

EDITOR'S NOTE: On 14 October 2010, overlooking scenic Lake Mendota, Room 8411 in the Social Sciences Building of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, was the site of a cozy gathering for a few Urdu scholars who came together to present reports of their on-going research in their various disciplines, including history, literature, architecture/art history, linguistics, and the sociopolitical study of literature—that is, in Urdu Humanities, which was the open-ended, free-floating title of this friendly mini-conference.

Unfortunately, due to the current political climate, some other participants were not able to come [Afzal Ahmed Syed and Ajmal Kamal from Pakistan, Syed Muhammad Ashraf from India, and Keshavmurthy from Canada], while others unexpectedly found themselves out of the country [Anna Oldfield and Kamran Asdar Ali] or were held up by other pressing matters [Aamir Mufti and Marcia Hermansen].

The Conference closed with a banquet highlighted by an address delivered in Urdu by Dr. Najeeba Arif (of the International Islamic University, Islamabad) and with expressions of thanks by Joseph W. Elder and Muhammad Umar Memon.

The Conference was valiantly, and almost single-handedly, managed by Professor Joseph W. Elder, Departments of Sociology and Languages and Cultures of Asia, with some help from the Editor.

The program of the event and some of the papers presented follow in the order in which they were presented.