



Wajid Ali

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Gender: Male **Nationality:** Pakistani

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Interest

1. Regional Economic Development and Local Inequality
2. EU Cohesion Policy and Institutional Quality
3. Nighttime Lights Data and Socioeconomic Development
4. Macroeconomic Policy and Growth
5. Environmental and Sustainable Development Economics

University of Bologna

City: Bologna | **Country:** Italy

[02/05/2024 – 05/01/2026] **Post Doctoral Research Fellow**

Sustainable Development Policy Institute Islamabad

City: Islamabad | **Country:** Pakistan

[15/01/2016 – 15/09/2019] **Research Associate**

- Data Collection, data Analysis and results interpretation
- Preliminary project report writing
- Arranged and participate in donor meetings
- Arranged and participate in seminars and workshops
- Worked as team leader for collecting data from the field
- Assisted Advisor in His daily activities

Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC)

City: Ankara | **Country:** Türkiye

[15/09/2019 – 30/04/2020] **Assistant to Researcher**

Study Title: *Improving the Regulatory Framework for Industry, Research and Development (R&D), and Innovation Ecosystem in the OIC Member States*

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conducted data collection to support research objectives.
- Assisted in writing comprehensive reports on R&D and innovation frameworks.

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University.

City: Rawalpindi | **Country:** Pakistan

[08/10/2018 – 04/02/2019] **Visiting Lecturer**

- Teach the Course of Experimental Design to Bachelor of Economics Students (Morning and Evening Shift)
- Prepared the course content
- conduct exam

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

[01/11/2020 – 24/06/2024]

PhD Economics

University of Perugia, Italy <https://www.unipg.it/en/>

Address: Via Pascoli 10, , 06123 , Perugia, Italy | **Field(s) of study:** Development Economics, Inequality and Growth at sub-national Level | **Final grade:** Excellent | **Thesis:** ESSAYS ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME INEQUALITY IN ASIA: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS USING NIGHTTIME LIGHTS DATA

[01/09/2023 – 30/11/2023]

Visiting Post Graduate Researcher

Department of International Development, Kings College London <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/did>

City: London | **Country:** United Kingdom

[15/03/2023 – 15/06/2023]

Visiting PhD Student

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Islamabad <https://pide.org.pk/>

City: Islamabad | **Country:** Pakistan

[17/09/2012 – 08/10/2015]

Master of Philosophy in Economics

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

City: Islamabad | **Country:** Pakistan

CGPA 3.47/4.00

Thesis Title: Regime Switches in Pakistan's Fiscal Policy: Markov Switching VAR Approach
Supervisor: Dr. Abdul Sattar

[12/01/2009 – 18/01/2011]

Master of Arts in Economics

Institute of Development Studies, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agricultural University

City: Peshawar | **Country:** Pakistan

CGPA 3.63/4.00

[15/09/2006 – 20/06/2008]

Bachelor of Arts

University of Peshawar

City: Peshawar | **Country:** Pakistan

Major Subjects: Statistics and Economics

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Pashto

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING C1 READING C2 WRITING C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION C1 SPOKEN INTERACTION C1

Italian

LISTENING A1 READING A1 WRITING A1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION A1 SPOKEN INTERACTION A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Microsoft Word | Microsoft Excel | Power Point | Statistical software and packages (Excel, STATA, SPSS, R) | GIS software (ArcGis QGIS)

Computer Programming and software skills

R and Rstudio

PUBLICATIONS

[2025] [Cohesion Policy and Institutional Quality Impact: Does Urban– Rural Classification Matter?](#)

Impact Factor 3.3

Authors: WAJID ALI, CRISTINA BRASILI and PINUCCIA P. CALIA | **Journal Name:** Journal of Common Market Studies | **Volume, Issue and Pages:** Volume 64, Issue 3, Pages 1001-1027 | **Publisher:** Wiley

[2026] **Revisiting the Growth–Inequality Nexus in Italian Regions: Inter-Regional Inequality and Regional Traps**

With Professor Cristina Brasili and Professor Pinuccia Pasqualina Calia, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Bologna Italy. Accepted for Publication in Journal of European Planning Studies.

Authors: Wajid Ali, Cristina Brasili and Pinuccia Pasqualina Calia | **Journal Name:** European Planning Studies | **Publisher:** Taylor & Francis

[2026] [Performance of Satellites to Predict GDP in South Asian Economies: A Comparative Analysis of DMSP and VIIRS Nightlights Data for District-level GDP Estimation in Pakistan](#)

Authors: Wajid Ali and Mehboob Ul Hassan | **Journal Name:** Journal of South Asian Development | **Publisher:** Sage

[2018] [Women's Perception of Climate Change and Coping Strategies in Pakistan: An Empirical Evidence](#)

IF = 5.3

[2024] **Examining Local Inequality Patterns and their Associations with Socio-Economic Indicators: A Comparative Study using Nighttime Lights Data in Developing Countries**

Under Review in Journal of "Pacific Economic Review"

[2024] **Assessing the Impact of Inequality on District Income in Pakistan: Evidence from Household Income and Nighttime Lights Data**

Submitted to the Journal of "Research in Economics"

[2026] **Road Network Expansion and Regional Development: A Causal Analysis Using Difference-in-Differences**

In preparation with Dr Ayaz Khan, MOPGA Post-doctoral Research fellow, University of Pau France and Professor Mazhar Yasin Mughal, Professor of Economics, école de Management, Pau, France.

Regional Growth and Inequality Dynamics: The Role of Economic Regimes in Pakistan's Districts

In preparation with Dr. Ghulam Mustafa (Senior Lecturer), University of Derby UK.

- [2020] **Does Fiscal Decentralization and Eco-Innovation Promote Sustainable Environment? A Case Study of Se**

Published in **Sustainable Development** [IF=4.085]

- [2020] [**Green growth and low carbon emission in G7 countries: How critical the network of environmental tax**](#)

IF=6.551

- [2019] [**HOUSEHOLD DEBT IN PAKISTAN: CONFLICT, BORROWING AND STRUCTURAL INDEBTEDNESS**](#)

Oversees Development Institute (ODI) working paper

- [2020] [**Microcredit and Women Empowerment: Evidence from District Jhelum, Pakistan**](#)

Scopus Indexed Journal

- [2016] [**Political Economy of Exchange Rate Misalignment: A Synthesis of Lessons for Pakistan**](#)

- [2016] [**Exchange Rate and External Competitiveness: A Case of Pakistan**](#)

- [2020] [**Regime Switches in Pakistan's Fiscal Policy: Markov-Switching VAR Approach**](#)

Published in Journal of Applied Economics Journal Vol. 27 No. 2 (December 2020): 45-75

Indexed in Web of Science

- [2019] [**Capacity Development Challenges in the way of SDGs implementation in Pakistan**](#)

- [2021] [**Does globalization matter for inflation in Pakistan? An implication of Global slack hypothesis**](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cristiano Perugini

Associate Professor Department of Economics, University of Perugia, Italy

Email: cristiano.perugini@unipg.it

Cristina Brasili,

Associate Professor in Economic Policy at the Department of Statistical Sciences of the University of Bologna

Email: cristina.brasili@unibo.it

- Dr. Sajid Amin

Research Fellow SDPI, Islamabad.

Email: sajidamin@sdpi.org,

- Dr. Eduardo Ortiz Juarez

Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Department of International Development, Kings College London

Email: eduardo.ortizj@kcl.ac.uk

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- [01/11/2020] **Fully Funded PhD Scholarship (36th Cycle) Awarding institution:** University of Perugia, Italy
- [18/11/2023] **The Best Paper Award (Second Prize) of PKR 50,000 Awarding institution:** School of Economics and Social Sciences, Institute of Business Administration Karachi
- Third Annual International Conference of the School of Economics and Social Sciences
"Challenging Linearity" 16th -18th November 2023, IBA Karachi Pakistan
- Presentation on the paper title "Measuring Sub-National GDP Disparities in Pakistan: A District-Level Analysis using Nighttime Lights Data"

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Newspaper Articles

- Balochistan's Water: Published In "**Dawn Newspaper**"
- War for Technological Supremacy: **Published in "The News on Sunday; Political Economy Pages"**
- A Matter of EHSAAS: **Published in "Pakistan & Gulf Economist"**
- A matter of inclusion: Published in "**The News International**"
- Pathways to Development: Published in "**The News on Sunday, the Political Economy Pages**".
- Budgetary Allocations and Gender Financial Gap; Published in "**Pakistan & Gulf Economist**"
- Regenerating Inclusive Cities for Informal Workers: Published in "**The Daily Times**"
- Welfare Impacts of depreciating Rupee: Published in **The Express Tribune**

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications

- **Development Governance: Issues & Way forward**
Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development Islamabad 7-11 May, 2018
 - **Eleventh South Asian Training Programme on CGE Modeling in Pokhara, Nepal.**
South Asian Watch on Trade, Economics, and Environment & South Asian Network on Economic Modeling 9-13 August 2018
- B2 Level English Language Certificate- Center for Applied Linguistics of the University of Perugia**

PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCE PAPERS

Presentations/Conference Papers

1. Microcredit and Women Empowerment: Evidence from District Jhelum Punjab. International Conference on "Marginalization and social exclusion in the perspective of the market economy". Jointly organized by QAU Islamabad and Peshawar University in Bara Gali Peshawar University Campus on August 16-18, 2017, Abbottabad, Pakistan.
2. Gender Face of Climate Change: Women Perceptions and Coping Strategies. International Science Policy Conference on Climate Change in Pakistan. Jointly organized by Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology and The University of Utah on December 18-20, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan.

3. Does Local Inequality Estimated from Night Light Predicts Wealth Inequality Computed from Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)? Evidence from Asia-Pacific Economies. Accepted for Presentation at the Pre-conference special session for Young Scholars of the Young Scholars Initiative an initiative of Institute for New Economic Thinking. The SIXTH International ASTRIL Conference going to held from January 18 to January 20, 2023 "THE LABOUR MARKET IN A TIME OF CRISIS, INFLATION AND DEGLOBALISATION" Roma Tre University Rome , Italy.
4. Appraising Economic Development: Estimating Sub-National GDP for Pakistan Through Nightlights. Presented at Third Annual International Conference of the School of Economics and Social Sciences "Challenging Linearity" 16th -18th November 2023, IBA Karachi Pakistan

REFeree

[01/10/2020 – Current]

Peer-Review Activities

1. Energy & Environment [SAGE Journals]
2. Earth System and Environment (The Springer)
3. Heliyon by Elsevier
4. Cogent social Sciences (Taylor and Francis)
5. Economic Policy and Analysis (Elsevier)
6. Journal of Applied Economics and Business Studies [HEC X Category]
7. Journal of Quantitative Methods [HEC Y Category]
8. Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences
9. Qeios

ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

Organisational skills

- Team leading and team working skills
- Multi-tasking skills
- Supervisory skills
- Can switch from one task to another instantly without compromise on quality