

An Explanation of our Long Hiatus

By Masood Ashraf Raja

Now that we are getting ready to publish this much delayed issue of *Pakistaniaat*, I owe it to our readers to explain our long hiatus. This break in our publication schedule occurred due to various personal and professional reasons. Before I explain, please accept my sincere apologies for this delay. I understand that it is crucial for a journal to publish its issues on time and to give the authors the kind of attention and care that they deserve.

Last year I had to deal with a couple of personal medical emergencies in my own life, which slowed me down a bit in my scholarly and editorial work. At the same time, we also lost some very capable and wonderful members of our editorial team due to their other professional engagements and, as a result, the combination of these factors disrupted our normal schedule of publishing. Furthermore, we also had to move the entire content of the journal from one digital hosting service to another, which slowed down and disrupted our editorial processes.

We have now gathered our forces and reorganized our publishing venture and, thus, hope to respond to your submissions in our usual time. I am still looking for interested editors and writers, so if you feel so inclined, please feel free to contact me.

This issue concludes the fifth year of *Pakistaniaat* and we will now move on to publishing the issues specific to our sixth year. A lot has happened since we started publishing in 2009. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) first accepted us as a “Y” category journal, but then they changed their criteria and we lost that status. While we will try to meet their requirements, I personally am not so interested in following their policies as I find them to be overly patronizing and unfair.

I believe that *Pakistaniaat* is an important journal on Pakistan and it will continue to be acknowledged by the scholars in the field whether or not a bureaucratic institution such as the HEC recognizes it. However, pragmatically speaking if you as a Pakistani scholar do need publications to meet the HEC requirements, please do keep in mind that *Pakistaniaat* currently does not meet the HEC criteria for

inclusion. We may eventually get there, but to be honest I am not losing much sleep over it.

I would also like to send my thanks to all of you out there who have published with us, helped us establish the journal, and have helped us make it better.

Another way you can help us is by citing materials published in our journal. If we were to apply to be included in the Thomson Index (a requirement by the HEC) we will have to improve our citations and you can certainly help us in this quest. Otherwise, it has been a beautiful and rewarding journey and thank you so much for making it so much fun.

So, my apologies for the hiatus and welcome aboard, yet again, to make *Pakistaniaat* the best publication on Pakistan