



Abid Ali

CHSS 2022 LUMS Workshop Fellow

**Nationality:** Pakistani

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**Research interests:** Islamic socialism and anti-colonial struggle, counter-narrative in post-colonial state-Pakistan, social movements and land rights politics.

“My name is Abid Ali, hailing from a small village in Charsadda District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. I still vividly remember the day I came across a flyer from LUMS announcing an academic opportunity for underrepresented scholars in Pakistan. The very concept of supporting underrepresented voices resonated deeply with me. Encouraged by this, I applied and was selected to attend a 5-day workshop in Lahore, followed by a CHSS Symposium at Chiang Mai University in Thailand. These events transformed my approach to research. Not only did they enhance my research skills, but they also prompted me to critically rethink and unlearn some of my previous research methodologies. One of the most valuable lessons I gained was how to organize academic events that promote research innovation.

Inspired by this experience, I took the initiative to organize a conference at my institution; the first-ever conference in its history. This event brought together students and faculty from five different underserved colleges, providing them with a platform to present their research, share ideas, and build academic connections. The success of this conference was a direct result of my participation in the CHSS project.

On a personal level, the encouragement I received from Sida helped me apply for PhD programs at international universities. Lastly, the impact of these experiences extends to my students. I am now able to pass on the knowledge and skills I have gained through the CHSS workshops and international conferences. My students can benefit from the innovative research ideas and teaching strategies that I have learned, and they will continue to inspire them and shape their own academic journeys.”