

**Epistemological Positioning of Human Geography towards
Understanding Borderlands Geographies of Pakistan: A Case of
Interdisciplinarity of Peace and Conflict Studies**



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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MS Peace and Conflict Studies

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST BENEFICIENT,
THE MOST MERCIFUL

And of course, your Lord will give you so much that you will be pleased.

(Surah Ad Duha: 5)

Al Quran

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It is certified that the contents and form of the MS thesis titled “**Epistemological Positioning of Human Geography towards Understanding Borderlands Geographies of Pakistan: A Case of Interdisciplinarity of Peace and Conflict Studies**” written by Ms. Aleena Khalid Sandhu (Registration No. 00000318179), of Centre for International Peace and Stability has been vetted by the undersigned, found complete in all respects as per NUST Statutes/Regulations, is free of plagiarism, errors and mistakes and is accepted as partial fulfilment for the award of MS/MPhil Degree. It is further certified that the necessary amendments as pointed out by the GEC members of the scholar have also been incorporated in the said thesis and have been found satisfactory for the requirement of the degree.

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DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO ARE

*SILENTLY STRUGGLING
AND
PATIENTLY WAITING*

AND, TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN

*QUESTIONED FOR THEIR HOPES
AND
BLAMED FOR THEIR WISDOM*



ABSTRACT

This research emphasizes the interdisciplinary approach of Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS) scholarship for developing the conceptual understanding of peace of borderland geographies of Pakistan. A contextual understanding has been developed by elaborating the epistemological positioning of Human Geography for exploring the research questions pertaining to defining, conceptualizing and problematizing peace. The Human Geography discipline has provided theoretical, methodological and conceptual support to this research through the poststructuralist mode of inquiry to understand the nature of knowledge, ways of production and dissemination, and the binary and representational aspects manifested in the knowledge generation leading to the identity formation of borderlands of Pakistan. On the same token, critical geopolitics has helped in exploring representations, processes and rhetoric. This study has adopted discourse analysis for understanding where power resides in the narratives of borderlands of Pakistan i.e. depicting them as peaceful or violent, prominent and hegemonic knowledge areas and ways of legitimizing knowledge for interdisciplinarity. For the said purpose, secondary data from the relevant peer-reviewed academic journals of the sub-fields of Geography and Political Science and IR as approved by HEC, Pakistan through the HEC Journal Recognition System (HJRS) stretching over time of twenty years (2000-21) has been analysed. The research concludes that the discursive attempts by the interdisciplinary scholars remained tilted towards developing conflict-oriented dimensions of PCS discipline and thereby endorsed violent representations of these borderlands. Also, despite regulation of the knowledge produced, the issue of subjectivities in knowledge construction persisted.

Keywords: epistemological positioning, borderland geographies, interdisciplinarity, discourse analysis, geopolitical imaginations

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thesis Acceptance Certificate.....	iii
Plagiarism Certificate.....	iv
Acknowledgments.....	v
Dedication.....	vi
Abstract.....	vii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Overview of the Research Inquiry.....	1
1.2 Theoretical Framework.....	3
1.3 Methodology.....	4
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	6
1.5 Structure of the Study.....	7
CONCEPTUALIZATION OF PEACEFUL GEOGRAPHIES THROUGH THE CASE OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY.....	9
2.1 Understanding Epistemological Positioning of Human Geography for Peace Conceptualization and Contextualization.....	9
2.2 Developing the case for Interdisciplinarity of Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies.....	13
CONTEXTUALIZATION OF BORDERLAND GEOGRAPHIES IN PAKISTAN.....	18
3.1 Understanding Borderlands, Border regions, Boundaries and Frontiers through critical geopolitical lens.....	18
3.1.1 Borderlands and border regions of Pakistan.....	21
3.1.2 Understanding Dynamics of Territoriality in the Borderlands of Pakistan....	22

3.2 Process of Evaluation.....	24
3.2.1 Systems of Signification.....	25
3.2.2 Discourse Productivity.....	28
3.2.3 Play of Practice.....	31
3.3 Thematic analysis.....	32
3.3.1 Analyzing Geopolitical Subjectivities within the Knowledge Sources.....	35
3.3.2 Patterns of overlap between PCS and Human Geography disciplines.....	37
3.4 Impact analysis.....	39
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION.....	41
Appendices.....	47
References.....	57

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the Research Inquiry

Peace-Conflict dichotomous narratives are among the most pivotal and universal human pre-occupations. Descending from one civilization to another and moving between geographies, these narratives are saturated with the knowledge that echoes cultural values and embedded power relations. Human beings have to establish peace for their survival. Peace can be dubbed as a panacea, while establishing it turns out to be a moral responsibility for others. Hence, it is implied that peace “is a matter of social processes” (Dalby, 2014, p. 30). Conflict, though a consistent reality, is manageable to create negative peace. Conflict narratives, based on negotiations, mediation, facilitation and reconciliation, can be generated for developing functional relationships to curtail differences between adversaries (Jeong, 2010). In this sense, conflict management and resolution, similar to peace-making processes, turns out to be deliberate social attempts. Epistemological positioning regarding knowledge existed even before the introduction of formal disciplines. It is the deliberate process of constructing meaningful knowledge that is legitimized to be declared as Truth. However, socio-political institutions classified knowledge based on its patterns of ideas or ontology, in precise, into specialized disciplines. With an increased inclination towards problem solving, interdisciplinarity was introduced that integrated knowledge conceptually and theoretically. The rosy picture of positioning and cataloguing knowledge as well as integrating disciplines started facing critical theorizing. Scholars insisted on discursive studies of knowledge/power nexus (following Foucault’s intellectual contributions) and the processes involved in creating reality. Intersubjective meanings found intellectual appeal. Subjectivities found acceptance. And, the knowledge constructed faced validity claims. Although, much literature was generated by scholars dedicated to foreign policy theory and practices and politics of representations, steps were taken to incorporate wider debates and agendas. Critical geopolitics, driven by poststructuralist concerns, questioned narratives and the process of discourse construction that involves power and politics of identity formation and representations (Dodds et al., 2013). The furtherance and vibrance of this sub-field appeared as it encompassed the *foundations*, *sites* and *agents* that have the capacity to cumulatively contribute towards ‘formal’, ‘practical’ and

‘popular’ geopolitical practices (ibid.). Hence, initiating the process of scrutinizing and examining, among other domains of knowledge, narratives of peace and violence.

The vision of a borderless world is projected as a lasting impact of globalization and technological advancements. However, physical borders are evolving and so are their identities and associated representations. Since its inception, Pakistan has stayed geostrategically relevant and its borderlands geopolitically pivotal for global and domestic decision-making. Throughout their history, they have been kept porous and declared as disturbed or unsettled—as in the case of western borderlands—and remained heavily securitized—in reference to eastern borderlands. Negotiating as the spaces of inclusion/exclusion, these borderlands have a lot to offer in terms of peace and violence/conflict discourses. To address the research questions of defining, conceptualizing and problematizing peace manifestations and its utility, with the ultimate aim of understanding the peace of borderland geographies of Pakistan, this study adopts poststructuralist agenda and critical geopolitical mode of inquiry. It investigates and builds its argument on the very junction where numerous themes of Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies converged or coincided. Since each borderland has a unique historical, socio-political, economic and cultural importance, this interdisciplinary approach appears as an ideal arrangement to develop the conceptual understanding of the dynamics of these borderlands. Furthermore, interdisciplinarity authorizes the overlapping of theoretical frameworks yet allows an array of methodological innovations to explore ways of problem-solving. Geared towards spatiality of peace, this research thesis, by covering relevant themes and power-politics interplay at various levels specific to the domestic landscape precisely, explore the peaceful or violent nature and the identity or representation aspects of these borderlands. By advancing peace assessments through the analysis of embedded spatial realities and non-spatial representations, a case for interdisciplinarity of Human Geography and PCS through epistemological positioning of Human Geography has been developed in the course of study. For the said purpose, the existing research work of the discipline focusing borderlands has been scrutinized through discourse analysis. Doing so highlighted the pathways whereby peace has been manifested in these varied borderlands either in its natural configuration or after its detachment from violence. Thus, a sketch or structure has been chalked out that constitute conceptualization and contextualization of peaceful borderland geographies in Pakistan.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

The research at hand centres on poststructuralist perspectives and practices. It has adopted a constructivist approach which can help in understanding the socio-political context that yields meaning to the experiences of people or any concept in a certain geographical area. The processes of socialization help create inter-subjective meanings of numerous constructs like identities, representations, interests, peace, peaceful or violent geographies etc. Due to the difference in the ways of interaction with the environment and people, the very context of each concept generates a variety of meanings. These meanings can be understood authoritatively through constructivist approach by incorporating the impacts of religious, cultural, moral, and economic forces and the overpowering embedded power-politics. Therefore, several concepts can be defined, conceptualized and problematized as the construction of truth based on contextual and spatial realities. Such a theoretical framework questions, criticizes and reveals how a typical society or people in a specific geographical location would accept or reject the character of power centres and attached peripheries, who frames the reality, define its strengths and criteria and for whom this reality is being created. In the process of knowledge production, binary thinking of the presence of one variable and the absence of another is formulated and the knowledge develops on this (Woodward et al., 2009). Due to this epistemological approach, certain representations evolve and turn into the ontological grounds of the phenomena under study. Thus, the knowledge that is generated and proliferated can be a product of calculated perspectives i.e. “social mediation of the real world through ever-present processes of signification” (ibid., p. 403) constituting signifiers, signifieds and real-world referents and in several cases completely wary of reality i.e. based on “social relations of power” (ibid., p. 399). Peaceful borderland geographies as a concept are construction of peacebased on indigenous dynamics and spatial or geographic imaginations. It signifies that peace is not a static social construct. However, there are certain geographical tools that are responsible for achieving and maintaining peace. This inherent fluidity allows it to be responsive to the needs and norms of its subjects by dealing with various circumstances and accommodating the impacts of various local actualities.

1.3 Methodology

In order to understand the niche of peaceful geographies by employing multiple facets of human geography—with borderland geographies as the case in focus—and the ways peace is studied for further dissemination through scholarship in Pakistan, this study entails a qualitative research approach. Knowledge production, communication, dissemination and rhetoric form a complete process that is working in the background of epistemic positioning of a discipline. With interdisciplinarity at play, the foundation for analysis expands many folds by accommodating theory-oriented approaches and agenda-driven practices involved in knowledge construction from the according disciplines. It involves typology and connotations that construct a reality based on certain representations (spatial and non-spatial) and achieve definite objectives. So as to achieve a thorough understanding of this depth of knowledge, the research at hand has used discourse analysis. This mode of inquiry has the capacity to reveal and elaborate how the knowledge generated through scholarship has been constructed by utilizing conceptual dimensions of human geography discipline. In the same vein, in what ways the knowledge constructed has contributed towards the academic nourishment of the discipline of peace and conflict studies. The work of Jennifer Milliken titled ‘The Study of Discourse in International Relations: A Critique of Research and Methods (1999)’ highlights the lack of rigid, formal methodology thus, providing a flexible approach for doing discourse analysis. Moreover, she suggested three theoretical commitments i.e. *systems of signification*, *discourse productivity*, and *play of practice* as a way of doing discourse analysis which this study has signed up for. The systems of signification build on relationships of power or identifying where power resides in a narrative and is drawing on Derrida’s philosophical work of binary oppositions (ibid.) e.g. peaceful/violent geographies and their multiple connotations for the case at hand. For discourse productivity, the research has focused on highlighting which knowledge areas were produced and reproduced and by whom to present human geography ideas supporting peace/violence connotations. Lastly, play of practice has directed the study to identify the ways dominant knowledge areas produced in Human Geography are legitimized by PCS discipline to endorse interdisciplinarity.

As discourse analysis elaborates classification system, indicates attributes or characteristics that create commonalities and interprets meanings of representations or identity.

Applying such a method to interdisciplinary study facilitates in distinguishing which discipline is building more powerful narratives and the very nature of such accounts (systems of signification). Also, how the agency—those generating and for whom knowledge is generated—is producing, operationalizing and integrating knowledge for the disciplines and the new agency being established in so doing (discourse productivity), and how overlapping of dimensions legitimizes articulation of knowledge and its openness (ibid.). Discourse analysis enables and restricts at the same time by certifying the significance of one narrative at the expense of another (ibid.). And, this trade-off explains how the cross-fertilization of human geography and PCS disciplines has supported and made relevant the very existence of few dimensions of peace, violence and conflict while neglecting the others. With the aim of contextualizing the borderland geographies of Pakistan, secondary data from relevant peer-reviewed academic journals as approved by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan stretching over a time period of twenty years (2000-21) has been consulted. The updated Social Sciences field journals list has been filtered to identify journals falling under the two sub-category disciplines of Geography and Political Science and IR. While finalizing the journals for discourse analysis, 10 journals from each HEC Journal Recognition System (HJRS) category i.e. W, X and Y have been selected for equal representation of each category. Also, 5 journals from each sub-category of disciplines have been selected based on their relevance to the study. The research thesis has adopted a three-pronged strategy for understanding the context appropriate for the scholarship produced in these years. The analysis centers upon the *process* of generating scholarship (guidelines of HEC, time of publication, author background, editorial background, category of journals and aims and scope of journals), overarching *themes* of publications and the ultimate *impacts* of knowledge construction and generation for policy directions. This strategy has helped in demarcating the claims grounded on empirical facts, reasons or mere reflections, thus elaborating the ways knowledge production has evolved over time.

During the process, special attention has been paid to the academic journals' aims and scope through which they act as regulators of whatever qualifies to be published as an addition to the body of knowledge or scholarship. The aims and scope of journals signify parameters against which all the published articles are gauged to appraise their suitability for publication or constitute as authentic knowledge. Furthermore, in the light of the SOPs or guidelines provided by HEC, approval for these journals and their publications endorses their authority of the subject

areas. Then, emphasis has been placed on the transition of theoretical and conceptual frameworks used over the years due to changes in circumstances. In addition, methodologies used redundantly (if any) have been sought after. The study has used keywords relating to borderlands, peace and conflict/violence within the journals to identify and segregate relevant published articles. Moreover, based on their abstracts, articles have been further scrutinized to identify core themes and for doing discourse analysis, thereby, highlighting the demonstration and appreciation of narratives of peace and violence in the borderlands of Pakistan. A thorough effort has been made to establish two lenses in the thematic analysis. First, to elaborate the very construction of identities, meanings, and representations that contributed towards the ontological formation of borderlands of Pakistan as either peaceful or violent geographies—thereby underwriting the conceptualization and problematization of peaceful geographies of Pakistan—geopolitical subjectivities within the knowledge sources have been analyzed. Second, to present covert practices and approaches of interdisciplinarity adopted by the two disciplines, patterns of overlap between PCS and Human Geography at a theoretical and conceptual level have been identified (see Bechtel, 1986, as quoted in Klein 2000, p. 6 for details). Moreover, to visualize which knowledge areas of borderland geographies can be prioritized through subsequent contributions towards other sources of knowledge—for future research, and track down the impacts of knowledge construction regarding borderlands of Pakistan on national policy directions, agendas and long term planning, an understanding based on multiple nuances of critical geopolitics (i.e. formal, practical and popular geopolitics, see Müller, 2013 for details) have been emphasized.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There exist competing narratives and contesting conceptualizations of peace. Based on critical geopolitical underpinnings, a plethora of peace literature depicting its multiple manifestations has been developed; whereas, the concept of peace and peaceful borderland geographies of Pakistan has not even modestly been explored in the peace research and scholarship. And, it shall be no exaggeration in saying that existing literature might have indirectly contributed towards but with no intentions of directly addressing the said concept. The said vacuum owes to the fact that either empirical data is unavailable or required indigenous frameworks are missing to process such data, thereby, creating a huge gap in both peace studies

and critical geopolitics research and scholarship. This study emphasizes employing an interdisciplinary approach for exploring/explaining drivers of peace that have developed and evolved in certain borderland areas while stagnated in others. While framing the knowledge about peaceful geographies, numerous decisive factors need a holistic approach through which they can be analysed. This involves a two-stage process of peace conceptualization—i.e. meaning and purpose—and a continuous commitment through research—i.e. creating space for peace scholarship. Conclusively, to advance local knowledge and multiple complexions that hamper or promote peaceful geographies, critical geopolitics can be put to use by researchers. In due course, an attempt has been made to generate themes/pointers through which peaceful geographies can be identified and explored not only in peace research and scholarship but also in critical geopolitics and other related sub-fields of Human Geography. These themes/pointers may appear to be mere conjectures in the absence of considerable datasets to support their claims. Nevertheless, they are the embedded realities where the disciplines of PCS and Human Geography coincide. And, through them, not only the narratives of peaceful borderlands but their ultimate manifestation and materialization into research and scholarship by conceptualization and problematization can also be explained. Generally, these themes/pointers can be generated using ethnographic research. However, this study is unique in establishing the interdisciplinarity of PCS and Human Geography for identifying these themes/pointers through discourse analysis of the scholarship produced and approved regarding borderland geographies of Pakistan.

1.5 Structure of the Study

The introductory section provides an overview of the research by establishing an interdisciplinary link between Peace and Conflict Studies and Human Geography discipline and its role in constructing peace and conflict narratives. It emphasizes, through preliminary synopsis, the centrality of critical geopolitical orientations for understanding the knowledge construction process whereby the borderland geographies of Pakistan can be conceptualized, problematized and researched, hence, gauging them as either violent or peaceful geographies. It also familiarizes the reader with the poststructuralist theoretical underpinnings and the methodology of discourse analysis that drive this thesis research. Lastly, it explains the significance of the study for inquiring and projecting local knowledge regarding the borderlands of Pakistan. The conceptualization section exhibits an overlapping between the Human

Geography discipline and PCS to elaborate on the dimensions and variables involved in the conceptualization of peaceful geographies. This specifically refers to non-spatial representations and the power-politics nexus that is embedded in discourses which are constructed and maintained to serve certain agendas. In addition to epistemological positioning of Human Geography discipline, the very format of interdisciplinarity and the practice thereof in producing knowledge capacitates this research to identify the conceptual, methodological and theoretical overlapping between the two disciplines whereby the problematization of peaceful or violent nature of these borderlands can be devised. The contextualization of borderland geographies in Pakistan encompasses the genesis of the very idea of borderlands, their inclusive/exclusive nature, issues of spatial consciousness, territoriality, construction of meanings, and more importantly, the decisiveness of geopolitical imaginations. By employing the three-level discourse analysis formulated by Jennifer Millikan, this section describes the extensive manifestations of representations attached to the borderlands of Pakistan, which are created, maintained and disseminated through international and indigenous scholarship. The data has been extracted from the scholarship approved and regulated through a journal recognition and classification system devised by HEC, Pakistan. Moreover, it also relates formal, practical and popular critical geopolitics and highlights patterns of interdisciplinarity between the two disciplines. The research concludes with adopting an interdisciplinary approach for studying peace in the borderland regions of Pakistan.

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF PEACEFUL GEOGRAPHIES THROUGH THE CASE OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY

2.1 Understanding Epistemological Positioning of Human Geography for Peace Conceptualization and Contextualization

Epistemological positioning is as old as human understanding. Although, one can find abundant representations of a concept in a manuscript as basic as children's story book or as intellectual as a philosopher's thought, it is the very legitimacy of knowledge that certifies, segregates and qualifies it to be considered as Truth. There exists immense diversity of interpretations that can lead to the construction of—good and evil, aesthetics and unpleasantness etc., and even small details as the geographical facts can provide—meanings to a concept. Thus, epistemological positioning refers to this unique process of creating consciousness and maintaining the Truth. With an increase in the complexity of human experience regarding environment, the debates in human geography turned multidimensional and inter-disciplinary in nature. An obvious overlap appears, for example, in the academic works of cultural and political geography with anthropology and political science, respectively. For contemporary geographers, the primary and simplistic difference lies in the knowledge base. This knowledge base, consisting of spatial concepts and non-spatial representations, helped in the development of their disciplinary research areas while simultaneously allowing understandings of other intricate yet influential variables from other disciplines and fields. Furthermore, disseminating this knowledge opened up new avenues for critical debates, thus allowing scholars through a scholarship to network with policy-makers for their contributions regarding policy-making and implementation. These concepts and representations developed on the link between space, politics and power and manifested themselves in the fields of political geography and geopolitics, precisely. By the same token, geopolitics and International Relations (IR) research are not mutually exclusive. This is due to the consistent presence and advancement of classical and neoclassical geopolitics in IR studies (supporting the realist strands) and where the “critical geopolitics relates more clearly to constructivist approaches” (Mamadouh & Dijkink, 2006, p. 354). Considering this history of overlap, scholars of political geography, IR and peace studies

started harking back to identify and elaborate the multi-faceted dimensions that signified peace even when violence seemed prevalent and persistent in global geographies; thereby, finding the common grounds between peace and human geography.

While the academic discipline of peace studies might prove it otherwise, the usual point of departure for understanding and researching peace is a complete removal of all forms of violence. In doing so, numerous questions of peace are extracted and elaborated from its interwoven opposite—war. It has been well-argued and acknowledged that geographers not only paid less attention towards peace conceptualizations but also made repetitive efforts of conceptualizing peace through the lens of war (Pepper & Jenkins, 1985; Flint, 2005; Megoran, 2011; Moisiso, 2015). However, geography serves both violence and peace, equally. It acts as a cornerstone for the analyses as both violence and peace are dependent not only on the cartographic orientations but also on the aspects and implications of human actions, collectively establishing the discipline of human geography. While much of the literature is still struggling with the segregation of peace from war, peace narratives are turning both interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary. Gregory (2010, p. 180-81), for example, while discussing drone geographies, implored that “the construction of a human geography that might become one of the arts of peace requires us to think the two together – concrete and concept – and to act on their conjuncture”. Megoran (2011, p. 178) highlighted the role of geographical engagements in helping to research and comprehend peace through peace “conceptualization” and a “rigorous commitment to peace research”. While elaborating peace conceptualizations, the author identified Wallace Atwood’s idealist, Griffith Taylor’s liberal and Frank Horrabin’s socialist peace projections running parallel to Nicholas Spykman’s and Halford Mackinder’s realist peace thoughts in political geography agendas. Similarly, commitment to peace research requires an understanding of multiple variables like nationalism, hybrid identities, political will (ibid.), the legitimacy of actions, coexistence etc., while developing the contextual understandings of territorial disputes and everyday peace practices. This highlights how knowledge can be constructed, communicated, and disseminated based on the agential efforts and spatiality of its meanings. Therefore, peace research entailing knowledge production needs to consider the evolving dynamics and questions of geography, in general and the pertinent debates of human geography, in particular for its legitimization.

Among several sub-disciplines and sub-fields of human geography, the hierarchical order of political geography and (within it) critical geopolitics questioned the power maneuvering and politics of knowledge production and narrative building. Initially, the intellectual accounts of scholars like Gearóid Ó Tuathail, Michel Foucault, Edward Said, Jacques Derrida, John Agnew, Simon Dalby and Yves Lacoste provided the philosophical, theoretical and methodological foundations to critical geopolitics. With diverse worldviews and distinctive ways of catering the same, these scholars offered a “conceptual matrix for a geographical analysis of world politics based in ideas about geographical representations and socio-economic resources” and practices of “political agents” (Agnew, 2013, p. 29). They focused on deconstruction of the very process or interplay of power politics and political engagements that generate discourse. This involves attempting interpretation of and criticism directed towards certain, hegemonic and dominant accounts that have been perceived as Truth claims (ibid.). They questioned totality of intellectual certifications and invited plurality as an intervention for the said. Essentially, “critical geopolitics was a perspective interested in the politics of knowledge, the production of such knowledge, and the epistemic underpinnings of ‘knowing the world’ and representing it geographically” (Moisio, 2013, p.233). Hence, elaborating “geographical knowledge” through “social, political, and spatial situatedness” (ibid.). Müller (2013, p. 63) advocated a more sophisticated understanding of text by “linking textual analysis with methodologies of discourse analysis”. The emphasis has been placed on doing discourse analysis based on contextual dimensions of text as a justified and complete way of analyzing how meaning is given to representations and how these representations are converted into a reality. This discourse analysis, grounded in critical geopolitical thinking, shall address powerfulness of text where the “objects of analysis” include “geopolitical doctrines or academic treatises” otherwise declared as “classical geopolitical” instruments, “speeches and policy documents” termed as “practical geopolitics” and “perceptions of ordinary people” termed as “popular geopolitics” (ibid., p. 50-51). These perceptions are the foundations that provide authority as well as acceptance to text (ibid.). The aim is to understand the ways text is employed to create, reflect and preserve the practices and subjectivities that construct political world.

The emergence and development of critical geopolitics expanded the horizon for the scholars critical of realist and classical geopolitical agendas, thereby providing a pretext for the epistemic journeys of postulations, including peace and violence. Megoran (2013) extracted the

meaning of peace and violence while journeying through the history of geopolitics and addressed traditional thinking of associating violence with classical geopolitics and peace with critical geopolitical alternatives. He builds his argument on two propositions i.e. peace is “pluriform” (ibid., p. 190) and “world’s peace depends on Power” (ibid., p. 193). This character of pluriformity hints that peace has the capacity to create and adjust multiple narratives. Moreover, peace is impacted by or can generate supporting narratives based on power dynamics and can address domains of violence generation to replace them with peace connotations. He further discussed that critical geopolitics developed with its roots in the *humanised geopolitics*—that focused on “human welfare” centered frameworks formed through “geographical knowledge” regarding the “distribution of ethnic/cultural groups and natural resources” (ibid., p. 194-95)—to establish peace. Also, critical geopolitics incorporated “poststructural theories of international relations to develop humanised geopolitics’ earlier insight that classical geopolitics’ geographical imagination was itself productive of violence” (ibid., p. 196). Hence, when critical geopolitics “investigates the geographical assumptions” that “inscribe places as particular types of places to be dealt with in a particular manner” (Dodds, Kuus & Sharp, 2013, p. 6), peace scholars can explore and elaborate how peace is defined and described for such places. Similarly, any representations formed through the “ideological process of constructing spatial, political and cultural boundaries to demarcate the domestic space as separate from the threatening Other” (Agnew, 2013, p. 23) can direct peace scholars towards understandings of this Otherness that can be dealt with to create peace. This line of thought can lead to the institutionalization of diverse and complex disciplinary agendas through discursive assessments. These discursive assessments are emphasized, maintained and promoted to provide nourishment sometimes to lose or new scripts and most of the time to certain discourses. Discourses, in turn, can contribute towards conceptualizations, contextualizations and legitimization of peace narratives.

It can be rightly surmised that a thorough analysis of discourses is needed to gauge the ways they construct identity of a place or people as being violent or peaceful. In simple terms, discourse analysis is tailor-made for each research. It is otherwise “open-ended and incomplete” as it is “always in the process of being articulated” (Dotty, 1996, p. 6). Here, discourse is not “simply words or text” but the “rules of performance and the resources to realize them” (Agnew, 2013, p. 23). Briefly, unpacking or deconstructing these discourses shall reveal agency, power, politics and representations, spatialized and amalgamated in it. This research thesis has explored

the scope of Human Geography scholarship, by employing critical geopolitical perspectives, in addressing nuances of peace that are extracted from and manifested in the form of violent and peaceful geographies, respectively. Non-spatial representations (intrinsically phenomena and processes that develop narratives) form a key aspect of investigations involving critical geopolitics. Critical geopolitics, historically, has produced much literature related to violence and resultantly provided a level-playing field for peace literature. It has presented what is against peace and thus, laid the grounds for establishing what could turn out to be in its favor. This study has entailed the multi-dimensional nature of critical geopolitics and its role in affirming the concept of peaceful geographies in Pakistan upon which this study has built its foundations. Several authors have marked violent and peaceful geographies as the cornerstone of their research (Inwood & Tyner, 2011; Megoran, 2011; Williams & McConnell, 2011; McConnell, Megoran, & Williams, 2014). In accordance with that, this research has explored the disciplinary narrative of human geography, by utilizing the lens of critical geopolitics, to examine the ways peaceful geographies of Pakistan are defined, conceptualized and problematized with a particular focus on borderland geographies. Rather than proving that peace and geography are dependent on each other, the study has focused on investigating and explaining the relationship between geography, power and politics that can lead to the construction of geography as a peaceful or violent one. And, how narratives and discourses construct such representations.

2.2 Developing the case for Interdisciplinarity of Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies

Interdisciplinarity is a frame or mode of study that allows scholars to experience the commonalities, conceptual growth, theoretical excellence and methodological innovation of the intellectual junctions of otherwise distinct disciplines. Bruhn (2000, p. 58) presented a holistic exposition of the foundations of interdisciplinarity by declaring it as a “philosophy, an art form, an artifact, and an antidote”. It produces knowledge that builds itself on “integrative thinking” by drawing on “rich dialogues” of researchers and multiple “tools and approaches” and is an outcome of a “creative process” involving “complimentary skills” “to create a shared understanding” (ibid. p. 60-61). A chain that can connect law and philosophy conceptually, human geography and positive peace methodologically and IR and conflict management theoretically, interdisciplinarity allows the construction of knowledge that can look after several

research areas at a time. This approach can act as a broad runway that allows concurring of solutions to social problems. And, it can also help in comprehending the evolving dynamics positioned at the peripheries. Murphy (2011), for example, offered a complex interaction of interdisciplinary epistemological frameworks and cross-cultural climate change research in Canada. The findings highlight that integrated approaches, though not fully embraced yet, adopted by researchers are in a position to set priority areas for research and funding and underscore the “active engagement of Indigenous voices” for “more comprehensive inclusion of human dimensions researchers” (ibid. p. 504). A prominent demonstration of the inclusion of indigenous and contextual understandings, based on and reinforcing interdisciplinary epistemologies, is their institutionalization as Area Studies centers incorporated in universities and research projects supported by funding bodies (Calhoun, 2017). Globalization has increased human interaction and regional understandings have a major share in social sciences research (ibid.). Interdisciplinarity is a way of bespeaking otherwise neglected aspects, produced by indigenous scholars covering local or spatial knowledge areas, which act pivotal to social research and problem-solving. Over the years, there appeared a surge in the attempts of synthesizing existing knowledge, gaining more specializations and again synthesizing fresh perspectives. The process is never-ending till it retains its productivity for the contributing disciplines and all the stakeholders benefiting from this complimentary arrangement.

Interdisciplinary approaches in social sciences research capitalizes upon specialization as well as the integration of disciplines (Klein, 2007) to provide a more flexible and novel hybrid arrangement (see Dogan & Pahre, 1990 for a detailed theory of hybridization) of knowledge mapping. This hybrid arrangement capacitates researchers, intellectuals, policy makers etc., from an array of institutions to contribute towards and reflect upon the experiences and ideas related to the disciplines according to interdisciplinarity. Moreover, interdisciplinarity allows developing parallel epistemological understandings, based on philosophical views, for catering to the discrete ontological positions. However, this involves three-ways analysis. Firstly, certain “historical patterns” and “plurality” exist between the agendas of disciplines (ibid., p. 32). The plurality and subsequent journey’s of historical patterns of disciplines allowed a shift away from rigid empirical research towards philosophical debates, “theoretical convergence”, “emergence of area studies” and “integrated social science courses” (ibid., p. 35). In this mode of analysis, there appears to be an overlap between variables, yet the scope of the research might be different.

Similarly, the multiplicity of research agendas might serve separate interests, yet they construct the same reality. Secondly, the research needs to be analyzed based on its “*concept*”, “*methodological*” and “*theoretical interdisciplinarity*” to understand its “continuum of integration” (ibid., pp. 38-39). Lastly, interdisciplinarity research involves an understanding of key methodological issues. Since there is a set of expressions—“purpose and goals of a particular project or program”, “actors who are involved”, “institutional setting” (ibid., p. 42), nature of the problem at hand, orientations and preferences—that constitute and influence the research equation, the methodology is, thus, tailor-made for each research. Conclusively, with an expanded depth and breadth, the character of knowledge that is produced as a result of these thorough analyses derives its rationality from the ways of communication or “negotiation” of that knowledge i.e. agreeing over “shared meanings” after the ideas are debated and criticized (ibid., p. 46). This character, in essence, is “intersubjectivity” i.e. “making sense together” and achieved through the process of “mediation” of knowledge (ibid.). And, this allows knowledge to enter into the phase of practicing interdisciplinarity, ultimately.

Apart from knowledge mapping, practicing interdisciplinarity itself serves as another key aspect that falls on the peripheries of disciplines. The idea of practicing originated when practical fields of social sciences started emerging—within the realm of knowledge production and inviting funding bodies and interdisciplinary research centres to work under the banner of interdisciplinarity (Weingart & Stehr, 2000; Outhwaite & Turner, 2007). Resultantly, knowledge production faced two-pronged progress, exploring new ideas and theories (primarily addressed by academia) and suggesting solutions to social problems (mainly catered by research centres). Numerous scholars have translated their views of interdisciplinarity, simultaneously expressing and maintaining their disciplinary affiliations by incorporating their experience in the said practices. Liscombe’s (2000, p. 134) rigorous account of Individual Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate degree Programs (IISGP) offered at the University of British Columbia depicted “situated interdisciplinary practice” by thoroughly analyzing “organizational narrative” and “reconstructing pedagogical discourses and administrative policies”. The detailed SWOT analysis elucidated that the administration running such programs serves as the backbone for interdisciplinarity in practice whereas it is “nurtured through the active collaborative and critical participation of faculty supervisors” (ibid., p. 135). Ni and Sugimoto (2013) offered a unique way of approaching interdisciplinarity by employing doctoral dissertations as the data source for

manifesting the interaction of disciplines. They detested the biases involved in the data sources due to the overrepresentation of those disciplines that produce more journal articles. Also, the scholars' analysis of 30 highest producing disciplines for over a century showed increased dependency—i.e. the proportion of dissertations shared by two disciplines—between social sciences disciplines compared to natural sciences and an overall increased trend towards interdisciplinarity as the key findings. This research was a collaborative effort of Faculty Research Support Program (Indiana University) and the international funding initiative Digging into Data (a consortium of National Science Foundation in the United States, JISC in the United Kingdom, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) with dataset furnished by ProQuest (ibid.). This arrangement explains the successful dimming of lines between academia and funding bodies when practicing interdisciplinarity is orchestrated to achieve the same agenda.

With an increase in the number of practical fields, knowledge production increased and so did the scope of interdisciplinary practices. The interdisciplinarity of Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies can be considered and established in two directions. Firstly, identifying the type of interdisciplinarity and secondly, understanding the “epistemological bridging of disciplines” (Chettiparamb, 2007, p. 23). Heckhausen (1972, quoted in Chettiparamb 2007, pp. 19-20) presented six types of interdisciplinarity i.e. *Indiscriminate* (focusing “introductory” aspects), *Pseudo-* (utilizing similar “analytical tools”), *Auxiliary* (based on methodological and “theoretical integration”), *Composite* (aiming “problem-solving”), *Supplementary* (practicing “partial overlapping in certain subject matters”) and *Unifying* interdisciplinarity (combining otherwise distinct disciplines at multiple levels of possible integration). According to these typologies, an evaluation of disciplinary research of Human Geography and PCS reveal a profound combination of conceptual, theoretical and methodological overlapping tilted more towards auxiliary and supplementary interdisciplinarity. For example, diplomats (as human agency) participate in the exchange of spatial and regional knowledge (Kuus, 2016) that turns into a discourse accepted as a blueprint for foreign policy while constructing the image or identity of that specific place and its people—i.e. peaceful or violent representations, simultaneously. Such discourses demonstrate practices of conceptual overlapping, hence, supplementary interdisciplinarity. Barton and Irrázaval (2014, p. 3) described the process whereby geographical representations of Chile, in particular and Latin

America, in general, were historically formed by military institutions that bring epistemological bridging of several disciplinary contributors like engineers and botanists “for generating cartographic information and generating further knowledge about the national territory”. This identity-formation process describes the ways military studies and academic institutes like Military Geographical Institute (IGM), Chile played a key role in shaping the national character of Chile by controlling geographical knowledge, monopolizing it and acting as its champions or custodians at the international levels. These researches, amongst several others, present the case that Human Geography and PCS can overlap at several stages and in multiple dimensions. Budding from poststructuralist theoretical framework, critical geopolitics allow scholars and authors to incorporate previously underexplored areas that deal with peaceful/violent representations and identity narratives, spatial analysis and the human agency involved to generate knowledge.

CONTEXTUALIZATION OF BORDERLAND GEOGRAPHIES IN PAKISTAN

3.1 Understanding Borderlands, Border regions, Boundaries and Frontiers through critical geopolitical lens

Border studies cater a unique geographical domain i.e. the walls, lines or fences that, through physical demarcations, are legally dividing some while sociologically connecting others. That is to say; they delimit movement of people crossing, politically and administratively, restricted units but simultaneously allowing interaction between border management authorities and those crossing borders. Guo (2018) presented an in-depth lexical and definitional classification of borders. However, this study is looking at borderlands as a broad and holistic understanding of and encompassing, often interchangeably used, geographical terminologies whereby borders are proclaimed and researched as border regions, boundaries (essentially geometric classification) and frontiers (bearing civilizational complexions) (ibid.) in border studies literature. Wastl-Walter (2011) comprehensively addressed the historical development, conceptualization and theorization of borderlands, thereby, elaborating their geopolitical power relations, accentuating inclusive/exclusive territorial identity formation and underscoring issues related to border crossings and practices in a borderless world. Precisely, borderlands turn out to be “areas in proximity” essentially a “transition zone” “existing on both sides” along border (Newman, 2011, p. 37). The residential agency of borderlands share “territorial or cultural space” and “feel a sense of belonging to either one of the two sides, to each of the two sides, or even to a form of hybrid space in which they adopt parts of each culture and/or speak both languages” (ibid.). Diener and Hagen (2012, p. 64) provided a significantly functional and securitized connotation of borderlands as “buffer zones protecting the state’s core should a threat materialize”. They conceived territorialization– “a twofold process involving the division of land between social entities and assigning specific meanings to the resultant places” (ibid., p. 59)–as the cornerstone of bordering practices. These and other definitions and manifestations of borders and bordering practices present two arguments. Firstly, borders are complex yet fluid entities. Secondly, bordering practices are centering on and evolving through spatial realities,

sociological interpretations and non-spatial representations leading to identity formation, and power–politics interplay. Hence, in economic, political and social terms, the very significance of border is constructed and the resultant nature of being an inclusive, exclusive, violent and peaceful border is covertly/overtly developed during the process.

Seminal contributions have been made by several critical geopolitical proponents regarding the pathways of inclusion and exclusion based on the discriminatory bases of ‘Us’ vs. ‘Them’ (Ó Tuathail & Dalby, 1998; Newman & Passi, 1998) and construction of “inside/outside, self/other and domestic/foreign” (Passi, 2013, p. 214). Ó Tuathail & Dalby (1998, p. 3-4) stressed even deeper reflections by pinpointing “conceptual borders” and critical geopolitics being less “about ‘the outside’ of the state” and more “about the very construction of boundaries of ‘inside’ and ‘outside’, ‘here’ and ‘there’ [and] the ‘domestic’ and the ‘foreign’”. Resorting to the course of identity construction through discursive practices, Passi (1996), through the study of Finnish-Russian border, produced authoritative literature regarding the institutionalization of territories and appreciation of their symbolic value. “In analytical terms, the symbolic construction of space, territoriality and borders” encompasses “the language of integration”—aimed at “homogenizing the contents of collective spatial consciousness and experiences”—and the “language of difference”—which “strives to distinguish this homogenized experience from the other” (Passi, 2013, p.220; Passi, 1996). The epistemic positioning of the scholars of critical geopolitics set forth, firstly, the inevitability of deconstruction process, for the interpretation of the context of border discourses, practices and representations, to provide stringent grounds whereby inclusion/exclusion or territorial identity-formation can be further analyzed (Scott, 2011). Secondly, they drew on the premises that since borders are social constructs (ibid.), their “perceptions” regarding the identity or “symbolic meaning” and “representations” “are inseparable from the geopolitical imagination, that is, a set of popular images, conceptualizations and discourses about the positioning of a state in the world system” (Kolossoff, 2011, p. 172). These geopolitical imaginations empower certain representations and these representations create distinct identities where acceptance of one implies the rejection of the other. In terms of discourse, representations demonstrate privileges enjoyed by one discourse over the other. Rashidi et al. (2021), quoting Michel Foucault’s understandings, proposed the inevitability of representations breathing within and depicted through discourse and, where subjectivities can be

observed. Thus, through hegemonic discourse, reality is constructed by giving meaning to certain mental images that might or might not coincide or truly describe reality.

Without much doubt, central to representations, subjectivities, and mental construction of reality is their expression in the form of discourse. Ó Tuathail and Agnew (1992), by connecting discourse and geopolitics, underscored that discourse acts as a cornerstone for the very practices through which geopolitics is professed to meaningfully construct social world. Discourse in its multiple forms e.g. narratives, speeches, policy documents etc. creates knowledge for projecting strategic understandings (as in foreign policy speeches) (ibid.) or spatial conceptualizations (as in the cultural practices of inclusion/exclusion). Border discourse is no exception on this subject. Vaughan-Williams (2009, p. 2) identifies that border discourses “does a lot of work, epistemologically and ontologically” for augmenting “geopolitical imagery” of states in global relations. Employing poststructuralist problematization method, the author argued about the basis of power and subjectivities while addressing the border issues of sovereignty and territoriality. When associated or linked with space, discourses can construct identity based on the power-politics nexus. Undoubtedly, discourses can exert power or create political clout to declare or construct the identity of borderlands and its human agency as violent or peaceful. Critical geopolitics has addressed the expressions of geographies of violence, insecurity, security and peace (Gregory & Pred, 2007; Ingram & Dodds, 2009; McConnell et al., 2014). Efforts have been made to identify “imaginative geographies” “through which political violence works” (ibid., p. 2). Building themselves on the “cartography of fear” (ibid.), “terrains of violence and landscapes of fear” (Oslender, 2013, p. 375), these imaginative geographies are always subject to certain representations that are accepted almost unquestionably and endorsed every now and then through formal, practical and popular discourse. Oslender (2013) has made a discursive effort to formulate a seven-point framework that caters to these geographies of fear methodologically and systematically. Kearn (2007) presented the discourse of colonial practices of ‘*bare life*’– i.e. denying political rights to a selected few–funnelled into the roots of modern-day terrorism in Ireland. Shimada (2014) narrated the cultural events of ‘*Eleventh Night Bonfires*’ in Northern Ireland as a mechanism for conflict transformation. Hence, these discourses collectively connect contested identities, territorial claims, and (border) geographies as peaceful or violent.

Although, globalization has seeded the idea of virtual borders based on political and economic consortiums, physical borders have not lost their vigour and relevance in Human Geography research. Human geography through constructivist approaches has focused on exploring the manifestations of meanings and dynamics associated with global, regional and national borders, hence, providing the background for exploring their nature as violent or peaceful or the construction thereof. Characterizing this in the case of geographies of war on terror, “geographical imaginations are essential to any critique of the war on terror and emerging landscapes of security, and to the construction of alternatives” (Ingram & Dodds, 2009, p. 3). Drifting towards overall contested places, peace requires “re-working and reconciling” of “these contested, shifting narratives of place identity” (Shimada, 2014, p. 152). Weber and Pickering (2011) have made an effort of defining *functional borders*—where “state expresses its sovereign and disciplinary power, both within and beyond its territorial limits” (p.4) and *detrterritorialized borders* that are the “sites of dispersed and disputed border authority” where state sovereignty is demonstrated “often without due regard to the constraints and responsibilities set out in international law. These practices transcend the more terrestrial concept of borderlands and signify an emerging space of ‘transnational frontierlands’, where nation-states seek to defend their self-styled virtual borders” (p.5). Furthermore, the authors have argued that “individual borders have their own specific histories, and the policies designed to defend them are shaped by local as well as global factors” (p.11). They believe that “constituting borders through geographical barriers” can result in “concealing their histories and their contested character” (ibid). Hence, it can be inferred that variables like state sovereignty, geographical barriers and physical policing or border control mechanism can affect the character of a border thus, turning it into a violent or peaceful one. The construction of cultural and political borders elaborates their inclusive and exclusive nature as per Human Geography disciplinary approaches. This course of action is, thereby, embarking on constructivist approach and need interdisciplinary approaches to dissect how the meaning and by virtue of it, knowledge is constructed, represented and disseminated about borderlands.

3.1.1 Borderlands and border regions of Pakistan

The borderlands of Pakistan share borders with four major geopolitical neighbours i.e. Afghanistan and Iran on the western side, India on the eastern side and China towards north.

Despite that, there is remoteness and ruggedness, life is thriving as in the case of Pakistan-Afghanistan borderlands. And, while there are stringent border security and management rules along the Line of Control (LOC) as in the case of Pakistan-India border with everyday display of symbolic animosity even in the peace-time by both sides; these borderlands offer several shades of cultural affinity. Historically, the scholarship has taken up geopolitical lens as the cornerstone for the borderlands of Pakistan. As in the case of western borderlands, divided along and spreading into three sovereign states, “the role of the tribes from being on the ‘highway of conquest’ and playing a critical role in determining the fortunes of dynasties and empires to having been reduced to a periphery” can be observed (Rais, 2017, p. 3). With the passage of time, this led to the creation of representations of erstwhile FATA (the borderland with Afghanistan) as a ‘no-go area’. However, the Pak-Iran borderland, regardless of its “irregular entry points” and “a number of towns/villages where houses occupy both sides of the border, e.g., the town of Rideeg/Bulu in Turbat” remained less disturbed in the yester years (Kundi, 2009, p. 96). The borderlands with China remained relatively peaceful since the Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement that has been reached in 1962. While the borderlands between the arch-rival Pakistan and India remained tumultuous throughout their history. For most of the inhabitants of borderlands covering Punjab on both sides and Sindh-Rajhistan borderline, heavily guarded and fenced border is a usual site. The borderland population of Illegally Indian Occupied Kashmir (IIOK) has faced skirmishes, infiltration and violation of ceasefire leading to multiple civilian deaths on both sides. With the recent Indian propaganda of surgical strikes in Pakistan administered Azad Kashmir in 2019 and revocation of the Article 370 of Indian Constitution granting special status to IIOK, the difficulties increased for the locals till a ceasefire has been agreed in early 2021 between the two governments across border.

3.1.2 Understanding Dynamics of Territoriality in the Borderlands of Pakistan

In order to understand the dynamics of these borderlands effectively and in their entirety, their territoriality needs special attention. Passi (2011, p. 14) provided a rule of thumb that “meanings attributed to such borders are *inward-oriented*”, thereby, referring to “ideological state apparatus, ideological practices”, “related national identity narratives” and “the material basis of such practices, which manifests itself in territoriality”. The previously produced

literature provides strong evidence that the ideological knowledge base leading to identity construction is addressed; however, the narrative remained tinted from outward-oriented dimensions i.e. how the world viewed Pakistan's strategic location and resultant identity formation of these borderlands. "Territoriality is an ideological practice and discourse that transforms national spaces and histories, cultures, economic success and resources into bounded spaces" (ibid.). An effort has been made for vouchsafing meanings in the form of '*Paigham-e-Pakistan*— the Message of Pakistan' that serves as the national narrative and policy document to counter violence, extremism, and terrorism. Thus, defying the accounts constructed against Pakistan's territorial sovereignty and integrity. Nonetheless, the process of identity formation starts losing its significance and at times prove futile in the case of complex and disturbed borderlands of Pakistan because the knowledge produced so far is majorly deficient of critical geopolitical understandings for exploring and generating multifarious meanings. Passi (1996), instead of leaving territoriality at the mercy of intellectual and conceptual genius alone, meticulously engaged heuristics and proposed the institutionalization of territory through indigenous capacities. So, applying the idea of institutionalization of territory to the borderlands of Pakistan means these indigenous capacities can create a context and certain representations which would turn out to be their actual identity. This highlights the role of social capital i.e. the way it is nurtured and the way it enables the identity formation and indigenous narratives of these borderlands. Again this nature of research hinges upon the interdisciplinary mode of study to inquire borderlands as entities—from Human Geography perspectives—with varying degrees of power play and politics, identity formation practices, human agency preferences, ideas of cultural and ideological cohesions, and resultant construction of being a violent or peaceful one—from PCS perspectives.

Recent years have witnessed the evolution of the process of narrative building and understandings regarding erstwhile FATA's borderland dynamics. Considering the historical depiction of being declared a no-go area and isolated in practices as a buffer zone, borderlands of erstwhile FATA can fairly be termed '*Frontier of the Frontier*'. Such signification essentially highlights the fact that the spatial realities of this borderland are unique in nature even when compared with the areas or districts of NMTDs adjacent to the provincial border of KP. Also, in terms of its cultural, political and ideological orientations, the human agency of this borderland possesses a distinguishing shade of identity compared with the human agency of NMTDs

spreading away from borderland or that of adjacent zones across Durand Line, falling in Afghanistan. Thus, an interdisciplinary approach is required so as to extract and interpret this identity from the historically constructed version and proclaimed through representational functions of language. As this borderland has never been studied by employing comprehensive critical geopolitical terminologies and dedicated conceptual and theoretical frameworks, this borderland needs further exploration and research from this outlook. Similarly, the borderlands of Balouchistan and IIOK have remained critical geographical fault-lines throughout the history of Pakistan. With ideological overtones in the narratives of the conflicts and the contested discourse produced thereof over border demarcations and status, these borderlands again offer an opportunity for conducting research based on two different scenarios. On the eastern side of IIOK, the neighbour differs in terms of religious orientation. While on the western borderlands, Balouchistan shares its border with two neighbours sharing the same religious orientation. Despite the fact that the epoch of War on Terror overshadowed these borderlands, through the construction of a purely conflictual, porous and distorted identity, their diversity can never be discounted to generate counter narratives. A thorough examination of scholarly literature reveals that certain themes of Human Geography have been researched in the past few years overlapping with the PCS discipline. However, concerted and dedicated efforts to research these borderlands from critical geopolitical dimensions require the very process of institutionalization and practices of territoriality.

3.2 Process of Evaluation

During the process of evaluation, Political Science and IR journals have been categorized based on the relevance of their titles to the study. In this regard, priority has been given to those pertaining to peace research, peacemaking, peacekeeping, conflict, conflict resolution, conflict management, security, territory, geopolitics, terrorism, violence, foreign policy and strategic study. The shortlisted journals have been further filtered to accommodate the overlap with pure international relations, international perspectives, policy study, governance and political ideology. The journals have been scrutinized by using another filter i.e. those articles that address political, social and cultural dimensions of South Asia and Pakistan are categorically selected for review. Parallel to this, in the sub-field of Geography, journals bearing the titles pertaining to human geography, political geography, borderlands, space, spatiality/spatial

analysis, place, region, cartography, geographical analysis, geographical research, maps, refugee, migration, immigrants, Diaspora studies, development, and critical Asian studies have been clubbed together to identify themes that are redundantly addressed in the scholarship. For the evaluation process, the journals in each HJRS category (i.e. W, X, and Y) have been studied using keywords and through the abstracts of articles. This line of action helped in identifying detailed or even any isolated research, related to peace and conflict and human geography, with special reference to borders and borderlands of Pakistan that has been conducted in the selected time period. The most relevant journals have been selected—10 from each HJRS category (to make a total of 30 Journals). Furthermore, 5 journals each from the sub-fields of Political Science and IR and Geography have been selected to maintain consistency and equal representation of both fields. Moreover, due consideration has been given to the journals that are common to both sub-fields. These sub-sets are the core of analyses for they demonstrate the key research areas and conceptual and theoretical frameworks where human geography dimensions can essentially buttress PCS research. However, with the aim of elaborating stated categories (themes), that can provide sophisticated geopolitical connotations and intricacies and generate impacts, several other journals have randomly been researched to extract relevant articles for further enhancing the knowledge base.

3.2.1 Systems of Signification

The constructivist approach questions rigid stance regarding the pre-existing knowledge bases and suggests exploring distinctive accents in the knowledge body that create representations and meanings to accommodate diversity of perceptions. This implies that our social relations and interactions hold and promote meanings that create representations. Similarly, our representations turn into our realities and these realities structure more representations. For the purpose of this research, Milliken's (1999) system of signification can address three areas of inquiry. Firstly, what geopolitical representations and geographical imaginations have been produced over the years in scholarly accounts to present Pakistan and its borderlands? Secondly, what does the overall trend reveals regarding the inclination of scholarship either in the favour of projecting peace or conflict/violence to enhance PCS disciplinary foundations? Lastly, which of the two sub-fields of Social Sciences i.e. Political Science & IR and Geography, closely dealing with this research, has focused on yielding or

made efficacious attempts to produce relevant and extensive knowledge, respectively regarding borderlands of Pakistan? Since the system of signification is built on power and its very presence in the relationships, these three areas are collectively answering three further simple yet intrinsic questions, essentially. How do the borderland geographies of Pakistan qualify to be imaginative geographies? Are they peaceful imaginative geographies or violent imaginative geographies? And, how can historical imagination, philosophical interpretations and meticulous textual analyses be used to full advantage to elaborate the embeddedness of spatiality and its significance in creating the images of borderlands of Pakistan? Milliken's system of signification points towards semiotics. However, Derrida's binary opposition involved in the deconstruction process helps provide connotations with their value and classification and, for this research, the very identification of both peace and violence through their several manifestations in the scholarship. On the other hand, semiotics is creating representations and ways whereby they have been maintained for several years depending on the geopolitical visions and objectives of those times. Nevertheless, these discursive accounts can be put to task through the strengths of deconstruction processes from time to time to differentiate the Truth (realities) and structured meanings in a narrative.

Geopolitical representations and geographical imaginations are the cornerstones of scholarship produced in and about Pakistan, in general, and its borderlands, in specific. Several authors have critically assessed the roles of law enforcement agencies, the Pakistan army, the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan while discussing the events involving legal aspects of sovereignty and identity. In the same vein, criminal and justice systems, their provisions, government policies and their privileges to their citizens have been explored. Though, parallel pictures of marginalization have been captured to express the plight of Afghan refugees covering several aspects of human geography but with little consolation for critical geopolitics research that can debate more than colonial representations. For example, "obscure battleground of the northwestern borderland of Pakistan" (Raza, 2019, Geopolitics), "neglected periphery to the centre of conflict" (Rais, 2017, Geopolitics), "tribal Pakhtun society treats women much like property of their men" (Naseer, 2018, Geopolitics), "geopolitical vulnerabilities" and "(in)civility distinctions" of Wakhan as a "marginal boundary" and "vulnerable periphery, forced to adapt to exogenous change" (Weaver, 2020, Geopolitics) etc. The representations of borderlands, their cultural traditions and sense of belongingness, political

and ideological orientations, and identity have vehemently been projected as key areas of research. But the significance of embedded spatial realities stayed overshadowed due to geopolitical narratives with little dedicated research or no holistic directions of employing critical theoretical approaches to generate counter-narratives presenting the indigenous accounts. The authors have adopted analytical and ethnographic study tools. For example, for tracing the gripping effects of rumours, conspiracy theories and stories revolving around violence in erstwhile FATA claims have been maintained that these stories provide “tribal Pashtuns” an opportunity to “live and make their way in a social world in which they remain unequal, but coeval, participants” (Maqsood, 2019, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and Middle East-CSSAAME*-abbreviated for reference); despite being part of CPEC project “border locale” of Afyatabad—a “non-descript bazaar along Pakistan-China border” received little benefit from “transborder investments” (Karrar, 2019, *CSSAAME*); “a combination of unique opportunities that encourage rebellion” constitutes the bases of social mobilization in Baluchistan and Azad Kashmir (Surendra, 2009, *CSSAAME*) etc.

A detailed analysis of the semantics and tone of abstracts and selected academic accounts (Appendix I, II, III) reveal lop-sided positions, with scholarship driven more towards developing conflict-oriented dimensions of PCS discipline. The journals inscribing peace research alone and those documenting both peace and conflict perspectives and agendas have been clubbed together from HJRS categories. And, few journals have been selected based on interdisciplinarity of their aims and scope (Table-3.1). Overall, the consortium has produced extensive narratives catering to theoretical and philosophical reflections, meta-narratives and even African and European crises both in terms of peace and conflict. On the other hand, Pakistan has either completely been neglected with no specific accounts exploring aspects of peace, leave aside peaceful geographies (e.g. *Journal of Peace Research*) or peace in Pakistan is sparsely ferreted out, that too, by incorporating it with or travelling along the lines of violence/conflict (e.g. *Peacebuilding*). Nevertheless, there is a background—of War on Terror and its aftermath—to this approach due to which the knowledge negotiated less with peaceful perspectives. Fleschenberg and Yousufzai (2019, p. 462) lamented the way borderlands of Pakistan are “subjected to invisibility and rumbling noises of conflict and displacement through hegemonic centring of discourses and exclusionary, violent practices of the ‘Wars on Terror’” encountered by erstwhile FATA agencies. The scholars in this rich—fieldwork based—discourse analysis provide an authoritative

account of the ways whereby everyday life of borderlands, their representations and overall public discourse itself was tightly entangled in war narratives. Another finding of this thesis is regarding individual disciplinary contributions of (Human) Geography and Political Science & IR that reinforced PCS discipline in developing and, then detaching its knowledge body thus, approaching specialization as a separate discipline. Surveying the journals it can be inferred that despite Political Science & IR has produced more theoretically and methodologically overlapping in-depth literature, it is essentially based on Human Geography aspects and fall in the domains of conflict management and resolution. Moreover, not much consolation appears in the shape of the *Journal of Borderlands Studies* that falls in both sub-fields and solely addresses the research sphere of this study (see Table-3.1).

Table 3.1: Selective Peace and Conflict Study Journals

Sr. No.	Name of the Journals	Pol. Sci & IR HJRS Category
1.	Journal of Peace Research	W
2.	Journal of Conflict Resolution	W
3.	Conflict Management and Peace Sciences	W
4.	Journal of International Dispute Settlement	W
5.	Studies in Conflict and Terrorism	X
6.	Peace and Conflict	X
7.	Peacebuilding	X
8.	Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy	Y
9.	Asian Journal of Peacebuilding	Y
10.	International Journal of Development and Conflict	Y

3.2.2 Discourse Productivity

Despite the fact that borderland geographies of Pakistan received less attention in mainstream knowledge production with reference to critical geopolitical frameworks and suffered from geopolitical representations that created their violent identities by employing power-politics narratives, Human Geography dimensions have not vanished from the discourse

entirely. In all important respects, the advances in empirical research conducted so far in the Human Geography discipline are holistically contributing towards the identification mechanisms of peace. Moreover, by even remotely talking to or evocating the intellectual underpinnings of peace, the said discipline is trying to create a firm niche for the problematization and theorization of peaceful geographies of Pakistan with borderland geographies as its forte. Nevertheless, the key to such knowledge production and its legitimization resides in the contextual understandings and empirically explored indigenous foundations for generating authentic discourses. It involves delving into the meaning construction process based on the relationship between spatial realities, local values and power dynamics that needs to culminate into discursive efforts. For a case in point, it is double jeopardy that Human Geography is looking after; both peace and borderlands are essentially contested terms and for the borderlands of Pakistan, since their meanings and identity is historically contested, with little support in the form of counter-narratives of Human Geography, so is their peace. Thus, contextual understandings through critical geopolitical dimensions can elaborate the construction process and highlight space for agential and societal elements that play key roles in everyday peace practices and serve more than as anthropological studies of tribal societies or local settlements in these borderlands. Tripathi and Raghuvanshi (2020) resorted to epistemological and ontological growth in the Border Studies discipline to suggest the pivotal role that mental borders, of Pakistan-India, play in conjunction with physical borders. Meena (2020), covering cross-border borderland area, created a parallel between state narratives and that of the locals of India-Pakistan border in the Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan thus, providing some respite to local turn as proclaimed in critical geopolitics. Human Geography, through such dispersed efforts of detailing metaphysical or ideological construction of borders is, indeed, creating discourses that can serve as pioneering studies for future research.

There is no denying the fact that majority of the literature produced and reproduced comes from Western sources. This signifies the fact that borderlands of Pakistan have been projected through certain representations, against a certain background and to achieve certain geopolitical visions. Notwithstanding, this study has focused on expanding knowledge base by including Eastern along with Western academic sources. Moreover, instead of focusing purely on the academic journals of United States and United Kingdom (constituting major sources of knowledge produced) from among the Western sources, the study resorted to the journals from Germany and Canada as well. The Eastern sources cover journals from Iran, South Korea and

Pakistan. For discourse productivity, two questions appear valid. Who is producing for whom? And, what is being produced? This simply refers to the actors (scholars) and broad study areas that have been covered to produce discourse of borderlands of Pakistan. In order to demonstrate a fairly balanced representation of discourse, again few journals have been selected to provide a picturesque of the lenses used by authors belonging to specific backgrounds and contributing towards borderlands of Pakistan (Table-3.2). The authors contributing to the most relevant journal, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, somewhat, in the past five years have focused mainly around the blurring state-defined identities and contested nature of eastern borderlands as per local lens. Mostly from Indian background, the authors covered cross-border extensions of borderlands, from Indian held parts of Kashmir to Rajhistan, to produce discourse projecting negation of “formal and popular articulations of nationalist identities” by local villagers across border at cultural sites—e.g. Chamliyal Shrine, Jammu (Patel, 2021) and in local villages—e.g. Jaisalmer District, Rajhistan (Meena, 2020). Similarly, the legality of Durand Line has been assessed from conflictual dimensions and suggesting regionalism, instead of approaching human geography aspects—like culture—that can create peace in this borderland (Poya, 2020). Thus, producing scholarship through most relevant journal of all that either endorses the historically constructed representations or create new representations inclined towards conflict management and resolution aspects alone clearly signify the paralyzed and insufficient attempts of exploring Human Geography disciplinary depth.

Table 3.2: Areas of Study

Sr. No.	Name of the Journals (country)	Areas studied for Pakistan and borderlands of Pakistan
1.	Journal of Borderlands Studies (UK)	Cultural affinities, contested identities, state narratives (Us vs. Others)
2.	ACME (Canada)	Everyday practices, representation and resistance, marginalization, local narratives of Northern borderlands, community-based efforts, hybridization of identity and spaces, gender
3.	Progress in Human Geography (US)	Global periphery, territorial sovereignty, racial and geographical assumptions, anti-humanist and post-humanist thinking, power-knowledge complex, new materialism, phenomenology, vulnerable geographies (of bodies, lives and labours)
4.	Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East (US)	Pashtun Identity, Baluch Identity, Taliban, conspiracy and rumours, border markets and trade, citizenship, poetry and arts, secessionist movements, ideology and Jihad
5.	Geopolitics Quarterly (Iran)	Critical geopolitical regionalism, geo-economics, North-South geopolitical & geo-economic corridor, Crisis Management Model, security crisis, Sistan & Baluchistan border, poststructuralism, spatial inequalities, sustainable development

3.2.3 Play of Practice

For Human Geography and PCS interdisciplinarity to retain its authenticity, knowledge constructed through conceptual, theoretical and methodological overlapping needs to be regulated for legitimization. This clearly points towards the role of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan that serves as the apex educational regulatory body. Moreover, knowledge must be scrutinized by the experts and veterans for authenticity and responsible scholarship generation. Hence, it signifies the peer-review process to gauge the relevance and

complementarities of knowledge with the scope of journals. HEC, Pakistan has initiated a procedure encompassing comprehensive two-pronged efforts of improving the quality and standards of the knowledge produced in all disciplinary fields. First, certain revisions have been made to the accreditation and funding policies of research journals (HEC Notification for Revision of Research Journals and Publications Policy, 2019). Second, based on internationally approved quality and indexing criteria— Scopus, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC)—a journal recognition system categorizing journals as per their knowledge areas ranking has been devised. The categorization of Geography and Political Science & IR journals into W, X and Y categories and thorough evaluations of research journals and books by the HEC Scientific Review Panel reveals that institutional arrangement and regulatory mechanism have been formulated and are functioning. The knowledge constructed is also processed through the stages of editorial and peer-review approvals for maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards (HEC Journals and Publications Policy, 2020). Even though knowledge related to borderlands of Pakistan has been processed through several stages and underwent quality checks, the issue of subjectivities in knowledge construction stayed intact which clearly puts a question mark on the ethos of dispassionate empirical research generally claimed by scholarship. The role of Human Geography remained diminished or precisely, underexplored. The discourse constructed through these journals and produced by academic institutes, think tanks, area study centers and funding bodies has collectively focused more on policy-aspects. These policies revolved around certain objectives and benchmarks that aimed at attending to colonialism followed by War on Terror which left little space for peace investigations by labelling and profiling these borderlands as extremely conflictual and highly ungovernable spaces narrowly defined, conceptualized and problematized.

3.3 Thematic analysis

Through much of the critical work that has been analyzed, this research thesis assumes that certain themes remained prevalent in majority of the journals from all categories. These include but are not limited to regionalism, local culture, spatiality, territorial identity, impacts of colonial representations, ideology and sovereignty, migratory practices, terrorism, impacts of disasters and crises, geopolitical policy-making etc. Attempts have been made by scholars to

engage several conceptual, theoretical and methodological frameworks. For example, violent cartography and boundary biography (*Journal of Borderlands Studies*), autoethnography and local narratives and counter-narratives (*ACME*), case studies (*Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*), content analysis, data-focused theory, Crisis Management Model, Taxonomic module (*Geopolitics Quarterly*), new materialism, vulnerable geographies (of bodies, lives and labours) (*Progress in Human Geography*). For much of the knowledge generated, the themes appeared relevant and overlapping for both disciplines, but the dimensions have been addressed prominently from security and conflict perspectives. As in the case of western borderlands, primarily those of erstwhile FATA, both in national and international journals, the scholars have maintained a consistent stance regarding the parallel system of governance created since the colonial period and sustained from time to time i.e. tribal authority structure and leadership running parallel to formal state institutions that created jurisdictional confusion, tribal restrictions and rigid representations. In the realm of governance appeared ethnographic (critical geopolitical) critiques of the tribal Tradition (*Riwaj*) of Pakistan-Afghanistan borderland, issues related to Refugee ID cards, psychology of bordering check-posts, creation of 'imaginative geographies' through educational interventions, the conception of boundaries as local manifestations of global affairs, so on and so forth. Several authors have agreed when it comes to the generation of discourse that promotes strategic advantage in the borderlands by utilizing cartographic practices and culture-focused studies in conjunction with the deployment of military technologies and advanced equipments. Then, few of the contributions clearly dealt with the agency involved in the formation of representations and imaginations e.g. geo-politicians, military geo-strategists etc. (Raza, 2017, *Geopolitics*). While others focused on field research and interviews both as preferred methodological tools for research (Fleschenberg & Yousufzai, 2019, *Geopolitics*).

In addition to those studied for this research, several other journals have randomly been consulted to understand the spread of multiple themes. Refugee and Migration study journals collectively covered much of the geopolitical aspects with attention being paid to socio-political outlook of the country at large and to the conflictual side of borderlands in some researches. The trend of producing primary data-based work, with interviews from government officials (specifically Pakistani), consulate representatives, law enforcement and counterterrorism officials seemed in currency (Chaudhary & Moss, 2019, *Comparative Migration Studies*). The

recent destinations for immigrants and asylum seekers include but are not limited to Cyprus (due to geographical isolation from mainland Europe) and Ecuador (in the context of South-South flows and liberal visa policies). Chaudhary & Moss (2019, p. 8) projected a negative effect, in the wake of WOT and in the form of “profiling”, “surveillance” and “criminalizing Muslim communities”, with NGOs in the case of Pakistan, when immigrants “seek to engage transnationally” in the country of origin for Transnational Political Action (TPA) (*Comparative Migration Studies*). Diaspora studies underlined constraints like stigmatization, profiling, social exclusion, supremacist orientations, transnational marriage issues etc. Then, there appeared some isolated research works spotted in business-oriented journals, which overlapped with the geography sub-field, where data from border effects literature was used (*Thunderbird International Business Review*, Vol. 62, 2019). Similarly, borderlands have been studied not as separate entities but as part of district analysis for disaster susceptibility, vulnerability, zoning activities, climate change impacts etc. (*Water*, Vol.13, 2021). However, Taraky et al. (2021) vehemently suggested “integrated transboundary water management” based on Kabul River Basin (KRB) through KRB-specific agreement, for the socio-economic benefits of the people of the region, thus providing one of the few pioneering efforts in this regard (*Water*, Vol.13, 2021). Mahmood and Jia (2016) addressed the transboundary water resource of Jhelum River Basin of Pakistan and India from the climate change perspectives and its impacts thereof (*Water*, Vol. 8, 2016). Both these contributions prefer maintaining the tone more towards geographical solutions. However, the identity of being distrusted and disturbed borderlands mildly stayed in the overtones.

Some of the academic accounts presented a dual geographical orientation of Pakistan. In the broad geographical sense, Pakistan is affiliated with the South Asian bloc, while political geography and critical geopolitics allow her to fit in the Central Asian knowledge quarters (*Geopolitics Quarterly*). Few of the very interesting portrayals explaining ‘Otherness’ and touching Pakistan appeared in *Progress in Human Geography* journal elaborating the ways musical fusion and hybridity “resisted categorization” by some that “exemplifies the deterritorialization of cultures” (Connell & Gibson, 2004, p. 342) and, through in-depth interviews of Pakistan-based Copenhagen residents, involving phenomenology as the application of critical geography, their transcultural encounters in the purview of terrorism (Simonsen, 2012). Two extremely unique contributions came from *Asian Affairs* journal covering

borderlands that generally skip the violent representation and conflictual limelight associated with the borderlands of Pakistan. An ethnographic account of the cultural aspects of the Kafirs of Hindu Kush (including those of Pakistan) (Klimburg, 2004) and a doctor's account of his humanitarian tenure spent in an even remote borderland of Wakhan Corridor (a shared borderland between Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Tajikistan) (Duncan, 2009) providing different dimensions to geopolitical knowledge compared to the extensive conflict-oriented realities constructed so far. With recent attention directed towards the geopolitics of Gilgit-Baltistan, another contribution detailing boundary-making processes in the Karakoram-Himalayan borderlands appeared in *Contemporary South Asia* journal—projecting the formation of boundaries serving colonial territorial acquisition plans and the role of modern day participants in representing them (Kreutzmann, 2015). Some of the book reviews also pointed towards the ways authors have dealt with the representations of frontier areas and their people thus, providing counter-narratives to the accepted mainstream knowledge (*Contemporary South Asia*). While Walter and Bodla (2020) highlighted the ways Nosheen Ali lamented regarding misrepresentations of the true identity of Gilgit-Baltistan in her 2019 book titled: *'Delusional States'*, Valentine (2015) reviewed B. D. Hopkins and M. Marsden's rich account titled: *'Beyond Swat'* (2013), especially mentioning Nancy Lindisfarne's controversial suggestion that "Imperial spin, and the denial of cultural differences" declared Taliban as "barbarous fanatics"—removing Us vs. Them discrimination "in their struggle against occupation" (p. 98).

3.3.1 Analyzing Geopolitical Subjectivities within the Knowledge Sources

In terms of discourse, the text (both the semiotics and tone) and social practices attached to it create identity that, when conditioned with power politics, constructs certain representations. More powerful the discourse, the more acceptable it becomes. Firstly, this power comes from the political base that gives rhetorical value to it and secondly, due to the absence of counter-narratives that create an intellectual vacuum for critically analysing and defying otherwise accepted discourse. The course of the present investigation assumes that the majority of the contributions to the most relevant journal, *Journal of Borderland Studies*, clearly present the case that the discourse produced regarding borderlands of Pakistan is not only conflict and security-centred. But the dynamics elaborated in the scholarship bear stark subjectivities. With their polarized research approach, either narrative posturing negation for the acceptance of

international boundaries demarcating the sovereign borders of Pakistan have been presented and asserted as the narrative of the people of borderlands. Or even those covering local narratives and Human Geography dimensions covertly endorsed and maintained the violent representations of the borderlands of Pakistan which have been constructed over the years. There appeared hardly any dedicated and robust account focusing on indigenous governance projects and aspects, institutional needs or even possible emancipatory role or contributions of media and NGOs that can contribute towards peace narratives. These subjectivities pertain to the fact that, firstly, most of the journal contributors possess Indian background. And secondly, the accepted geopolitical approach for Pakistan has, otherwise, been methodological Eurocentrism– i.e. the universality of conceptual and theoretical knowledge of social sciences that developed in Western historical settings by Western academics (To, 2021)– that historically provided diminishing space to critical geopolitical approach towards identity formation and representational narrative-building especially when it comes to borderlands. Knowledge production regarding borders of Pakistan remained a realist trifurcation of state sovereignty, national security and foreign policy. Even the process of building new knowledge suffered anchorage in these dimensions and stayed overshadowed, thus, maintaining colonial epistemologies. This provided enough space to nurture subjectivities as the counter-narratives, particularly projecting Human Geography aspects bearing poststructuralist aspirations, remained entirely absent or blatantly inadequate.

Both Human Geography and Peace Studies disciplinary researches have remained unsuccessful in securing enough intellectual space for addressing peaceful geographies of Pakistan and that of its borderlands in the most established, mature and institutionalized journals e.g. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Geografiska Annaler, Series B: Human Geography*, *Global Discourse* and *Journal of Third World Studies*. However, thorough surveys of other journals (Appendix I, II and III) reveal that subjectivities prevailed in scholarship in some uniquely embedded fashion. Amit Ranjan's (2017) book reviews–in *Asian Affairs* journal–regarding Kashmir issue covered two titles: *Understanding Kashmir and Kashmiris* by Christopher Snedden (2015) and *Unravelling the Kashmir Knot* by Aman H. Hingorani (2016). Depicting human geography flavour from their titles, the books turned out to be another rhetoric or addition to the history books endorsing Indian stance over Kashmir instead of offering anything regarding people-to-people contact and everyday understandings pertaining to borderland culture or identity as per the local lens. Michael Kyle (2013) (2016) made two

book review contributions to *Asian Affairs* titled: *The Edge of Empire: The British Political Officer and Tribal Administration on the North-West Frontier 1877-1947* by Christian Tripodi and, *Balochistan, the British and the Great Game: The Struggle for the Bolan Pass, Gateway to India* by T.A. Heathcote. The first book again valorized British Officers as the ones providing salvation to otherwise unstable and threatening terrain. Although, the second book moved a little away from subjectivities and elaborated the role of tribal figures in thwarting threats of Iranian expansion. Nonetheless, the reviewer did not skip to make a comparison between violent representations of Balochistan of 1883 and that of today. Other than the issue of subjectivities, non-attendance of academic discourse pertaining to peaceful geographical aspects of borderlands of Pakistan by domestic scholars constitute another problem area. For example, in erstwhile FATA's case, formal geopolitical narratives revolved around geostrategic and territorial significance with scholarship (i.e. practical geopolitical discourse) continuing research on the lines of ethnographical descriptions collected since colonial times and trumpeting same politico-constitutional and socio-economic challenges every now and then (Khokhar et al., 2014; Bangash, 2016).

3.3.2 Patterns of overlap between PCS and Human Geography disciplines

The academic accounts of Human Geography, though rich and incisive, face a challenge everyday in the shape of the construction of knowledge regarding identities, social interactions, power play and political narratives. Nevertheless, this appears as an opportunity for tapping into new research areas formed through shifting meanings. The canvas of Human Geography possesses layers of knowledge, however, sometimes shadowed due to mainstream knowledge generation and requires critical geopolitical frameworks to reveal the shades and tones underneath. Parallel to this, the changing meanings create/change representations of places and people— though theoretically defined but empirically under-researched— and their nature as being peaceful or violent, hence, offering new realities for knowledge production in Peace and Conflict Studies discipline. An interdisciplinary approach can help the two disciplines consummate to unearth complex knowledge areas and procreate new knowledge. This knowledge construction can be done at conceptual, methodological and theoretical levels and the amalgamation can reveal knowledge mapping for problem-solving, hence, practicing interdisciplinarity for dealing with social problems. Inspecting the selected academic accounts disclosed that there is a clear

dearth of dedicated poststructuralist theoretical attempts involving critical geopolitical agendas for border research in Pakistan. For example, the scholarship contributing in *Geopolitics*, *Journal of Borderland Studies* or *Global Discourse* has generally adjusted with the established identity-formation process regarding borderlands of Pakistan based on classical and realist theoretical underpinnings followed and endorsed since colonial time periods. Despite conceptual and methodological frameworks demonstrated a variety—e.g. violent cartography and boundary biography (*Journal of Borderlands Studies*), new materialism (*Progress in Human Geography*), content analysis (*Geopolitics Quarterly*) etc. A consistent overlap between or precisely, regrouping around certain dimensions in both disciplinary fields can be noticed. The text revolves around and promotes the singular existence of meaning in most of the knowledge areas. For example, the matters of territorial integrity of borderlands of erstwhile FATA and Balochistan or political and ideological interdependence of IIOK have been funnelled down to question the national sovereignty issues and control from Centre rather than exploring the said from objective and dispassionate lens to understand transformation of settlements, religious influencers, power vacuum, slow alienation process, spatial governance, contested representations etc.

The depth of interdisciplinarity, by providing well matched intellectual space to according disciplines, necessitates a balanced approach for effectivity and persistence in the longer run. In order to manifest such depth, Human Geography and PCS must entail equal consideration, by the academicians and scholars, to peace research or in other words, diverting the asymmetrical attention away from conflict and violence scholarship and towards the dynamics involved in peace inquiries. By looking over the selected journals (Appendix I, II, III), a definite assessment can be made that geographical and geopolitical representations gripped the knowledge construction process that heavily suffered from subjectivities. And, the knowledge produced so far has been centered upon violent and contested identity of the borderlands of Pakistan. While expanding the knowledge base to other journals and academic contributions, attempts have been made by indigenous scholars who are catering post-reforms (2016) peace and conflict dimensions of erstwhile FATA to accommodate narratives with a little tilt towards peacemaking processes (Makki et al., 2021; Ali et al., 2020a; Ali et al., 2020b; Yousaf & FurrukhZad, 2020; Yousaf, 2020; Yousaf, 2019; Qazi et al., 2018). Interdisciplinarity was maintained between development and conflict studies both in pre-reform (Batool et al., 2015;

Khan, 2014; Khan, 2015) and post-reform era (Khan et al., 2018, Khan, 2017), however, with no critical geopolitical investigations to connect peace and Human Geography dimensions. Yet, others have focused on sketching geographies of violence in Pakistan by employing political and socio-cultural horizontal inequalities (Makki & Yamin, 2021) to embrace conceptual and epistemological bridging of PCS and Human Geography. Nevertheless, none of them directly addressed the peace of borderlands or aspects thereof. Challenging the conventional wisdom and generally accepted discourses, critical geopolitical narratives found some respite in the research covering Human Geography dimensions of GB borderlands (*ACME*); but there are ample research areas that need due attention. For example, tapping the social capital of each borderland, incorporating them and developing their skills set, identifying vulnerabilities of population and providing institutional mechanisms based on their needs assessments, border types and patterns of interdisciplinarity that can be established, human security and border management etc.

3.4 Impact analysis

In order to understand the impacts of knowledge construction regarding borderlands of Pakistan, plurality and decentralization of practices that act as the bedrock of critical geopolitics needs to be thoroughly evaluated and acknowledged. This understanding can help elaborate why a certain narrative is constructed by established sites of production, by specific human agency, involving defined parameters and semantics—connecting words, sentences, paragraphs and overall structure of published material—with multiple nuances of critical geopolitics (i.e. formal, practical and popular geopolitics) (Ó Tuathail & Dalby, 1998). In the past twenty years, War on Terror stayed at the backdrop of all national policies and priorities of Pakistan. Ranging from the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) to Foreign Office (FO), Pakistan statements, the security narrative was bound up with state sovereignty and national interests. State sovereignty has been securitized in the policy circles through its borders (Nasr, 2001). The same agenda funneled into the discourse produced by academia, think tanks and research institutes (Lodhi, 2011; Butt & Schofield, 2012; Sadiq, 2016) where borders and borderlands, instead of acting as the bulwark to serve national interests, remained under intense scrutiny and suffered labeling due to terrorism. The publications further constructed the discourse over borders and remained central to border politics and representation, power show and identity issues with a tilt towards conflict inquiries and ratifying conflict management and resolution (Jacob, 2018; Naz, 2019). Lastly, in the

popular geopolitical discourse, the state narrative found visible endorsement depicting acceptance of physical border demarcations as symbol of sovereignty, with armed forces as their custodians and ultimately, construction of mental borders formed in the process, separating the concerting Us from threatening Other (Tripathi & Raghuvanshi, 2020). Peace remained sidelined in all these years. The human agency of these borderlands remained negligent of conceptualizing peace and except for sparse contributions that showed little impact in carving out a place for critical geopolitical thought, much of the border literature remained securitized. However, for viable national policy directions, agendas and long term planning, peace needs to be equally addressed, valorized and emphasized in Human Geography research—through formal, practical and popular geopolitics.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Having dissected the knowledge base that is created through scholarship and endorsed by the apex educational regulator in Pakistan, an objectively convinced position can be maintained regarding the pertinence and centrality of interdisciplinarity in identifying and justifying epistemic positioning of Human Geography discipline for the exploration of peaceful borderland geographies in Pakistan. Interdisciplinarity provides venues for both academic progress and targeted government programmes which are catering same idea and/or related issues. It derives its rationality from the juxtaposition of perspectives that are synthesized, integrated and put to use for researching new ideas and problem-solving of practical issues. However, its relevance comes from the fact that since knowledge is constructed based on certain representations, biases, experiences and expectations, researching and problem-solving requires employing multiple tools and theories from an array of fields of inquiry. In doing so, interdisciplinarity provides nourishment to the heterogeneity of ideas and dwells on critical approaches. In other words, it allows critical analysis of complexities in the knowledge base, creates a niche of or pathways for new knowledge and through nurturing and criticism, monitors, evaluates and regulates knowledge for acceptance, authenticity and legitimization. Advances in the field of Human Geography and empirical research conducted over the years capacitates the said discipline to conceptualize, problematize and theorize peace through identification of interdependence and interrelatedness of significant dimensions and nuances of peace and Human Geography studies. Peace narratives either intrinsically develop or are hindered with each agenda of Human Geography. The borrowing of post-structural theoretical framework from IR and its development in the shape of critical geopolitics (under political geography) allowed the discipline of Human Geography to ask several questions. What is the ontology of peace? Is there any language whereby peace is manifested or restrained? How spatiality and power play affects knowledge of peace in certain spaces and time whereas becomes less effective in other instances? How do non-spatial representations create an identity as being peaceful or violent geography? And more importantly, does the knowledge produced qualify in terms of its structural and typological legitimacy? By answering these questions, any research contributes to epistemological positioning, and the researcher is essentially practising interdisciplinarity.

Positioning the indispensable themes of both Human Geography and Peace and Conflict Studies discipline and developing a conceptual framework for interrogating the gradation of peace can illuminate how intricately the two disciplines are networking and how deeply they are intertwined. With each research, a theoretical overlap and methodological innovation can be observed. The relationship is complex as it involves multiple stages and scales. Similarly, with the transformation of perceptions, the idea of space and its associated representations are evolving. These transformations shape the expressions of peace of geographies, thus generating the discourse about contested places that in some cases supplement the previous findings while in others create completely new understandings. Simultaneously, by establishing discursive methodologies, one can scrutinize and/or detect the tones and the very character of knowledge that is constructed to present and contribute towards the idea of peace of borderlands geographies in Pakistan, in general and that of its borderlands, in particular. It must be appreciated that peace demands a clear definition with an indigenous framework; it needs a contextual dimension for its legitimization through discursive efforts. The major shortcoming in Human Geography and critical geopolitical research is that they have not addressed the genesis and evolution of peace in these borderlands. In particular, a lack of understanding of possible peace types—those established by the human agencies of these borderlands and endorsed by political geographers inherently based on post-structuralism—created a vacuum in peace conceptualizations. The discourse suffered from utter subjectivities and popularly acclaimed colonial and post-colonial violent representations. Moreover, instead of complete annihilation, an overlap of this regime of colonialism with the newer regime of War on Terror in the discourse highlighted the shifting patterns of embedded power relations, political manipulations, and a deliberate disregard of small-scale, local or communal peace and its utility. The individual and collective capacities to create and maintain peace and the construction of knowledge thereof have been neglected. This clearly signifies that peace conceptualizations and problematizations require adequate consideration. Along the same lines, these borderlands need independent characterizations based on their unique spatial realities that can help explore peace agendas amicably.

In the same vein, the consummation of Human Geography and Political Science and IR disciplines has produced knowledge bearing more nuances of conflict compared to those of peace regarding the borderlands of Pakistan. Furthermore, the orientation of literature resides in

borrowing theoretical, conceptual and philosophical frameworks while the approach of scholars is focused on associating dimensions that overlap in these disciplines constructing more or less same knowledge. Although a plethora of scholarship either completely neglected peace inquiries or produced discourse depicting these borderlands as violent geographies, the dynamics are changing, thereby providing immense opportunities to conduct critical research. Undoubtedly, knowledge might be emanating from conflict aspects and yet, indicating areas for future peace in the region. For example, Khyber and Bajour agency is flustered with crimes and kidnappings for ransom (issues equally grave as terrorism and military operations led displacement) that needs attention on an urgent basis. Parallel to this, human agency assuming critical geopolitical roles like Afridi tribes of the area who “respect Sufi (mystics) and their shrines, which intellectually aligns them with Barelvi Sunnis” (Gul, 2011, p. 72) can act as ambassadors of peace opening venues for collective peace, tolerance and harmony through literary efforts. As political authority previously resided in the *mulla* and Sufi *piri-muridi* traditions following “Sufi philosopher Mujadid Alf Sani (1564-1624)” and his “methodological successor Shah Wali Ullah’s (1703-1762)” (Haroon, 2011, p. 34) revivalist concepts, for dragging the region away from colonial cartography and recent terrorism-based representations, the role of political actors of the region is pivotal for future researches. Similarly, Durand Line needs a change in representation from a hard and dividing border-line to a mutually monitored border under border management authorities that can facilitate locals crossing border regularly and legally, contributing to borderland economies and/or maintaining kinship ties e.g. Achakzai and Noorzai tribes along border towns of Chaman (Pakistan) and Spin Boldak (Afghanistan) (Siddique, 2014). Such an arrangement is particularly vital for those borderland economies budding from informal markets. Instead of producing discourses promoting geopolitical and security aspects, ethnographic discourses covering the roles of political actors and commoners in maintaining peace can be explored.

With the changing regime in Afghanistan, western borderlands will be facing unprecedented dynamics. Despite its largest aid provisions and diplomatic presence, India was never successful in using the previous Taliban regime as its proxy against Pakistan (Ahmed, 2017). “Indian consulates along the Pakistani border areas are primarily serving as military training centres to launch acts of terror and violence in Pakistan” (ibid., p. 308). The borderlands of erstwhile FATA and Balochistan need to be given institutional infrastructure to bridge them

with mainstream provincial administrative bodies. The discourse needs to be constructed and positioned to develop trust and a sense of belongingness to prevent these areas from being misused as anyone's proxy in the future. This belongingness holds the key to future peace and stability as the tribes possess cultural commonalities and economic interests (Siddique, 2014). Instead of producing and endorsing foreign policy driven realist geopolitical or positivist traditional security discourses alone, scholars can focus on producing integrating identity discourses with poststructuralist ideas nurturing human interests and non-traditional security perspectives. There is ample space for researching everyday peace practices i.e. how peace is imagined, written and performed? Such efforts can help these borderlands regain their status of peaceful cultural intersection similar to their identity before being labelled as organically violent and conflictual. Added to these, the borderlands of Azad Kashmir can offer critical geopolitical scholars several areas for interdisciplinary research. For example, people residing in the *jagir* of Poonch, divided across Pakistan-India border, had "close ethnic, familial, cultural, geographical and economic links" with the Muslims in Punjab and KPK to such an extent that "some *sudhans* from Poonch considered themselves to be *sudho zai* Pathans" (Snedden, 2012, p. 43). Another dimension is regarding the unexplored peaceful or violent nature of eastern borderlands of Pakistan—their conceptualizations, problematizations, ways of negotiation, characteristics, reconciliatory practices etc.—that require attention and preliminary research in the near future. Though, this borderland seems apparently settled and is heavily monitored by the border management authorities of Pakistan and India; critical geopolitical scholars can explore the role of identity politics, power dynamics, geopolitical representations and their funnelling into formal, practical and popular discourses.

Since interdisciplinarity between Human Geography and PCS has clearly been inclined towards the conceptualizations and contextualizations of conflicts. The integrative knowledge produced so far lacks the balance in accommodating various perspectives contributing to peace illustrations and architecture and developing critical thinking required to evaluate multiple contours of peace. This, in turn, leads to the development of deficient datasets and skillsets for exploring conceptualizations or contextualizations and further decision-making, respectively. One of the key areas where much progress is needed turns out to be the integration or close fit between interdisciplinary mode of inquiry and organizational structures in universities that can promote multidisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary literature of Human Geography and PCS is

suffering because academic focus resides in the specialization of subject-matter and contents of research, which, in a way, is unconsciously neglecting the larger context of knowledge production. This resultantly produces knowledge that, at its least, lacks the capability of directing its agency in making sensitive and sensible decisions and, at its worst, fails in guiding policy development, providing awareness to the masses and enlightening political debates. Apart from universities, the student body, HEC, academia, research centers and funding bodies constitute as major stakeholders that directly or indirectly pitch in knowledge construction. Though academic and professional discourse is enabled and promoted by pedagogy and affiliated administration, the student body equally contributes in identifying potentially valuable areas of research or pursuing emergent fields by exploring unconventional or non-traditional areas of study. The receptivity of interdisciplinarity; thus, requires structural arrangements facilitated by the pedagogy of Human Geography and PCS and endorsed by HEC, Pakistan. Moreover, in order to make interdisciplinary education purposeful, it needs to be placed on the official agenda of HEC on priority. For establishing disciplinary depth that is essential for its further addition to meta-knowledge (in the form of conceptualizations, theories, taxonomies, typologies, narratives and models) and simultaneously allowing intertwining with other disciplines to achieve transcendence across boundaries, there is a dire need to carefully and responsibly design, organize and plan PCS interdisciplinary curriculums. Moreover, the teaching and evaluation procedures need to be based on the long-term planning of research agendas.

While catering for the domain of interdisciplinarity, the confluence of scholarship produced by academia, with the objectives of an area or subject-specific research centres and agenda-specific funding bodies, can serve as the cornerstone for a successful research trajectory. This consortium can provide solutions to problems, respond to challenges, navigate to multiple ways of knowing (epistemological innovations), and maintain knowledge treasury (epistemological positioning) for future knowledge construction and production. Moreover, such an arrangement can aptly provide intellectual space to poststructuralist thinkers to be a factor in formal, practical and popular geopolitical knowledge construction. This research thesis suggests that current approaches in the disciplines of Human Geography and PCS have frequently remained unsuccessful to establish and follow epistemologies and standards to cater for the peace of borderland geographies of Pakistan. There are clear pitfalls. Firstly, they proved inefficient to blend in for adequate knowledge generation. Secondly, there is a dearth of fruitful

analysis conducted on various levels to create a meshwork of knowledge or data sets. Thirdly, despite problem-focused pluralistic approach, the knowledge produced has addressed typical themes in a more or less traditional manner with a redundant line of thought and involving more bureaucratic agency. Does this elaborate why scholars are not experimenting with new epistemologies for peace study? Why are certain themes researched more? Why knowledge appears to be fragmented and more inclined towards conflict? Why specific areas of study appear more relevant and manageable? And, why do agendas, strategies and agencies create and maintain the status quo in knowledge production, dissemination and positioning? Indeed, dedicated and well planned efforts are required e.g. series of thematic workshops, webinars and conferences held under the banner of PCS discipline inclined more towards peace inquiries and supplemented by annual graduate symposiums can be arranged. Such conventions shall provide official platforms to emerging researchers—interested in critical geopolitical discourse—and pedagogy to exchange peace insights and seminal research conducted involving interdisciplinarity. Also, accommodating research centers (other than those associated with universities), funding bodies and academic grant awarding organizations in such events shall capacitate an intellectually rich tribune to allow networking of academia with sponsors to furnish an enhanced sense of practicing interdisciplinarity.

APPENDIX- I

SELECTED SCHOLARLY SOURCES—HJRS ‘W’ CATEGORY

Sr. No.	Name of the Journal	Details of articles studied	Category of the Journal/ Sub-field	Country
1.	Geopolitics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education as Warfare?: Mapping Securitised Education Interventions as War on Terror Strategy, Nicole Nguyen, Vol. 19, 2014. 2. Legal Sovereignty on the Border: Aliens, Identity and Violence on the Northwestern Frontier of Pakistan, Syed Sami Raza, Vol. 24, 2019. 3. Geopolitics on the Pakistan–Afghanistan Borderland: An Overview of Different Historical Phases, Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Vol. 24, 2019. 4. Introduction: Politics on Border – Critical Reflections on the Pakistan–Afghanistan Borderland, Syed Sami Raza & Michael J. Shapiro, Vol. 24, 2019. 5. Tribal Women, Property and Border: An Auto-Ethnographic Critique of the Riway (Tradition) on the Pakistan–Afghanistan Borderland, Noreen Naseer, Vol. 24, 2019. 6. Performing the Afghanistan–Pakistan Border Through Refugee ID Cards, Sanaa Alimia, Vol. 24, 2019. 7. Security is a ‘Mental Game’: The Psychology of Bordering Checkposts in Pakistan, Maximilian Lohnert, Vol. 24, 2019. 8. Writing Stars in the Sky or Decentring the Glocal Discourse of the ‘War(S) on Terror’ through Narratives of Those Displaced, Andrea Fleschenberg & Tariq Saeed Yousufzai, Vol. 24, 2019. 9. Mixed Legacies in Contested Borderlands: Skardu and the Kashmir Dispute, Antia Mato Bouzas, Vol. 17, 2012. 10. Wakhan: Concomitance of the Local and International in Marginal Boundaries, Duncan Weaver, Vol. 25, 2020. 	Geography/ Political Sci. & IR	UK
2.	Territory, Politics,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Territorial self-governance and proportional representation: reducing the risk of territory-centred intrastate violence, Natascha S. Neudorfer, Ulrike G. Theuerkauf & Stefan Wolff, 2020. 		US

	Governance	<p>2. The COVID-19 pandemic: territorial, political and governance dimensions of the crisis, Klaus Dodds, Vanesa Castan Broto, Klaus Detterbeck, Martin Jones, Virginie Mamadouh, Maano Ramutsindela, Monica Varsanyi, David Wachsmuth & Chih Yuan Woon, Vol. 8, 2020.</p> <p>3. Borders and guns: does violent repression impact border violence?, Lacin I. Oztig, Turkan A. Gurkan & Oyukum E. Yigit, 2020.</p>		
3.	Journal of Refugee Studies	<p>1. Warriors of Self-reliance: The Instrumentalization of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan, Evan Easton-Calabria, Vol. 33, 2020.</p> <p>2. Too Much Nationality: Kashmiri Refugees, the South Asian Refugee Regime, and a Refugee State, 1947–1974, Cabeiri Debergh Robinson, Vol. 25, 2012.</p> <p>3. Afghan Refugees in Pakistan: Not All Refugees, Not Always in Pakistan, Not Necessarily Afghan? Daniel A. Kronenfeld, Vol. 21, 2008.</p>		
4.	Asian Affairs	<p>1. The arts and societies of the Kafirs of the Hindu Kush, Max Klimburg, Vol. 35, 2004.</p> <p>2. A Doctor's Life in the Wakhan Corridor, 2002–2008, ALEX DUNCAN, Vol. 40, 2009.</p> <p>3. The Baluchistan 'white elephant': The Chappar Rift and other strategic railways on the border of British India, Nick Lera, Vol. 31, 2001.</p> <p>4. A Different View of The Wounded Valley: Restructuring peace in Indian-controlled-Kashmir, Justine Hardy, Vol. 45, 2014.</p> <p>5. The Pathan And His Land: Centre Of The World's Attention, Humayun Khan, Vol. 41, 2010.</p>		
5.	Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers	<p>1. Desiring the data state in the Indus Basin, Majed Akhter, Vol. 42, 2016.</p> <p>2. Geopolitical boundary narratives, the global war on terror and border fencing in India, Reece Jones, Vol. 34, 2009.</p>	Geography	UK
6.	Political Geography	<p>1. Assembling marginality in northern Pakistan, Hasan H. Karrar & Till Mostowlansky, Vol. 63, 2018.</p> <p>2. Securing the heights: The vertical dimension of the Siachen conflict between India and Pakistan in the Eastern Karakoram, Ravi Baghel & Marcus Nüsser, Vol. 48, 2015.</p> <p>3. Teaching terrorism, saving the state? Education and geopolitical</p>		

		<p>imaginings of terrorism in 12 violently challenged states, Tobias Ide, Vol. 77, 2020.</p> <p>4. Book Review: Territory of Desire: Representing the Valley of Kashmir, A.J. Kabir, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis (2009), Marta Bolognani, Vol. 29, 2010.</p> <p>5. Geographies at the margins: Borders in South Asia—An Introduction, Jason Cons & Romola Sanyal, Vol. 35, 2013.</p> <p>6. Frontiers’ violence: The interplay of state of exception, frontier habitus, and organized violence, Conrad Schetter & Marie Müller-Koné, Vol. 87, 2021.</p>		
7.	Progress in Human Geography	<p>1. The proliferation of peripheries: Militarized drones and the reconfiguration of global space, Majed Akhter, Vol. 43, published online 2017.</p> <p>2. World music: deterritorializing place and identity, John Connell & Chris Gibson, Vol. 28, 2004.</p> <p>3. In quest of a new humanism: Embodiment, experience and phenomenology as critical geography, Kirsten Simonsen, Vol. 37, 2012.</p> <p>4. Gender and sexuality III: Precarious places, Lynda Johnston, Vol. 42, 2017.</p> <p>5. Textbooks that moved generations, W. B. Johnston, Vol. 25, 2001.</p>		
8.	Conflict Management & Peace Science	<p>1. Perceptions of world politics and support for terrorism among Muslims: Evidence from Muslim countries and Western Europe, Kirill Zhirkov, Maykel Verkuyten & Jeroen Weesie, Vol. 31, 2013.</p> <p>2. Geographic determinants of indiscriminate violence in civil wars, Sebastian Schutte, Vol. 34, 2015.</p> <p>3. International Mediation, Selection Effects, and the Question of Bias, Bernd Beber, Vol. 29, 2012.</p>	Political Sci. & IR	US
9.	Security Studies	<p>1. Politics and Threat Perception: Explaining Pakistani Military Strategy on the North West Frontier, Paul Staniland, Asfandyar Mir & Sameer Lalwani, Vol. 27, 2018.</p> <p>2. Kill, Capture, or Defend? The Effectiveness of Specific and General Counterterrorism Tactics Against the Global Threats of the Post-9/11 Era, Jesse Paul Lehrke & Rahel Schomaker, Vol. 25, 2016.</p>		UK
10.	International Peacekeeping	<p>1. Current trends in UN peacekeeping: a perspective from Asia, Dipankar Banerjee Director, Vol. 12, 2005.</p>		

APPENDIX- II

SELECTED SCHOLARLY SOURCES—HJRS ‘X’ CATEGORY

Sr. No.	Name of the Journal	Details of articles studied	Category of the Journal/ Sub-field	Country
1.	Journal of Borderlands Studies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bordering and Othering: Encounters at Shrine of Chamliyal at the India-Pakistan Border, Tania Anupam Patel, published online, 2021. 2. Pakistan’s Border Policies and Security Dynamics along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border, Lacin Idil Oztig, Vol. 35, 2020. 3. The Status of Durand Line under International Law: An International Law Approach to the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier Dispute, Fawad Poya, Vol. 35, 2020. 4. Borders and Bordering Practices: A Case Study of Jaisalmer District on India-Pakistan Border, Krishnendra Meena, Vol. 35, 2020. 5. Portraying the “Other” in Textbooks and Movies: The Mental Borders and Their Implications for India-Pakistan Relations, Dhananjay Tripathi & Vaishali Raghuvanshi, Vol. 35, 2020. 6. South Asia: Boundaries, Borders and Beyond, Dhananjay Tripathi & Sanjay Chaturvedi, Vol. 35, 2020. 7. Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Border Minorities in China’s Foreign Relations with South Asia, Bibek Chand & Lukas K. Danner, Vol. 34, 2019. 8. From Alienation to Co-existence and Beyond: Examining the Evolution of the Borderland in Kashmir, Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra, Vol. 33, 2018. 9. Women’s Voices from Jammu and Kashmir, Anuradha Bhasin Jamwal & Shuchismita, Vol. 27, 2012. 10. Borderlands and Borderlines: Re-negotiating Boundaries in Jammu and Kashmir, Summona DasGupta, Vol. 27, 2012. 	Geography/ Political Sci. & IR	UK
2.	Contemporary	1. Boundaries and space in Gilgit-Baltistan, Hermann Kreutzmann, Vol. 23 2015.		

	South Asia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. An ongoing partition: histories, borders, and the politics of vivisection in Jammu and Kashmir, Chitrlekha Zutshi, Vol. 23, 2015. 3. The Indo-Pak border: displacements, aggressions and transgressions, Navtej Purewal, Vol. 12, 2003. 4. Greed, creed, and governance in civil conflicts: a case study of Balochistan, Rabia Aslam, Vol. 19, 2011. 5. Local politics of reconstruction along and across Azad Kashmir's border with Pakistan, Pascale Schild, Vol. 23, 2015. 6. Jammu and Kashmir – boundaries and movements, Martin Sökefeld, Vol. 23, 2015. 7. Beyond Swat: history, society and economy along the Afghanistan–Pakistan Frontier, Simon Ross Valentine, Vol. 23, 2015. 8. Book review: Beyond Swat: history, society and economy along the Afghanistan–Pakistan Frontier, reviewed by Simon Ross Valentine, Vol. 23, 2015. 9. Book review: Delusional states: feeling rule and development in Pakistan’s northern frontier, reviewed by Anna-Maria Walter & Sohaib Bodla, 2020. 10. Book review: Borderland lives in northern South Asia, reviewed by Chandra Moni Bhattarai, Vol. 22, 2014. 		
3.	Space and Polity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Droning, zoning and organizing: Kafkaesque reflections on the nomos of the earth in the northwestern tribal belt of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Nasir, Vol. 19, 2015. 2. The false premise of partition, Reece Jones, Vol. 18, 2014. 		
4.	Thunderbird International Business Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New international business perspectives on Pakistan, Omar J. Khan, Lyn S. Amine, Vol. 46, 2004. 2. Using macro cross-border trade data to better understand micro-level country of origin effects, Yener Kandogan, Vol. 62, 2019. 	Geography	US
5.	ACME: An International Journal for	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sideline by the Guidelines: Reflections on the Limitations of Standard Informed Consent Procedures for the Conduct of Ethical Research, David Butz, Vol. 7, 2008. 2. Chutes and Ladders: Negotiating Gender and Privilege in a Village in 		Canada

	Critical Geographies	<p>Northern Pakistan, Kathryn Besio, Vol. 5, 2006.</p> <p>3. Bazaar Stories of Gender, Sexuality and Imperial Spaces in Gilgit, Northern Pakistan, Nancy Cook, Vol. 5, 2006.</p> <p>4. “Our Website Was Revolutionary” Virtual Spaces of Representation and Resistance, Jennifer L. Fluri, Vol. 5, 2006.</p> <p>5. Resistance, Representation and Third Space in Shimshal Village, Northern Pakistan, David Butz, Vol. 1, 2002.</p>		
6.	Journal of Cultural Geography	<p>1. Shangri-La and Pakistan's Hunza River Valley, James R. Curtis, published online: 2009.</p>		
7.	Studies in Conflict & Terrorism	<p>1. Rethinking “Wana”: A Game Theoretic Analysis of the Conflict in the Tribal Region of Pakistan, Rabia Aslam, Vol. 31, 2008.</p> <p>2. Al Qaeda in the Tribal Areas of Pakistan and Beyond, Rohan Gunaratna & Anders Nielsen, Vol. 31, 2008.</p> <p>3. Al Qaeda's Foot Soldiers: A Study of the Biographies of Foreign Fighters Killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan Between 2002 and 2006, Anne Stenersen, Vol. 34, 2011.</p> <p>4. Making Money in the Mayhem: Funding Taliban Insurrection in the Tribal Areas of Pakistan, Arabinda Acharya, Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari & Sadia Sulaiman, Vol. 32, 2009.</p> <p>5. Whose Interest? Whose Peace? An Evaluation of Pakistan's Peace Agreements with the Taliban in the Tribal Areas (2004–2015), Wali Aslam, published online: April, 2020.</p>	Political Sci. & IR	UK
8.	Conflict, Security and Development	<p>1. Violent attacks on education in the tribal areas of Pakistan and the role of NGOs in providing educational services, Muhammad Ammad Khan, Nazish Kanwal & Libin Wang, Vol. 18, 2018.</p> <p>2. The insecurities of weaponised education: a critical discourse analysis of the securitised education discourse in North-West Pakistan, Kieran Ford, Vol. 17, 2017.</p>		
9.	RUSI	<p>1. Pakistan's Waziristan Problem, Shaukat Qadir, Vol. 153, 2008.</p> <p>2. Pakistan's Anti-Taliban Counter-Insurgency, Syed Manzar Abbas Zaidi, Vol. 155, 2010.</p>		

		3. The Afghanistan Choice: Peace or Punishment in the Pashtun Belt, Robert M Cassidy, Vol. 155, 2010.		
10.	Global Discourse	1. Indian colonialism laid bare: a review of Pieces of Earth: The Politics of Land-grabbing in Kashmir, Idreas Khandy, Vol. 8, 2018. 2. The Role of Borders as Sites and Progenitors of Conflict: A Critical Analysis, Alexander Hoseason, Vol. 01, 2010.		

APPENDIX- III

SELECTED SCHOLARLY SOURCES—HJRS ‘Y’ CATEGORY

Sr. No.	Name of the Journal	Details of articles studied	Category of the Journal/ Sub-field	Country
1.	Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East	1. Generations of Memory: Remembering Partition in India/Pakistan and Israel/Palestine, Jonathan D. Greenberg, Vol. 25, 2005. 2. The Baluch Role in the Persian Gulf During the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, Beatrice Nicolini, Vol. 27, 2007. 3. Explaining Social Mobilization in Pakistan: A Comparative Case Study of Baluchistan and Azad Kashmir, Shanna Dietz Surendra, Vol. 29, 2009. 4. Islam as Ideology of Tradition and Change: The “New Jihad” in Swat, Pakistan, Aasim Sajjad Akhter, Vol. 30, 2010. 5. Poetry, Power, Protest: Reimagining Muslim Nationhood in Northern Pakistan, Nosheen Ali, Vol. 32, 2012. 6. A Door Ajar: National Borders and the Character of Islam in Pakistan, Ian Bedford, Vol. 32, 2012. 7. Reading Malala: (De) (Re) Territorialization of Muslim Collectivities, Shenila Khoja-Moolji, Vol. 35, 2015. 8. In the Shadow of the Silk Road: Border Regimes and Economic Corridor Development through an Unremarkable Pakistan-China Border Market, Hasan H. Karrar, Vol. 39, 2019. 9. The Social Life of Rumors: Uncertainty in Everyday Encounters between	Geography/ Political Sci. & IR	US

		<p>the Military, Taliban, and Tribal Pashtun in Pakistan, Ammara Maqsood, Vol. 39, 2019.</p> <p>10. “There Is Never A Peace Time, It Is Just No War Time”: Ambivalent Affective Regimes on an Indian Borderland, Radhika Gupta, Vol. 39, 2019.</p>		
2.	Journal of International and Global Studies	<p>1. Book review: Nation, Territory and Globalisation in Pakistan: Traversing the Margins, reviewed by Utathya Chattopadhyaya, Vol. 5, 2013.</p> <p>2. Book review: The Thistle and the Drone: How America’s War on Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam, reviewed by Raymond Scupin Ph.D., Vol. 6, 2014.</p>	Geography	US
3.	IPRI Journal	<p>1. Mapping Militant Manifestations in Balochistan, Maryam Azam, Vol. XX (2), 2020.</p> <p>2. India’s Pre-emptive Strike in Pakistan: The Legal Perspective, Imdad Ullah, Vol. XX (1), 2020.</p> <p>3. Mainstreaming the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan: Historical Dynamics, Prospective Advantages and Challenges, Muhammad Riaz Shad & Sarfraz Ahmed, XVIII (2), 2018.</p>		Pakistan
4.	Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy	<p>1. The Economic Impact of Terrorism from 2000 to 2018, Harrison Bardwell & Mohib Iqbal, Vol. 27, 2021.</p> <p>2. A Preliminary Report on a Possible Proposal to Begin to Break the Kashmir Stalemate: A Relative Utility Approach, Walter Isard & Yun Ho Chung, Vol. 6, 2000.</p>	Political Sci. & IR	Germany
5.	Margalla Papers	<p>1. Withered Peace amidst India’s Bellicose Rhetoric, Arshi Saleem Hashmi & Syed Moazzam Ali, Vol. XXIII (1), 2019.</p> <p>2. Pakistan’s Security Compulsions: External & Internal Dimension, Muhammad Samrez Salik & Khadija Younus, Vol. XXIII (1), 2019.</p> <p>3. Managing Internally Displaced Persons to Prevent Radicalization, Ghulam Muhammad Awan & Khuram Iqbal, Vol. XXIII (1), 2019.</p> <p>4. Evolution of New Indian Military Strategy: Implications for Pakistan, Masood Ur Rehman Khattak, Muhammad Khan & Ghulam Qumber, Vol. XXIII (1), 2019.</p> <p>5. Operation Zarb-e-Azb: Retrospective View in the Context of US Response, Nasir Naveed, Vol. XXIII (2), 2019.</p>		Pakistan

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Geostrategic Significance of Wakhan Corridor for Afghanistan, China and Pakistan, Muhammad Munir & Muhammad Shafiq, Vol. XXII, 2018. 7. Constitutional Status of Gilgit-Baltistan: An Issue of Human Security, Ehsan Mehmood Khan, Vol. XXI, 2017. 8. Living on the Frontlines: Perspective from the Neelum Valley, Shaheen Akhtar, Vol. XXI, 2017. 9. Understanding the Causes of Militancy in Pakistan's Frontier, Ejaz Akram & Nauman Hassan, Vol. XXI, 2017. 10. Pak-Afghan Borderland Interaction: Alone Together, Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Vol. XX, 2016. 		
6.	Asian Journal of Peacebuilding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Critique of the Need and Application of Peace Education in Pakistan, Zahid Shahab Ahmed, Vol. 6, 2018. 2. Understanding the Nexus between Conflict, Displacement, and Schooling: A Case Study of IDPs in Pakistan, Anayat Ullah, Karim Khan, and Hamid Mahmood, Vol. 5, 2017. 		South Korea
7.	Geopolitics Quarterly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Effects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Regional Geopolitics, Iqtidar Hussain, Israr Hussain, Guo Ke & Muhammadi Muhammadi, Vol. 17, 2021. 2. Explaining the Social Crisis Management Model with a Security Approach in Sistan and Baluchistan Province, Gholamreza Baghbani , Noormohammad Yaghoobi, Issa Ebrahimzadeh & Vahid Khasheei, Vol. 16, 2020. 3. Geopolitics, Identity and Discourse Analysis of Conflict in Pakistan's Tribal Areas, Asif Iqbal Dawar, Vol. 15, 2020. 4. Investigation of the Geopolitical and Geo-economic Competitions of Pakistan and Iran to Create South-North Corridor of Eurasia: Preferences and Threats, H Veisi, Vol. 13, 2017. 5. The Relationship between Regional Security and Development of Political Spaces Case Study: Sistan and Baluchistan Province in Iran, Javad Ettaat & Zahra Mousavi, Vol. 7, 2011. 		Iran
8.	Journal of Security and Strategic	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The FATA Conundrum: A case study of Pak-Afghan border, Amina Khan & Asadullah Khan, Vol. V (2), 2019. 		Pakistan

	Analysis		
9.	NJIPS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protracted Social Conflict in the Globalized World: The Case of Newly Merged Tribal Districts (NMTDs) in Pakistan, Tariq Mahmood & Muhammad Talha Malik, Vol. 3 (2), 2020. 2. Civil-Military Cooperation and Post Conflict Development: A Case of North Waziristan, Maria Spychała-Kij, Vol. 3 (1), 2020. 3. Civil Military Relation and Stabilization in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Pakistan, Tughral Yamin, Vol. 2 (2), 2019. 4. Nature and Impact on Perceptive Understanding of Nationalism in the Conflict in Balochistan, Raosen Taj Raisani, Vol. 1 (2), 2018. 	Misc.
10.	ISSRA Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modi's Plan of Action in Kashmir and Pakistan's New Political Map, Vol. XII (1), 2020. 2. FATA Merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Prospects and Opportunities, SabaNoor, Arshi Saleem Hashmi & SyedaTehreem Bukhari, Vol. X (2), 2018. 3. Kashmir Issue and Pak-Indian Press: Content Analysis of Leading Newspapers, SaqibRiaz, Babar Hussain Shah & Shakil Ahmad, Vol. X (2), 2018. 4. Strategy for Development of FATA, Naveed Yousef Sandhu & Kashif Zaheer, Vol. IX (2), 2017. 5. Frontier Militia: Future of Militias under the 2017 Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Reforms, Aamir Cheema, Vol. IX (1), 2017. 	

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