

# Evidence-Based Program Design - 2017

## Profiles of CERP faculty

### **Dr. Ali Cheema**

Dr. Cheema is one of the founding directors and a member of the Board of Directors at CERP. He is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences and also a Senior Research Fellow at Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS). Ali has extensive experience in research and policy work in the areas of political economy, governance, and the labor market. He was a member of the Initiative of Policy Dialogue (IPD), Columbia University, Task force on Decentralization and was one of the founding members of the Stockholm Challenge Award winning portal, Relief Information System for Earthquakes, Pakistan (RISEPAK). His recent work includes large-scale impact evaluations of vocational training for poverty reduction programs in Punjab and the relationship between criminal incidence and labor market outcomes in Pakistan.

A Rhodes Scholar, Ali holds a BA (Honors) degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University. He received his MPhil in Economics and Politics of Development, and a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Cambridge.

### **Dr. Asim Ijaz Khwaja**

Dr. Khwaja is a member of the Board of Directors at CERP. He is a professor of International Finance and Development at the Sumitomo-Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Harvard University, the faculty chair of the university's MPA/ID program and the Co-Director of Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD). His areas of interest include economic development, finance, education, political economy, and contract theory/mechanism design. Asim has been published in the leading economics journals such as the American Economic Review, and the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and has received coverage in numerous media outlets including the Economist, NY Times, Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, BBC, and CNN. His recent work ranges from understanding market failures in emerging financial markets to examining the private education market in low-income countries. Asim holds a PhD degree in Economics from Harvard University. He was selected as a Carnegie Scholar in 2009 to pursue research on how religious institutions impact individual beliefs.

### **Dr. Imran Rasul**

Dr. Rasul is a Professor in the Department of Economics at University College London. He has a PhD from the London School of Economics and an MPhil from the University of Oxford. His areas of interest focus on labor economics and household economics. Previous and ongoing projects include studying whether and how a household's behavior is influenced by the presence and characteristics of its extended family and the evaluation of a female adolescent empowerment program in rural Uganda and Tanzania.

### **Dr. Farooq Naseer**

Dr. Naseer is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, teaching econometrics to both undergraduate and graduate students. He is also a Principal Investigator for the Punjab Economic Opportunities Program at CERP that is focused on poverty alleviation in South Punjab. His research interests are in the field of development economics and political economy including micro econometric analysis of institutions and their role in the face of information problems. His dissertation work has looked at the community-based organizations in the Philippines as well as the pricing structure in the sugarcane markets in Pakistan.

Farooq holds a PhD and MA in Economics from Yale University.

### **Nazish Afraz**

Ms. Afraz is a professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Nazish holds an MPhil in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and an MSc in Economics and Finance from the University of Bristol. Nazish has worked with the International Growth Centre, Adam Smith International, and the World Bank. She also has experience with the Government of Punjab, working with the Department of Industries to develop an action plan for growth and policy reform. At LUMS, Nazish teaches courses on public policy and development economics.

### **Adeel Shafqat**

Mr. Shafqat is a public policy and PFM expert and teaches at LUMS and the Lahore School of Economics. He was one of the original members of the CERP team, helping to establish the Property Tax Project. He has worked with governments in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and Nepal as a PFM consultant, helping with business process reengineering and capacity building.

Adeel has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Lahore University of Management Sciences and completed his masters from the University of Warwick in Political Economy. His research interests include Public Financial Management, public sector capacity building and the politics of global finance.

### **Asad Liaqat**

Mr. Liaqat is a PhD Candidate in Public Policy at Harvard University. His fields of study are political economy and behavioral economics in developing countries. In particular, he is doing research on how citizens' subjective expectations from the state are formed, party responsiveness to voter preferences at a local level and the importance of political connections for local government elections. He is also conducting a randomized evaluation of an intervention aimed at fostering empathy and tolerance among school children in Pakistan and India. At EPoD, he is working in collaboration with Asim Khwaja, Michael Callen and Adnan Khan to study the constraints that civil servants face in using evidence and how they update their beliefs in the face of new evidence. Before starting his PhD, Asad was a Research Associate at the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP). He holds a BA in Political Economy and Philosophy from Williams College