

Muhammad Umar Memon

I was invited by The Gurmani Center for Languages and Literature, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) to spend two weeks (15–26 Nov. 2014) on campus and give three lectures, hold an Interactive conversation on several topics, and make myself available for students who needed to consult me about their academic research work.

The lectures (see attached announcement) were also open to LUMS's students and faculty and also to interested people from outside the University. Lectures were well attended and quite a few people from the city with interest in literature were invariably present in them.

The interactive conversation was moderated by Prof. Ziaul Hasan of University of the Punjab and LUMS. Besides myself, the other participants of the conversation were Prof. Tehsin Firaqi, Director, Majlis-e Taraqqi-e Adab, Prof. Bilal Tanveer of LUMS, and Prof. Asif Iftikhar.

Both the lectures and the conversation were open to questions from the audience.

Personally, I think it was a rewarding experience.

My visit to Lahore was preceded by a ten-day visit to Islamabad where I was scheduled to give a lecture at International Islamic University (IIU) and Fatima Jinnah University (FJU). Because of sudden cancellation of all activities except teaching at IIU, I was asked to just see a number of faculty members in an office informally and speak to them on a number of issues pertaining to Urdu literature. The FJU lecture, attended both by students and faculty, however, did take place and was well attended.

I also visited Karachi and had an interactive discussion on Urdu literature and translation with a group of interested students and non-students. This event was organized by "t2f" on 3 December.