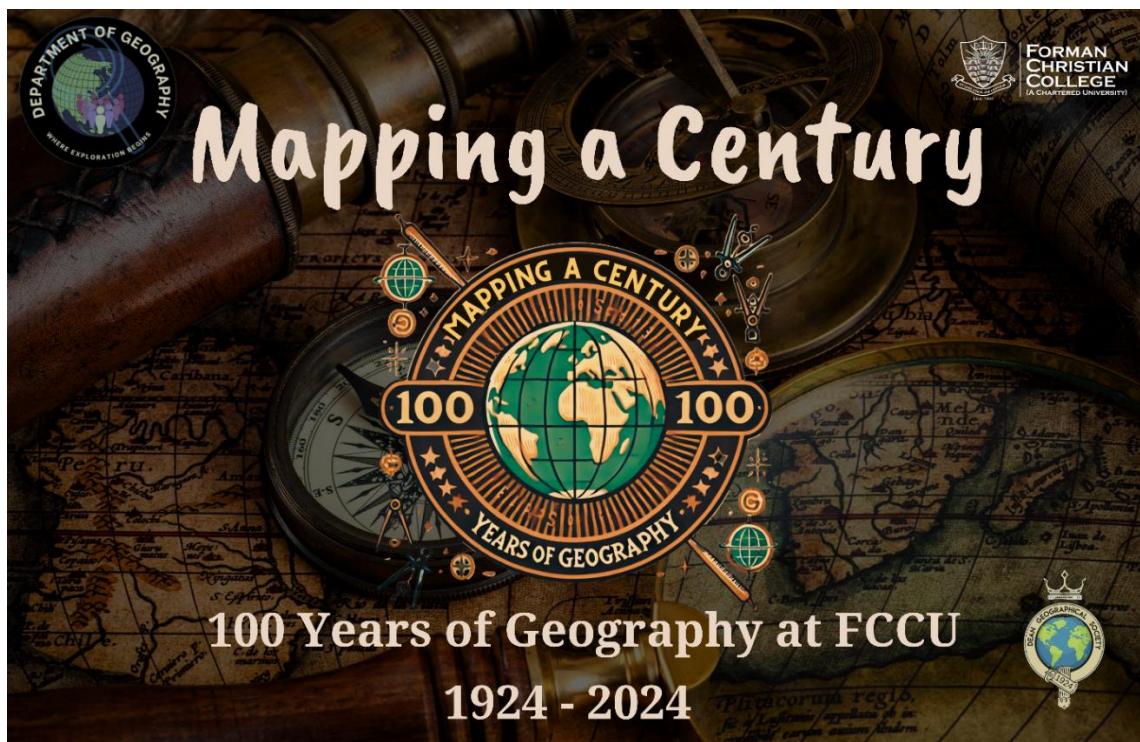
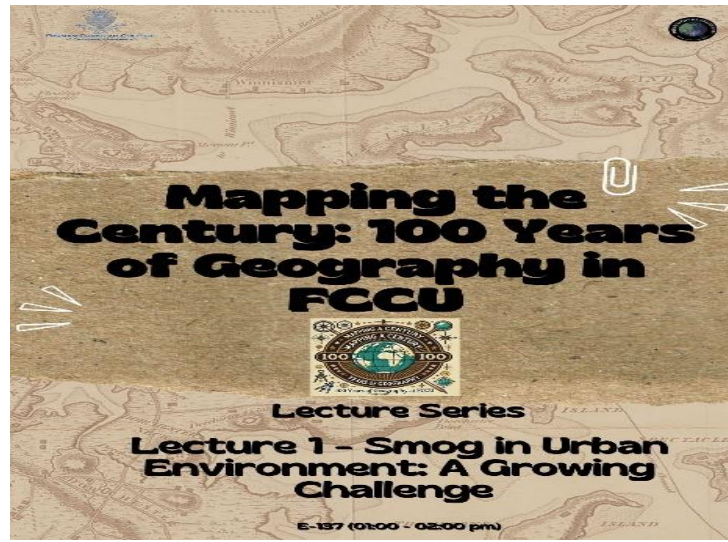


**Mapping a Century: 100 Years of Geography at FCCU,
Lahore (1924 - 2024)**



**Department of Geography,
Forman Christian College (A University University),
Lahore**

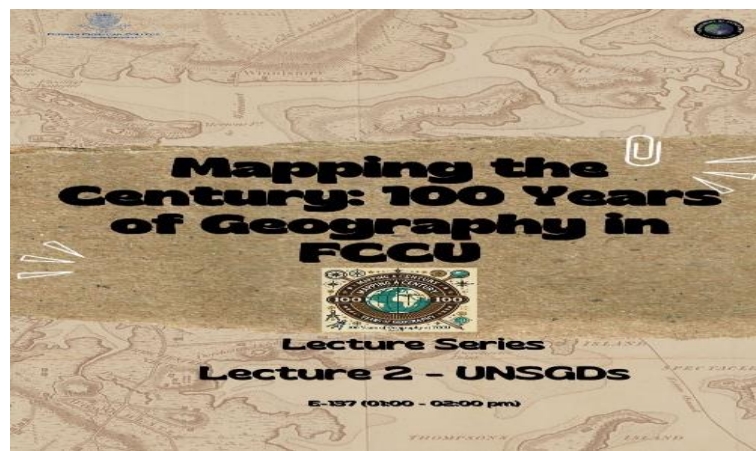
The Department of Geography decided to celebrate the centennial celebration of introduction of the subject of geography at FCCU in November -December 2024 as the teaching of Geography in the Subcontinent/South Asia was first started at the Forman College in 1924. The Department of Geography is therefore the Pioneer in Subcontinent. In order to celebrate 100 years of Geography, the Department decided to arrange a lecture series for the Baccalaureate students at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore.



The first lecture of the series was held on Wednesday, 27th November 2024 and the Department of Geography hosted an insightful lecture delivered by Dr. Hania Arif on “**Smog in Urban Environment: A Growing Challenge**”. In this together, we explored how urbanization, geography, and climate interplay to create this environmental challenge and, most importantly, how we can move towards cleaner air. Let's commit to making informed choices for a healthier and greener tomorrow.



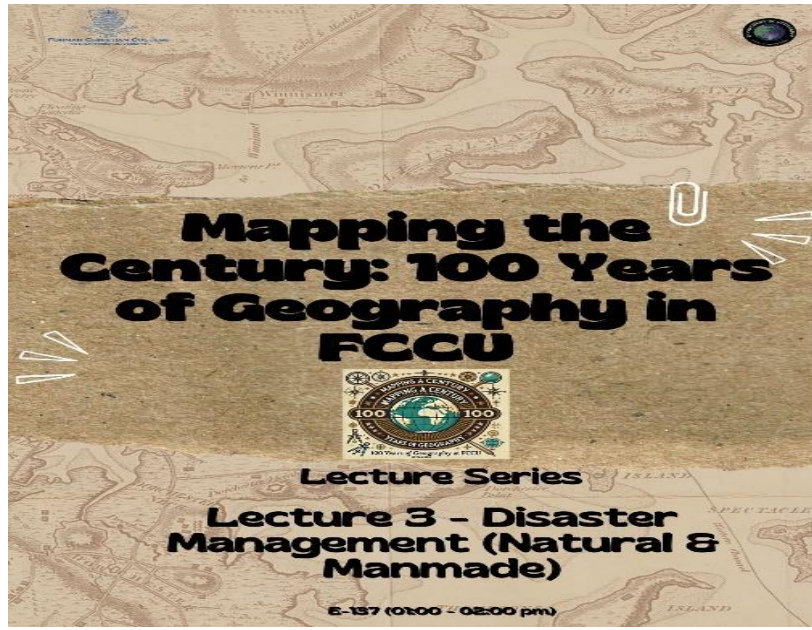
Group photo with students and faculty of the Department of Geography along with the guest speaker



The second lecture of the series was delivered by Ms. Javeria Qais on Monday, 2nd December 2024, entitled "UNSDGs: Climate Change." The Department of Geography hosted this lecture as part of centennial celebrations series. The talk highlighted the interconnectedness of sustainable development goals and climate action, providing students and faculty with valuable insights into global efforts to mitigate environmental challenges. Esteemed speaker Ms. Javeria Qais shared thought-provoking perspectives, emphasizing the role of geography in addressing climate change and fostering sustainability. The engaging discussions underscored FCCU's commitment to promoting awareness and knowledge on pressing global issues.



Group photo of participants with guest speaker and faculty of the Department of Geography



On Wednesday, 4th December 2024, the third lecture featured an insightful session on “**Disaster Management (Natural and Manmade)**” delivered by Dr. Samawia Rizwan, Assistant Professor, at PU GIS Center. The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of strategies and technologies to mitigate and manage disasters, emphasizing their relevance to Pakistan's challenges. Dr. Rizwan's engaging talk and practical insights captivated the audience, sparking meaningful discussions on sustainable disaster preparedness. This lecture, the third in the series, highlights the department's commitment to addressing critical global and local issues.



Dr. Samawia Rizwan with students and faculty of the Department of Geography

Centennial Celebrations of Geography

The Main Event to celebrate 100 years of Geography at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore was held on Monday, 9th December 2024 at the executive lounge of the Zahoor Elahi Building. The Rector FCCU **Dr. Jonthan Addleton** was the chief guest of the event. The Dean of Social Sciences **Dr. Sikandar Hayat** was also present. The guests of honour were Chairpersons and Head of Departments from various Colleges and Universities across Lahore. The Faculty of Department of Geography, students and council members of Dean Geographical Society (DGS) also participated.

A welcome tea was arranged for the guests. The objective of welcome tea was to interact and socialize before the main event began. The Event commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran and Bible followed by the National Anthem.



A moment of respect and unity for the national anthem of Pakistan

After that Dr. Addleton, FCCU formally started the event and provided an overview and significance of the centennial celebrations and the importance of Geography at FCCU. Mr. Kashif Shafique, ex-head of Department of Geography shared the history of Geography as a subject at FCCU, highlighting its early years and evolution.



Opening Remarks by Dr. Addleton, Rector FCCU



Welcome Note by Mr. Kashif Shafique

Prof. Shafique shared history of Geography as a subject at FCCU

Honourable Rector, Dean of Social Sciences, esteemed faculty, respected guests from other universities, and my dear students,

Assalamu Alaikum and a very warm welcome to you all.

“It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today as we celebrate an outstanding milestone: 100 years of the Geography Department at Forman Christian College, a legacy that began in 1924 with the visionary leadership of **Prof. E. T. Dean**. He not only founded this

department but also established Geography as an academic discipline in this institution, leaving a lasting imprint on the field in Pakistan.

Over the decades, the department has grown under the exceptional guidance of remarkable Leaders. **Prof. Earnst Noal Dalvi** advanced the department's academic rigor, nurturing students into critical thinkers and competent geographers over the years. Later, **Prof. Ashhad Ahmad** modernized the curriculum and introduced innovative teaching practices that made the discipline relevant to the evolving demands of the field.

From 2009 to 2023, I had the privilege of serving as Chair of this department. During my tenure, together with my team made significant strides in introducing technological advancements, expanding research opportunities, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. These efforts, along with those of my predecessors, have strengthened the department's reputation as a leading center for Geographic education in Pakistan.

An essential part of the department's legacy has been its emphasis on experiential learning. For decades, students have explored Pakistan's mountains, deserts, and coastal areas on field trips that have brought classroom concepts to life, providing invaluable insights into the country's diverse Physical and Human Geography. Today, the department is in the hands of Dr. Khadija Shakrullah, whose vision and leadership will take the department toward new heights.

The journey of our department is intertwined with the history of geography in Pakistan. Forman Christian College has played a pivotal role in training generations of geographers who have contributed to academia, geospatial planners, civil services, and many other sectors of Pakistan. From the study of traditional physical Geography to the introduction of human and regional studies, the department has continually evolved to meet the needs of the times.

Today, the Geography Department stands as a vibrant hub of learning and research. Our faculty and students are actively engaged in addressing critical issues such as climate change,

urbanization, and resource management. The integration of geospatial technologies, GIS, and remote sensing has not only enhanced our academic offerings but also positioned us at the forefront of innovative solutions for Pakistan's socio-environmental challenges. Our students, some of whom are present here today, are the heart of this department. Their passion, creativity, and hard work inspire us every day, and I am confident they will carry forward this legacy with pride and purpose. Each leader of this department has played a critical role in its evolution. From laying the foundations of geographic thought to adapting to technological and societal changes. Together, they have built a legacy of resilience, innovation, and excellence that we proudly celebrate today.

Today, Geography is more relevant than ever. Our department continues to tackle critical issues like climate change, urbanization, water scarcity, and resource management. With tools like geospatial technologies and data analytics, our students and researchers are addressing these challenges in meaningful ways.

However, the future presents both opportunities and challenges. The rise of Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how we analyze spatial data and make decisions. While AI offers transformative potential, it also calls for a reimagining of our curriculum to equip students with the skills they need to thrive in this new era. At the same time, we must preserve geography's humanistic core—understanding cultures, communities, and human-environment interactions.

As we celebrate 100 years of the Geography Department, we are reminded that this milestone is not just a reflection of the past but a promise for the future. It is a call to continue our journey of exploration, innovation, and impact. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Rector, the Dean, our distinguished guests, and everyone who has joined us today. Together, let us honor our past, celebrate our present, and work toward an even brighter future for geography in Pakistan and beyond. Thank you, and I once again welcome you all to this momentous occasion”.

After that, **Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi**, Ex-director Institute of Geography University of the Punjab Delivered the keynote speech. He provided a comprehensive introduction to the Evolution of Geography in the subcontinent and its growth in Pakistan, tracing its academic journey from the colonial period to modern times.



Prof. Dr. Shirazi delivered the Keynote Speech on “Introduction and Evolution of the Subject of Geography in Subcontinent and Pakistan”

Honorable Rector Forman Christin College-A Chartered University, Dr. Jonathan Addleton, Respectable Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences Dr. Sikandar Hayat sahib, Dr. Khadija Shakrullah, Chairperson Department of Geography, Faculty members, dear students, and distinguished guests,

Assalamu Alaikum and Good Morning,

“Today we are ALL gathered here to celebrate 100 years of Geography in the sub-continent/South Asia at the Department of Geography, FCCU, Lahore. Therefore, the title of my talk today is **“Introduction and Evolution of the Subject of Geography in Subcontinent and Pakistan”**. The teaching of modern geography started in the Subcontinent in the first half of the 20th Century when several colleges and universities established undergraduate departments of geography in various parts of this region. Further to this, the introduction and

origin of geography as a subject can be traced back to the second half of the 19th Century when it was introduced as a subject in schools across the Subcontinent. However, in comparison with other emerging disciplines in the Subcontinent during those years, the full flagged undergraduate departments of geography compared to most other disciplines, were established rather late in the institutions of higher learning in the Subcontinent.

The possible reason for this dichotomy could be attributed to a popular perception among college and university authorities during that period to consider geography as purely a school subject. This ultimately was one of the reasons for their reluctance to consider the subject of geography for college-level teaching and to render its rightful place at the undergraduate level.

The study of geography was started at the Forman Christian College, Lahore in 1924, though it was introduced as a subject at school or higher secondary level in Lahore and other places earlier as one of the school subjects. It means that the teaching of geography at the undergraduate level in the college and university level has witnessed a span of 100 years now which deserves academic celebrations. Therefore, the year 2024 is to commemorate the introduction of geography as a college subject in the Subcontinent. Geography in Subcontinent has come a long way since the establishment of the first undergraduate department in 1924 at Forman Christian College, Lahore.

The history of the development of Geography as a science is an interesting study no doubt, but it is no less interesting for the students of Geography in this FCCU to know something about the history of College Geography in our Subcontinent as well as in Pakistan and to recall the names of those pioneers who are responsible for getting Geography to its present status in Subcontinent/South Asia and Pakistan. It was in the year 1924 when geography was introduced in Panjab University as a college subject as well as in the Subcontinent. It was mainly through the efforts of **Prof. E. T. Dean**, of the Forman Christian College. Therefore, Forman Christian

College, Lahore was the first institute to introduce the teaching of Geography to Intermediate Classes in areas now in Pakistan as well as in the Subcontinent. In 1924, Forman Christian College admitted the first batch of nine students to the First Year Class with Geography as an elective subject and sent up this batch for the University Examination in 1926. The Government College, Lahore, admitted its first batch of B.A. students in Geography in 1936. The subject gained great popularity rapidly and the Department of Geography of the Government College attracted quite several students from several other local colleges, namely F. C. College, S. D. College, and Kinnaird College for Women. In the year 1938, given the increasing importance of the subject, the Forman Christian College authorities were persuaded by Mr. Dean to start their own classes in Geography for B.A. students. Forman Christian College sent up its first batch of about a dozen Geography students in 1939, for University Examination. Soon after this the Islamia College, Lahore, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Emerson College, Multan, Government College, Ludhiana, Lahore College for Women, and Sikh National College, Lahore, almost simultaneously started B.A. classes in Geography.

Before 1947, eight colleges were teaching Geography up to B. A and twenty up to the Intermediate standard. Today my talk regarding the introduction and evolution of Geography as a subject would be incomplete without mentioning the recent developments and strides. I refer to the acknowledgment by the University, to consider Geography as a science subject for Intermediate Science and B.Sc. examinations and permission of the University for the introduction of Geography for M.A. teaching and the introduction of the Inter-Collegiate Honours teaching endeavours. As per available records, the first university to start a postgraduate department of geography was Aligarh Muslim University (1931), followed by Calcutta University (1941), Banaras Hindu University and Allahabad University (1946), Punjab University (1946) and Madras University (1948).

Development of Geography in Pakistan

At the time of Independence in 1947, geography held a prominent position in the educational arena, largely owing to the educational endeavors and efforts of the British Raj in the Subcontinent. Geography as a part of the school curriculum provides a study of physical features and phenomena, as well as acquaintance with the surroundings. Geography at that time was taught as an Elective subject in colleges. The Colleges were a few, rather handful in the beginning. Lahore had Five-Government College, Forman Christian College, Lahore College for Women, Islamia College, and Kinnaird College for Women till independence. In Multan, Emerson College was the third college providing Graduate level studies in Geography. At somewhat later in time but still before Independence Sadiq-Egerton College at Bahawalpur emerged as an institution offering Geography. Government College at Quetta affiliated with the University of the Punjab entered the arena in the early 1950's.

For Postgraduate studies, there was just one institution- the Punjab University, Department (now Institute) of Geography in Lahore. The eminent geographer from Aligarh Muslim University, Dr. Kazi Saeed-ud-Ahmad was its founder head. I have the honor to be its last Chairman and first Director as the PU, Department of Geography was elevated from the status of a Department to an Institute in 2022 during my tenure as its Chairman. The University of Sindh was established just in the year of Independence in Karachi in 1947. The University of Peshawar came in 1950, and the University of Karachi was established in 1952, whereby the University of Sindh was shifted to Hyderabad. All these developments in the field of education contributed to raising the status of Geography as a subject in the country.

Probably no subject in the field of higher education has undergone such a marked change during the past century and particularly during the past three decades, as Geography. For many years it was a school subject, and it was only 100 years ago when it entered as College and

University. Geography has been recognized today as a science due to its systematic study of the Earth's physical features, climate, landscapes, and the interactions between humans and their environment. It employs scientific methods to analyse spatial patterns and processes, often integrating natural sciences with social sciences to understand complex relationships. Over time, its status has evolved, and it is now considered an interdisciplinary science that bridges the physical and cultural worlds.

Thus, the status of Geography in Pakistan continued at a harmonious stature, though research activity remained much on the basic levels. However, the future of the subject of Geography is bright with the introduction of quantitative techniques, geospatial tools, and techniques during the last 25 to 30 years and I foresee greater utility of the subject in national development and job opportunities for the students of Geography in Pakistan. Thank you ALL”.

Panel Discussion: “Geography: Past, Present, and Future - A Global and Pakistani Perspective”.

A Panel Discussion was also arranged followed by Keynote Speech. The title of the Panel talk was **“Geography: Past, Present, and Future - A Global and Pakistani Perspective”**. The moderator for the panel discussion was Dr. Dania Amjad, lecturer at Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Lahore. The honourable Panellists were Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi, Ex-director, Institute of Geography, University of Punjab, Lahore, Dr. Salman Qureshi, Institute of Geography, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, Dr. Shakeel Mahmood, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Department of Geography, Government College University, Lahore and Dr. Sahar Zia, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography at Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. A lively and thought-provoking discussion on the past, present, and future of geography from both global and Pakistani perspectives. The panellists provided their insights on how geography as a discipline has evolved and what the future holds for this field.



Panel Discussion

The Department of Geography prepared a special documentary screening showcasing the journey and impact of the Department of Geography at FCCU over the last century. The documentary was prepared with the assistance of the Communication Department FCCU.

Student Voices: Virtual Testimonials The students and alumni of the Department of Geography shared their experiences and thoughts on How Geography has shaped their academic and professional lives, through pre-recorded virtual testimonials. The President, Dean Geographical Society (DGS) Ms. Tahreem Azeem shared the student experience and the department's vibrant community, role, and history of DGS to the audience



Rapid Reflection by Tehreem Azeem (President DGS)

Ms. Hafsa Batool, Lecturer, Department of Geography and Advisor of DGS, provided a comprehensive reflection on the growth of the Geography program at FCCU and its contribution to students' personal well-being and professional development.



Rapid Reflection by Ms. Hafsa Batool (Advisor DGS)

At the end of the event Dr. Khadija Shakrullah, Associate Professor and Chairperson Department of Geography delivered a vote of thanks to all participants, Guests of Honor and worthy speakers, and participants for gracing the event with their presence to make this event successful.



Vote of Thanks by Dr. Khadija Shakrullah (Chairperson, Geography Department)

Dr. Hayat offered his closing thoughts on the significance of the event and the role of Geography in academia and society.



Closing remarks by Dr. Sikandar Hayat, Dean of Social Sciences

“Good afternoon, Dr. Jonathan, our Rector, distinguished guests, faculty, students, and alumni.

The importance of Geography as a discipline can hardly be over-emphasized. It provides us with a holistic understanding of our world, both in terms of the natural environment we live in and the human activities affecting this environment through its people, culture, society, technology, climates, resources, and infrastructure in several ways. In this sense, it is an integrating, comprehensive discipline, especially for the Social Sciences.

Thus, as Dean of Social Sciences, as we conclude this session celebrating 100 years of Geography at Forman Christian College, I am filled with pride and pleasure. This centennial landmark is a testament not just to the longevity of our department and tireless contributions of its faculty and students, but also, importantly, to its enduring impact on education, research, and community engagement.

Today’s session, indeed, has reminded us of Geography’s critical role in shaping lives, understanding human and natural complexities, addressing global challenges, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration for the common good. From mapping natural resources to understanding human-environment interactions, Geography has continuously evolved as an academic discipline, keeping pace with the needs of our ever-changing world, by being mindful of the fact that each place on earth is specific and unique compared to the other. That, indeed, makes Geography a core academic discipline of Social Sciences.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our speakers, especially our keynote Speaker, Dr. Shirazi Saheb, organizers, particularly Dr. Khadija and Ms. Hafsah, and everyone who contributed to making this celebration so meaningful. Let this centenary not just reflect our rich legacy but inspire us to envision an even brighter future for the department and the discipline of geography as such.

Let us continue this journey of exploration, innovation, and impact for the next 100 years and beyond, IA.

Thank you all.”

Cake Cutting Ceremony

The event was wrapped up by a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony to mark the milestone of 100 years of Geography at FCCU, followed by group photos. Guests were invited to network and meet fellow attendees, speakers, and faculty members in a relaxed setting.



Rector FCCU along with Dean Social Sciences, Chairperson Geography Department, and esteemed guests.

The Souvenirs were distributed to the guests of honor, keynote speakers and panelist, and Council members of the Dean Geographical Society. The group photo was taken to capture the momentous occasion **“Mapping a century:100 years of Geography at FCCU”**.



Group photo of the participants of the historical event