

Dr. Baha ul Haq (Assistant Professor, IPFP Fellow)

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Biography

Baha Ul Haq is an anthropologist whose research spans legal pluralism, legal Centralism or state centric legal system, gender, public health, and curriculum studies in South Asia. He holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. His doctoral research, *Demystifying Jirgah: Informal Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Balochistan, Pakistan*, offers a critical examination of Pashtun customary institutions and challenges static, Weberian interpretations of *Pashtunwali*. By analysing the historical incorporation of imperial and dynastic legal traditions into Pashtun legal culture, his work reveals the dynamic, adaptive, and historically layered nature of customary law.

Dr. Haq's broader research brings together theories of legal pluralism, weak and strong legal pluralism and making distinction between juridical, customary and statutory law, gender relations, and legal anthropology. His scholarship foregrounds how dispute-resolution processes, such as *jirga*, *marakah*, *nahorah* and *dareemat* intersect with questions of authority, gender norms, state power, and community autonomy. His work also interrogates curriculum narratives, particularly the Islamisation of textbooks and the role of education in shaping political identities and legitimising centrain discourses in Pakistan and Afghanistan and public health.

In addition to his legal-anthropological work, Dr. Haq has contributed significantly to global health and qualitative health research and collaborated with several national and international universities and organizations.

His contributions to include qualitative research design, process evaluation, intervention translation, cultural adaptation, and field supervision. These collaborations have resulted in publications in leading journals such as *BMJ*, *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*, *HTS Theological Studies*, and the *British Journal of Religious Education*. He also contributed to cultural preservation initiatives, working with Lok Virsa in collaboration with UNESCO on the production of a documentary titled *Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Narh-Sur in Balochistan*, highlighting commitment for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Across his diverse body of work, Dr. Haq's scholarship brings together rigorous anthropology, applied qualitative research, and a deep commitment to understanding how communities negotiate justice, governance, identity, and well-being. Through this interdisciplinary vision, he contributes to academic debates while supporting evidence-based policy, culturally informed development, and inclusive social transformation in Pakistan.

Journal Articles

1. Wright, J., Mazumdar, P., Barua, D. et al (2020). Integrating depression care within NCD provision in Bangladesh and Pakistan: a qualitative study. *International Journal of Mental Health Systems* 14 (1), 1-136202014, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13033-020-00399-y>
2. Papiya Mazumdar, Gerardo Zavala, Faiza Aslam, Krishna Prasad Mulyala, Santosh Kumar Chaturvedi, Arun Kandasamy, Asad Nizami, Baha Ul Haq, Ian Kellar, Cath Jackson, Heather Thomson, DavidMcDaid, Kamran Siddiqi, Catherine

- Hewitt, Najma Siddiqi, Simon Gilbody, Pratima Murthy, Noreen Mdege. 2023. IMPACT smoking cessation support for people with severe mental illness in South Asia (IMPACT 4S): A protocol for a randomised controlled feasibility trial of a combined behavioural and pharmacological support intervention. PLOS ONE. Published: June 14, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0287185>
3. Ahmad, Nadeem, Badshah, Ikram, Haq, Baha Ul. 2022. Interplay of Culturally Rich Terms in Making of Political Fusion and Fissure in Pashtun Society. International Journal Of Pukhtunkhwa 7 (II), 49612022.
 4. Jan, Qasim, Xie, Y., Qazi, M. H., Choudhary, Z. J., & Haq, Baha Ul. (2022). Examining the role of Pakistan's national curriculum textbook discourses on normalising the Taliban's violence in the USA's Post 9/11 war on terror in South Waziristan, Pakistan. British Journal of Religious Education, 44(3), 246255.
 5. Mehsud, Javed. Haq, Baha Ul., & Badshah, Ikram. (2018). The Birth of a Social Movement: A Case Study of Pashtun Tehfuz (Protection Movement). Global Anthropological Studies Review, 1(I), 20-27. [https://doi.org/10.31703/gasr.2018\(I-I\).03](https://doi.org/10.31703/gasr.2018(I-I).03)
 6. Jan, Qasim; Ullah, Shakir; Haq, Baha Ul and Xie, Yi. Religion, politics and science education in Pakistan: Analysis of Islamisation of science textbooks in tribal districts. Herv. teol. stud. [online]. 2023, vol.79, n.1. pp.1-9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/hts.v79i1.8151>.
 7. Haq, B. U., Badshah, I., Rehman, A., Ullah, S., & Khan, U. (2023). Dareemat: a mechanism of arbitration and dispute resolution among Pashtuns in Zhob, Pakistan. Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis, 55(1), 97–116. <https://doi.org/10.1080/27706869.2023.2188016>
 8. Haq, Baha Ul., Abid, S., & Malik, A. A. (2023). Understanding Honour and Elopement Among the Pashtuns: A Study of Legal Pluralism. Russian Law Journal, 11(1), 422-434.
 9. Jan, Q., Kakar, Q., Haq, B. U., Rahman, S. U., & Qian, X. S. (2024). Analyzing Pakistan's national curriculum textbooks in religious-based construction and demonisation of 'other' for high schools. *British Journal of Religious Education*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01416200.2024.2393183>
 10. Haq, Baha Ul, Aslam F, Mazumdar P, Reddy S, Sarfraz M, Murthy NS, Jackson C. (2024) Feasibility of remote delivery of a smoking cessation intervention for people with severe mental illness: a telephone consultation. [published online ahead of print September 11, 2024]. *Global Health Res* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.3310/MWRX6801>
 11. Qazi, M. H. Haq, Baba Ul., Amiri, S., & Jan, Q. (2025). Voices of resistance: Afghan women's lived experiences under the Taliban's ban on education. Central Asian Survey, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2025.2554216>

Oral Presentation

1. Presented research article: Gender and State Narratives: Understanding of Honour and Elopement in Pashtun Society: Citizenship and Nation-building at NIPS (National Institute of Pakistan Studies) on April 07-08, 2017: Seventh International Workshop 'Legal Pluralism(s) and Nation-Building in Pakistan' 4-5 April 2019, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan.
2. A Relationship between English Language Proficiency and Psychological Distress: A Qualitative Study in South Wales. International Conference on Migration, Mobility and Belonging 22-23 April 2025. Department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.
3. Pashtun idealistic code of conduct and Pashtun's customary law in Pashto poetry. The Oxford Coffee House. University of Oxford, UK on 18th May 2025.

Book Chapter

1. Between Jirgah and Court: Poetic Visions of Law, Culture and Justice among Pashtun. In 'Pakistan: Stories on Law and Culture'. *Upcoming*. Oxford Publisher.

Professional Trainings

1. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Course at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore-June-July 2024.
2. Offered by Research Capacity Strengthening in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Qualitative Research Methods in SRHR: An online course for Eastern

Mediterranean Region. The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Hub for Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) Department of Community Health Sciences, The Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan- June 06-17, 2022.

3. Professional Development Program for Faculty in Higher Education from September 29 to October 17, 2025, at National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), HEC, Islamabad.
4. Research Writing in the Social Sciences. INASP is an international development organisation based in the UK. The AuthorAID project, which is coordinated by INASP, provides support, mentoring, resources, and training for researchers in low- and middle-income countries- August 2021.
5. Research and Proposal Writing in the Social Sciences This participant was sponsored for the course by the NIHR Academy-15 January 2021.