



Call for Papers

Sufi Heritage, Plurality and Diversity in Muslim Societies

05th International Sufi Heritage Conference 2019

May 03 – 04, 2019, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

Organised by

Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department

Provincial Government of Sindh, Pakistan

The diversity and plurality of discourse, practice and knowledge production in Muslim societies tend to inform and manifest the competing voices and nature of various epistemological, performative, cultural, social and political structures. Most importantly, the pluralization of narratives, practices and knowledge production in Muslim cultures help support the idea of the formation of plural public sphere and disentangle the singular and exclusivist view of Muslim society. In the formation of the plurality of voices and public sphere in Muslim societies, the Sufi discourses, practices and performances are inscribed prominently that tend to formulate the critical knowledge, alternative identities and subjectivities. In the current age of globalisation, new digital and social media, the visibility of Sufism is increasingly observed in the forms of domestic and diasporic, regional and vernacular Sufi organisations, narratives and practices. The Sufi culture's influence on and inspiration from various global/South Asian religious-cultural traditions in Indo-Pakistani context is also an important feature to be explored the plurality and diversity within Muslim societies and cultures through anthropological, sociological, ethnomusicological, historical concepts and methods, literary and artistic expressions. By articulating Sufi heritage in the plurality of discourse and knowledge, the conference also critically reflects on the idea of decoloniality within Islam.

To further conceptualise the presence and contributions of Sufi heritage and knowledge production, **Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department, Provincial Government of Sindh, Pakistan** announces a two-day annual interdisciplinary 05th International Sufi Heritage Conference 2019 (May 03 – 04) in Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan. The theme of the 5th international Sufi Conference 2019 is 'Sufi Heritage, Plurality and Diversity in Muslim Societies.'

We invite national and international scholars, artists, activists and practitioners to submit 300-word abstract proposals and 150-word descriptive profile (PDF format) to the Conference Convenors: **Dr Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro** (zulfi04@hotmail.com) and **Rafique Wassan** (rafique_anthro@hotmail.com) **until March 20th 2019** on the following themes, but are not limited to:

Conference Themes

Domestic and Diasporic Sufism

Vernacularisation of Sufism in South Asia

Sufi music and dance – Sufi embodied culture

Sufi and Mystic movements

Sufi texts – genres (Malfuzat, manuscripts, Maktubat)

Sufi Philosophy – Sufism and decoloniality of knowledge in Islam

Ismaili Ginans

Sufism as counter-narrative against religious extremism

Sufism and anti-sectarianization in Muslim societies

Transnational, global and transcultural Sufism

Sufism and gender/women's representation

Progressive Sufi articulations and Pluralist Pakistan

State Promotion of Sufism

Sufi Heritage and UNESCO

Sufi material Culture

Commodification of Sufi artefacts

Socially engaged, critical Sufism – Sufism in Peace, Tolerance and Interfaith Harmony
Activism

New Sufi expressions – Youth and formations of Sufi subjectivity and identity

Media and Sufism

Sufism and asceticism

Shrine architecture

Syncretic and Sufi shared spaces

Dual identity shrines

Timetable

1. Call for papers opens – 31st January 2019
2. Abstract proposals submission last date - 20th March 2019
3. Notifications of acceptance will be given by 25th March 2019
5. Conference will be held on the 3rd and 4th of May 2019

Note: Abstract proposals (300-word PDF format) must clearly mention the title of the topic, name of the author, institutional/organisational affiliation and email.

Conference Convening Committee

Dr Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro (zulfi04@hotmail.com)

Anthropologist and Head, Department of Development Studies, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan

Rafique Wassan (rafique_anthro@hotmail.com)

PhD scholar, Anthropology, Ethnomusicology and Cultural Studies, University of Bern, Switzerland

Travel and Accommodation Expenses: Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department, Government of Sindh, Pakistan will bear the travel and accommodation expenses for the invited national and international scholars

Sufi Music Night: A mega Sufi music night showcasing the diverse Sufi music culture of Sindh region and other parts of Pakistan is planned for the conference participants.