



CHSS 2023-24 Research Fellow

Nationality: Pakistani

Affiliation: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage
Project: “Pashto Folk Music and Dance Heritage Conservation”

Relevant websites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asEQXgIxrpg>

https://ich.unesco.org/en/files-2024-under-process-01303?include=slideshow_inc.php&id=02248&width=620&call=slideshow&mode=scroll#https://ich.unesco.org/img/photo/thumb/18792-HUG.jpg

Ashraf Kakar

“Initially, our project aimed to document both Pashtun folk dance and *Narh Sur* (throat singing) in Balochistan. However, budget constraints and the logistical challenges of filming Pashtun folk dance—communal events that require extended periods of coverage—necessitated a shift in the research focus. We decided to concentrate on documenting *Narh Sur* in seven districts of the Koh-e-Suleman Mountains. This choice allowed us to complete the fieldwork successfully, as throat singing typically involves two performers and was comparatively easier to document.

During my tenure as an AAS Research Fellow, I collaborated with the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (*Lok Virsa*), under the Ministry of National Culture and Heritage, Government of Pakistan. This research has been formally submitted for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list for the 2024/25 cycle. The submission will be reviewed during the Intergovernmental Committee session in December 2024 in Asunción, Paraguay. UNESCO has also published 10 pictures from our fieldwork in seven districts of Balochistan and as part of UNESCO's requirements, I produced a 10-minute documentary titled “*Music of the Mountains: Narh Sur/Narh Stunai in Koh-e-Sulaiman*,” now available for public viewing on YouTube.”