

## Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia Department of Political Science

### **Political culture in Pakistan: Opportunities and challenges** *by*

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Following characteristics may explain Pakistan's political culture: First, the military is viewed as the most powerful political actor in the political system of Pakistan. Second, the people place hope in personalities, not in a political process or parties for a change in society, economy and state. Third, political parties which are leader-centered are involved in the blame-game. The people in government represent themselves as victims and opposition parties or a previous government responsible for failures. A political culture with such characteristics presumably lacks political participation. However, under given conditions, the people of Pakistan participated in a political process by casting their votes in the general elections of 2013 and 2018. Additionally, over the past years, political parties have developed tolerance to one another, accepted political competition as a part of the political system. Though a losing political party always blames flawed and unfair elections as a cause of its failure, it still accepts a majority party's right to rule the country.



**Dr. Ali Zulfiqar** is affiliated with the Department of Philosophy, University of Karachi, Pakistan. His research mainly focuses on the areas of postmodernism, postcolonialism, Pakistan's political system and corruption. His most recent publications include: 'Anti-corruption Institutions and Governmental Change in Pakistan' (*South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*, 2018), 'Conflict between social structure and legal framework: political corruption in Pakistan' (*Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*, 54,1 (2016)), 'Pakistan, Military Coup, and Concordance: Four Objections to Schiff' (*Armed Forces & Society*, 42,2 (2015)).

**Date: Monday, 5 November 2018**

**Time: 16:00-18:00**

**Venue: SAI 317**

**All are cordially invited!**

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