCF) grant project “Efficacy of the Poverty Graduation Model and its Impacts on Socio Economic Wellbeing and Governance Mainstreaming of Poor Youth” from Higher Education Commission (HEC) (2022) (as a Co-PI)
- Winner of a research grant project “Measuring socioeconomic impacts of reforestation under alternative tenurial contracts with a focus on women: the case of Billion Trees Project in KP, Pakistan” from South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) (2020) (as a Co-PI)
- Winner of a research grant project titled “The linkages between infrastructure development, regional integration and economic growth” for Short Research Visit Abroad under HEC program: Pakistan Program for Collaborative Research (PPCR) at Haworth College of Business, Western Michigan University, Michigan USA, 2018 (as a PI)
- Winner of HEC Start up Research Grant Project, titled “Regional Integration and Trade Nexus in South Asia: Does Institutional Framework Matter”, (2017) (as a PI)
- Winner of CPEC-CC, PIDE Competitive Policy Research Grant-2017 (Phase 1) on Socio Economic Impact of CPEC, 2017 Proposal Title: CPEC an Engine of Employment: A Situational Analysis and Policy Framework (as a PI)
- Research Productivity Award, 2015, CUI
- Spatial Differences and Socio-Economic Determinants of Health Poverty: Winner of PIDE CPHSP Competitive Research Grant on Understanding and Managing Health in Pakistan, at PIDE, 2014 (as a Co-PI)
- Pak-India Trade and MFN: Short Run vs. Long Run Impact: Winner of 15th Round of Regional Research Competition by South Asia Network of Economic Research Institute (SANEI) 2013 (as a Co-PI)

- Winner of PIDE Annual Research Competitive Grant on Energy at PIDE, 2013: Proposal Title: Electricity Demand and Policy Framework in Pakistan (as a Co-PI)
- Best paper award at IMRA International Conference, London, UK: 17-18 May, 2012: Paper Title: Institutions-Growth Nexus: Stages of Development

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, liaising with stakeholders, ensuring quality control, and ensuring timely delivery of results.
- Successfully completed the projects within 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

PAPER PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- International Conferences
 - Regional Integration and Trade Nexus in South Asia: Does Institutional Framework Matter? presented in 1st International Conference on "Energy, Finance and the Macroeconomy (ICEFM) " at Montpellier Business School, Montpellier, France, November 22-24, 2017
 - 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 Policy and Growth, presented in International Conference on Policy Modeling: EcoMod (EcoMod2015), 15-17 Jul-2015, Boston, USA
 - Institutions-Growth Nexus: Stages of Development, presented at IMRA International Conference, London, UK: 17-18 May, 2012
- National Conferences
 - Street Vending Economy in Twin Cities: An Economic Analysis, presented in 35th AGM & Conference titled "Opportunities to Excel – Now and The Future" November 22– 25, 2021, IMSciences, Peshawar
 - Social Impact of CPEC: Challenges and Opportunities, presented in conference at 2nd National Conference titled "Special economic zones: Future prospects and potentials organized by AJK University, June 18, 2019
 - The Economic Geography of Infrastructure in Asia: The Role of Institutions and Regional Integration, presented in 34th AGM & Conference "Pakistan's Economy: The Way Forward" at Islamabad, Pakistan organized by PIDE: December 12-14, 2018
 - 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, March 28-29, 2018
 - Transforming the Lives of Ultra Poor through Skill Development: the Case of BISP's Waseela-e-Rozgar Program, presented in a Conference "Poverty and Social Inequalities in Pakistan: Inclusive Growth Perspective" at University of Sargodha, Pakistan, May 24-25, 2017

- 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, December 19-21, 2013
- 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, December 28-30, 2010

POLICY BRIEFS AND OPED

9. Pakistan’s next government faces an economy sliding into the void, East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2024:
<https://eastasiaforum.org/2024/01/25/pakistans-next-government-faces-an-economy-sliding-into-the-void/>
8. Breaking Pakistan’s bad IMF habit, East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2023:
<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/08/25/breaking-pakistans-bad-imf-habit/>
7. Moving up the energy ladder: the impact of BISP cash transfers on fuel choices, PIDE Knowledge Brief, 2020 (10), <https://www.pide.org.pk/pdf/PIDE-Knowledge-Brief-10.pdf>
6. Aid, institutions and frameworks, The NEWS,
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/433743-aid-institutions-and-frameworks>, 2019
5. Getting regional trade right in Central Asia, East Asia Forum, East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER), Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU), Australia, 2017:
<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/04/18/getting-regional-trade-right-in-central-asia/>
4. Pakistan can’t reap the benefits of CPEC, East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2016:
<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2016/11/16/pakistan-cant-reap-the-benefits-of-cpec/>
3. Pakistan needs to look beyond China for FDI, East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2016:
<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2016/08/15/pakistan-needs-to-look-beyond-china-for-fdi/>
2. Why has SAFTA failed to boost Pakistan–India trade? East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2016:
<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2016/03/19/why-has-safta-failed-to-boost-pakistan-india-trade/>
1. FDI key to the future of South Asian regional integration, East Asia Forum, EABER, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Australia, 2016: <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2016/05/11/fdi-key-to-the-future-of-south-asian-regional-integration/>

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
- Social Policy & Administration
- World Development Perspectives

COURSES TAUGHT

- Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics Theory
- Political Economy and Global Change
- Advance Macroeconomics
- Development Planning and Policy
- Introduction to Development Economics
- International Economics (I & II)
- Macroeconomics Theory
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Energy Economics
- Research Methodology in Economics
- Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics Analysis

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

1. Member of Institutional Scholarship Award Committee (ISAC)
2. Convener of Audit & QEC Committee (Conduct internal audit at campus level as auditor)
3. Internal reviewer of the MS/BS Thesis
4. Convener of MS/MPhil Defence Panel
5. Convener of Publication Committee
6. Convener of Weekly Report Committee
7. Member of Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)
8. Member of Departmental Curriculum Committee
9. Member of Proctorial Board Committee
10. Member of Curriculum Revision Committee
11. Member of Departmental Academic Review Committee
12. Member of SICON Paper Review Committee
13. Member of Thesis evaluation committee in Energy Economics