

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## THREATS, RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

**Proceedings**

8 - 9 October 2021



## Disclaimer

This document is a result of a conference conducted by SESS IBA, the opinions expressed by the participants, and this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the IBA Karachi or Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan Office of the opinions so expressed in them.

## Official website of the conference:

<https://www.iba.edu.pk/climateconference>

## Conference Proceedings of Conference on CLIMATE CHANGE:

THREATS, RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES Ecologies at the Margins

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## Organized By

The Institute of Business Administration Karachi

## In Collaboration With

Hanns Seidel Foundation, Pakistan

## Foreword

Pakistan is one of the world's most climate vulnerable countries ranking fifth in the list. It has experienced various disasters in recent decades, including floods, droughts and intense heat waves causing thousands of fatalities. Moreover, due to the deterioration of the Indus Delta approximately 1.2 million people dispersed and shifted to urban hubs like Karachi. Researchers have projected an increase in frequency and severity of these catastrophic environmental events, causing food and water scarcity, health and socio-economic issues in coming decades.

Climate change is no longer a threat but has become an existential crisis. There is a need for immediate attention and action to move towards environmental sustainability. Therefore, realizing the urgent call of the most complex and challenging issue faced by humanity today, academic institutions need to be playing the role of creating spaces and opportunities for collaboration and conversation. Furthermore, active student involvement in such collaborations is crucial for their mobilization out of academic institutions.

This conference was the inaugural event for the Social Sciences and Liberal Arts Department's focus on interdisciplinary climate and ecologies research where the objective was to produce knowledge that is rooted in indigenous scholarship, experience and practice. To this aim, we will continue to work with non-traditional security challenges as a theme for future conferences and seminars

## Message from Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA

This conference on climate change, organized by the students of the Social Sciences and Liberal Arts Department and Center for Business and Economic Research at the IBA Karachi, is essential because young people will be highly affected by the climate crisis. Addressing the impacts of climate change and the needs of a sustainable future is complex and requires innovative solutions. I am pleased that students took this initiative and are leading this meaningful dialogue on this crucial topic.



## Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan

The Hanns Seidel Foundation proudly supports the Center for Business and Economic Research at the IBA Karachi to promote research-based, inclusive and creative responses to Climate Change. Climate Change is a non-traditional security challenge for Pakistan and globally, and it is especially relevant for megacities like Karachi. In the context of this heavily urbanized coastal city, the threats, risks and vulnerabilities with regard to Climate Change become even more pressing.



If the world continues as in the past, the consequences of climate change will strongly influence our standards of living, food and water supply and resource availability along with many other non-traditional security challenges. We are glad to support this event to promote comprehensive, inclusive and creative responses to climate change!

## Message from Dr. Asma Hyder, Dean School of Economics and Social Sciences

Climate change is the biggest threat and challenge for sustainable development. This youth-led conference provided a platform to understand and create awareness for this complex crisis.



## Message from Dr. Laila Sohail Farooq, Assistant Professor and Director Center for Business and Economic Research, IBA

We are grateful to HSF for recognizing climate change as a non-traditional security threat. As this conference shows, climate change is not isolated from issues around gender, class, race and so much more.



# CLIMATE CHANGE

## THREATS, RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

### Ecologies at the Margins

8th – 9th October, 2021, Main Campus IBA Karachi

DAY 1 - FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2021	
09:00 AM – 09:15 AM	<b>Registration</b> Location: G&T Auditorium, Courtyard
09:15 AM – 10: 00 AM	<b>Inauguration of the Conference and Plantation Ceremony</b> With: Ms. Brigit Kuhlmann Consul & Deputy Head of Mission, German Consul General in Karachi <b>Location: Courtyard</b>
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Panel I: Ecology and the State</b> Dr Nausheen Anwar – Professor City & Regional Planning Director, Karachi Urban Lab (KUL) Dr. Erum Sattar – Lecturer Tufts University <b>Moderators</b> Fatima Yamin – Disaster/Climate Vulnerability & Development Expert Ali Samoo – Student at SSLA, IBA <b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Panel II: Ecology and Infrastructure</b> Shahana Rajani – Artist, curator and educator, Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture Saba Khan – Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Arts, NCA <b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Shehram Mokhtar – Assistant Professor, IBA <b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b>
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	<b>Lunch Break</b>
02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	<b>In Conversation with</b> Maneesha Deckha – Faculty of Law University Of Victoria <b>Title: Speciesm in intersectionality/feminist studies</b> <b>Moderator</b> Sameen Ahmed – Student at SSLA, IBA <b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b>

03:00 PM – 04:30 PM	<p><b>Panel III: Scorching Cities - Living with heat in the Global South' with Karachi Urban Lab (KUL)</b></p> <p>Aqdas Fatima – Anthropologist, Research Associate, KUL  Atoofa Samo – Anthropologist, Research Associate, KUL  Soha Macktoom – Architect/Urban Planner, Research Associate, KUL  Mohammad Toheed – Urban Planner, Research Associate, KUL</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Adam Abdullah – PhD Scholar City Planning, Research Associate, KUL</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
04:30 PM – 05:30 PM	<p><b>Daira I – Political ecologies of Sindh's Coastal areas' water</b> with</p> <p>Saeed Baloch – Civil society activist  Fatima Majeed – Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum  Dr. Abdul Haque Chang – Faculty IBA Karachi</p> <p><b>Location: Football Field</b></p>
05:30 PM – 06:30 PM	<p><b>Daira II – Displaced</b> with</p> <p>Abira Ashfaq – Lawyer, Activist, Visiting Faculty, IBA  Sonia Kauser- Activist, Affectee</p> <p><b>Location: Football Field</b></p>
<b>END OF DAY 1</b>	

<b>DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2021</b>	
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<p><b>Documentary Screening</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p>Haya Iqbal Fatima – Award winning filmmaker  Nazir Ahmed – Programme Manager, Poverty Targeting and Partnership, AKRSP core office Gilgit  Sajjad Ahmed – Lecturer, IBA  Student panel</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
11:00 AM – 12: 30 AM	<p><b>Panel IV The Feminist Movement and Climate Justice</b></p> <p>Atiya Abbas – Activist at Karachi Bachao Tehreek  Aiman Rizwi – Activist at Karachi Bachao Tehreek  Fizza Qureshi – Activist at Karachi Bachao Tehreek</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Safina Azeem – Student at SSLA, IBA</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
12:30 AM – 02:00 AM	<b>Lunch Break</b>

02:00 PM – 03:00 PM	<p><b>Panel V: Multispecies Collaborative Survival</b></p> <p>Humera Ayesha – Manager Wildlife at WWF – Pakistan  Dr Naseem saludin – Head of Department of Infectious Diseases, The Indus Hospital  Riaz Ahmed Wagan – Chief Conservator of Forests, Mangroves &amp; Rangelands</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Anas Khan – Student at SSLA, IBA</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
03:00 PM – 04:00 PM	<p><b>In Conversation with</b></p> <p>Dr. Yamini Narayanan – Senior Lecturer – Deakin University</p> <p><b>Title: Subaltern Animism</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Sameen Ahmed – Student at SSLA, IBA</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
04:00 PM – 05:30 PM	<p><b>Panel VI: Entrepreneurship, Fair Trade and Ethical Practice</b></p> <p><b>Panelist:</b></p> <p>Tahir Rashid – Director Wildlife at WWF – Pakistan  Maleeha Habib – Circular Economy Specialist  Aunsha Fatima – Founder and CEO, TrashIt  Salman Tariq – Co-founder Davaam</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p>Dr. Aqdas Afzal – Assistant Professor at Habib University</p> <p><b>Location: G&amp;T Auditorium</b></p>
05:30 PM – 06:30 PM	<p><b>Daira III – Breath bodies and ecologies with</b></p> <p>Rahma Mian – Lecturer IBA Karachi</p> <p><b>Location: Football Field</b></p>
06:30 PM – 07:30 PM	<p><b>Daira IV – Youth activism challenges and wins with</b></p> <p><b>The Earthlings</b></p> <p>Noor ul Huda – Environmental Activist</p> <p><b>Location: Football Field</b></p>
<b>END OF CONFERENCE</b>	



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# Introduction

The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan at the IBA Karachi organized a two-day conference titled “Climate Change – Threats, Risks and Vulnerabilities” on 8th–9th October 2021. The aim of the conference was to create a conversation around climate change as a non-traditional security challenge as the changing climate and environmental degradation is increasingly and adversely affecting migration, deterioration of environmental conditions and resource constraints. Researchers from all parts of the world have projected an increase in frequency and severity of catastrophic environmental events, causing food and water scarcity, health and socio-economic issues in coming decades, hence making this discourse a highly important conversation. The program included six panel discussions and four dairas (informal circles) on topics including ecology and the state, infrastructure, speciesism in intersectionality, scorching cities, political ecologies of Sindh’s coastal areas’ water, displacement, multispecies collaborative survival, entrepreneurship, fair trade, ethical practices and more. Several policy makers, academics, development practitioners and students participated in this conference physically and virtually. This document mentions the proceedings of the conference

## Objectives

The aim of this two-day conference was to raise awareness not only about climate change but also the complexities of such a crisis for various groups. How does such a crisis alter our experiences and perceptions? Who are the stakeholders? Can they be held accountable? What is to be done? To break down this persisting issue, we must look at the implications not only through a macro lens, but also at a micro level. What forms of activism and discourse have emerged as a reaction to this heightened anxiety? Where do we go from here?

This conference aimed to:

1. Build solidarities and provide opportunity for collaborations
2. Create awareness regarding status, challenges and scope for climate change in Pakistan.
3. Highlight the importance of acknowledging gender inclusion in the design and implementation of policies and projects
4. Create awareness around multispecies collaborative survival and thriving ecologies
5. Provide a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge exchange between policy makers, especially from the environment ministry, and climate/environmental activists including students

## Main Themes:

1. Climate change and how it affects different groups
2. Art and environment (Performance/music/dance)
3. Multispecies collaborative survival: Deconstructing the Anthropocene and looking at the impact of Climate change on multispecies systems.
4. Inclusion and the environment
5. Sustainable businesses and circular economy
6. Student politics and climate change

## Inauguration of the Conference

The conference started with the planting of a tree by Naseer Ahmed, head gardener at the IBA Karachi, Consul and Deputy Head of Mission at the German Consulate General Karachi, Ms. Brigit Kuhlmann, Resident Representative HSF Dr. Steffen Kudella and students followed up with a दौरا with the gardeners on the plantation. The students and other participants asked questions to the gardeners, especially related to kitchen gardening. The gardeners responded by informing participants on the suitability of vegetables and fruits to different seasons and environmental conditions. The conference was formally inaugurated by Consul and Deputy Head of Mission at the German Consulate General Karachi, Ms. Brigit Kuhlmann. She informed the participants about the continued support of Germany to Pakistan in various economic and academic fields. She appreciated the organizers and stressed the need to have more such activities to raise awareness about the protection of the environment.





## Panel 1

# ECOLOGY AND THE STATE

### Speakers



**Dr Nausheen Anwar**  
Professor City & Regional Planning  
Director, Karachi Urban Lab (KUL)



**Dr. Erum Sattar**  
Lecturer Tufts University



**Ms. Fatima Yamin**  
Disaster/Climate Vulnerability  
& Development Expert



**Ali Samoo**  
Student at SSLA, IBA

The panel extensively discussed the relationship between state and ecologies for a better climate future. Dr. Nausheen highlighted that reshaping of ecology by the state has a lot to do with the colonial urban planning that Pakistan was left with. The world was being divided into tropical zones, as a prism for shaping urban planning; the reconstruction of ecology through the human body as it existed within the tropics. The ecologies were shaped to 'manage' dangerous aspects to the colonial city. Consequently, cities today are simply not designed to cope with the climate.

Dr. Erum said that the functional role of the government is to understand how policies are made, for whom they are made, and who will benefit. However, there is no transparency on how we govern and how policies are drafted and implemented. She further added that Pakistan is not even in a position to talk about the climate law as we are just beginning to understand the different aspects of it.

Answering the question, "what can we as citizens demand from the state for a better climate future?" Ms. Yamin replied that at the very basic level the citizens should demand the capacity to deliver water in a city that has grown exponentially over the past few hundred years.

The panel emphasized that state laws fail to account for climate change when pursuing aestheticized infrastructural development through urbanization for the upper classes and Greening initiatives remain uncommon in working class communities. There is an Infrastructural deficit that remains unacknowledged with water and ecology alongside distorted population statistics. The environmental impact is causing severe loss for rural workers on whom we rely for resources, and who are migrating to cities in large numbers, further constraining urban resources. With anti encroachment laws, climate disasters, the scarcity of water, deforestation and much more; risk assessment skills in insurance markets are critical to acquire. Pricing risk is ultimately vital for transparency in urban planning and forming collectives, to ensure state and corporate accountability.



## Panel 2

# ECOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Speakers



**Shahana Rajani**

Artist, curator and educator, Indus Valley  
School of Arts and Architecture



**Saba Khan**

Assistant Professor, Department  
of Fine Arts, NCA



**Dr. Shehram Mokhtar**

Assistant Professor, IBA

During this panel, Saba Khan said that activism and general government policies are performative and her profession allowed her to visit different areas of Pakistan during her artistic expedition. Speaking of Murree, she said that it was a pasteurizing ground with a very ideal climate. It was never painted as a space where you would stay for long, before you go to Kashmir. The local community is very small. A local group resisted new construction claiming it as ancestral property. Ignoring their resistance, authorities built high rise buildings and one of those buildings collapsed due to the clay structure in Murree.

In response to Dr. Shehram's discussion on "resistance and Infrastructure in Gadap", Ms. Shahana replied that urban cities are becoming modern while periphery cities are stuck in the past. New construction entities present themselves as allies of the nation, of which we should be skeptical. Unfortunately, it is often the marginalized and vulnerable groups and communities which are asked to make sacrifices with such land acquisitions and displacements. It is ironic that the mega development projects advertise importing world-famous monuments and incorporate them into development projects while the local history suffers, and native narrative is pushed back.

The politics of mapping and visualizing are vital for landscapes viewed as "empty." Language is used to legitimize destruction. The usage of temporal terms like "progress" for urbanization, present these development industries as transnational allies. The media plays an important role in this representation as seen in development. Infrastructure is emphasized over ecology and ultimately, a balance must be achieved through sustainable development, cultural preservation, and inclusion of the local citizenry.





### Panel 3

# SCORCHING CITIES - LIVING WITH HEAT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH - WITH KARACHI URBAN LAB (KUL)

## Speakers



**Aqdas Fatima**  
Anthropologist, Research Associate, KUL



**Atoofa Samo**  
Anthropologist, Research Associate, KUL



**Soha Macktoom**  
Architect/Urban Planner, Research Associate, KUL



**Mohammad Toheed**  
Urban Planner, Research Associate, KUL

## Moderator



**Adam Abdullah**  
PhD Scholar City Planning, Research Associate, KUL

This panel of young scholars from Karachi Urban Lab shed light on how the metropolis of Karachi which is becoming unlivable by the day for its marginalized communities. Being a port city and industrial city Karachi has several informal settlements and these settlements are rapidly heating. Over the past 50 years, data has been gathered on rising temperatures in a city that lacks proper cooling infrastructures. Where they exist, they are regulated, exclusive, inaccessible and unaffordable for some segments of the population.

The panel discussed how the governance around heat progressed. There are multiple stakeholders at federal and local levels with unclear responsibilities, due to which there is a lack of accurate data to rely on. Heatwave classification and definitions frequently vary. There is now an infrastructural reliance on concrete and air conditioners that further segregates city spaces and citizens by class, gender, ability etc. These also impact one's physical and mental health. Currently, there was a visible evasion of responsibility. Heatwaves are seen as the responsibility of the person as if they should avoid going out etc and the state needs to have a conversation about corporate responsibilities, lack of regulation or even classifying heatwaves as a disaster. What is ultimately needed is a holistic approach to studying heat that incorporates marginalized voices, personal experiences, transparency and cooperation with state planning and accurate data statistics.



## Panel 4

# THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

### Speakers

### Moderator



**Atiya Abbas**  
Activist at Karachi  
Bachao Tehreek



**Aiman Rizvi**  
Activist at Karachi  
Bachao Tehreek



**Fizza Qureshi**  
Activist at Karachi  
Bachao Tehreek



**Safina Azeem**  
Student at SSLA, IBA

The panel contextualized the link between gender and climate change through ecofeminism which draws connections between women, nature and the environment. The experts discussed that since urbanization exacerbates precarity and accelerated climate change, its impact largely falls on marginalized bodies, especially working class women to take on the added labor of running a house on limited resources. As highlighted by the speakers, urban planning regimes are majorly centered around capital instead of the environment and that results in concretized development and increased heat. An example would be Iyari express highways that displaced 25 thousand families which were resettled in a poor manner. The same procedure can now be noticed in “clean up” activities in Gujjar nala and Orangi town. The ideals for the policy makers are cities like London, Paris etc which the panel argued were very superficial goals and result in anti poor or exclusive development where informal settlements are seen as eye sores.

The panel emphasized that the representation model needs to expand because the current top down models are alienating indigenous communities and shrinking space for activists and writers. In conclusion, the panel said that climate centered activism frequently focuses on informal settlements, to which the state often reacts with violence and police brutality; issues that are often absent from discourse on climate change. To engage in sustainable development, we must center these marginalized experiences and search for long term solutions. This means holding industries and the state accountable while recentering communal activism and practices of care.



## Panel 5

# MULTISPECIES COLLABORATIVE SURVIVAL

### Speakers

### Moderator



**Humera Ayesha**  
Manager Wildlife at  
WWF - Pakistan



**Dr Naseem Saludin**  
Head of Department of Infectious  
Diseases, The Indus Hospital



**Riaz Ahmed Wagan**  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Mangroves & Rangelands



**Anas Khan**  
Student at SSLA, IBA

The panel discussed that climate change has brought a huge loss in biodiversity which directly impacts us since species are dependent on each other for survival. The current development model is very human centric without acknowledging the role of other species in sustaining the environment and keeping the planet alive. COVID-19 is a strong example of the broken ecosystem and the species which human beings put at risk, it's a realization that our own survival depends on other life forms. Climate change is not only affecting human beings but all forms of life around us. Without ecosystems, it is impossible for human beings to exist.

In the 17th century, fossil fuel consumption increased tremendously. Deforestation is a consequence of development as forests were converted into land for buildings etc resulting in a major loss to ecosystems and this affects everyone especially people without access to basic amenities, they are vulnerable to house loss and storms. A good example of coexistence are mangroves. Mangroves are there to support an entire life system which is critical to human survival including fish and other species. If they disappeared with deforestation, there would be more zoonotic diseases like Ebola and Covid 19. The ecosystem has a balance - for example, turtles clean water, if they don't play their role, we won't have clean oceans or life under water. These freshwater ecosystems sustain wetlands. The panel emphasized that sustainable development is ultimately necessary in that it sustains not just us, but species from entire forests to the smallest fungi.



## Panel 6

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP, FAIR TRADE, AND ETHICAL PRACTICE

### Speakers



**Tahir Rashid**  
Director Wildlife at  
WWF - Pakistan



**Maleeha Habib**  
Circular Economy  
Specialist



**Aunsha Fatima**  
Founder and CEO,  
TrashIt



**Salman Tariq**  
Co-founder  
Davaam

### Moderator



**Dr. Aqdas Afzal**  
Assistant Professor at Habib University

For this panel, businesses engaged in green practices were invited to talk about their motivation to sustain a green business and to share their practices. Dr. Tahir - Director, WWF Pakistan, was also one of the panelists on the topic. The panel agreed that Pakistan is lagging behind at implementing good environmental policies and was also unable to give a proper incentive for green entrepreneurship. Dr Tahir identified the role of WWF - Pakistan in helping businesses engaged in green practices. It was noted that until the community and stakeholders don't have partners, there can be no gains on partnership. The panel identified the lack of incentives to companies that do shift towards sustainable products. There is also no cost to businesses for contributing to negative externalities as climate change is connected to everything including violence, waste management, child labour and more. There is a need to collaborate, share, and build a community that shares similar values.

The panel emphasized how tackling climate change can be very complex as it needs involvement from multiple stakeholders and has to be broken down into manageable tasks. From improving and incorporating ethical practices to production transportation, consumption and post consumption of commodities. Partnerships between stakeholders is key for green businesses. Entrepreneurship or Ecopreneurship, that is cruelty free, uses clean energy, and organic products, needs bankability and that requires testing incubators such as the WWF allowing market testing to scale ideas. This requires resources to be invested in research

while being conscious of the environment and labor practices. Climate change is complex and it can be managed well when the different sectors come together to work on raising awareness and finding efficient ways of being sustainable.





# CONVERSATION ON SPECIESM IN INTERSECTIONALITY/FEMINIST STUDIES

## Speakers



**Maneesha Deckha**  
Faculty of Law University Of Victoria

## Moderator



**Sameen Ahmed**  
Student at SSLA, IBA

Professor Deckha discussed critical animal studies, animal rights, feminism and law in this panel. She explained the genesis of animal law which stemmed from two approaches; a) **utilitarianism** that advocates actions that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose actions that cause unhappiness or harm, and; b) **deontological rights position** which is the view that animals, like men are “ends in themselves” and therefore ought not to be exploited. Animals and humans have equal rights.

She said that these two approaches have informed animal law scholars across the globe on what might be wrong with the current treatment of animals as they are propertized and commoditized. Both approaches highlight and draw the line on whether animals should be considered as a property or person and form the basis of animals being given the status of personnel.

Dr. Deckha further said that a **critical animal approach**, which is an umbrella term for a range of critical thinking notions such as eco-feminist theories / feminist animal care theories and vegan eco-feminism underscores that the plight of animals is structured more by discrimination of species. She added that the concept of species is usually gendered, racialized and relates to other power acts in the society like age, ability and sexuality. She said that it is important to understand the structure of animal exploitation to develop laws to prohibit it

In conclusion, Dr. Deckha identified how the commodification of animals has led to issues with species identification. This has led to animals being brought into the market with limited restrictions through legalities and protection for animals unless they are endangered. She suggested that to ensure animal rights, we must first reconstruct discourse on species identification, and forgo the paternalistic treatment of animals.



## Daira 1

# POLITICAL ECOLOGIES OF SINDH'S COASTAL AREAS' WATER

### Speakers

### Moderator



**Saeed Baloch**  
Civil society activist



**Fatima Majeed**  
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum



**Dr. Abdul Haque Chang**  
Faculty IBA Karachi

Saeed Baloch and Fatima Majeed discussed the administrative mazes citizens have to navigate when dealing with dispossession of resources due to industry scale fishing. The panelist emphasized that the construction of dams has wreaked havoc with the Indus Delta as the release of fresh water into the sea is essential for mangroves that serve as nursery for fish, shrimp, prawns and several other species. But with the construction of dams and barrages, the flow of water has greatly reduced, causing the disappearance of mangroves.

The panel noted the violence of the non-state actors against the local fisher community which was not even allowed to take back fish to eat. Speaker Fatima Majeed noted that from start to end, women were part of these struggles and were more involved than men. However, what the current situation needs is that victims of climate change and structural violence join forces. She noted that from her experience as a coordinator for activism, people tend to come only for the issues they themselves experience. Networking is the only way in which change can be negotiated.



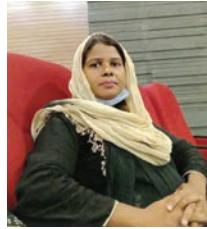
## Daira 2

# DISPLACED

### Speakers



**Abira Ashfaq**  
Lawyer, Activist, Visiting Faculty, IBA



**Sonia Kauser**  
Activist, Affectee

In this daira, there was a discussion on the impact of climate change on small informal settlements. These spaces are always in danger of infrastructural failure due to vulnerability of climate disasters and inconsistent legislation behind land ownership. The panel and audience extensively discussed that development needs to be human driven and current practices of "cleaning" lacks empathy and causes lawlessness which leads to anxieties to its citizens and affected communities, who are already facing environmental anxiety. It is important to note that these people who are living in informal settlements are already impacted by environmental disasters including rain flooding and the current practice of displacing further marginalizes them.



## Daira 3

# YOUTH ACTIVISM CHALLENGES AND WINS

## Speakers



The Earthlings



Noor ul Huda  
Activist

The Last Earthlings and Noor ul Huda engaged in a discussion about personalized experiences with being climate conscious. This includes battling social stigmas and engaging in practices of sharing, seeking alternatives and building communities that help with sustainability. The Last Earthlings informed the group that they have been successful in conducting 70 beach cleanups and 20 tons of trash cleaned from the beach. Noor ul Huda, a prominent climate activist shared her private experience of growing as a climate activist and the difficulties of non-availability of sustainable products. However, she shared that eventually things become easy once the commitment is high. There is a need to involve and invest more into sustainable solutions like Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, recycle containers etc., and to practise a highly integrated circular economy.

# CONVERSATION ON SUBALTERN ANIMISM

## Speakers



**Dr. Yamini Narayanan**  
Senior Lecturer – Deakin University

## Moderator



**Sameen Ahmed**  
Student at SSLA, IBA

The process of urbanization has been crucial in evicting animal bodies out of their homes. Urbanization affects animal bodies. The speaker identified that there is a need to think about how forests and lands are being taken over through big mega projects. Human beings have uniquely claimed land and made it exclusive where animals and (poorer animals) are seen as 'trespassers' in urban spaces and this has its consequences.

In conclusion, the speaker highlighted that the cities as urban spaces are considered "human" spaces exclusive of animals but no species can be eradicated without severe consequences for ecosystems. She further emphasized that rather than seeking to exclude animals and local species, coexistence is necessary to engage in sustainable development. That begins by encouraging relationships of care with animals and our surrounding ecology that houses these species.





