

## On Relaunching *Pakistaniaat*

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There were several reasons for *Pakistaniaat's* long hiatus and there is, in my opinion, no need to go over all of them in this “rebirth” issue of the journal. One main reason, however, was that we had lost quite a few members of our editorial team and publishing the journal had suddenly become a one-man show, which I had never intended. I had always hoped that *Pakistaniaat* would remain a collaborative effort by scholars from all over the world, and when it ceased to be so I decided to take a break, a long break!

Since we stopped publishing, I also found myself in a unique position to be more widely in touch with Pakistani scholars and academics, thanks to a US Department of State Grant (DOS). In 2012 I won a one million dollar grant, offered under the People to People program of the DOS, to develop a partnership between the University of North Texas (UNT) and National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad (NUML).

Because of this grant, over the last few years, I have had the honor and privilege of hosting and interacting with many fine young scholars from NUML. The partnership program also increased my annual visits to Pakistan and thus enabled me to meet more and more people in Pakistani academia. During these public and private meetings, the question about future of *Pakistaniaat* was always broached. It was during these interactions that it became obvious to me that most scholars in Pakistan had really not only enjoyed reading *Pakistaniaat* but had also considered it a wonderful addition to Pakistan Studies. Hence, after several years of thinking about *Pakistaniaat*, and to honor the hopes and aspirations of so many who have encouraged me to not give up, I have decided to relaunch the journal.

This new effort would certainly be more fruitful and successful if the Pakistani scholars also lend us their support either by joining our

editorial team or, more importantly, by submitting their works to the journal. I know that as yet *Pakistaniaat* is not listed as an approved journal of Higher Education Commission (HEC). *Pakistaniaat* was a Y category journal until 2012 but since the policy changes in categorization of journals (they now require international journals to have an impact factor), we stopped being one of their approved journals. We will, of course, keep trying to get included in their list. However, this non-inclusion in the HEC list does not reflect in any way upon what we have published and what we plan to publish: *Pakistaniaat* will always remain an exceptional scholarly journal about all things Pakistan.

Here I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues who were with me in 2009 when I launched the journal, some of them are still with us, and I would also like to welcome all those who have joined us in this renewal of the journal.

Please note that we have slightly altered our publication model: Instead of publishing three issues per year, we will now publish one continuous volume every year. In this way as the submissions move through our editorial process, we will keep adding them to the current issue and we will close the current volume at the end of each year. This way the authors will not have to wait too long to see their words in print. Sometimes, when we plan a special volume, we might also add a second issue in a year, but mostly the journal will remain a one volume per year publication.

My friend and esteemed scholar Dr. Cara Cilano (Michigan State University) who has done some impressive work on Pakistani fiction has kindly agreed to guest edit a special issue of *Pakistaniaat* on Pakistani Writing in English. The call for papers/ creative works is included in this volume of the journal.

I am also open to any suggestions that, in your opinion, might improve any aspect of the journal. Please never hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions.

Thank you all so much for joining us in this new journey. Now, without further ado, I offer you, with all due humility, this first volume of *Pakistaniaat's* rebirth. Enjoy!