

# Ijlal Naqvi

Associate Professor of Sociology  
School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2011 Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Sociology  
2004 M.A.L.D. Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy  
1998 B.A. Middlebury College

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021 – Associate Dean (Curriculum and Teaching), School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University  
2021 – Fellow, Mehbub ul Haq Research Center, Lahore University of Management Sciences  
2020 – Associate Professor of Sociology, Singapore Management University  
2012 – 2019 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Singapore Management University

## Book

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- 2022 *Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan*. Oxford University Press. New York. (Open Access [pdf](#))

## ARTICLES

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- 2024 Naqvi, Ijlal, Federico Rossi, and Rayner Tan. "Grievance Politics and Technocracy in a Developmental State." *Development and Change*. 55(2) <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dech.12821>
- 2021 Amirrudin, Amirah, Nicholas Harrigan, and Ijlal Naqvi. "Scaled, Citizen-Led, and Public Qualitative Research: A Framework for Citizen Social Science." *Current Sociology*. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00113921211056057>
- Interview with socialservice.sg [podcast](#)
- 2021 Naqvi, Ijlal, Ate Poorthuis, and Anirudh Govind. "Urban Governance and Electricity Losses: An Exploration of Spatial Unevenness in Karachi, Pakistan." *Energy Research and Social Science*. 79. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2021.102166>
- 2019 Gorman, Brandon, Ijlal Naqvi and Charles Kurzman. "Who Doesn't Want Democracy?" *Sociological Perspectives*. 62:3, pp. 261-281. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0731121418785626>

- Article selected as “Editor’s Pick”

- 2018 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Contesting Access to Power in Urban Pakistan.” *Urban Studies*, 55:6, pp. 1242-1256. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098017705600>.
- 2017 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Governance as an Emergent Compromise: Modernization and Flexibility in the Pakistani Electrical Power Sector.” *Current Sociology*, 65:2, pp. 195-208. [DOI:10.1177/0011392116657290](https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392116657290)
- Subadevan and Ijlal Naqvi. “Contesting Urban Citizenship: The Urban Poor’s Strategies of State Engagement in Chennai, India.” *International Development Planning Review*, 39:1, pp. 77-95. <https://doi.org/10.3828/idpr.2017.5>
- 2016 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Pathologies of Development Practice: Higher Order Obstacles to Governance Reform in the Pakistani Electrical Power Sector.” *Journal of Development Studies*, 52:7, pp. 950-964. [DOI:10.1080/00220388.2016.1146704](https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2016.1146704)
- 2010 Kurzman, Charles and Ijlal Naqvi. “Do Muslims vote Islamic?” *Journal of Democracy*, April, 21:2, pp. 50-63. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jod.0.0163>

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

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- 2023 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Bringing Democratic Transparency to Karachi’s Electricity Sector” in Majia Nadesan, Martin Pasqualetti and Jennifer Keahey eds. *Energy Democracies for Sustainable Futures*. Elsevier. pp151-156.
- 2022 Naqvi, Ijlal. “What the Ficus?” in *The Birthday Book: Restart*. (Singapore: The Birthday Collective)
- 2017 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Community Engagement as a Form of Participatory Governance” in Justin Lee, Matthew Matthews, and Robyn Tan eds. *Mobilising Diverse Community Assets to Meet Social Needs*. IPS Exchange no. 12. October. pp 98-102.
- 2010 Kurzman, Charles and Ijlal Naqvi. “Who are the Islamists?” in Carl W. Ernst and Richard C. Martin, eds., *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism*. University of South Carolina Press. pp. 133-158.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- 2018 Hirschman, Daniel, Philip Schwadel, Rick Searle, Erica Deadman, and Ijlal Naqvi. “Why Sociology Needs Science Fiction.” *Contexts*, 17 (3):12-21. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1536504218792521>
- Naqvi, Ijlal. “There is no psychohistory and there never will be.” Guest post on *Scatterplot*. Available at: <https://scatter.wordpress.com/2018/02/22/there-is-no-psychohistory-and-there-never-will-be/>
- 2014 Naqvi, Ijlal. “Private Investors, Public Disasters,” *Tanqeed* (Pakistan). Available at: <http://www.tanqeed.org/2014/08/tq-salon-private-investors->

[public-disasters/](#)

- 2010 Kurzman, Charles and Ijlal Naqvi. "The Islamists Are Not Coming," *Foreign Policy*, January/February, Jan/Feb, Issue 177, p1-1.
- 2003 Naqvi, Ijlal. "The Resilience of the Traditional Clergy to the Hardline Challenge in Post-Revolutionary Iran," *Al-Nakhlah* (Tufts University), Fall. pp. 1-7.

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**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

"Schools of Citizenship: How Scale, Autonomy, and Context Shape the Functions of Civil Society"

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**RESEARCH GRANTS**

- 2018-2020 Principal Investigator. Singapore Ministry of Education research grant for SGD 39,965, "Spatial Analysis of Electricity Consumption in Karachi, Pakistan"
- 2014-2016 Co-Principal Investigator, International Growth Centre research grant for GBP 19,636 "Mapping the Grid: Jumpstarting an Electricity Consumption GIS."
- 2014-2016 Principal Investigator, Singapore Ministry of Education research grant for SGD 19,583.57, "Participatory Decision Making in Singapore,"
- 2014-2016 Principal Investigator, Singapore Ministry of Education research grant for SGD 25,424.00, "Modeling and Visualizing Consumer Consumption and Payment Behavior in the Pakistani Electrical Power Sector."
- 2012-2014 Principal Investigator, Singapore Ministry of Education research grant for SGD 22,883.49, "Policy Approaches for the Pakistani Electrical Power Sector."

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**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

- 2020-2023 Lee Kong Chian Fellowship for Research Excellence
- 2016 Excellent Teacher Award, Nominee from the School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.
- 2015 Brown International Advanced Research Institute on Governance and Development in the Age of Globalization
- 2014 Most Promising Teacher Award, Nominee from the School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University.
- 2005-2006 University Merit Assistantship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2004 Al Nakhlah Scholarship award for outstanding article, South-West Asia and Islamic Civilizations program, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.
- 1998 High Honors, Economics Department, Middlebury College.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2023 “Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Committee on South Asian Studies, University of Chicago  
“Negotiating Formality in Islamabad’s *Katchi Abadis*”, Politics, History, and Society Workshop, University of Chicago  
“Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Wellesley College  
“Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
“Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Global South Research Hub, George Mason University
- 2021 “Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Watson Institute and Center for South Asian Studies, Brown University
- 2020 “Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”, Sociology department seminar, Northwestern University.
- 2019 “Access to Power: Electricity, State-Building, and the Dysfunctional Functioning of the Infrastructural State in Pakistan,” School for Oriental and African Studies, London, UK.
- 2017 “Access to Power: National, Urban, and Local dynamics in the Governance of Pakistan’s Electrical Power Sector,” Institute for Development Studies, UK.
- 2016 “Pathologies of Development Practice,” Center for South Asian Studies, Tufts University.

## CONFERENCES AND PANELS

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- 2022 “Development and Contention: Energy Politics in the Contemporary Era”, Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Centre, Lahore University of Management Sciences (Panelist).
- 2021 “Bringing Democratic Transparency to Karachi’s Electricity Sector”, conference of ISA Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development, Antwerp, Netherlands.
- 2020 Book launch for *Energy Cooperation in South Asia: Utilizing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development* (Routledge 2020) by Mirza Huda, National Bureau of Asian Research, Washington DC. (Discussant)  
“Becoming Urban: Complexities in Contemporary Developing Cities,” Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation, University of Chicago. (Panelist)  
"The Infrastructure of Development? China’s Belt and Road Initiative in the Global South," ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Canceled due to Covid. (Panel organizer)

- “Workshop on Problem Solving Sociology,” Singapore Management University, March 16-18. (Workshop organizer and presenter)
- 2019 “CPEC, Sahiwal Coal, and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan.” Workshop on “The age of infrastructure: China as a global urban agent.” University of Manchester.
- “Mapping Uneven State Capacity in Karachi, Pakistan.” Annual conference of the Sociology of Development section of the American Sociological Association, University of Notre Dame.
- "A Framework for Citizen Social Science: Scaled, Participatory, and Public Qualitative Research," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York.
- “Community as an Asset and Art: IPS Case Study Workshop on Beyond Social Services & ArtsWok Collaborative,” Institute of Policy Studies, Singapore. (Panelist)
- 2018 “Schools of Citizenship: How Scale, Autonomy, and Context Shape the Functions of Civil Society,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- “Belt and Road Initiative and Opportunities for Greater Social Impact,” Asia Venture Philanthropy Network Conference, Singapore. (Moderator)
- Covered by *The Straits Times*:  
<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/social-impact-of-one-belt-one-road-significant-expert>
- “Identity Politics under CPEC: the view from Balochistan,” conference on “The Great Transformation? The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Culture, Economy and Society in Pakistan.” Lahore University of Management Sciences. (Panel Chair).
- 2017 “Community Engagement and Social Services in Singapore,” conference of ISA Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development, Leeds, UK.
- “Garden, Ocean, Archipelago: Rethinking Space & Social Life,” Singapore Heritage Society. (Discussant).
- “Schools of Citizenship: Public Engagement and the Functions of Civil Society in Singapore” at Development in the Face of Global Inequalities, Institut Barcelona D’Estudis Internacionals.
- 2016 “Mobilizing for Development: Comparative Dynamics of State-Society Relations for Health Provision in Argentina, Pakistan and Singapore” at the annual conference of the Development Sociology section of the American Sociological Association, Cornell University (with Federico Rossi).

- “Comparative Dynamics of State-Society Relations in Argentina, Pakistan, and Singapore” at International Sociological Association World Forum, Vienna, Austria, (with Federico Rossi).
- 2015 “Towards a Smarter City through the Participatory Mapping of the Electrical Power Distribution System in Lahore, Pakistan,” conference of ISA Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development, Urbino, Italy.
- “Towards Participatory Decision Making Through Community Engagement in Singapore,” at United Nations Association of Singapore conference on UN70 & SG50 - A Better Future For All, Singapore.
- “Schools of Citizenship: Processes of Community Engagement in Singapore,” at Social Science Research Network 2015, National Council of Social Services, Singapore.
- “Schools of Citizenship: Processes of Community Engagement in Singapore,” at the annual conference of the Development Sociology section of the American Sociological Association, Brown University.
- 2014 “Deliberative Decision Making: Involving the Community for the Design and Delivery of Social Services,” roundtable discussion, Civil Services College, Singapore.
- “Creating a Good Society: Engaging and Mobilising the Community,” moderator, Civil Service College - Australian National University Conference: “Social Policy in an Era of Globalisation,” Singapore.
- “Governance as an Emergent Compromise: Access to State Service Delivery in an Islamabad Squatter Settlement,” at XVIII International Sociological Association World Congress, Yokohama, Japan.
- “Ending Business as Usual: Meeting the Challenges of Governance Reform in Pakistan’s Electrical Power Sector” at conference on Re-envisioning Pakistan: The Political Economy of Social Transformation, Sarah Lawrence College.
- 2013 “Confronting Structural Violence in State Service Delivery at the Margins of Urban South Asia.” Conference on Violence, Insurgencies, Deceptions: Conceptualizing Urban Life in South Asia, National University of Singapore.
- “Policy Making and Implementation in the Pakistani Electrical Power Sector, 1955-2012.” Conference on Asian Ecologies, Lahore University of Management Sciences.
- 2012 Discussant and chair for “Negotiating Ethnic and Religious Diversity,” at conference on Negotiating Diversity in Indonesia, Singapore Management University.
- 2011 “The Interplay of Institutions and Culture in Shaping Governance.” Oxford Department of International Development and St Antony’s College

Conference on Democracy, Governance and Development: Between the Institutional and the Political?

- 2010 “Access to Power: Service Delivery for Urban Elites in the Global South.” Section on Comparative Development, annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.
- 2009 “Democrats without Democracy? A Multilevel Analysis of Attitudes to Democracy in Muslim-Majority Countries.” Section on Sociology of Middle East and Muslim Societies, annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.
- 2006 “The Democratization Gap in The Islamic World,” at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Sociological Association.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Undergraduate**

#### Singapore Management University

Governance and Development in the Global South, Spring 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2020, Fall 2021 (Sociology/ Public Policy)

Social Entrepreneurship Challenge in the Indo-Pacific, Summer 2021, 2022 (Sociology, online course offered in collaboration with 4 international university partners)

Public Policy Task Force on Community Engagement and Poverty in Singapore, Spring & Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Contemporary South Asian Societies, Spring & Fall 2012, Spring 2014 & 2015, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2022 (Sociology/ Global Asia)

Sociology Study Mission to Kashgar, China and Lahore, Pakistan, Spring 2018 & 2019

Sociology of Economic Life, Spring 2015

Understanding Societies, Spring 2013

Honors Thesis supervision:

\* Subadevan, 2015, “Governance in the ‘Marginal Centre’”

\* Tifanis Eu, 2018, “Poverty or Penalty?”

\* Awarded best thesis prize in sociology

#### Quaid-e-Azam University, National Institute of Pakistan Studies

Policy Making and Decision Making in Pakistan, Spring 2010

#### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Economy and Society, Summer 2007 & 2008

Economy and Society, Fall 2006 (Teaching Assistant for Ted Mouw)

Sociology of Islam, Spring 2006 (Teaching Assistant for Charles Kurzman)

Lahore University of Management Sciences

Introduction to Theory of International Relations, Summer 2005

**Graduate**

Singapore Management University

Public Policy and the Delivery of Public Goods, 2016, 2017, 2018

Group Capstone, Masters in Tri-Sector Collaboration, 2018-2019

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Latent Curve Models: A Structural Equation Perspective, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Summer 2007 (Teaching Assistant for Ken Bollen)

**Executive Education**

Singapore Management University

Growing Infrastructure in Asia, 2021

Asia Leaders Programme in Infrastructure Excellence, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018

Complexity and Emergence in Business and Administration Systems, 2017, 2019

**LANGUAGES**

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Native speaker of English and Urdu, intermediate German and French, basic Persian

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association

International Sociological Association, RC21 on Urban and Regional Development

**SERVICE**

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|-----------|---|
| 2022 -    | Advisor, Education and Talent Committee of the Board of Directors, United World College of South East Asia            |
| 2021-     | Member, Program Committee of the Board of Directors, ArtsWok Collaborative, Singapore.                                |
| 2021 -    | SMU-X Academic Champion and Mentor  |
| 2020-2021 | Futures Thinking Group, Singapore Management University   |
| 2018-2021 | Faculty Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning, (re-appointed for a second term) Singapore Management University |



- 2015-2019 Faculty Senate (re-elected for a second term), Singapore Management University  
Lead member of Senate Working Group on Promotion, Hiring and Tenure  
Senate Working Group on Research Data Management
- 2015-2016 Member, Academic Advisory Board, WeCare, Singapore.
- 2015- Member, Program Committee of the Board of Directors, Beyond Social Services, Singapore.
- 2013- Co-Founder and member, Academic Writing Group, Singapore Management University