Sher Afghan Asad

House No. 456, Sector L, Defense Housing Authority, Phase V, Lahore, Pakistan
(+92) 321-406-5566 | sherafghan@lums.edu.pk | www.sherafghanasad.com

I am a behavioral and public economist with expertise in data-intensive academic and policy research. My current research focuses on economic development of low-and-middle-income countries with particular focus on issues related to taxation, market frictions, and discrimination.

Education

Iowa State University (ISU)	**Ames, IA, USA**
Ph.D. Economics, Fulbright Scholar	2020
Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	**Lahore, Pakistan**
MSc. Economics	2011
Forman Christian College University	**Lahore, Pakistan**
BSc. Honors (Gold Medalist)	2010

Professional Experience

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)	**Lahore, Pakistan**
Assistant Professor	2020 – Present
Iowa State University (ISU)	**Ames, IA, USA**
Graduate Research Assistant	2017 – 2018
Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP)	**Lahore, Pakistan**
Research Associate	2012 – 2018
Punjab Skills Development Fund	**Bahawalpur, Pakistan**
Technical Officer	2011 – 2012

Other Affiliations

Mahbub ul Haq Research Center (MHRC)	**Lahore, Pakistan**
Fellow and the Director of Public Finance Cluster	2021 - Present
MindLab Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU)	**KPK, Pakistan**
Member Advisory Committee	2021 - Present

Research Fields

Behavioral Economics, Public Finance, Economics of Discrimination

Research Methods

Randomized Controlled Trials, Impact Evaluations, Field and Lab Experiments, Empirical Estimations, Structural Estimations, Theoretical Modelling.

Skills

Data wrangling, data mining, modelling, hypothesis testing, A/B testing, data visualization, dashboard development, exploratory analysis, data validation, machine learning, and language processing.

Research Papers

1. Do workers discriminate against their out-group employers? Evidence from an online labour market (with J. Bhattacharya and R. Banerjee) [*Revise and Resubmit*]
2. A Theory of Discrimination with Motivated Agents [*with Osama Khan*]
3. Impact of COVID on Fresh Produce Supply Chains: Evidence from Pakistan (with Omar Gondal)
4. Do Nudges Induce Safe Driving? Evidence from Dynamic Message Signs (with Kevin Duncan)

Research in Progress

1. Levelling the Tax Playing Field: Evidence from Pakistan (with Michael Best, Anders Jensen, and Adnan Khan)
2. Exploring the optimality of taxpayers' enforcement allocation (with Michael Best, Anders Jensen, and Adnan Khan)
3. Using Machine Learning Algorithm to Assess Property Values for Efficient Taxation (with Adnan Khan, Ben Olken, and Mahvish Shaukat)
4. Optimality of Tax Expenditures: Evidence from Pakistan (with Obeid ur Rehman)
5. Asymmetric information, relational contracts, and prices: Evidence from supply chain in Pakistan (with Omar Gondal and Farah Said)
6. Gender and Online Marketplaces (with Husnain Ahmad and Hadia Majid)

Research Partners

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority
Punjab Revenue Authority
The Urban Unit, Government of the Punjab
Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department, Government of the Punjab
Federal Board of Revenue, Government of the Pakistan
Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab

Policy Work

Pakistan Business Council: Research Report on Informality and Tax Evasion in the Wholesale & Retail Trade and the Real Estate sector (with Umair Javed and Hamid Ateeq Sarwar)

Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA): Policy Brief on Electronic Invoice Monitoring Systems and Tax Compliance in Punjab (with Michael Best, Anders Jensen, Adnan Khan, Hamza Afsar, and Zarnaab Ather)

Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab: Policy Brief on Impact of COVID on Fresh Produce Supply Chain (with Omar Gondal, Ijaz Nabi, Shirin Naz, and Irfan Dogar)

British High Commission's Revenue Mobilization Investment and Trade (REMIT) / Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), Tax Expert: Pre-budget (2022-23) consultation sessions with tax officers, tax policy experts, industry representatives, politicians, and academics.

Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA), Principal Investigator: Impact assessment of the Punjab Infrastructure Development Cess (PIDC) Act 2015.

Grants

J-PAL Governance Initiative	with Michael Best and Anders Jensen	2023	USD 75,000
J-PAL ATAI	with Omar Gondal and Farah Said	2023	USD 30,000
International Growth Centre	with Michael Best and Anders Jensen	2023	GBP 77,000
International Growth Centre	with Omar Gondal and Farah Said	2023	GBP 40,000
LUMS	with Omar Gondal and Farah Said	2022	PKR 500,000
International Growth Centre	with Michael Best and Anders Jensen	2022	GBP 20,000
LUMS	with Omar Gondal	2022	PKR 1,000,000
International Growth Centre	with Omar Gondal	2022	GBP 20,000
LUMS	with Husnain Ahmad and Hadia Majid	2021	PKR 900,000
International Growth Centre	with Omar Gondal	2021	GBP 20,000

Grants (continued)

International Growth Centre	with Michael Best, Anders Jensen, and Adnan Khan	2021	GBP 20,000
J-PAL Governance Initiative	with Michael Best, Anders Jensen, and Adnan Khan	2021	USD 5,450
International Growth Centre	with Michael Best	2021	GBP 20,000
Russell Sage Foundation		2019	USD 7,500
Iowa State University	with T. Ditonto, D. Andersen and J. Bhattacharya	2019	USD 8,000

Popular Press

Asad, Sher Afghan. "Rationalizing Tax Expenditures in Pakistan," Insights for Change: Consortium for Development Policy Research, January 2023, https://cdpr.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Rationalizing-Tax-Expenditures-in-Pakistan.pdf

Asad, Sher Afghan and Gondal, Omar Hayat. "Role of Supply Chains in Determining Farmers' Productivity and Consumer Prices," Pakistan Dialogues: Mahbul ul Haq Research Center, 16 September 2022, https://mhrc.lums.edu.pk/role-of-supply-chains-in-determining-farmers-productivity-and-consumer-prices/

"CDPR holds workshop on 'tax reforms for inclusive, sustainable growth'," Business and Finance: Business Recorder, 16 April 2022, https://www.brecorder.com/news/40167608/cdpr-holds-workshop-on-tax-reforms-for-inclusive-sustainable-growth

Newman, Andy. "Doing Tiny Jobs for Tinier Pay." Times Insider, The New York Times, 15 November 2019, https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/nyregion/mechanical-turk-amazon-labor.html

Selected Presentations

BREW-ESA	Bangalore, India	2022
3rd IDSC of IZA/University of Luxembourg	Online Workshop	2020
NBER Summer Institute, IT and Digitization	Virtual	2020
ASSA Annual Meetings	San Diego	2020
Advances with Field Experiments	University of Chicago	2019
Advances with Field Experiments	Boston University	2018

Teaching

Public Finance	LUMS	Fall 2022
Advanced Behavioural Economics	LUMS	Fall 2020, Spring 2022
Insights from Behavioural Economics for Policy Making	ISU	Fall 2019
Introduction to Game Theory	LUMS	Spring 2021
Principles of Microeconomics	ISU, LUMS	Fall 2019, Spring 2021
Intermediate Microeconomics	LUMS	Spring 2022

Advisees

Ph.D.

Sameen Tariq	LUMS and University of East Anglia	2022-25

Master Thesis

Huzaima Quddus	LUMS	2022-23

Undergraduate Thesis

Fatima Afzal, Fahad Amir, and Mohammad Zubairi	LUMS	2021-22
Zainab Azfar Nizami, and Marjan Hussain	LUMS	2021-22
Taimoor Naeem	LUMS	2021-22
Taha Allawala, Haleema Habib, and Asma Majeed	LUMS	2020-21

Major Committee Assignments

Member of Curriculum Review Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2022-23
Convener of Micro, IO, and Game Theory Cluster Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2022-23
Member of Research Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2021-23
Convener of the Search Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2021-22
Member of the Search Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2020-21
Convener of the Events Committee	Economics Department, LUMS,	2020-21

Professional Societies

Member	American Economic Association	2016-Present
Member	Economic Science Association	2022-Present

Selected Conferences and Workshops

ASSA Annual Conference	Atlanta, Georgia	2019
ASSA Annual Conference	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2018
IFREE Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics	Orange, California	2018
Advances with Field Experiments	Chicago, Illinois	2017
ASSA Annual Conference	Chicago, Illinois	2017

Publications (non-reviewed)

M Best, A Khan, A Prat, M Rehman, SA Asad, K Hussain, AO Majid; 2017, Motivating Bureaucrats: Autonomy vs Performance Pay for Public Procurement in Pakistan, International Growth Centre, Reference number: S-37407-PAK-1

Referee Services

Economics Bulletin, Economic Inquiry, PLOS ONE

Fellowships and Academic Honors

Prescott Scholarship	Iowa State University	2019
Fulbright Foreign Student Program	Fulbright Program	2015-20
Outstanding Student Award	Forman Christian College	2010
Dr. E D Lucas Medal	Forman Christian College	2010
Magna cum Laude	Forman Christian College	2010
USAID Talent Scholarship	Forman Christian College	2006-10

Other Professional Positions and Activities

Senator	Graduate and Professional Students Senate	Iowa State University	2018-2020
President	Fulbright Students and Scholars Club	Iowa State University	2018-2019
Member	Emerging Leaders Academy	Iowa State University	2017-2018
President	Economics Graduate Student Association	Iowa State University	2017-2018
President	Pakistan Student Association	Iowa State University	2016-2017

Other Information

Software:	Python, Stata, R, Matlab, oTree, LaTeX, LyX