

# Adnan Qadir Khan

Professor in Practice,  
School of Public Policy and STICERD,  
London School of Economics and Political Science.

[a.q.khan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.q.khan@lse.ac.uk)

Phone: +44(0)20 7955 6692

Web: <https://adnanqkhan.com>

## Education

PhD Economics, Queen's University, Kingston Canada.

Master of Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge USA.

B.Sc. Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore Pakistan.

## Teaching

- *Making Governments and Policies Work for Development*, School of Public Policy, London School of Economics, 2019-2020.
- *Conducting Research with External Actors*, PhD Workshop, STICERD, London School of Economics, 2019-20.
- *Applications and Cases in International Development*, core course for MPAIDs Harvard Kennedy School, 2018-19.
- *Economic Development: Using Analytical Frameworks for Smart Policy Design*, core course for MPAIDs, Harvard Kennedy School, 2018-19.
- *Policy, Bureaucracy and Development: Theory and Practice of Policy Design, Implementation and Evaluation*, LSE Graduate Course (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017).
- *Policy and Bureaucracy: Opening the Black box of Governance*, Harvard Kennedy School, 2017-18 January term.
- *Development Economics*, Queen's Economics Department Undergraduate course, 2008.
- *Economic Development* modules, National School of Public Policy (NSPP), Pakistan, 2003-05.
- *Modules on Evidence-based Policy Formulation*, taught during different civil service training courses, 2014 -17.
- Textbook on *Public Policy Design, Implementation and Evaluation* (work in progress).
- *Policy Skills and Leadership*, Workshop for policy actors, CERP, January 2020.

## Honours and Awards

PEGNET Best Practice Award 2017 granted at the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network Conference 2017 at Zurich for effective interaction between research and practice.

Recruited to the Pakistan Administrative Service after standing first in the country in the Civil Service Examination in 1995.

Awarded President's Gold Medal for Best All-Round Officer in 1996.

Stood first after completing training at the Civil Services Academy in management and law.

### **Other Affiliations/Experiences**

Affiliate of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Associate with the Building State Capability Program at Center for International Development (CID), Harvard University.

Co-leading Reducing State Fragilities Initiative at International Growth Centre, LSE.

Founder Board member since 2010 of Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP).

Affiliated Researcher, Yale University Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE).

Affiliated Researcher, Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD).

Co-chaired LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development. 2016-18.

Leadership Development Program at LSE from 2013-15.

Policy Advisor for Harvard Kennedy School Evidence for Policy Design (EPOD) project on Building Capacity on Use of Research Evidence (BCURE) from 2013-17.

Voluntary work with socially relevant theatre.

Voluntary work with human rights organizations.

Voluntary work on replication of Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) Karachi.

Studied Philosophy at Punjab University with a distance-learning Masters in Philosophy 1991.

Studied Diploma in International Affairs from Punjab University, Lahore Pakistan 1988.

## Published Papers

Making Moves Matter: Experimental Evidence on Incentivizing Bureaucrats through Performance-Based Postings (with Benjamin Olken, MIT, and Asim Khwaja, Harvard). *American Economic Review*, 2019.

Tax Farming Redux: Experimental Evidence on Incentive Pay for Tax Collectors (with Benjamin Olken, MIT, and Asim Khwaja, Harvard) *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2016.

Breaking the Counter-cyclical Pattern of Local Democracy in Pakistan (with Roger Myerson, Chicago, and Ali Cheema, LUMS), in *'Is Decentralization Good for Development? Perspectives from Academics and Policymakers'*, edited by J.P. Faguet, Oxford University Press 2015.

The Impact of Social Networks on Labour Market Outcomes: New Evidence from Cape Breton (with Steven Lehrer, Queen's) *NBER Working Paper, Canadian Public Policy* 2013.

Capacity Development for Education Service Delivery in Pakistan: Top Down Devolution (with David Watson) in *Public Administration and Development* 2010.

Decentralization in Pakistan: Context, Content and Causes (with Asim Khwaja, Harvard and Ali Cheema, LUMS), for Pranab Bardhan and Dilip Mookherjee's *'Decentralization and Local Governance in Developing Countries'*, MIT Press, USA 2006.

## Ongoing Projects

The Allocation of Authority in Organizations: A Field Experiment with Bureaucrats (with Oriana Bandiera, LSE, Andrea Prat, Columbia, and Michael Best, Columbia).

Political Connections and Vote Choice: Evidence from Pakistan (with Jacob Shapiro, Princeton, Michael Callen, UCSD, Asad Liaqat, HKS, Ali Cheema, LUMS, and Farooq Naseer, LUMS).

The Design of Social Protection Programs for the Ultra-Poor: Asset Transfers versus Unconditional Cash Transfers (with Oriana Bandiera, LSE, Robin Burgess, LSE, Orazio Attanasio, UCL, and Imran Rasul, UCL).

Rebuilding the Social Compact: Urban Service Delivery and Property Taxes in Pakistan (with Benjamin Olken, MIT, Asim Khwaja, Harvard, and Mahvish Shaukat, MIT).

Evaluating the Take-up, Usage, and Impact of Mobile Money Accounts (with Greg Fischer, LSE, Joshua Blumenstock, Berkeley).

Transforming the Public Sector by Improving Bureaucratic Performance: Mission Match and Slack in Bangladesh (with Timothy Besley, LSE, and Dan Honig, John Hopkins)

Precision versus Proximity: Evidence from Survey Experiments with Civil Servants in India and Pakistan (with Michael Callen, UCSD, Asim Khwaja, Harvard, and Asad Liaqat, HKS).

Effect of Capacity in Delivery of Urban Services (with Gharad Bryan, LSE, Gerard Padro i Miquel, Yale, Asad Liaqat, HKS, and Ali Cheema, LUMS).

Graduating out of poverty: Testing the impact of Cash Transfers vs. Lump-sum Grants (with Benjamin Olken, MIT, and Rema Hanna, HKS).

Technology Adoption and Mobile-phone based Agricultural Advice (with Shawn Cole, HBS).

Tax and Political Connections (with Monica Singhal, Brandeis, and Asim Khwaja, Harvard).

Effect of Employment on Volunteering and Health Outcomes: Evidence from a Community Employment Project in Canada (with Steven Lehrer, Queens).

Identifying the Impact of Decentralization (with Ali Cheema, LUMS, and Asim Khwaja, Harvard).

### **Grants**

Over \$6 m competitive grants from 3ie, NSF, IGC, JPAL-USI/GI, SSHRC, Gates Foundation and others.

### **Selected Policy Publications**

The Analytical Angle: What's in the price of a pen? Millions of rupees, if you're the government. (with Michael Best, Columbia). DAWN October 23, 2019.

Targeting the Poor: Developing economies face special challenges in delivering social protection (with Rema Hanna, HKS, and Benjamin Olken, MIT), Finance and Development, December 2018, Vol. 55, No. 4, International Monetary Fund.

Escaping the Fragility Trap (with Timothy Besley and Paul Collier), Final Report, April 2018, LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development.

Blog on Monkey Cage at *Washington Post*. 2017. "These 3 barriers make it hard for policymakers to use the evidence that development researchers produce".

Rewarding bureaucrats: Can incentives improve public sector performance? (with Oriana Bandiera and Julia Tobias) Growth Brief, International Growth Centre. 2017.

Designing Incentive Structures in Bureaucracies: A case study for Civil Service Reform in Pakistan (with Asim Khwaja and Tiffany Simon).

Taxing to develop: When 'third-best' policies are optimal (with Henrik Kleven and Upasna Kaul) Growth Brief, International Growth Centre 2016 ([FT Blog in beyondbrics](#)).

Tax in Developing Countries: Increasing Resources for Development (with Timothy Besley, LSE) Written Evidence for the International Development Select Committee, UK Parliament 2012.

A Study of Informal Finance Markets in Pakistan, Pakistan Microfinance Network 2005.

### **Selected Keynote Talks, Panels and Presentations**

Keynote talk, Why do developing countries tax so little? Lessons from research and practice, 4<sup>th</sup> Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries, University of Zurich, December 2019.

Plenary address, Is the cure worse than the disease? The unintended effects of corruption control. September 2019, Second International Conference on Applied Development Economics, Lahore Pakistan.

Behavioural Economics Workshop, September 2019, LSE-B4U, Lahore Pakistan.

Financing Punjab's Cities: Land and Property Taxes Workshop, September 2019, IGC-Urban Unit Lahore Pakistan.

Workshop on Internal Audit, August 2019, Asian Development Bank, Manila.

Keynote talk, From Fragility to Peace and Development, July 2019, IGC-ISP Seminar, Yangon, Myanmar.

Workshop on Civil Service Reforms, August 2019, Lahore Pakistan.

State Fragility – A Global Phenomenon, October 2018, The 2018 Pearson Global Forum University of Chicago.

Tax Policy Design and Enforcement Conference, July 2018, Lusaka Zambia.

Cabinet Office Seminar, July 2018, Lusaka, Zambia.

CIFAR-IGC-BA Event, A New Approach to State Fragility, June 2018, British Academy, London.

Forum on Public Procurement, June 2018, Beirut, Lebanon.

USIP, Rockefeller Center, ODI Workshop, The Future of Fragile States, June 2018, The Bellagio Rockefeller Center, Italy.

Conference on 'Systems of Public Service Delivery in Developing Countries', May 2018, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford.

World Bank Annual Conference 2016 panel 'The Governance Gap: Why Does Half the World Distrust Government and What Can We Do About It?'

World Bank Conference on 'Innovating Bureaucracy' November 8-9, 2017, Washington DC.

World Bank Tax Conferences, May 2015 and February 2016, Washington DC.

International Economic Association World Congresses in Jordan (2014) and Mexico City (2017).

Africa Growth Forum Kampala (2013), Accra (2014), Addis Ababa (2015).

South Asia Growth Conferences in Dhaka (2012), New Delhi (2013) and Lahore (2014).

Country events in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and many other countries.

Academic Seminars at LSE, Oxford, Columbia, Harvard, Stockholm, Delhi, Dhaka, Moscow, Brunel, Sussex, CEPR Conferences, Manchester, Bogota, Santiago, Lima, Mendoza, Zurich and other places.

## **Professional Experience**

2019 -	Professor in Practice, London School of Economics
2018-19	Visiting Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
2009 - 19	International Growth Centre, London School of Economics
2003-05	National School of Public Policy Pakistan
2003	Punjab Education Sector Reform Program (PESRP)
2001-02	Finance Department, Punjab
1995-2001	District Administration as member of Pakistan Administrative Service
1990-95	Consultant, Project Manager for infrastructure and development projects