



Call for participants

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The third Social Sciences Winter School in Karachi, jointly organized by the Centre for South Asian and Himalayan Studies in Paris (CESAH, CNRS-EHESS) and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), will be held in Karachi in November 2024. The theme chosen for 2024 focuses on the utilization of images, film, and sound in social science practice. The image is approached as a concept, practical tool, source, and object of study, aligning with the field of digital humanities and contributing to the evolution of research practices in the social sciences. The Winter School training program for this year emphasizes the diverse methodological tools associated with image and sound. This encompasses the use of still images, such as photography and digital archives, as well as moving images like ethnographic films and cinema documentaries. Sound will also be explored as a specific means of capturing the 'real' and apprehending society innovatively. These tools will be employed for planning projects of ethnographic and documentary films, and for developing collaborative archives, museography, and heritage projects. Ultimately, the aim is to promote a change of perspective and a reflective approach to observation. Throughout the week, we will engage in discussions regarding the practical, ethical and legal considerations of documentary writing, encompassing both images or sound.

Currently, three methodological workshops are being established, each accommodating 15-20 students. These workshops are organized with an international perspective, focusing on French-Pakistani collaboration. They are multidisciplinary with a specific disciplinary focus and involve both experienced researchers and young researchers (at master, doctoral, and post-doctoral levels). Advanced Ph.D. students are also invited to co-organize the workshops and present their work. Apart from theoretical and thematic introductory sessions, field practice and survey method implementation are also included, with half a day to a full day dedicated to these activities.

The Winter School will be organized as follows:

- **[DAY 1] Training in plenary sessions at the beginning of the school:** presentations will introduce various thematic and methodological aspects of research and field practices.
- **[DAY 2 to 5] Three methodological and multidisciplinary workshops** lasting each four days will address these issues from various cross-cutting perspectives, and will discuss theoretical models, case studies, analytical tools, survey methods, and data collection.
- **[DAY 5] Knowledge-restitution and debate:** participants of each workshop will work on a mock research project based on their training and present their findings to receive a training certificate.

Methodological workshops

Students will choose one of the three workshops described below:

- [*Workshop 1 – From studio to screen. Writing social sciences with light*](#)

This workshop will introduce the participants to the social and technical history of photography, the changing nature of the photographic apparatus and archive in South Asia as well as the use of documentary photography and visual storytelling as alternative means of writing social sciences. The workshop aims to introduce the participants to a critical understanding of the research on still images by delving into specific case studies, encompassing local photo studios, family albums, discarded negatives, and more, across Asia. Together, we will develop a critical gaze on the social and political circumstances of production, consumption, and circulation of photographic images in South Asia; we will question, theoretically and creatively, the changing status of the photographic archive in Social Sciences; we will also explore different formats of visual narration from a diversity of art and/or social science-based practitioner as well as engage, in the immediate surroundings of Karachi, in the interplay between art, photographic documentation, and social sciences. A time will be allotted to collectively discuss each participant's personal engagement with visual data and social sciences.

- [*Workshop 2 – Crafting the Moving Image: Documentary, Anthropological, and Ethnographic Perspectives in Pakistan*](#)

The objective of this workshop is to support students in developing documentary film projects at every stage of the creative process and provide them with a space for exchange and reflection. The workshop takes a blended, two-part approach. First, it approaches the arts of the moving image (primarily film and video, but also including multimodal essays, artists' moving image works, and installation-based media) through the field of visual anthropology. Visual anthropology combines the study of visual representations with empirical methods born of creative visual practices. In its second approach, the workshop seeks to understand the moving image as an object of social practice. It does this by engaging the anthropology of film and looking to the infrastructures, archives, and modes of reception that make the moving image a meaningful part of people's everyday lives. Case studies will be specifically local in focus, drawing on issues arising from Pakistan's relationship to film and video, and asking participants to consider what makes the moving image resonant and specific in Pakistani art and public culture. Together, these two approaches will come together to provide a collaborative pedagogic space for participants to present their emerging film projects and think collectively about how they can develop them further.

- [*Workshop 3 – Sound in Urban Environments from a Social Sciences Perspective: Field Recording, Sonic Archives, and Sound Documentary.*](#)

In this workshop, we will explore sound from a multidisciplinary perspective, focusing on its role as both a subject of study and a device for understanding social and cultural phenomena. The main goal is to deepen our understanding of how sound can be used as a research tool and in creative endeavors. The workshop will be divided into three main parts. Firstly, we will review the current state of sound studies, focusing more particularly on the anthropology of sound and related fieldwork methods, which may include collecting soundscapes or conducting interviews. Additionally, we will address oral survey techniques, sound archives, and ways of articulating voice with sound. Secondly, we will dedicate time to fieldwork in an urban environment with a given topic, where we will collect different types of sound (close or distant, a voice, atmosphere) in a specific location with an objective of producing a short and experimental sound documentary. Lastly, students will collectively present their work and mock research projects at the end of the workshop.

Eligibility

The Social Sciences Winter School in Karachi will have a limit of forty-five selected trainees. The target audience mainly includes doctoral students from all fields in social sciences, as well as Master's students, postgraduates, advanced undergraduate students, engineers, and young faculty members. Trainees will be selected based on their qualifications, considering the value of the training for their

research or professional projects. The Winter School in Karachi will end with the presentation of certificates.

Trainers

- The team of trainers will come from various disciplinary backgrounds and be international, composed of young and senior researchers from Pakistani and French Universities, as well as from research centers of excellence.

Venue

- The plenary sessions, training sessions, and the final day dedicated to trainee presentations and certificate delivery will take place at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi. Additional activities may also be held at the Alliance Française de Karachi (AFK) or other locations in downtown Karachi.

Steering Committee

- Dr. Rémy Delage, CESAH (CNRS-EHESS)
- Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director (IBA)
- Dr. Michel Boivin, CESAH (CNRS-EHESS)

Scientific Committee

- Prof. Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director (IBA), Ass. Prof. Mariam Aziz (IBA), Dr. Rémy Delage, CESAH (CNRS-EHESS), Dr. Michel Boivin, CESAH (CNRS-EHESS), Bénédicte Barillé (EHESS)

Registration

- The deadline for submission of application is **September 15th, 2024**
- Please fill in and submit the [electronic form here](#)

Selected students

Kindly remember the following details:

- Participants will be chosen by the steering committee and the workshop coordinators. They will be notified about their selection **by September 30th, 2024**.
- Each student will be assigned to a specific workshop based on their preference.
- A fee of 5000 PKR must be paid to IBA to confirm registration.
- Only selected students from outside Karachi will be accommodated and their transportation charges (train and bus only) will be reimbursed.
- Participants will receive a personal badge for access to the teaching facilities.
- Attendance is mandatory for the entire week and all event activities.

For more information

- Facebook page: @winterschoolkarachi
- Website: winterspy.hypotheses.org/pakistan
- Email contact: winterschoolkarachi@gmail.com

Institutional partners and funders

