

GHULAM MOHEY-UD-DIN, PhD

Lead Urban Economist | Investment Climate, Competitiveness & Policy Reform | Research Leadership

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior economist and research-and-policy leader with 19+ years building evidence-based policy frameworks, competitiveness analytics, and sector intelligence for governments and multilateral clients across Pakistan and the GCC. Anchored the US\$60M Punjab Spatial Strategy (World Bank) — a cabinet-approved provincial framework spanning 36 districts that benchmarked cross-sector competitiveness, prioritised infrastructure investment, and integrated SDGs into Punjab's policy architecture. Founded and operationalised the Economic Affairs Department at Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) from zero, building a research team and a structured publication pipeline within six months — a direct analogue to standing up an institutional research-and-policy function. Currently directing the economic plan for Saudi Arabia's Yanbu Industrial City (Client: Royal Commission for Yanbu, under Vision 2030), covering industrial competitiveness, sector demand, and investment prioritisation. Published economist with 20+ Peer-reviewed (including Web of Science & Scopus-indexed) articles; PhD dissertation focused on determinants of private investment and growth across South Asia. PMI-PBA certified.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Sector/Investment Diagnostics & Reform Advisory
- Sector Intelligence & Competitiveness Benchmarking
- Cost-to-Invest & Cross-Jurisdiction Models
- Economic Modelling, Forecasting & Scenario Analysis
- Spatial Econometrics & GIS Analytics (ArcGIS, QGIS)
- Business Case Development & Investment Appraisal
- Data Tools: Stata, R, Python, SPSS, EViews
- Sector Working Groups & Reform Calendar Delivery
- Multi-Stakeholder Coordination & Management
- Function Building & Institutional Capacity Development
- Senior Government Level Policy Advisory
- Evidence-Based Reform Proposals & Policy Briefs
- Publication-Grade Research (20+ Scopus articles)
- Federal–Provincial Coordination & Multilateral Liaison
- Visualisation & Dashboards: ArcGIS, QGIS, Power BI
- Team Leadership & Cross-Functional Coordination

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Economic Planner (Senior Economist)

Nov 2023 – Present

Parsons Corporation | Yanbu, Saudi Arabia

Client: Royal Commission for Jubail & Yanbu (RCJY) | Yanbu Industrial City Economic & Master Plan | Vision 2030

- **Architected the Economic Plan framework from inception** for a major industrial-city master plan update — revamping scope, methodology, and deliverables to align with Vision 2030 economic diversification and industrial competitiveness objectives.
- **Built 20-year scenario-based economic and demand-forecasting models** covering industrial growth, sector mix, infrastructure capacity, and population dynamics — providing the quantitative backbone for investment prioritisation and master plan decisions.
- **Lead technical advisor on economic analytics** to multidisciplinary teams (Urban Planning, Master Planning, GIS, Survey), ensuring integrated, data-driven decision-making across all project components.
- **Formulating sector-targeting and investment-prioritisation recommendations** to strengthen Yanbu Industrial City's regional competitiveness — covering value-chain positioning, demand outlook, and infrastructure-readiness assessment.
- **Serve as Content Lead across 10+ technical reports**; maintain consistency with the approved research framework, manage project-delivery risks, and coordinate dependencies across consultant teams and government entities.

- **Represent the Royal Commission at industry conferences and strategic forums** — advancing investment-promotion narratives and building relationships with government and private-sector partners.

Director of Economic Affairs

Dec 2022 – Nov 2023

Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) | Lahore, Pakistan

- **Founded and operationalised the Economic Affairs Department from zero** — defined vision, mission, research agenda, governance structure, and quality standards; grew the function to fully operational status in under six months. (Direct analogue to standing up a research-and-policy function within a new institution.)
- **Recruited, trained, and led a multidisciplinary research team**; designed and executed a Research Agenda and Training Calendar achieving 100% of targeted milestones and producing 6+ co-authored research papers.
- **Authored flagship outputs** including 2 independent research papers, two book chapter on economic security for *annual flagship book/report* and 12+ opinion articles in leading national publications — establishing CASS's voice in economic policy discourse.
- **Organised and delivered two national economic conferences end-to-end** (theme development, agenda, speaker coordination, execution) and represented CASS at multiple national and international forums.
- **Served concurrently as Acting Director (Training)** — developed and executed the training calendar, achieving all programme objectives ahead of schedule.

Senior Urban Economist / Senior Programme Manager

Sep 2016 – Nov 2022

The Urban Unit, Government of Punjab | Lahore, Pakistan

Lead Economist on multi-year provincial development programmes worth US\$80M+ cumulative | Funded by World Bank, UNDP, DFID/UK Aid, GIZ

- **Punjab Spatial Strategy (US\$60M | World Bank | 3 yrs) — Urban Economist**: led urban economics and social development components of a landmark provincial spatial-planning initiative covering 36 districts and 9 metropolitan regions. Built population forecasts, cross-sector competitiveness analytics, and infrastructure investment-prioritisation frameworks. Approved by Punjab provincial cabinet — establishing the precedent for evidence-based, data-driven provincial policy reform.
- **Punjab Planning & Policy Support Programme (PKR 200M | 2 yrs)**: directed the Urban and Social Economic team integrating SDGs into provincial policy and spatial-planning frameworks; delivered economic advisory across multiple Punjab government departments.
- **Conducted econometric and quantitative studies** evaluating urban policies, sector performance, and infrastructure investments — producing evidence-based recommendations adopted by senior provincial decision-makers.
- **Supported in GIS-integrated decision-support dashboards** for decision support systems, land-use planning, and infrastructure investment business cases — adopted across multiple Punjab government departments.
- **Authored 7 technical policy papers and contributed to multiple research publications** on Punjab's urban economy — including frameworks for liveability assessment, inclusive-growth measurement, wealth inequality, and infrastructure needs analysis at district level.
- **Directed qualitative research (FGDs, KIIs) and delivered capacity-building workshops** to Punjab government departments on spatial decision-support systems and evidence-based policy methodology.
- **Programme delivery efficiency**: delivered UNDP Faisalabad LED project 30% under budget while concurrently completing project ahead of schedule.

Senior Assistant Professor / Acting Head of Department

Sep 2015 – Sep 2016

Bahria University | Lahore, Pakistan

- **Acted as Head of Management Sciences Department**; delivered postgraduate Economics and Research Methodology instruction (90% pass rate); supervised 12 MS/MPhil theses; facilitated successful HEC academic audit; published 2 research papers.

EARLIER CAREER

- *Urban Economist, Meinhardt Pakistan (May 2014–Sep 2015) - Ravi Riverfront Project (LDA)*

- *Economist & Head R&D Cell, Punjab Small Industries Corporation (Jun 2012–May 2014)*
- *Research Analyst, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Islamabad (Apr 2009–Nov 2009)*
- *Lecturer (Economics) & HOD, Economists' Inn College, Haroonabad (Jan 2006 – March 2009)*
- *Credit Officer, Khushhali Microfinance Bank Ltd., Bahawalnagar (July 2003 – June 2004)*

SELECTED PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Project	Client / Funder	Value / Duration	Key Outcome
Punjab Spatial Strategy	World Bank / Govt. of Punjab	~US\$60M 3 yrs	Cabinet-approved provincial framework across 36 districts; cross-sector competitiveness analytics, population forecasts, and infrastructure investment-prioritisation models.
Yanbu Industrial City Economic Plan	RCJY (Saudi Arabia) via Parsons	Ongoing 18 mo+	20-year economic scenarios, industrial sector demand modelling, and investment prioritisation framework supporting Vision 2030 industrial diversification.
Census of Small & Cottage Industries — Punjab	Govt. of Punjab	PKR 166M 24 mo	Large-scale sector intelligence across 36 districts covering ~500K enterprises; led data collection, analysis, and policy-informing sector profiling for provincial economic policy.
Punjab Planning & Policy Support Programme	Govt. of Punjab	PKR 200M 2 yrs	Led Urban & Social Economic team; SDG-integrated provincial policy and spatial-planning frameworks delivered across multiple government departments.
Rural Roads Prioritisation Model — Punjab	DFID / UK Aid	GBP 60K 4 mo	Econometric model for infrastructure investment prioritisation; spatial analysis combined with economic-impact assessment to optimise public-expenditure efficiency.
Urban Platform for Local Economic Development	UNDP — Faisalabad	PKR 8M 3 mo	Local economic development and investment-promotion strategy delivered 30% under budget; 2 additional related projects completed ahead of schedule.
Ravi Riverfront Urban Development	Govt. of Punjab	PKR 220M 14 mo	Economic analysis and feasibility assessment for large-scale urban investment programme integrating economic, environmental, and social factors.
ISPA Core Diagnostic (Social Protection)	GIZ — Punjab	PKR 12M 4 mo	Lead evaluation of provincial social-protection programmes; reform recommendations adopted by Punjab government for programme improvement.

Additional projects: Economic components in Master Plans for Quetta, Cholistan, Murree, Bahawalpur | Regional Economic Development Strategies for Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Bahawalpur regions.

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics

2015

Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan

Dissertation: "Determinants of GDP Fluctuations and Its Impact on Private Investment and Economic Growth: A Study of Selected South Asian Countries."

MPhil in Economics

2008

Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- **PMI Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA)®** — Project Management Institute, 2023 | Requirements analysis, stakeholder management, strategic alignment.
- **Data Science Specialization** — Johns Hopkins University (online), 2016 | R, Python, machine learning, statistical inference.
- **Diploma in Project Management** — Pakistan Institute of Management, 2014.
- **World Bank Institute — Trade Policy & Export Development Series** (4 modules), 2008.

Additional training: Strategic Planning & Urban Design Foundations (LinkedIn Learning, 2023) | Smart Cities (LinkedIn Learning, 2023) | Energy Economics & the Environment (Udemy, 2015) | Advanced Quantitative Analysis (SPSS & AMOS).

PUBLICATIONS & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Research portfolio: 1 Book | 2 Book Chapters | 20+ peer-reviewed (Scopus-indexed) journal articles | 4 Conference Papers | 10 Technical Reports | 50+ opinion articles in leading national newspapers and news portals.

Selected Research Publications

- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2026).** Diversification Through Entrepreneurship? Regional Evidence on Vision 2030 from New Business Formation in Saudi Arabia [Book Chapter]. Accepted for Publication in edited volume (book) titled "Modelling Economic Growth in Contemporary Saudi Arabia: Vision 2030, Diversification, Sustainability" (By: Emerald Publishing, EGED Series)." [sole author]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2026).** "Pre-feasibility Analysis and Justification of Special Economic Zone at Yanbu Industrial City: Application of Sector Prioritization & Diagnostics and Best International Practices" [sole author – work in progress]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2026).** "Projection of Population Disaggregation at District Level for Yanbu Industrial City: Application of GIS & Remote-sensing ML Models." [sole author – Used Google Earth Engine and Python coding]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2026).** 'From Fishing Port to Industrial Giant: How Yanbu Rewrote the Roadmap for Planned Cities.' *Sudum Magazine*, Issue 6.
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2025).** "Demographic and Population Projection for Yanbu Industrial City (2022-2045): Application of UN Component Cohort Model." [sole author – UN Model Application]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2025).** "State of the Economy 2024-25: From Fragile Recovery to Stabilization." Book chapter in book titled 'Pakistan in 2024-25. Lahore: CASS. [Flagship book/report, annual – freelance work after resignation]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2023).** "State of the Economy 2023." Book chapter in book titled 'Living Through Crisis: Pakistan in 2023. Lahore: CASS. [Flagship book/report, annual]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2023).** Challenges to the Economic Security of Pakistan: A National Security Perspective. Lahore: Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS). [Book]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. & K. Ikram (2022).** "Is Growth Inclusive in Punjab, Pakistan? A District-Level Analysis Using a Composite Index Approach." *Pakistan Development Review*. [PIDE]
- **Saeed, U., Mohey-ud-din, G., et al. (2022).** "An Integrated Approach for Developing an Urban Liveability Composite Index — A Cities' Ranking Road Map to Achieve Urban Sustainability." *Sustainability*, 14(12). [IF 3.889 | Scopus]
- **Saeed, U., Mohey-ud-din, G., et al. (2021).** "Identification of Potential Lockdown Areas During COVID-19 Transmission in Punjab, Pakistan." *Public Health*, 191: 42–51. [IF 4.984 | WoS & Scopus | HEC W]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., Paras, I., & Fareed, F. (2018).** "Infrastructure Development in Punjab, Pakistan: From Assessment to Spatiotemporal Analysis at District Level." *Journal of Quantitative Methods*, 2(2): 75–103.

- **Abubakar, S., Mohey-ud-din, G. & Kiani (2018).** "Health, Education and Economic Growth Nexus in Middle Income Countries." *Global Social Science Review*, 3(4): 43-61. [HEC recognized 'X Category' Journal]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., Iqra Paras, Faisal Fareed (2018).** "Infrastructure Development in Punjab, Pakistan: From Assessment to Spatiotemporal Analysis at District Level". *Journal of Quantitative Methods*, 2(2): 75-103.
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., (2018).** "Assessment of Urban Services Deprivation in Punjab, Pakistan: A District Level Spatial Comparative Analysis". *Pakistan Journal of Urban Affairs*, 7(1): 3-20.
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., (2017).** "Exploring the Spatial Trends in Wealth Inequalities in Punjab, Pakistan". *Pakistan Journal of Urban Affairs*, 6(1):46-57.
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., M. W. Siddiqi (2017).** "GDP Fluctuation and Long-run Economic Growth: A Study of Selected South Asian Countries". *Pakistan Journal of Applied Economics*, 27(1): 41-66. [HEC recognized 'Y category' Journal]
- **Mohey-ud-din, G., (2017).** Aid and Development (July 18, 2017). "Development Advocate Pakistan". 4(1): 21-24. Islamabad: UNDP, Pakistan. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3005075>
- **Mohey-ud-din, G. (2011).** The Macroeconomic Analysis of Foreign Capital Inflows in Pakistan: A Re-examination using Vector Error-Correction Approach, Munich: GRIN Verlag GmbH (GRIN Publishers Ltd), pages: 168. ISBN: 978-3-640-88045-4 [Based on M. Phil Thesis]

Full list of publication: researchgate.net/profile/Ghulam-Mohey-Ud-Din | scholar.google.com.pk/citations?user=5PZSvoEAAAAJ

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Memberships: Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) — PIDE | Urban Economics Association | Development Studies Association | Regional Studies Association.

- **"Spatial Spillovers of Monetary Policy Shocks on Capital Flow Volatility under Geoeconomic Fragmentation"** submitted to the ADB-AMRO Conference on "Fiscal and Monetary Policies in Developing Economies for Navigating Fragmentation Risks" to be held in Singapore.
- **"Estimation of Inclusive Growth Index in Punjab (District Level)"** — 31st Annual General Meeting & Conference, Pakistan Society of Development Economists, PIDE, was held in Peshawar | Nov 2021.
- **"Social Development Index of Punjab"** — 3rd FCCU Economics Research Conference, Lahore | May 2019.
- **"Public & Private Investment in Human Capital Intergenerational Transfers in Asia"** — ADBI-AGI Joint Workshop, was held in Kitakyushu City, Japan | Nov 2017. (Presented by colleague/co-author)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (Fluent) | Urdu (Native) | Punjabi (Native) | Arabic (Basic Learner).

Location & Mobility: Currently based in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia. Open to relocation to Lahore, Pakistan for this role.

Nationality: Pakistani | Date of Birth: 22 April 1979 (age 47).