



**National Conference
on**

NATIONAL INTEGRATION AND CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

October 26 – 27, 2021

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS

Dr. Saeed Ahmed Rid & Dr. Rahat Zubair Malik

**Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training
National Heritage & Culture Division
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research &
National Institute of Pakistan Studies**

PARALLEL SESSION 3: PANEL 2, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION

S. No	Time	Names	Paper Title
1	10:00 – 10:15	Sana Amjad	Role of Women in National Integration (A Case Study of Khwendo-Jirga (Sister's Council) in District Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan)
2	10:15 – 10:30	Madasir Ayub	Role of 'Paigham e Pakistan Narrative' in National Integration and Cultural Assimilation.
3	10:30 – 10:45	Farah Gul Baqai	All Pakistan Women Association (APWA) Role in National Integration
4	10:45 – 11:00	Sadia Falki & Javeria Sehar	Narrative Building and an Anti-Establishment Strategy of PTM: Conflicting Forces of Inclusive Federalism and Dynamics of Hybrid War in Pakistan
	11:00 – 11:45	Discussion by Chair and Discussant	
Discussant		Dr. Ahsan Kamal	
Chair		Prof. Dr. Mohammad Idrees	
Moderator		Dr. Sabahat Jaleel	

PARALLEL SESSION 3: PANEL 3, LITERATURE AND NATIONAL INTEGRATION

S. No	Time	Names	Paper Title
1	10:00 – 10:15	Mazhar Abbas Gondal	How can Music Facilitate National Integration? The Case of Pakistan
2	10:15 – 10:30	Altat Ullah	Literature as an Emblem of National Integration: An Overview of Pashto Poetry
3	10:30 – 10:45	Sobia Aslam	The Role of Punjabi Poets in Establishing Harmony and Peaceful Coexistence
4	10:45 – 11:00	Nida Kanwal	Role of Sufi Poetry in Achieving Social Harmony and National Integration: A Case Study of Kalam e Bahoo
5	11:00 – 11:15	Raza Naeem	The Evolution of Culture in Pakistan': Sibte Hasan's Neglected Contribution to a People's History of Pakistani

Literature as an Emblem of National Integration: An Overview of Pashto Poetry

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ABSTRACT

National integration is a process of achieving national cohesion, stability, progress and prosperity, and strength and feelings of being united as 'one nation'. Pakistan has been facing varying degrees of religious, ethnic, linguistic, socio-economic, and political problems since its inception. To guard against these challenges to the integrity of the state, a well-knitted and integrated national policy is the cry of the hour. It is generally believed that Pashto poetry deals either with the issues of Pashtuns or domestic affairs of their society alone which might be a misperception that need to be observed both at empirical and theoretical levels. The prime purpose of any poetry whether articulated in Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi, Saraiki, Punjabi or some other regional, local, and even in national languages, is to serve the cause of humanity irrespective of cast, creed, colour, and other belonging. In the like manner in Pashto poetry one can find the elements of service to humanity, proper regard to all living beings, affection, love, regard, and respect to human values. Poets and literary people often come up with an open heart and mind while articulating their respective poetic

versions to disseminate a sense of unity, integrity, accommodation, equity and liberty. With this holistic view the present paper deals with an academic survey of Pashto poetry to explore the elements of national integrity depicted in the said poetry. The poetic verses of various Pashto poets such as the poetic versions of Hamza Shinwari, Dost Mohammad Khan Kamil, Ghani Khan and others are full of such notions and ideas that insist upon unification, unity and integrity on both state and society level. Hence, the paper focuses on the question of national integration in Pakistan in the light of popular Pashto poetry.