

# *Fake News & Facts in Our Region*

International Conference  
Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad  
April 24-26, 2019

*"We watch and read all [news media], trust none completely, nor do we privilege anyone of them with our particular dis/trust. We dis/trust them all equally. Today the BBC should be neither demonised nor valorized... it is just one click away from the next fusion of fact and fantasy." – "When the BBC did Fake News."*

Philosophers have long recognized permeability between fact and fiction. New discoveries or fresh perspectives often turn fiction into fact and fact into fiction. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, propaganda was the *bête noire* of reality, with Joseph Goebbels as its grandmaster in his Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda under Adolf Hitler. Not to be outdone, the winning side's "good guys" – those who wrote history – were specialists at media houses such as the BBC whose work is quoted above.

The Institute of Regional Studies is organizing a three day conference on "Fake News and Facts in Our Region" from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. In response, scholars are coming from various countries, such as Afghanistan, Nepal, Morocco, USA and Turkey, to name a few, and from across Pakistan. This conference will examine the greater complexity of unraveling how individuals, institutions and whole nations manipulate fact to create credible fake news to their advantage and social media comes highly handy towards that end. Also examined will be the tension between fake news and fact being accepted/rejected by gullible/prejudiced audiences. This is in line with the buzzword that the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a post-truth era. The conference will highlight fake news and fact in the region where Pakistan is located, i.e., South and Southwest Asia, and big power influence in this area. The conference will be spread over three days and have seven sessions including the inaugural and the conclusive roundtable.

## **Conference Panels:**

- Youth's Response to False News on Islam
- Historical Myths in our Region
- False News as an Instrument of War
- The Art of the Possible
- Yellow Journalism in our Region

**Venue:** Islamabad Club

**To attend/pre-register:** contact email – [conferenceirs@hotmail.com](mailto:conferenceirs@hotmail.com)