

SANVAL NASIM

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Diamond 111
Economics Department
Colby College
5230 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME 04901
USA

+1 (207) 859-5238
snasim@colby.edu
snasim.github.io

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Colby College, Assistant Professor of Economics (2022 –)

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Assistant Professor of Economics (2016 – 2022)

AFFILIATIONS

Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Associate Fellow

Center for Economics Research in Pakistan (CERP), Research Fellow

Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Center (MHRC), Research Fellow

EDUCATION

University of California, Riverside, Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Policy / Environmental Sciences (2015)

Colby College, B.A. in Economics-Mathematics and in History (2008)

United World College USA, IB (2004)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environment, Climate Change, Political Economy of Development

PUBLISHED PAPERS

1. “Expectations and Adaptation to Environmental Threats” (2025)
The Economic Journal, ueaf071 with Husnain Ahmad, Matthew Gibson, Fatiq Nadeem, and Arman Rezaee.

2. “Building Trust in the State with Information: Evidence from Urban Punjab” (2021) *Journal of Public Economics*, 202 (104494) with Adnan Khan, Mahvish Shaukat, and Andreas Stegmann.
3. “Groundwater Management under Heterogeneous Land Tenure Arrangements” (2020) *Resource and Energy Economics*, 62 (101203) with Ariel Dinar and Steven Helfand.
– Lead author
4. “To adopt, or not to adopt, ‘why’ is the question: A case for clean kiln technologies in developing countries.” (2020) *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 257 (120553) with Faiza Sharif.

WORKING PAPERS

5. “Beliefs, Signal Quality, and Information Sources: Experimental Evidence on Air Quality in Pakistan” with Isra Imtiaz, Shotaro Nakamura, and Arman Rezaee, *Under Review*.
– Also appears as CEGA Working Paper No. 247.
6. “Political Identity and Foreign Aid Efficacy: Evidence from Pakistani Schools” with Andreas Stegmann, *Revisions in Progress*.
– Also appears as CAGE Working Paper No. 624.
7. “Let Us Breathe!” with Ali Habib and Amna Shahab, *Revisions in Progress*.
– Also appears as IGC Research Project Report E-21019-PAK-1.

BOOK CHAPTERS

8. “Managing Pakistan’s Groundwater.” (2023). In *Water Policy in Pakistan: Issues and Options*. Mahmood Ahmad, ed. Springer Nature.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

9. “Developing a Smog Alert System in Lahore to Enhance Public Response and Policy Decisions” with Shotaro Nakamura, Arman Rezaee, and Farah Said.

POLICY REPORTS

10. “Data and behaviour: Empowering citizens through data and information” (2025). In *Unveiling Pakistan’s Air Pollution: A National Landscape Report on Health Risks, Sources and Solutions*. Abid Omar, ed. Pakistan Air Quality Initiative.
11. “Public versus private air quality information in Lahore, Pakistan” (2023) *International Growth Centre*, Policy Brief PAK-22039, with Isra Imtiaz, Shotaro Nakamura, and Arman Rezaee.
12. “The path to a successful Pakistan” (2022) *International Growth Centre*, Project Report PAK-22051, with Kulsum Ahmed, Ijaz Nabi, Amna Mahmood, and Farah Said.

13. “Strengthening low-income household support programmes” (2022) *International Growth Centre*, Policy Brief PAK-22051, with Kulsum Ahmed, Ijaz Nabi, Amna Mahmood, and Farah Said.
14. “Prioritising climate action through a health and vulnerability lens” (2022) *International Growth Centre*, Policy Brief PAK-22051, with Kulsum Ahmed.
15. “Charting Pakistan’s Air Quality Policy Landscape” (2021) *International Growth Centre*, Project Report E-21019-PAK-1, with Ali Habib and Amna Shahab.
16. “Optimal Groundwater Management in Pakistan’s Indus Water Basin” (2016) *International Food Policy Research Institute*, PSSP Working Paper 34, with Steven Helfand.
17. “Allocative Inefficiency and Farm-Level Constraints in Irrigated Agriculture in Pakistan” (2014) *International Food Policy Research Institute*, PSSP Working Paper 15, with Ariel Dinar and Steven Helfand.

GRANTS

“Developing a Smog Alert System in Lahore to enhance Public Response and Policy Decisions” (2024) *International Growth Centre*, with Arman Rezaee, £20,000.

“Belief formation, signal quality, and information sources: Experimental evidence on air quality from Pakistan” (2022) *International Growth Centre*, with Matthew Gibson, Shotaro Nakamura, and Arman Rezaee, £20,000.

“Belief formation, signal quality, and information sources: Experimental evidence on air quality from Pakistan” (2021) *International Growth Centre*, with Matthew Gibson, Shotaro Nakamura, and Arman Rezaee, £15,000.

“Charting Pakistan’s Air Quality Policy Landscape” (2021) *International Growth Centre*, with Ali Habib, £12,000.

“Does the disclosure of third-party information on firm emissions increase regulatory compliance?” (2019) *International Growth Centre*, with Michael Greenstone, Ali Habib, and Usman Naeem, £32,000.

“Ravi River Basin: Risks and Predictive Modeling” (2019) *LUMS Water Informatics and Technology Center*, with Zahra Lakdawala, Rs.350,000.

“Forecasts: Consumption, Production and Behavioral Responses” (2019) *International Growth Centre*, with Husnain Ahmad, Matthew Gibson, Fatiq Nadeem, and Arman Rezaee, £62,000.

“Do Pakistanis value air pollution? Should they?” (2018) *Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)*, with Husnain Ahmad, Matthew Gibson, Fatiq Nadeem, and Arman Rezaee, Rs.1,000,000.

“Investigating the Environmental and Economic Benefits of Energy Efficient Brick Kilns” (2018) *International Growth Centre*, with Faiza Sharif, £8,000.

“Dynamic Groundwater Management in Pakistan’s Indus Basin: The Case of Periodic Investments in Groundwater Pumping Technologies” (2016) *LUMS Water Informatics and Technology Center (WIT)*, with Saher Asad, Rs.300,000.

“Optimal Groundwater Management in Pakistan’s Indus Water Basin” (2014) *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP)*, with Steven Helfand, \$40,000.

“Allocative Inefficiency, Tenure Systems, and Poverty in Irrigated Agriculture in Pakistan” (2012) *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP)*, with Ariel Dinar and Steven Helfand, \$40,000.

“Modeling Allocative Inefficiency of Irrigation Water across Agricultural Tenure Systems in Pakistan” (2011) *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP)*, with Ariel Dinar and Steven Helfand, \$5,800.

OP-EDS, BLOGS, & PODCASTS

“Breathless: Pakistan’s Smog Crisis” (2025) *SLA Conversations – Socio-Economic Insights and Analytics*.

“Pakistan’s Air Pollution Calamity—No Quick Fixes” (2024) *Insights for Change – Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR)*.

“Enveloped in Haze—Pakistan’s Air Quality and Health Challenges” (2024) *Let’s Talk Development – Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR)*.

“Clearing the Smog: Strategies for Cleaner Air” (2024) *New Wave Global*.

“Air Pollution” (2023) *Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) – Discourse*.

“Do Lahoris Care Where They Get Air Quality Information From?” (2023) *The Friday Times*.

“Avoiding Air Pollution” (2023) *The Friday Times*.

“Sitara-e-This And Tamgha-e-That” (2023) *The Friday Times*.

“Averting an air pollution disaster in South Asia” (2023) *East Asia Forum*.

“Prioritizing Climate Action through a Health and Vulnerability Lens” (2022) *Insights for Change – Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR)*.

“Productivity and Resilience in Poor Households through an Environmental and Gender Lens” (2022) *Insights for Change – Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR)*.

“How environmental risk factors affect health and poverty in Pakistan” (2022) *International Growth Centre*.

“Give us clean air” (2022) *Dawn*.

“Gasping for air: Punjab’s perennial air pollution woes” (2021) *Dawn*.

“Punjab’s Pollution Crisis: Information, Research and Policy Gaps” (2021) *Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Center (MHRC)*.

“The banality of Punjab’s business plan” (2020) *Dawn*.

“Economics of climate change” (2019) *Dawn*.

HONORS & AWARDS

Dissertation Year Program Fellowship Award, University of California, Riverside, 2013.

Hilda and George Liebig Environmental Sciences Summer Fellowship Award, University of California, Riverside, 2011.

Dean’s Distinguished Fellowship Award, University of California, Riverside, 2009 – 2010.

Davis United World College Scholarship, Colby College, 2004 – 2008.

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Referee for *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Environment and Development Economics*, *Water Resources Research*, *Asian Development Review*, *Water Economics and Policy*, *Journal of Water and Health*, *The Lahore Journal of Economics*.

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

2025 Maine Economics Conference (Bowdoin College); The Liberal Arts Colleges Public and Labor Economics Conference.

2024 Colby College (Economics Department); Lahore University of Management Sciences (Department of Economics).

2023 Path2Dev Conference (LUMS); Lahore University of Management Sciences (Department of Economics); Fifth International Conference on Applied Economics (The Lahore School of Economics); Maine Economics Conference (Bates College); The Lahore School of Economics (online); Paris Dauphine (online).

2022 Path2Dev Conference (LUMS); Institute of Business Administration Annual Conference.

- 2021 Lahore University of Management Sciences, Office of Inclusion and Diversity (online); Lahore University of Management Sciences, Department of Economics (online); Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (online).
- 2020 Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (online); Duke DevLab (online); World Wildlife Fund Pakistan.
- 2019 Second International Conference on Applied Economics (The Lahore School of Economics); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan; Lahore University of Management Sciences (Department of Economics); The Graduate Institute of Development Studies.
- 2018 The Supreme Court of Pakistan; The Abdus Salam Research Center; Humanities and Social Sciences Conference (Lahore University of Management Sciences).
- 2017 Annual Conference of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists; Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists; Hisaar Foundation Water Conference; Government College University Lahore (Department of Environmental Sciences); World Wildlife Fund Pakistan; Humanities and Social Sciences Conference (Lahore University of Management Sciences).
- 2016 Lahore University of Management Sciences (Department of Economics); Department of Environmental Sciences Annual Symposium (University of California, Riverside).
- 2015 Pakistan Strategy Support Program Competitive Grants Conference (International Food Policy Research Institute); Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Annual Conference (University of California, Riverside).
- 2014 Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Lahore; University of California, Riverside (Department of Economics); International Food Policy Research Institute; Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Annual Conference (University of California, Berkeley).
- 2012 Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics Annual Conference (University of California, Davis).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2017 – Present)

European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2017 – Present).

TEACHING

Colby College

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: Fall 2025, 2024, 2022.

Econometrics: Spring 2025, 2023.

Challenges of the Anthropocene: Views from the Global South (Senior Seminar): Spring 2025, 2023.

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

Introduction to Environmental Economics: Fall 2017, 2016; Spring 2022, 2021, 2020.

Mathematical Applications in Economics: Fall 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018; Spring 2017.

Advanced Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: Fall 2017.

Topics in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: Spring 2018.

Principles of Macroeconomics: Spring 2019.

A Survey of the History of Economic Thought: Fall 2020.

University of California, Riverside

Introduction to Environmental Economics: Fall 2014; 2013, teaching assistant to Prof. Ariel Dinar.

Introduction to Environmental Sciences: Spring 2012, teaching assistant to Prof. David Crohn.

STUDENT ADVISING

Colby College

Honors Theses

Pride Jia (2025) – primary advisor

Nick Sickinger (2025) – second reader

Independent Studies

Emma Rothwell (2025)

Ian Woolson (2023)

January & Summer Internships

Natalie Duback (January 2026)

Audrey Ishiyama (January 2026)

Muhammad Saad Raza (January 2026)

Molly Feng (Summer 2025)

Inwoo Lee (Summer 2025)

Carlos Zendejas Serrano (Summer 2025)

Ismael Rami (Summer 2024)

Maya Wong (January 2023)

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

MS Economics Theses (Primary Advisor)

Omar Zahid Mirza (2021)

Nafia Mahfooz (2021).

Hassan Ali (2020).

Samina Faqir (2018).

Muhammad Ibrahim (2018).

Undergraduate Independent Studies and Senior Projects

Anum Mahmood (2021).

Maham Rasheed (2021).

Taram Nayab (2021).

Maheen Shariq (2021).

Syed Muzammil Zafar (2020).

Saniya Ali (2019).

Muhammad Hashaam Asif (2018).

Muhammad Zain Ali Khan (2018).

Afnan Ahsan Noble (2018).

Aiman Fajr (2017).

SERVICE TO INSTITUTION

Colby College

Committee on Mission and Priorities, 2025 – .

Faculty and Staff Mumble Coordinator, 2025 – .

India-Pakistan Conflict Student Discussion (faculty moderator), 2025.

Museum Head Curator Search Committee (dinner with candidates), 2025.

Pugh Center Faculty Annual Dinner (lead role in murder-mystery-themed dinner), 2025.

Pugh Center Faculty – Students Listening Sessions, 2025.

Economics Department Search Committee, 2024 – 2025.

Environmental Advisory Group, 2024 – .

Woodlands Committee, 2024 – .

Oak Human Rights Fellow Committee, 2023.

Fulbright Program Committee, 2022.

Davis United World College Scholars Welcome Dinner, Faculty Guest Speaker, 2022.

Colby South Asian Society, Faculty Member.

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

University Council, Elected Member (2021 – 2022).

Country Coordinator, South Asian Economics Students' Meet, Lahore-Virtual (2022); Nepal (2020); Sri Lanka (2019).

Sexual Harassment Committee (2020 – 2022).

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2017 – 2022).

Conservation and Sustainability Committee (2016 – 2019).

University Lead, UI GreenMetric Ranking (2016 – 2018).

Space and Planning Committee (2016 – 2018).

Core Curriculum Committee (2020 – 2022).

Academic Integrity Committee (2020 – 2021).

Core Curriculum Design Committee (2016 – 2018).

Convener, Department Environment Cluster (2018 – 2022).

Department Graduate Program Committee (2021 – 2022).

Department Events Committee (2021 – 2022).

Department Search Committee (2018 – 2021).

Organizer, Department Brown Bag Seminar Series (2016 – 2019).

Department Development Cluster (2016 – 2018).

Department Econometrics, Math, and Statistics Cluster (2016 – 2019).

MISCELLANEOUS

Trainings & Workshops

HumanityAI Ideation Gathering, Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Colby College, 2025.

“How to talk to people who think you’re wrong: A curiosity Workshop with Monica Guzman,” Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs, Colby College, 2025.

Mid-Semester Course Analysis (MSCA), Colby Center for Teaching and Learning, 2022

Course Redesign Workshop, Colby Center for Teaching and Learning, 2022.

Sexual Harassment Committee Training, LUMS Office of Accessibility and Inclusion, 2020.

Online Pedagogy Skills Training Workshop, LUMS Learning Institute, 2020.

Professional Development Training, Prof. Qaisar Sultana, 2017.

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), 2021

Charting Pakistan's Air Quality Policy Landscape

Described Pakistan's existing air quality regulatory framework.

Identified gaps in Pakistan's existing air pollution regulations.

Determined areas of policy research that would generate the most value to Pakistani citizens and policymakers.

The Urban Unit, 2020

The Urban Unit's Strategic Plan (2020-2023)

Developed a series of turnaround strategies for the company with a focus on public- and private-sector engagement, business development, financial consolidation, and human resource management.

Prepared a monitoring and implementation framework to track and measure the success of the key performance indicators for the strategic plan.

Engaged with a series of stakeholders through interviews to inform the substance of the strategic plan.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2019

Disaster Risk Assessment and Management Plans (Punjab and Sindh)

Developed disaster risk assessment and management plans for Punjab and Sindh.

Reviewed existing disaster management protocols.

Led consultative workshops and key respondent interviews.

Created a framework for improved disaster risk planning and response at the provincial level.

The World Bank, 2019

Policy Strategic Environmental Analysis (RISE Program)

Conducted a policy strategic analysis of the World Bank's RISE program in Pakistan.

Identified scaled environmental impacts of the prior actions under RISE, including potential effects on environmental budgetary allocations, greenhouse gas and industrial emissions, and water resources, forests, and wildlife.

Identified existing environmental policies and safeguards (at the federal and provincial levels) that the implementing authority could leverage to minimize the potential environmental risks of RISE.

Identified gaps in the existing environmental regulatory framework that could hamper the implementation of RISE and offered potential policy tools to fill these gaps.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2018

Urban Water Conservation

Conducted a randomized controlled trial to evaluate interventions for urban water conservation in Islamabad.

Designed informational interventions to motivate recipients to reduce water consumption.

Developed a sampling framework to obtain a random sample of respondents for the study.

Conducted rigorous statistical analyses to causally identify the impacts of the interventions on multiple outcomes related to respondents' water consumption.

The Urban Unit, 2018

Market-Based Emissions Reduction Strategy, Punjab

Developed the Punjab Environmental Protection Department's Market-Based Emissions Reduction Strategy.

Identified gaps in the existing emissions control strategy.

Designed a price-based framework to control emissions in the province.

Recommended actions to implement the market-based strategy.

International Food Policy Research Institute, 2017

Punjab Agricultural Sector Climate Change Policy

Developed and co-authored the Punjab Agricultural Sector Climate Change Policy Report for the Department of Agriculture, Punjab.

Identified potential climate-related impacts of existing agricultural practices.

Described a series of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for the agriculture department.

Recommended actions to mainstream climate change in the agriculture department's operational plans.

Presented the report to key stakeholders, including policymakers, advisors, NGOs, and farmers, for their validation and approval.

[†]Canceled due to COVID-19.