

Vol 24 (I), June, 2026

p-ISSN: 2222-5706  
e-ISSN: 2789-4665

# NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry

Vol 24 (I), June, 2026

NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry



**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN**



ISSN

**ISSN** INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE  
ISSN: 2789-4665 (online); 2222-5706 (print)



**Patron-in-Chief**

Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI(M)(Retd)  
Rector, National University of Modern Languages

**Patron**

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan  
Pro-Rector R & SI, National University of Modern Languages

**Vol 24 (I), June, 2026**

p-ISSN: 2222-5706

e-ISSN: 2789-4665

Indexed and Abstracted by DOAJ, Proquest, and Ebscohost, & available in the  
Catalog of Library of Congress, USA.  
HEC Recognized Multidisciplinary Journal in "Category Y"

**Chief Editor**

**Prof. Dr. Arshad Mahmood**  
Dean, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, NUML

**Editor**

**Dr. Rabia Aamir**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English, NUML

**Managing Editor**

**Dr. Saima Hssan**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English, NUML

**Assistant Editor**

**Dr. Zawar Hussain Hashmi**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English, NUML

**Assistant Editor**

**Dr. Aneela Gill**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English, NUML

**Assistant Editor**

**Dr. Uzma Abid Ansari**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English, NUML

**Consulting Editors**

**Prof. Dr. Robert M. Millar**  
University of Aberdeen, Scotland

**Prof. Dr. Linda Belau**  
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, USA



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN

## Advisory Board

**Dr. Randi Reppen**

Professor  
English Department  
Northern Arizona University,  
Flagstaff, AZ, USA

**Dr. James D'Angelo**

Professor  
Department of World Englishes  
Chukyo University, Nagoya, Japan

**Dr. Sergei Serebriany**

Director  
E. M. Meletinsky Institute for  
Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Russian State University for the  
Humanities, Moscow, Russia

**Prof. Dr. Aroosa Kanwal**

Professor of English,  
Chairperson, Department of English,  
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

**Dr. Almuth Degener**

Professor  
Department of Indology  
University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany

**Dr. Samina Amin Qadir**

Professor Emerita and  
Former VC Fatima Jinnah Women  
University, Rawalpindi

**Dr. Faisal Nazeer**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of English, Karachi  
University, Karachi

**Professor Dr. Douglas Mao**

Russ Family Professor in the  
Humanities  
Department of English, Johns Hopkins  
University, USA.

**Dr. Gregory Gilson**

Associate Professor and Chair of the  
Philosophy Department, University of  
Texas – Rio Grande Valley, USA

**Dr. Fawzia Afzal-Khan**

Professor of English, University  
Distinguished Scholar, Former  
Director of Women and Gender  
Studies  
Montclair State University, USA

**Prof. Dr. Wasima Shehzad**

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Air  
University, Islamabad

**Dr. Nelofer Halai**

Professor  
Institute for Educational Development  
Aga Khan University, Karachi,  
Pakistan

**Dr. Iftikhar Shafi**

Associate Professor,  
Department of English,  
University of Karachi

**Prof. Dr. Mazar Hayat**

Department of English,  
Riphah International University,  
Faisalabad

## Editorial Board

**Dr. Caroline Miles**

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, USA

**Robert McColl Millar**

Professor in Linguistics, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

**Dr. Maria Staton**

Assistant Professor  
Department of English  
Ball State University, Muncie, IN, USA

**Dr. Jesse Egbert**

BAA 315  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

**Prof. Dr. Waseem Anwar**

Director, International Center on Pakistani Writing in English (ICPWE), Kinnaird College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan

**Dr. Hafsa Kanjwal**

Associate professor of South Asian History in the Department of History at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania

**Dr. Faisal Nazir**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of English,  
University of Karachi, Karachi

**Dr. Ryan Skinnell**

Assistant Professor  
Department of English & Comparative Literature College of Humanities & the Arts, San José State University, San José, CA, USA

**Dr. Ummul Khair Ahmad**

Associate Professor  
Language Academy  
Universiti Teknologi  
Malaysia, JohorBahru,  
Malaysia

**Dr. Linda Belau**

Professor, Department: Literatures & Cultural Studies  
College: College of Liberal Arts,  
University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, USA

**Dr. Shahid Siddiqui**

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Media Studies, Art, and Design  
Lahore School of Economics  
Lahore

**Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar**

Faculty of Management Sciences,  
National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad

**Prof. Dr. Amra Raza**

Dean of Education, BNU, Lahore,  
Pakistan

**Dr. Munira Cheema**

Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies (Media and Film)  
School of Media, Film and Music  
University of Sussex, UK

## CONTENTS

Advisory Board	iv
Editorial Board	v
Contents	Vi
Editor's Note	vii
Contributors	ix
<b>Boaventura de Sousa Santos</b>	<b>1</b>
Liberation or a Creative Balance?: A Case for Epistemologies of the South (ES)	
<b>Kalsoom Khalid &amp; Sofia Hussain</b>	<b>14</b>
Born Free, Chained by the Capitalist: Exploitation of Wildlife in Tania James's <i>The Tusk that Did the Damage</i>	
<b>Tahreem Soomro &amp; Yun Gong</b>	<b>34</b>
Governing Life and Beyond: The Politics of Survival in Mo Yan's <i>Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh</i>	
<b>Tariq Mehmood Khalid, Abdul Qayyum Sahar &amp; Tallat Jabeen</b>	<b>49</b>
Language, Power and Gendered Silence through Hegemonic Euphemism in Gul's <i>A Pathan Daughter</i>	
<b>Amina Razaq</b>	<b>66</b>
Conformity and Crisis: Analyzing the Digital and Gendered Personae through Jung's Archetypes	
Copyright Statement	81
Disclaimer	82
Call for Papers	83
Subscription Form	84

## Editor's Note

*It is with great pleasure that we present this issue of the NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry, which brings together a diverse collection of original research reflecting the dynamism and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary scholarship. The contributions featured in this issue 1, of volume 24, engage with pressing theoretical, intellectual, cultural, and social questions, demonstrating the continued relevance of rigorous academic inquiry in addressing the complexities of our rapidly evolving world.*

*The articles in this issue span a broad spectrum of themes, methodologies, and critical perspectives. Collectively, they explore the intersections of literature, language, culture, history, philosophy, and society, offering fresh insights into both established and emerging areas of research. The first article by Boaventura de Sousa Santos opens the debate about new political, economic, cultural, social, and epistemic tools. His article offers a paradigmatic shift of seminal importance to understand the need of a plurality of non-western-centric modernities in a pervasive climate of western-centric modernity. Presenting different modes of epistemologies of the South, the article cites their thrust to improving the present living conditions of the exploited and the dispossessed populations who are facing discrimination. The articles most interesting debate hinges on a revival of a three-centuries delayed conversation to safeguard the imminent ecological collapse.*

*Reading through Tania James's *The Tusk that Did the Damage*, the second article by Kalsoom Khalid and Sofia Hussain presents a case study about animal exploitation and delves into the plight of the poached animals from an ecofeminist perspective. Using Shiva's theoretical insight of 'maldevelopment' as one of the lenses, the article charts out various forms of animal trafficking and its impact on the natural environment, a phenomenon disrupting the ecosystems of some parts of the Global South for late capitalist patriarchal interests. Tahreem Soomro and Yun Gong's paper explores selected short stories from Mo Yan's 2001 work, *Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh*, to critically examine governance, survival, death, and the instability of human subjectivity in post-socialist China. The paper is an in-depth inquiry into how power operates, not only, through life, but also how death is instrumentalized. While the article 'Born Free' questions the modes of non-human subjectivities, 'Governing Life' foregrounds the importance of studying the human subjectivity as mutable under conditions of extreme deprivation, war-time trauma, and inadequate moral framework due to economic pressures.*

*Using a sociolinguistics and feminist theoretical perspectives and research models of AntConc 4.3.0 (Anthony, 2024) and Lutz's (2016) doublespeak framework, the next article of Tariq Mehmood et al examines how linguistic manipulation obscures gendered victimization and oppression in the novel, *A Pathan Daughter* (2024). Rooted in the interdisciplinary research on language, power, and literature, the paper navigates through the dialogues of different characters and studies, through*

*empirical data, the different modes of doublespeak. Amina Razaq's article examines how cultural pressure play out to shape individual identity through the concepts of Jungian persona and shadow, which consequently, hinders the process of individuation in this postmodern age. The paper explores how digital persona results in either a chronic psychological stagnation or a psychological burden.*

*While each contribution addresses a distinct subject, together they underscore the value of critical engagement, theoretical innovation, and methodological diversity in advancing scholarly discourse.*

*As editors, we remain committed to fostering an inclusive academic platform that encourages dialogue across disciplines and intellectual traditions. We particularly value research that not only deepens disciplinary knowledge but also bridges geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries*


*We hope that the articles presented here will stimulate further research, inspire critical reflection, and encourage productive scholarly conversations across disciplines. We invite our readers to engage with these contributions thoughtfully and to continue advancing the spirit of inquiry that lies at the heart of academic endeavor.*

**Dr. Rabia Aamir**

*Editor, NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry,  
Volume 24, Issue 1, 2026*


## Contributors

### **Liberation or a Creative Balance?: A Case for Epistemologies of the South (ES)**


**Boaventura de Sousa Santos**  is one of the most influential intellectuals in contemporary sociology and critical knowledge studies. He is a Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, US, a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. Santos combines legal and sociological training with a career that has shaped international debates on social justice, democracy, globalization, and the epistemologies of the South. His thought stands at the intersection of legal theory, the politics of knowledge, and social struggles for emancipation. He has published extensively on the issues of Decolonization, globalization, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, social movements, and the World Social Forum. His books have been published in Portuguese, Spanish, English, Italian, French, German, Chinese, Danish, Romanian, Polish, and Korean. Among his many books in English are *Law and the Epistemologies of the South*. Cambridge University Press (2023); *From the Pandemic to Utopia: The Future Begins Now*. Routledge (2023); *Decolonising the University: The Challenge of Deep Cognitive Justice*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2021); *Toward a New Legal Common Sense: Law, Globalization, and Emancipation* (third edition). Cambridge University Press (2020); *The End of the Cognitive Empire: The Coming of Age of Epistemologies of the South*. Duke University Press (2018); *If God Were a Human Rights Activist*. Stanford University Press (2015); *Epistemologies of the South: Justice against Epistemicide*. Paradigm Publishers (2014). Boaventura de Sousa Santos has been awarded several internationally acclaimed awards, most recently, the Frantz Fanon Lifetime Achievement Award by the Caribbean Philosophical Association (2022).

Email: [boasantos@gmail.com](mailto:boasantos@gmail.com)

### **Born Free, Chained by the Capitalist: Exploitation of Wildlife in Tania James's *The Tusk that Did the Damage***

**Kalsoom Khalid**  is a Lecturer at Government Postgraduate College for Women, Mardan. She holds an MS in English from International Islamic University, Islamabad. Her research interests include ecocriticism, Animal Studies, and ecofeminist perspectives.

Email: [kalsoomkhalidu@gmail.com](mailto:kalsoomkhalidu@gmail.com)

**Sofia Hussain**  is an Assistant Professor and In-Charge (Academic Affairs) in the Department of English at International Islamic University, Islamabad. She is a founding member of the Critical Thinking Forum (CTF) and co-editor of the online literary magazine *Gentle Visitations*. Her research interests include feminist literary

studies, feminist and critical pedagogies, Pakistani and South Asian Anglophone fiction, postcolonialism, ecocriticism, and ecofeminism.

Email: [sofia.hussain@iiu.edu.pk](mailto:sofia.hussain@iiu.edu.pk)

### **Governing Life and Beyond: The Politics of Survival in Mo Yan's *Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh***

**Tahreem Soomro** <sup>ID</sup> is an independent scholar, educator, and MPhil scholar. Her research interests encompass war literature, decolonial studies, and posthumanism, with a particular focus on how literary texts engage with violence, memory, coloniality, and the reconfiguration of the human in contemporary critical theory.

Email: [tehreemsoomroi@gmail.com](mailto:tehreemsoomroi@gmail.com)

**Yun Gong** <sup>ID</sup> is a Chinese MPhil scholar affiliated with the One China Desk, nominated by the Secretariat Ministry of Commerce. She works on China–Pakistan industrial and technological cooperation. Her research interests include postmodern literature, diaspora literature, and city literature, with a focus on how China–Pakistan collaboration generates new cultural and humanistic narratives.

Email: [aliagonguo1@gmail.com](mailto:aliagonguo1@gmail.com)

### **Language, Power and Gendered Silence through Hegemonic Euphemism in Gul's *A Pathan Daughter***

**Tariq Mehmood Khalid** <sup>ID</sup> is a Visiting Lecturer at Islamia College and University Peshawar and a PhD Scholar in English Linguistics at Northern University Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His research interests lie at the intersection of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis (FCDA), corpus linguistics, and sociolinguistics, with a focus on patriarchal hegemony, gendered silence, hegemonic euphemism, and counter-discourse strategies.

Email: [tariqm Khalid@gmail.com](mailto:tariqm Khalid@gmail.com)


**Abdul Qayyum Sahar** <sup>ID</sup> is an Assistant Professor at Government Graduate College, Attock. He holds a PhD in Linguistics and Literature from Air University, Islamabad. His research interests span corpus linguistics, culture studies, and discourse analysis, with a focus on the relationship between language, culture, and society through qualitative and corpus-based approaches.

Email: [Qayumkhattak76@yahoo.com](mailto:Qayumkhattak76@yahoo.com)

**Tallat Jabeen** <sup>ID</sup> is a Visiting Lecturer at Air University Kamra and a PhD Scholar in English Linguistics at Riphah International University, Islamabad. Her research interests include translation studies, corpus linguistics, and neurolinguistics.

Email: [Tallat\\_jabeen@outlook.com](mailto:Tallat_jabeen@outlook.com)

**Conformity and Crisis: Analyzing the Digital and Gendered Personae through Jung's Archetypes**

**Amina Razaq**  is a Lecturer at Government Graduate College for Women, Khurrianwala (affiliated with GCUF), with eight years of teaching experience. Her research interests operate at the intersection of linguistics and literature, with a focus on psychological and postcolonial analysis of literary works.

Email: [Aminaabdulrazaq266@gmail.com](mailto:Aminaabdulrazaq266@gmail.com)