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Editorial

Dear readers,

With great pleasure, we present to you the June 2023 edition (focusing specifically on Abkhazia and Georgia) of Insights of Pakistan, Iran, and the Caucasus Studies (IPICS). This edition delves into the rich cultural tapestry of the Caucasus region, offering a multidimensional exploration of its history, identities, and contemporary realities. The research papers included in this edition provide valuable insights into various aspects of the Caucasus, highlighting its interconnectedness with neighboring regions.

We commence our journey by shedding light on Abkhazia's historical and contemporary aspects in Stanislav Lakoba's comprehensive study. As we immerse ourselves in this exploration, we gain a deeper understanding of Abkhazia's unique cultural heritage, tracing its roots and examining its impact on the region's present-day dynamics. Lakoba's insightful research invites us to recognize the significance of Abkhazia's history in shaping its identity and fostering relations with other territories.

Moving forward, we encounter an investigation into the cultural exchanges and transformations between Abkhazia and Krasnodar Krai. Merab Makharadze, Nelly Gerekmeyan, Irene Petrosian, and Dr. Muhammad Asim contribute their expertise in uncovering shared histories and identities between these two regions. By analyzing the intricate tapestry of interactions and influences, the research illuminates the ways in which cultural exchanges have shaped the social fabric of Abkhazia and Krasnodar Krai.

Our journey through the Caucasus then takes us to a study on Sufism in Abkhazia. Rauf Iskandar, Dr. Waseemullah, and Sifat Ullah delve into the mystical beliefs and practices that continue to thrive in a post-Soviet context. This exploration reveals the enduring spiritual traditions and the significance of Sufism in shaping the cultural landscape of Abkhazia. Through their research, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities and nuances of this mystical tradition.

Finally, we embark on a comparative study that delves into the synergistic endeavors for environmental preservation in Abkhazia, Georgia, and Pakistan. Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer and Gul-i-Ayesha Bhatti highlight the environmental initiatives undertaken by these regions and examine the strategies employed to safeguard the natural resources and mitigate the challenges of climate change.

As the editor, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the authors and researchers who have contributed to this edition of IPICS. Their tireless efforts and dedication have enriched our understanding of the Caucasus region, bridging gaps and fostering connections between diverse communities.

I extend my gratitude to the research associates, scholars, and experts from the Young Women for Change in Caucasus, the Iranian-Armenian Intellectuals Network, and the Pak-Iran Intellectuals Forum, whose valuable contributions have been instrumental in bringing forth these research papers.

As IPICS aims to foster academic exchange and promote cross-cultural understanding, may this edition of IPICS serve as a catalyst for further exploration, dialogue, and collaboration among scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts interested in the dynamic tapestry of Pakistan, Iran, and the Caucasus.

Warm regards,

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo

RMR Representative in IPICS
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