



Call for Papers

4th International Sufi Conference 2018

“Sufi Heritage: Counterculture Narrative and Peacebuilding in the Era of Globalisation”

April 13-14, 2018 (Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan)

Organised by

Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department

Provincial Government of Sindh, Pakistan

In recent decades, Sufism has attained recurrent attention and is turned to an extensive area of social research, knowledge production and performance practice among the scholarly academic discussions, cultural activism, public policy and Sufi practitioners at global, regional, transnational, national and local levels. The prominence of Sufi cultural narrative in academic research and practice based culture and art interventions, both in West and East, specifically draws attention to and addresses the current socio-political conditions in Muslim societies especially inciting the debates on political Islam and Muslim identities. It raises the politically charged discourses and agendas to address the issues of extremism, democracy, globalisation, pluralism, peace, interfaith harmony, and spaces of critical dissent not only in the context of Islam and Muslim states but the rise of global right-wing extremist ideologies.

To critically engage with and evaluate the multiple manifestations of Sufism (including the oversimplifying essentialisation), the Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department, Provincial Government of Sindh, Pakistan announces the two-day Fourth International Sufi Conference “**Sufi Heritage: Counterculture Narrative and Peacebuilding in the Era of Globalisation**” to be held in Karachi, Sindh from April 13 – 14, 2018. The conference brings forth the scholarly academic and public discourse to engage with the cultural heritage narratives and prospects of peacebuilding in the global era.

We invite interdisciplinary scholarly contributions informed by diverse methodological and conceptual perspectives in social sciences and humanities which may include Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science, History, Development Studies, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Ethnomusicology, Heritage Studies, Folklore, Literature, Media Studies, Conflict and Peace Studies and International Studies. The contributions informed by practice based cultural interventions are also invited to present in the conference.

Themes might include, but are not limited to:

1. Sufism and peacebuilding in the era of globalisation and transnationalism
2. Universal Sufism
3. South Asian Sufi heritage and transculturalism
4. Sufi Cultural Expressions - Art, Literature, Music, dance, Film, TV, Theatre and Architecture
5. Sufism as antidote to right-wing extremist and hate ideologies
6. Sufism transcending religious boundaries
7. Sufism, Cultural Activism and Peacebuilding – Security and Public Policy
8. Progressive Sufi heritage discourses in ethno-linguistic, literary and cultural expressions in Pakistan/South Asia
9. Political economy of Sufi shrines
10. History and growth of Sufi Orders
11. Interface between Sufism and asceticism
12. Neo Sufi Orders and New Age Spiritualities
13. State Promotion of Sufi Heritage
14. Sufi Culture and Social Media
15. Sufism and Gender
16. Sufi shared heritage

The 300- word abstract proposals, accompanied by a short CV, should be submitted to Conference Convenors: **Dr Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro** (zulfi04@hotmail.com) and **Rafique Wassan** (rafique_anthro@hotmail.com)

Important Dates

2. Abstracts (300 words maximum) and CVs to be received by 20 February 2018.
3. Notification of acceptance will be given by 25 February 2018.
5. Conference will be held on 13th and 14th of April 2018.

Note: Sindh Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Department will cover travel and accommodation costs of those whose abstract proposals are accepted.

Conference Convening Committee

Dr Zulfiqar Ali Kalhoro

Anthropologist and Head of Department, Development Studies, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Rafique Wassan

PhD scholar, Anthropology, Ethnomusicology and Cultural Studies, University of Bern, Switzerland.