



Feb  
2025-  
July  
2025

# THE ENGLISH DISPATCH: A BIANNNUAL INSIGHT



# The English Dispatch: A Biannual Insight

## Table of Contents

The Writer's Lounge	<b>1</b>
Graduate Seminar Series	<b>2</b>
Faculty Research Forum	<b>4</b>
Forman Literary Festival 2025	<b>5</b>
The Future of Words: Digital Literature & Linguistics Expo 2025	<b>9</b>
Echoes of Earth: Voices Through Environmental Literature	<b>11</b>
Students Led Initiatives	<b>12</b>
Departmental Social Space	<b>14</b>
General Updates	<b>17</b>
Faculty Updates	<b>21</b>



"This edition of *The English Dispatch* celebrates the outstanding contributions of our faculty whose research outputs, impactful and innovative teaching, dedication, expertise, academic and professional activities, and above all their unwavering commitment to service exemplify the highest standards of academic excellence. I am confident that the department will further build upon the strong foundation of the sustained excellence and intellectual vigor that define our collegium."

**Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda**

**Chairperson, Department of English**



## Department of English: Events / Activities: Spring 2025

### The Writer's Lounge

The Department of English, FCCU, organized a session under the Writer's Lounge Series on April 8, 2025, at the James Tebbe Campus Center, featuring Prof. Dr. Waseem Anwar and Ms. Nosheen Yousaf.



Postgraduate students discussed selected essays from *Transcultural Humanities in South Asia: Critical Essays on Literature*, engaging with themes like transculturation in the humanities, gendered poetry such as Rekhti, and minority and subcultural narratives. Postcolonial transculturalism and its various impacts were also explored. Prof. Dr. Waseem Anwar emphasized the role of introspection and retrospection in this developing field, while Ms. Nosheen Yousaf reflected on the book's development and historical context. The event was graced by the Rector, Dr. Jonathan Addleton, and the Dean of Humanities, Prof. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan.

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda concluded the event by thanking the guest speakers, the Rector, the Dean, and all colleagues and students for their valuable contributions.





## Graduate Seminar Series

### Dr. Shahab Yar Khan:

The Graduate Seminar Series by the Department of English organized a seminar on April 24, 2025. The guest speaker for this session was Dr. Shahab Yar Khan, Associate Professor at the Department of Shakespearean Studies, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia.



Dr. Khan addressed the theme of “Shakespeare's Cognitive Relativism and Pseudo-Political History” in his talk. The event was supervised by Professor Fatima Syeda (Chairperson, Department of English, FCCU) and organized by Ms. Aleena Karim (Coordinator, Graduate Seminar Series and Lecturer, Department of English, FCCU) and Mr. Saleh Habib (Coordinator, Graduate Seminar Series and Lecturer, Department of English, FCCU). The seminar was well received by the attendees.



### Dr. Waqas Sajjad:

The Graduate Seminar Series by the Department of English organized a seminar on April 25, 2025. The guest speaker for this session was Dr. Waqas Sajjad, Assistant Professor at Seeta Majeed School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Beaconhouse National University.



Dr. Sajjad delivered his talk on “The Diversity of Sufi Literature in South Asia.” He discussed the use of figurative elements in Sufi poetry and how Sufi literature varied from the other types of literature existing in South Asia since the 16th century and beyond. The seminar was well received by the attendees.





## Faculty Research Forum

The Faculty Research Forum (FRF) held a scholarly session led by Ms. Alvina Wasim, Assistant Professor in the Department of English and PhD scholar. Ms. Wasim presented her research, “Feminine Critical Discourse: An Analysis of the Divine Feminine,” exploring critical models for examining Sufi literature from the subcontinent.



Ms. Wasim discussed the symbolic representation of women in Sufi folklores, drawing connections to Hurston’s Harlem Renaissance, and analyzed the fifty chapters of the Manusmṛti, a major Hindu legal text.

She highlighted the historical and cultural pressures on Asian women to conform to patriarchy, while also examining the metaphoric portrayal of the feminine divine in the works of Sufi poets like Waris Shah and Abdul Latif Bhittai. The session included engaging discussions and group activities. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson, Department of English, concluded the event by thanking Ms. Wasim for her insightful presentation.





## Forman Literary Festival 2025

The Ewing English Society, in collaboration with the Department of English at FCCU, organized the 4th Forman Literary Festival (FLF 4.0) on June 3–4, 2025. Themed “Living the Narrative – From the Silence of the Page to the Symphony of Life,” FLF 4.0 brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests to celebrate literature, arts, and cultural heritage.



The festival opened with remarks by Rector Dr. Jonathan Addleton, Dean Prof. Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Chair Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, and Ewing English Society’s leadership, setting the stage for two days of literary engagement. Dr. Anjum Altaf delivered the keynote address, “A Window to the World,” exploring how literature broadens perspectives. This was followed by the panel “Cultural Crossroads: Bapsi Sidhwa’s Impact on South Asian Literature,” featuring Prof. Shaista



Sonnu Sirajuddin and Prof. Perin Boga, and an enactment of Sidhwa's *The Crow Eaters* by FCCU students.

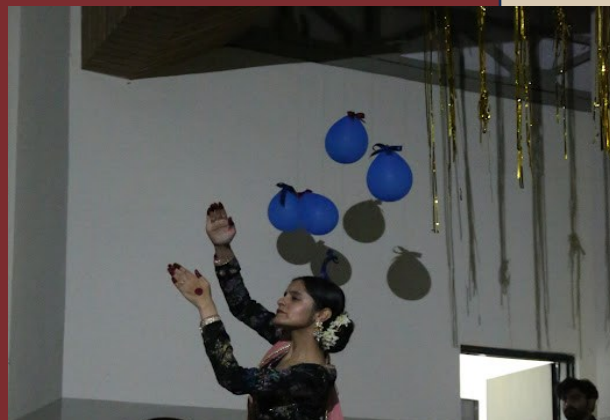


Day One included the spoken word competition “Verses of Vitalis,” judged by Ms. Sadiqa Maqbool and Mr. Asim Hameed Lodhi, and a panel on “Decolonizing Education through Postcolonial Literature” with Dr. Waseem Anwar, Dr. Zahid Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Furqan Tanvir, and Dr. Farrah Fatima.





Notable performances included the Kathak dance “Raqs-e-Faiz” by Timsal Fatima and “Narratives in Motion,” a salsa performance by Social Dance Lahore. A panel on “Pakistani Fiction in the Contemporary Age,” with Prof. Dr. Syrinna Ahsan, Ms. Taiba Abbas, and Dr. Faiza Zaheer, was followed by dramatic readings from playwright Usman Ali.



Day Two began with the panel “Conflict Zones and the Politics of Exclusion,” focusing on marginalized narratives and featuring Dr. Ahlam Abulaila, Dr. Shafaat Yar Khan, and Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, moderated by Ms. Dewah Khattak. A flute and tabla performance by Kamran Sarfraz and Ubaid Ayub followed, alongside “The Feed & the Fable,” a session on media and digital storytelling with Dr. Hassan Zafar, Mr. Shahid Ali Naeem, and M.Phil. scholar Ms. Hira Tariq, moderated by Dr. Ambreen Javed.



The panel “Changing Narratives: The Evolution of Pakistani Entertainment Industry” featured Dr. Ammara Khan, Ms. Munazzah Arif, Mr. Rashid Mehmood, and moderator Ms. Alvina Wasim.





Folk storytelling “Lok Dastaan Jaga Jutt” was performed by Fazal Jutt, and “Aur Chaand Surkh Hogiya” offered a book talk on translation with Mrs. Iffat Sayeed, Dr. Atiya Syed, and Mr. Fahad Aftab. Ajoka Theatre staged two plays, “Sharm di Gal” and “Dhee Rani,” addressing pressing social issues. The festival closed with acknowledgments from university leadership and the FLF team, thanking speakers, guests, and participants, including Dr. Nasim Riaz Butt, Prof. Shaista



Sonnu Sirajuddin, Dr. Shireen Rahim, Dr. Usman T. Malik, and faculty from universities across Lahore. FLF 4.0 was celebrated as a vibrant and meaningful “symphony of stories.”



## The Future of Words: Digital Literature & Linguistics Expo 2025

The Department of English, FCCU collaborated with the Department of English Language and Literature, UOL, for “The Future of Words: Digital Literature & Linguistics Expo 2025,” held on May 21, 2025, at the University of Lahore. The event featured faculty and student participants from both institutions, who presented digital projects highlighting innovative approaches to literature, language, and technology. Projects ranged from Digital Literary Studies to digital



storytelling, showcasing a broad spectrum of research and creative work from the FCCU community. The exhibition promoted vibrant academic exchange and provided a platform for emerging voices in digital humanities. The students of Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Ms. Sadiqa Maqbool, Ms. Maheen Zia, Ms. Farheen Saeed, Mr. Adeel Khalid, and Dr. Mussarat Shahid exhibited their Digital Projects.





The event was opened by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Rector UOL, who appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson, Department of English, FCCU, and Dr. Zahid Iqbal, Head, Department of English Language and Literature, UOL, for organizing a successful collaboration.



Moreover, the event concluded with a recognition ceremony in which Dr. Asghar Nadeem Syed, Dean of English Language & Literature at UOL, presented shields to Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Mr. Jonathan Caleb (Convener), and Mr. Saud Hanif (Co-convener), as well as certificates of participation to faculty members and students from both the institutions for their contributions.





## Echoes of Earth: Voices Through Environmental Literature

The Department of English, FCCU, in collaboration with the Ewing English Society, organized “Echoes of Earth: Voices Through Environmental Literature” on June 16, 2025. The event was conceptualized and supervised by Ms. Sadiqa Maqbool and brought together students, faculty, and guests to examine environmental concerns through literature.



The program began with recitations from the Holy Quran by Mubashair Khan and the Holy Bible by Marry Suneha, introduced by Tahoor Bari and Haya Fatima. Sara Anjum, Class Representative ENGL-445, delivered a speech titled “The Power of Words in Green Advocacy.” Her address discussed the impact of environmental literature, highlighting the works of Rachel Carson, Arundhati Roy, and Amitav Ghosh. Attendees then viewed “Digital Diaries,” a display of class projects reflecting students’ observations and thoughts about nature.



The highlight of the event was the dramatic presentation, “Lahore Pukaar Raha Heh (Lahore is Calling Out).” Written, directed, and performed by ENGL-445 students, this one-hour adaptation combined poetry, monologues, visual projections, and soundscapes to address environmental issues in Lahore such as air and water pollution, deforestation, and cultural change, ending with a call for ecological renewal.

In their remarks, Dean of Humanities Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan and Chairperson of the English Department Dr. Fatima Syeda reflected on the theme “Literature as an Agent of Change in Environmental Crises.” They commended the students’ dedication and highlighted the vital role of youth in addressing climate challenges. The event concluded with a Certificate Distribution Ceremony, celebrating the contributions of our talented students.

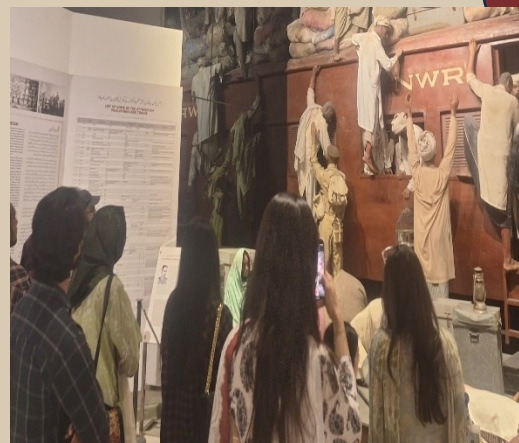


## Students Led Initiatives

### National History Museum:

As part of their project for their course ENGL 220: Partition Fiction, the students visited National History Museum on 24th of April, 2025 and Army Museum on 12th of April, 2025 along with their instructor Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda and other faculty members from the Department of English.

The two visits included study of various sections of the museums displaying memoirs and heritage of the history of the Subcontinent, specifically memories of 1947 Partition of the Subcontinent.





### Workshop on Drug Use Prevention:

Ms. Dewah Khattak and Ms. Maria Shah, MPhil students from the Department of English at FCCU, represented the Faculty of Humanities at a “One Day Media Training Workshop on Drug Use Prevention” hosted by the Drug Advisory Training Hub (DATH), Lahore, on February 18, 2025. Nominated by Dr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Dean of Humanities, they attended on behalf of Forman Christian College, University. The workshop addressed new addiction trends among youth, media’s role in prevention, and law enforcement efforts. The students gained practical knowledge on media-based prevention and awareness campaigns, contributing meaningfully to this important initiative.



### Inter-Collegiate & Varsity English Literature and Linguistics Quiz 2025:

Undergraduate students Mr. Zarik Hasnain (ENGL) and Mr. Aziz Ahmad (LING) from the Department of English represented Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) at the second Inter-Collegiate & Varsity English Literature and Linguistics Quiz 2025, held at Government Postgraduate College, Township, Lahore. Competing against 19 teams from leading colleges and universities, they secured third position and demonstrated exceptional knowledge and teamwork. Their impressive achievement was a proud moment for FCCU and reflected the skill and preparation provided by the university and its dedicated faculty.





## Departmental Social Space

### Mabali Island:

The Department of English, FCCU organized a one-day trip for postgraduate students and faculty members to Mabali Island on February 21, 2025. The trip allowed students to experience the outdoors, interact with their peers, and create lasting memories.



The students enjoyed the beautiful natural scenery and participated in various activities. The peaceful environment added to the enjoyment. Overall, it was a wonderful experience that left students energized and grateful to the Department for organizing this amazing trip.



### Mr. Saud Hanif's Nikkah Festivities:

The MPhil students of the Department of English hosted a delightful gathering to celebrate the nikkah of a respected faculty member, Mr. Saud Hanif.



Faculty members and students came together for this occasion, which included various enjoyable activities and friendly interactions. The event strengthened a sense of community and highlighted the supportive environment within the department.





### Hunza Trip:

Postgraduate students and a few faculty members from the Department of English, FCCU, joined a private trip to Hunza and seized the opportunity to gather and savor the beauty of Pakistani North.



The occasion provided them with an opportunity for literary recession, discussions on aesthetics and to share deep fraternity.



## General Updates

### Critical Analysis of Newspaper Stories:

Ms. Iffat Sayed, the instructor for ENGL175: Critical Thinking and Reading, arranged an insightful session for her class with Mr. Shahid Ali Naeem, a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication, FCCU. In his engaging lecture on the Critical Analysis of Newspaper Stories, Mr. Naeem emphasized the role of news media in shaping public opinion. He highlighted biases in news reporting, discussing how ownership and political affiliations influence content. He critiqued sensationalism and the decline of investigative journalism due to commercial pressures. Mr. Naeem stressed the importance of media literacy, urging students to differentiate between objective reporting and propaganda. He also analyzed language framing and agenda-setting in newspapers. His lecture provided a thought-provoking perspective on media ethics, urging future journalists to uphold integrity and accuracy in reporting.



### PNQAHE Conference:

The Department of English contributed to the 5th PNQAHE Conference hosted by FCCU from April 14–16, 2025. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson, moderated a session on the role of regulatory bodies and professional associations in quality assurance. Experts and policymakers discussed how these organizations shape and maintain standards in higher education.





### Ms. Kennedy's Visit:

Ms. Nancy Kennedy, a retired English instructor from the U.S., visited FCCU's Department of English and engaged in discussions on literary theory and departmental initiatives. She expressed admiration for the diverse programs, focus on under-represented voices, and the department's vibrant, collegial environment.



### AI Showcase Series:

The Department of English participated in the AI Showcase Series organized by the Center for Learning and Teaching. Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the English Department, showcased digital class projects from her ENGL 610: Digital Approaches to Literature course during the session held on May 19, 2025. The students' projects incorporated a range of AI tools, including Voyant, Toolsaday, Copilot, Rytr, Writesonic, Poem.AI, and more, to generate literature (poetry, fiction, etc.), analyze and interpret texts, write literature reviews, analyze characters, etc.

**The Nature of Intelligence**

Narrow Versions of Intelligence:

- problem solving,
- making calculations,
- answering quizzes,
- resolving puzzles,
- playing a game
- or other coded / programmed tasks

**The Quest for Intelligence**

- 01 Amplification of the intellectual powers of Human Beings
- 02 The idea of "Ultrainelligence" by I. J. Good
  1. "The inexorable march to superintelligence" (Eric J Larson)
- 03 Steps: Human Level AI

### Open House Fall 2025:

The Department of English actively participated in the Open House Fall 2025, held on Thursday, February 20, 2025. This event provided an excellent opportunity for prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students to meet faculty members and gain insight into the programs offered by the department. Faculty members guided aspiring students through the details of the BS and MPhil English programs, discussing course structures, career prospects, and what distinguishes FCCU's English programs from others. Mr. Fahad Aftab (Coordinator BS English Program) and Dr. Faiza Zaheer (Coordinator MPhil English Program) played a significant role in engaging with students, addressing their concerns, and providing valuable advice on academic pathways. The department also shared information on scholarship opportunities and answered general inquiries regarding both programs. The Open House Fall 2025 proved to be an enriching experience for all attendees, helping them make informed decisions about their academic future.



### Annual Advising Fair 2025:

The Department of English effectively participated in the Annual Advising Fair on February 26 and 27, 2025. Faculty members provided students with guidance on academic choices, career goals, and university policies. Mr. Fahad Aftab, Coordinator of the BS English Program, supervised the department's participation and helped ensure a smooth and productive experience for everyone involved.





### Research Publication in Literature and Aesthetics:

Ms. Tehreem Munir, a student of the Department of English at FCCU, had her paper published in a W-category HEC-recognized journal, *Literature and Aesthetics*. The publication was based on her BS thesis, completed under the supervision of Dr. Qurratulaen Liaquat. At the time, Ms. Munir was a research scholar pursuing her MPhil in English Literature at FCCU. This achievement reflected the Department's ongoing commitment to fostering academic excellence and preparing future leaders in the field of English Literature.



### Commonwealth Short Story Prize:

Tahoor Bari, a student of the Department of English at FCCU, was shortlisted for the 2025 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Enrolled in ENGL 350 (Advanced Creative Writing) taught by Ms. Mussarat Shahid, Tahoor was selected as one of only 25 writers from nearly 8,000 entries worldwide and is the only Pakistani on this year's shortlist.

This achievement reflected both her exceptional talent and the Department's ongoing commitment to nurturing and mentoring emerging writers.



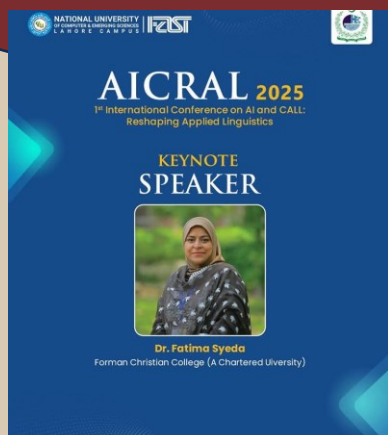
## Faculty Updates

### Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda

#### AICRAL 2025:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English at FCCU, was invited as a keynote speaker at the AICRAL 2025 International Conference on AI and CALL: Reshaping Applied Linguistics, held at FAST-NUCES, Lahore Campus on April 19-20, 2025.

In her keynote address on “Plurality of Worlds in the Digital Space: Diversity, Multiplicity & Inclusion,” Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda explored how AI and digital resources are expanding possibilities for inclusivity and representation in literature and linguistics. Citing the work of Roopika Risam, she emphasized that digital literary studies should be inherently global and inclusive, addressing issues of class, race, gender, and ethnicity. Prof. Dr. Syeda also highlighted the role of digital technologies in bridging gaps left by traditional discourses, thus promoting diversity and equity in the field. Her insights sparked engaging discussions and inspired attendees to reimagine literary studies for the digital era.



#### External Examiner for PhD Defense at UOL:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English, FCCU, served as the external examiner for a PhD defense at the Department of English Language and Literature, University of Lahore.





### International Conference on Literature Narratives of Resilience:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English, FCCU, served as Session Chair for the panel “Palestinian Resistance” at the International Conference on Literature Narratives of Resilience, hosted by LCWU from April 22-24, 2025. The panel brought together experts including Dr. Ajmal Khan (GIFT University) and Ret. Prof. Dr. Zakia Nasir (LCWU), who engaged the audience in examining themes such as exile, dislocation, colonial subjugation, the role of women, and digital platforms in Palestinian literature.

In her closing remarks, Prof. Dr. Syeda highlighted how crises have empowered women to make positive societal contributions. Citing Palestinian texts, she noted that, since the Nakba of 1948, repeated adversity has only strengthened Palestinian resilience. The session offered meaningful dialogue and fresh perspectives on themes and narratives in Palestinian literature.



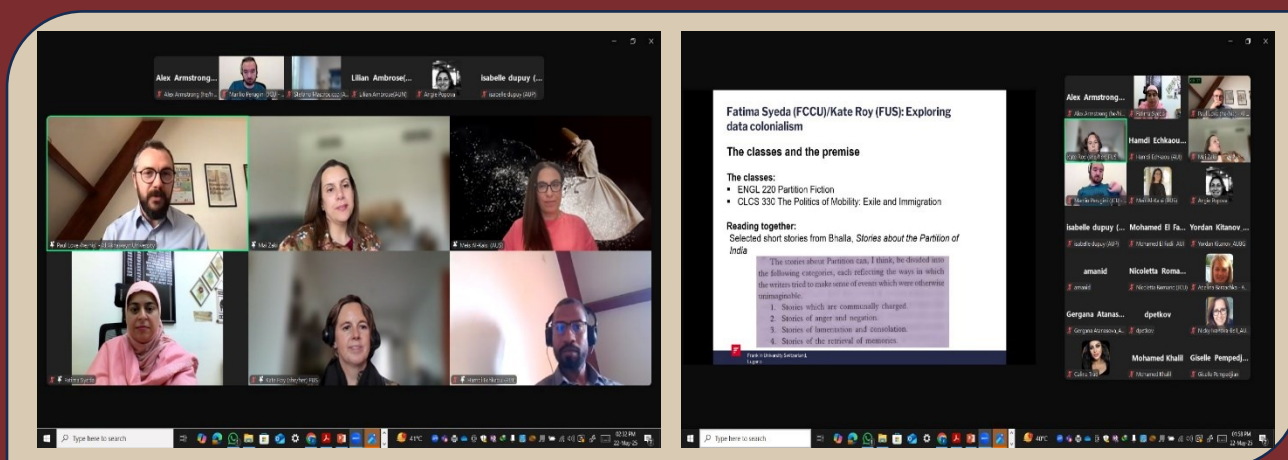
### Book Discussion on *And the Sky Went Red*:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda, Chairperson of the Department of English, FCCU, was invited by the Institute of English Studies, University of the Punjab, for a book discussion on *And the Sky Went Red* by Prof. Dr. Attiya Syed, translated by Ms. Iffat Sayeed, on May 15, 2025. Prof. Dr. Syeda discussed the novel's portrayal of Covid-19's impact on society and AI's rise, its metaphysical themes, and its depiction of the pandemic in gothic terms. She also explored how the crisis exposed human limitations. The session addressed critical translation questions, including the role of imagination and transcreation. Insights from Ms. Iffat Sayeed, Prof. Dr. Attiya Syed, and Prof. Dr. Shamaila Dodhy further enriched the event.



## AMICAL 2025:

Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda (FCCU) and Dr. Kate Roy (Franklin University, Switzerland) co-presented their research "Exploring Data Colonialism: An Inter-institutional Case Study" at the AMICAL 2025 virtual conference from May 19–28, 2025. Their study examined how algorithmic systems perpetuate colonial patterns by marginalizing certain groups and shaping representation, drawing parallels with historical practices of imperial knowledge. Using student research posters from courses at both universities, they addressed questions about whose stories are told, representation biases, and the impact of digital platforms on collective memory. The session encouraged meaningful dialogue on digital technology, memory, and representation in contemporary society.



## Mr. Saud Hanif

### Dream Analysis Workshop:

Mr. Saud Hanif, a faculty member of the Department of English, FCCU, recently enhanced his expertise by attending a three-week workshop on dream analysis, “DreamSynergy: Finding Meaning and Guidance in Your Dreams,” led by Justina Lasley, founder of the Institute for Dream Studies, New York. The workshop provided hands-on training in various dream interpretation techniques, including analysis of dream images, emotions, and characters. Mr. Hanif’s new insights will enrich his teaching and research, further benefiting the learning experience of our students.





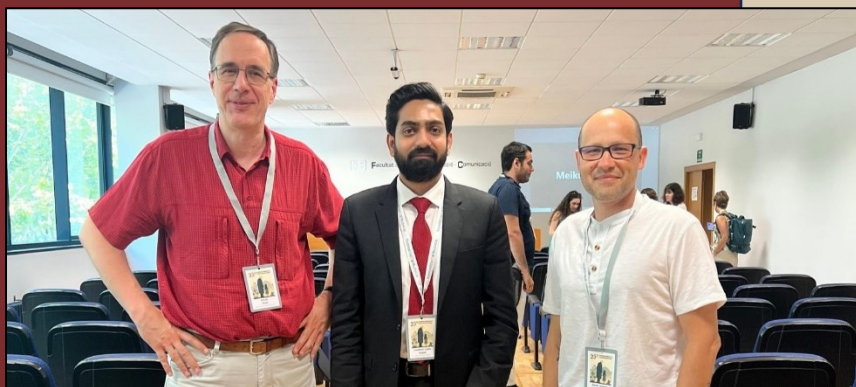
## Mr. Jonathan Caleb

### 25th Annual Conference of the Utopian Studies Society-Europe:

Mr. Jonathan Caleb, a faculty member of the Department of English, FCCU, presented his research at the 25th Annual Conference of the Utopian Studies Society-Europe, organized by the Department of English and German Philology at the University of Valencia, Spain, from July 2nd to July 4th, 2025.



His paper, “Cultivating Change: Intergenerational Democracy and Utopian Survival in Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*,” explored the novel’s vision of utopian survival, focusing on themes such as intergenerational cooperation, the wisdom of elders, mutual support, and the reimagining of utopia as an evolving process. By referring to examples from the novel, Mr. Caleb discussed how democratic participation and the inclusion of all generations are vital for thriving communities. This research highlights the relevance of critical utopian studies in addressing contemporary challenges, illustrating how speculative fiction can inspire new thinking on inclusion, resilience, and collective responsibility. The presentation was well received by an international academic audience and contributed significant insights to the ongoing discourse in the field. Through this presentation, the Department of English, FCCU, was represented at a prominent international academic forum.



## Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat

### SMR Spring School:

Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat, Associate Professor in the Department of English at FCCU, attended a spring school organized by the School of Materialist Research. She completed three courses: “Posthumanism and Posthumans” with Professor David Roden from the Open University, UK, “Anti/Gones: Political subjectivity, dissidence, and contemporary Antigones” with Professors Athena Athanasiou from Panteion University and Elena Tzelepis from the University of Thessaly, Greece, and “Nietzsche’s Theoretical Surplus and Marxism in the 21st Century” with Professor Daniel Tutt from George Washington University, USA. Through this international, credit-based program, Dr. Liaqat engaged with advanced topics in philosophy and political theory. Her learning will benefit both the FCCU community and the broader academic landscape in Pakistan.



## Mr. Azeem Alphonse

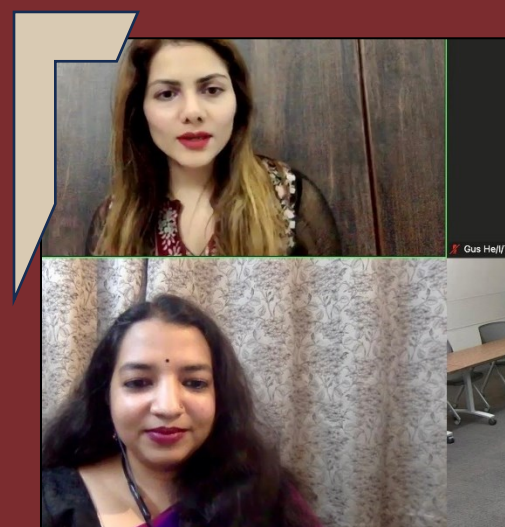
### Book Launch of *Surkh Mosam*:

Mr. Azeem Alphonse (Assistant Professor, Department of English, FCCU) attended the book launch of Dr. Ateeq Anwar’s latest novel, *Surkh Mosam*. Mr. Alphonse expressed his insightful views on the novel, highlighting its literary significance and the powerful themes explored by Dr. Anwar.

## Dr. Subbah Mir

### 28th Annual International Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference:

Dr. Subbah Mir, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at FCCU, presented her research at the 28th Annual International Pedagogy and Theatre of the Oppressed Conference, “Confronting Injustice: Transformation, Reparation, and Radical Imagination,” on June 7, 2025. Dr. Mir’s presentation was delivered online, with the organizers accommodating her participation while the conference was held in Omaha, U.S.





# EDITORIAL TEAM



**Prof. Dr. Fatima Syeda**  
**Editor-in-Chief**



**Jonathan Caleb Imdad**  
**Editor**



<https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/departments/english/>