

## Abstracts



*Print, Literati, Literary Academics, and Political Consciousness in Balochistan Province of Pakistan.*

**Hammal Muneer**

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The study explores the genesis of Baloch political consciousness and the arrival of print in Balochistan region (now a province in Pakistan) during the late colonial and early post-colonial era. It focusses on how the induction of print in vernacular during the late colonial times is connected to the rise of a class of Baloch intellectuals and promotion of literary activities, including literary associations, and subsequent political consciousness in Balochistan region. The more educated members of the society in this underdeveloped region get involved in literary activities through literary associations and publication houses. Some of them political, but others though outwardly apolitical, may still have political impetus, and thereby many of the produced works may deal with the current and historical political issues related to Baloch. The field data and interviews conducted during this qualitative study affirm the historical relationship between Baloch politics, literature, and literati. The study will thus help in understanding the emergence of modern Baloch political identity in the context of availability of modern literature in vernacular languages, and the subsequent outlook of Baloch society attributable to print-capitalism and activism of the educated Baloch.

*Navigating River Issues in the Changing Climate.*

**Monika Mondal**

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Climate change is generally expressed in terms of carbon and other greenhouse gases. However, changing climate expresses itself in the environment majorly through water. With rising temperature — floods, droughts, extreme or untimely rainfalls are becoming more and more frequent across the world. Moreover, climate change is not the only one that is playing a villain. Pollution, mismanagement of the natural resources, and non-ecological methods of treating the resources are amongst the various factors that make the impacts of climate change disastrous. For the research/project I look at how science, policy and governance navigate the issues of water resources, like rivers in the changing climate.

*Monitoring the Transformation of Urban Greenery and Changing Nature of Land Surface Temperature and Determining the Future Drivers of Urban Climate of Lahore, Pakistan.*

**Muhammad Nasar-u-Minallah**

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The urban thermal environment is impacted by rising trends in urbanization, which also cause Urban Greenery degradation in big cities. Rapid urbanization, especially unplanned urban expansion, together with climate change has a profound impact on the urban thermal environment. Cities, particularly Pakistan are facing remarkably environmental issues and uneven development, and thus it is important to strengthen the investigation of urban environmental pressure brought by land-use changes and urbanization. The present study investigated the long-term modification of the urban environment due to urbanization and climate change utilizing Spatio-temporal dynamics of land-use change and multi-temporal remote sensing. By taking into consideration the present study findings, the urban planners, decision-makers, and local government can make different policies to mitigate the land use impact on the urban thermal environment in Lahore, Pakistan.

*Eri Cultural Landscapes. Amman Deities and Village Ponds in Peri-Urban Chennai.*

**Luise Haufe**

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The cultural landscape of Tamil Nadu is shaped by cascades of semi-natural lakes (eri), which facilitate agricultural irrigation throughout the year. Eris also feed village ponds, called kulam or kuttai, which form their own systems within rural settlements, to supply residents with drinking and domestic water. A village pond has one or more guarding deities, usually a mother deity (Amman), which represents the community to which the pond belongs. Local deities represent their worshippers, give orientation and have a mnemonic function for the reading and maintenance of the landscape. In this research the connection between village ponds and local deities is surveyed to find out about how village ponds form their own spatial and social systems. The research area is located in rapidly changing peri-urban Chennai, where the cultural landscape is at the verge of irreversible transformation. Existing village ponds and their guarding deities were inventoried in a qualitative manner and the kulam–kuttai systems of three villages selected for detailed analysis.