

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Ghani-ur-Rahman

PhD, Ca' Foscari University, Venice, Italy

Title of PhD Thesis

**“Iconographic Symbolism of a worldly Mission:
Some Selected Prodigious Episodes from the Life of Buddha Sakyamuni
Represented in Gandhara Sculpture.”**

Assistant Professor

Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

Editor

Journal of Asian Civilizations
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

HEC approved PhD Supervisor

Contacts:

Tel: +92 51 90643192

+92 51 2601066

Fax: +92 51 9248127

Cell +92 301 3336394

E-mail:

ghaniurrahman@hotmail.com.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CERTIFICATE/DEGREE</u>	<u>INSTITUTE</u>
2007	Ph. D	Ca' Foscari University, Italy
1997	M.A.	University of Karachi
1995	B.Sc.	Govt. National College, Karachi
1992	F. Sc	Haji Abdullah Haroon Govt. College, Karachi
1990	S.S.C.	Govt. Metropolis Boys Secondary School, Karachi

Area of Specialisation:

Gandhara Civilization

Teaching Experience

January 1999-December 2000: Lecturer, Department of General History, University of Karachi

January-October 2001: Assistant Lecturer, Centre of Italian language and Culture, University of Karachi

Since May 2007 till date: Assistant Professor, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

Administrative Experience

1- Acting Director:

Three times, during 2007 and 2008, each time for about a month I worked as Acting Director in the absence of the then director of the TIAC.

2- I am assisting the present director in different administrative matters.

Research Activities

1- Editor, Journal of Asian Civilizations (Since 2007)

2- Series Editor of a Book Series titled as TAXILA STUDIES OF ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University.

3- Thirteen (13) research articles on Buddhist and Islamic art and architecture have been published in National and International Journals since 2007.

4- Member Research Projects of the TIAC.

Membership of different University Boards and Committes

1- Member Board of Studies, Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad

2- Member Board of Faculty of Social Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad

3- Member Board of Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Peshawar

4- Member Board of Studies, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Peshawar.

5- Member Executive Committee (2009-2010 and 2010-2011), Academic Staff Association, Quaid-i-Azam University

6- Joint Secretary (2011-2012), Academic Staff Association, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad.

7- Member, Course Committee, Department of Linguistics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

Field Training

2002 Participated in excavations on a Mesolithic Site at Caser Alessandro, Italy for one month.

2008 Revisited a few sites in Swat to judge the present state of monuments in the valley during which new sites were documented (due to disturbances there could not complete and the work is not published yet).

2009 Survey and documentation of District Rawalpindi and Islamabad

- 2010 In the beginning of February, I participated in a Survey of prehistoric sites of Sindh with an Italian Archaeological Team for a week.
- 2011 Documented a wooden mosque in District Shangla. It was presented in an International conference on Islamic Archaeology and was later on published the special issue of the Journal of Asian Civilizations.
- 2011 Participated in the excavations of the ACT project of the Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat Pakistan.
- 2011 In tehsil Puran of the Shangla District a survey and documentation of archaeological sites will be conducted soon.

Books

- 1- My PhD thesis is in the process of editing that will soon be published.
- 2- Series Editor of a book “Sufi Traditions and New Departures. Recent Scholarship on Sufism in South Asia”. It was published in 2008 by the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University.
- 3- 200 pages Archaeological Survey of Rawalpindi District and Islamabad Capital Territory was published in 2010.

Publications:

- 1-Rahman, G.**, “In Search of Enlightenment: Śākyamuni’s Mahā-bhiniśkramana Represented in Gandhāra Sculpture”. *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. XXX, No. 1, Pp.17-48. (2007)
- 2- Rahman, G.** and Sadeed Arif, “Lord Buddha’s Descent from Heaven at Sankaśya”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. XXX, No. 1, Pp.98-109. (2007)
- 3- Rahman, G.**, “The Battle for Enlightenment: Buddha’s Success against the Temptations and Assaults by Māra in Gandhāra Sculpture”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. XXX, No. 2, Pp. 44-70. (2007)
- 4- Rahman, G.** and Sadeed Arif, “Islamic Monuments in the Kohat Valley”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. XXX, No. 2, Pp. 91-106. (2007)
- 5- Rahman, G.**, “Iconographic Symbolism of the Prodigious Birth of Buddha Śākyamuni”, *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture*, Vol. XXIX, No. 1, Pp. 155-173. (2008)
- 6- Khan, M. Ashraf, Rahman, G.**, Kalhoro, Zulfiqar Ali, Arif, Sadeed, “An Archaeological Survey in Rawalpindi District: A Preliminary report”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations* Vol. XXXII, No. 1, Pp.1-16. (2009)
- 7- Rahman, G.**, “The Seven Steps of the New Born Bodhisattva Śākyamuni”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. XXXII, No. 1, Pp.25-38. (2009)
- 8- Rahman, G.** and Rafiullah, “The Power of Bodhi: Buddha’s Victory over the Malevolent Nāga-s”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. 32, No. 2, 2009. Pp. 60-79
- 9- Khan, M. Ashraf., Rahman, G.**, Kalhoro, Z.A., Sadeed Arif, Rafiullah, “Prehistoric Rock Shelters and Caves in Capital Territory Islamabad and District Rawalpindi”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2010. Pp. 52-60.

10- Khan, M. Ashraf., Rahman, G., Kalhoro, Z.A., Sadeed Arif, “Archaeological Survey and Documentation of Sites and Monuments in District Rawalpindi and Islamabad Capital Territory”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Vol. 33, No. 2, 2010.

11- Rahman, G., “The Dream of Maya Related in the Text and Represented in Gandhara Sculpture” *Journal of Indian Society of Oriental Art (Commemorating 100 years of Indian Society of Oriental art*, Vol. XXVII, 2010. Pp. 244-259.

12- Rahman, G., “The Power of Bodhi: The Miraculous Mergence of the Four Begging Bowls by the Buddha Represented in Gandhara Sculpture” *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture*, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, July-December 2010. Pp. 1-14.

13- Rahman, G., “Persistence of Pre-Islamic Decorative Patterns in Swat: A Wooden Mosque from Shangla District”, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, Special Issue Vol. 34, No. 1, 2011. Pp. 277-302.

Note:

Several articles are in the process of publication in Pakistan, India and Austria.

- 1- A paper “Srigupta’s Malevolent invitation to Buddha for a meal: Social and religious background of the narrative in Gandhara art”, presented in the International Conference on South Asian Archaeology, July 4-10, 2010 organized by the EASAA in Vienna, Austria, is under process of publication.
- 2- A paper “Gandhara Sculpture: The problem of its provenance and Chronology”, presented in the International Workshop on Gandharan Cultural Heritage, December 1-3, 2010 organized by the TIAC, is under process of publication.
- 3- A paper “Elephant in Gandhara art and its symbolism”, presented in the International Conference on Gandhara-The cradle of Buddhist Civilizations March 19-20, 2011 organized by the Society of Asian Civilizations, is under process of publication.
- 4- An abstract is under review for the International Conference on South Asian Archaeology 2012 of the European Association of South Asian Archaeology (EASAA), to be held in Paris, France in June 2012.
- 5- Two Abstracts under review for the International Conference on Archaeology and Heritage Management in January 2012 organized by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Islamabad and Institute of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.
- 6- A paper “Devine Bath of the new born Bodhisattva Siddhartha as represented in Gandhara sculpture”, is under process of publication in an edited book by Arundhati Banerji in India.

Papers presented in the following International Conferences during 2010-2011:

- EASAA International Conference on South Asian Archaeology 2010 at Vienna, Austria (July 4-10, 2010).
Organized by:
European Association of South Asian Archaeology (EASAA).

Title of the paper:

“Srigupta’s Malevolent Invitation to Buddha: Iconographic Symbolims, Social and Religions Background

of Narratives of Gandhara Sculpture”. Travelling was financed by the HEC.

- International Workshop on Gandharan Cultural Heritage, 1-3 December 2010, Islamabad.

Organized by:

Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

in collaboration with:

Aachen Center for Documentation and Conservation, Germany

Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Germany

Gerda Henkel Foundation, Germany

Title of the paper:

“Gandhara Art: The Problem of its Provenance and Chronology”.

- International Conference on Islamic Archaeology 21-22 January 2011.

Organized by:

National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-i-Azam university, Islamabad

In collaboration with:

IRCICA (Research organ of the OIC)

Title of the paper:

“Persistence of Pre-Islamic Decorative Patterns in Swat: A Wooden Mosque from Shangla District”

- International Conference on Gandhara-The Cradle of Buddhist Civilization, 19-20 March 2011.

Organized by:

Society of Asian Civilizations, Islamabad

In collaboration with:

Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations, Quaid-i-azam University, Islamabad

Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

Title of the paper:

“Dream of Maya: Iconographic Symbolism and Social and Religious Background of the Gandharan Narratives”.

- International Conference of History on the Historiography of South Asia, October 28-30, 2011.

Organized by:

Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

In collaboration with:

Hanns seidel Foundation Germany

Higher education Commission Pakistan

Title of the paper:

“Taxila Under the Kushan Rule”.

Some Other Conferences / Symposia/Seminars attended: (Presentations made)

- 2008 International Symposium on the Latest Discoveries in Ancient Gandhara and Other Parts of Pakistan
- 2008 Workshop of the Editors of the HEC recognized Journals
- 2009 Workshop on Effective Teachings in Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra, July 28-29.
- 2009 Seminar presentation, October 2009, TIAC, QAU
- 2009 Workshop of the Editors of the HEC recognized Journals
- 2009 Mapping the Cultural Heritage of Pakistan, Organized by UNESCO.
- 2010 Editors workshop, March 4, 2010, NIHCR, QAU
- 2010 A three days Retreat of the HEC recognized PhD Supervisors, February 11-13, 2010.
- 2010 Seminar presentation on the occasion of Thai delegation's visit to TIAC, March 24, 2010.
- 2010 Seminar presentation, March 26, 2010, NIHCR.
- 2010 Seminar presentation, April 21, 2010, NIPS, QAU
- 2010 Seminar presentation, April 30, 2010, TIAC, QAU

Live and recorded Interviews with Media on the different cultural aspects of Pakistan

- 2007 Interviewed by the Voice of America Radio Washington DC in a live programme on the Gandhara Art.
- 2008 Interview recorded by ATV on the cultural richness of Pakistan.
- 2009 Interview recorded by PTV on Pakistani Culture.
- 2010 Participated in a debate with Thai Monks and delegates on PTV NEWS, March 24, 2010.
- 2010 Interviewed by the BBC World TV team for the 12th episode of the programme on the Ancient Worlds.
- 2011 Interviewed by the Voice of America Radio Washington DC in a live programme on Gandhara.

PhD Supervision:

Number of PhD scholars under supervision: Eight (8)

PhDs produced: One (1)

PhD scholars waiting for final Viva Voce Examination: One (1)

Some other Academic Experiences in Italy and Pakistan

- Lectures Delivered in Italy on the Culture of Pakistan:

Immediately after the Completion of my PhD, I was invited for delivering some lectures in two schools of the city of Spinea (Italy) on the Culture of Pakistan and the problem of Child Labour. The Lectures were part of a project prepared by the Commune of the city of Spinea, the Public Library of the City of Spinea and two Schools of the city.

- Teaching at Ca' Foscari University, Italy:

Lectures on Gandhara art were delivered to Master students at Ca' Foscari University Venice, Italy. Urdu classes were frequently taken in Euro-Asiatic Studies Department Ca' Foscari University Venice to help the Italian students and assist the Professor of Urdu.

Awards:

- Award of a 3-year scholarship for PhD studies (2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004), by the Italian Foreign Ministry
- Award of a 1-year scholarship for PhD studies (2006) Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.
- Award of a 1-month scholarship by the US government for a workshop on the Cultural Heritage Management in Washington D.C., USA (July-August 2011).

Membership of Societies:

- Society of Asian Civilizations (SAC), Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Venetian Academy of Indian Studies (VAIS), Venice, Italy.