

SHARMEEN IRFAN

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge, St. John's College, United Kingdom **2016**

PhD Candidate in Development Studies

Title: The Political Economy of Gender, Education and Women Empowerment in Developing Countries

University of Cambridge, St. John's College, United Kingdom

M. Phil Development Studies **2010**

Subjects: Development Economics, Institutions & Development; Sociology & Politics of Development; Justice & Development, Philosophical Issues in Econ.

Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan

B.Sc (Hons.) Economics and International Relations **2007**

"Principal's Commendation Award" for most outstanding student.

Research Paper: "Abolition of the Multi-fibre Agreement and its impact on the Textile and Clothing Sector in Pakistan"

Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan

HSSC- Higher Secondary School Certificate **2003**

Overall First position at Kinnaird College.

Concentration: Economics, Statistics, Mathematics.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Cambridge, School of Humanities and Social Sciences **2011-2012**

School Office Administrator

- Responsible for overall documentation for the School's committees and organising meetings within the departments and faculties.
- Responsible for Cambridge Humanities Research Grants Scheme; overall analysis of applications and ranking systems.
- Member of School's Ethics Committee and processing of applications for Ethics Review.
- Analyse and assist applications for Research Excellence Framework.

University of Cambridge, Department of Land Economy **May-July 2011**

Examinations Co-ordinator and External Relations Officer

- Overall responsible for administering the Undergraduate Examinations for the Land Economy Tripos.
- Provided support to the Head of the Department in organising the Annual Seminar Series.
- Organised the Options Day for new first and second year undergraduates.
- Organised examiners' meetings for the undergraduate tripos.

University of Cambridge, RECOUP (Research on Educational Outcomes and Poverty), Centre of Development Studies and Faculty of Education

2010-2011

Research Associate

- Conducted research as part of the DFID-funded project focusing on the Public-Private partnerships in education in Pakistan, India, Ghana and Kenya; Compiled, coded & analysed first-hand qualitative data received from partner countries; and conducted literature surveys.
- My policy briefs and working papers were published in the RECOUP Journal which formed the basis of DFID policy on educational partnerships towards member countries.
- Assisted Lead Project Coordinator in the preparation of research papers for the 'DFID RPCs Education Access Quality & Outcomes Conference', November 2010.
- Participated in the DFID conference and presented a poster on 'Youth Citizenship and education in Pakistan'.

University of Cambridge, DAMTP (Department of Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics), Centre for Mathematical Sciences

2007-2009

Faculty Office Administrator

- Was the first point of contact for the Department responsible for managing Parts IA, IB, II and III, MPhil Statistics and Computational Biology.
- Conducted surveys and designed questionnaires for Teaching Quality Assessment.
- Was the main Coordinator of the Adams Prize and the Smith-Rayleigh Knight Prize; assisted the Chairmen and Adjudicators.
- Provided assistance with the annual Teacher's Colloquium.
- Was responsible for the administration of all undergraduate and graduate exams, including liaison with external examiners.
- Conducted the examinations for MPhil in Statistical Science and MPhil in Computational Biology.
- Conducted student elections for Faculty Board Representatives.

Humanitarian Centre, Cambridge

2008-2009

Training Project Manager – Volunteer

- Was responsible for organising training projects for various charities working with the Humanitarian centre.
- Acted as Conference Coordinator for the International Development Course for development professionals at Cambridge University in December 2008.
- Was responsible for organisation of conferences and workshops at the centre.
- Collaborated with donor agencies and other funding bodies for different projects being looked after by the Centre
- Prepared and administered the Humanitarian Centre courses on International Development and the Certificate of Higher Education in International Development.
- Conducted training sessions for volunteers.

University of Cambridge, Prof. Ajit Singh, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Judge Business School

2008

Research and Administrative Assistant

- Provided overall research assistance for publications and data sourcing.
- Surveyed literature for various papers and articles.
- Provided editorial assistance for articles in journals and newspapers.

- Researched data from secondary sources
- Updated notes for various lecture, at Cambridge and abroad.

Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the WTO – Geneva, Switzerland **2006**
Intern/Research Officer

- Provided background research for the Mission and assisted in preparation of strategy papers, negotiation briefs, meeting reports.
 - Attended various meetings of the WTO's Trade Negotiations Committee, on Agriculture and Development and assisted presentations of officers.
 - Researched data on trade and economic statistics and maintained database.
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PROFESSIONAL TRAINING/CONFERENCES

DFID RPCs Education Access Quality & Outcomes Conference, **2010**
Institute of Education, London

Presented a poster on '*Public-Private Partnerships in Education: Enhancing Youth Participation and Civic Sense in Pakistan.*'

Von Hugel Institute of Human Development, St. Edmund's College, **2010**
University of Cambridge

Workshop on '*Twenty Years of Human Development-the past and future of the Human Development Index*'

WISCOMP (Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace) **2010**
New Delhi, India

Workshop on "*Collaborative Explorations-Use of Multi-track diplomacy to facilitate the peace process between India and Pakistan*".

Represented Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore as a student speaker and presented a paper on '*Curriculum Development and Educational Pedagogy in Pakistan-Lessons for India-Pakistan relations.*'

WISCOMP(Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace) **2006**
New Delhi, India

Workshop on "*Envisioning Futures-Peace Process between India and Pakistan*"

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), **2005**
Lahore, Pakistan

"Model WTO Workshop"

Presented a research paper on "*Agriculture Negotiations in the Doha Round and The Way Forward for Pakistan*"
 Was awarded prize for '*best presentation*'.

Government College University, Lahore **2005**

Conference on "*Human Resource Management*".
 Presented a study of Pakistan's Banking Sector.

The Resource Group (TRG), Lahore Pakistan **2004**

Training workshop on "*Communication and Inter-personal Skills*"

RESEARCH PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

- "**Perspectives on Types of Schools from Ghana and Pakistan: Revisiting the Relationship between Intergenerational Poverty and Education.**" *Shailaja Fennell, Gideon Agbley and Sharmeen Irfan. Policy Brief, RECOUP Journal No. 18, University of Cambridge, November 2010*
 - "**Public Private Partnerships and Educational Outcomes in Pakistan: A Gendered Experience.**" *Sharmeen Irfan. Policy Brief, RECOUP journal No. 9, University of Cambridge, October 2010.*
 - "**Dreams Lost, Destinies Unfulfilled-An Analysis of the Kashmir Conflict.**" *Published in the Annual WISCOMP Journal, Vol.8, No.1, June 2007.*
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- **"The Role of Judicial Independence for Development: Analysing the movement for the independence of Judiciary in Pakistan."** *Research Paper for MPhil in Development Studies 2010.*
 - **"Impact of the abolition of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) on the Textile and Clothing Sector of Pakistan"** *Dissertation for Bachelor's degree, Kinnaird College Lahore, 2007.*
 - **"Pakistan's Economy in the Aftermath of the Oil Crises of 1973 and 1979".** *A comparative historical case study for the Economics Department, Kinnaird College Lahore, 2006.*
 - **"Application of Different Market Structures – A Case Study of the Tea Sector in Pakistan".** *A comparative analysis, presented at the Kinnaird College Economics Society's annual seminar series, Kinnaird College Lahore, 2006.*
 - **"Interdependence between Chinese and US Economies – A Macroeconomic Perspective".** *Research Paper for the Economics Department, Kinnaird College Lahore, 2005.*
 - **"Various Facets of Globalisation and the Westernisation of Pakistan",** *Research Paper presented at the half-yearly Seminar on Globalisation at the Department of Political Science, Kinnaird College Lahore, 2005.*
 - **The Karachi Stock Exchange 2005-Lessons to be learnt from the debacle,'** *Research paper for the seminar series at the Lahore School of economics, Pakistan.*
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AWARDS/HONOURS

- Shell Centenary Cambridge Scholarship, University of Cambridge, 2009-10.
 - "Principal's Commendation Award" for most outstanding student at Kinnaird College Lahore, Pakistan, 2003-2007.
 - "Student Council President and Head Girl, Kinnaird College Lahore, Pakistan, 2006-7.
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LANGUAGES

- English, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and German (Introductory)
 - Basic Computer operations, Databases, SPSS, Excel and PowerPoint
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MEMBERSHIPS / INTERESTS

- Secretary, St. John's College Women's Society, 2008-2010
 - Cambridge University International Development (CuID), 2009-2010.
 - Development Studies Social Committee, 2009-2010
 - Chief Organiser, International Development Course, Humanitarian Centre, Cambridge. 2007-2008
- Other Interests: Travelling, Photography, Movies, Foreign cuisine.
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REFERENCES

- Dr. Shailaja Fennell, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, UK.
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath, Honorary Director, WISCOMP & Principal, Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi, India.
- Prof. Ajit Singh, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Project Leader, Centre for Business Research, and Financial Analysis and Policy, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, UK.
- Mirza Qamar Beg, Visiting Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, UK – formerly Ambassador, Embassy of Pakistan, Rome, Italy.
- Dr. Ha-Joon Chang, Reader in Political Economy and Development, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge, UK.
- Ms Ann Mobbs, Departmental Administrator, DAMTP, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK.