



Exploring Research and Teaching of Conflict Studies and Conflicts in Pakistan

March 27, 2014
Islamabad

Objectives

- Setting the context of debate on:
 - ◆ How social sciences in Pakistan are treating conflicts both at research and teaching level
 - ◆ How the academic work is informing the policy responses to various conflicts in Pakistan
- Seek the guidance of experts, academicians, policy experts to respond befittingly to various conflicts.

The Conflicts: Setting the Context

- Conflicts in Pakistan:
 - ◆ Ethnic, Sectarian, Social, Political, Environmental etc.
- Multiple Drivers of Conflict
 - ◆ Historical, geo-strategic, political

Social Sciences: Setting the context

- Challenge for Academics and Policy Practitioners:
 - ◆ Academic response to temporal and spatial realities of the society
 - ◆ How far the research and teaching material are responsive to local realities
- Theory and Practice
 - ◆ Serious debates going on how far the western knowledge can be helpful in responding to the local challenges
 - ◆ *Western Theory and Chinese Reality*, Zhang Longxi; *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, Pierre Bourdieu
 - ◆ *Social Sciences in Pakistan: An Evaluation*, Inayatullah; *Call for Indigenisation*, Yogesh Atal
 - ◆ How the local knowledge production is informed by local reality.
- Dearth of academic work which responds to local challenges and translates in to policies and practices

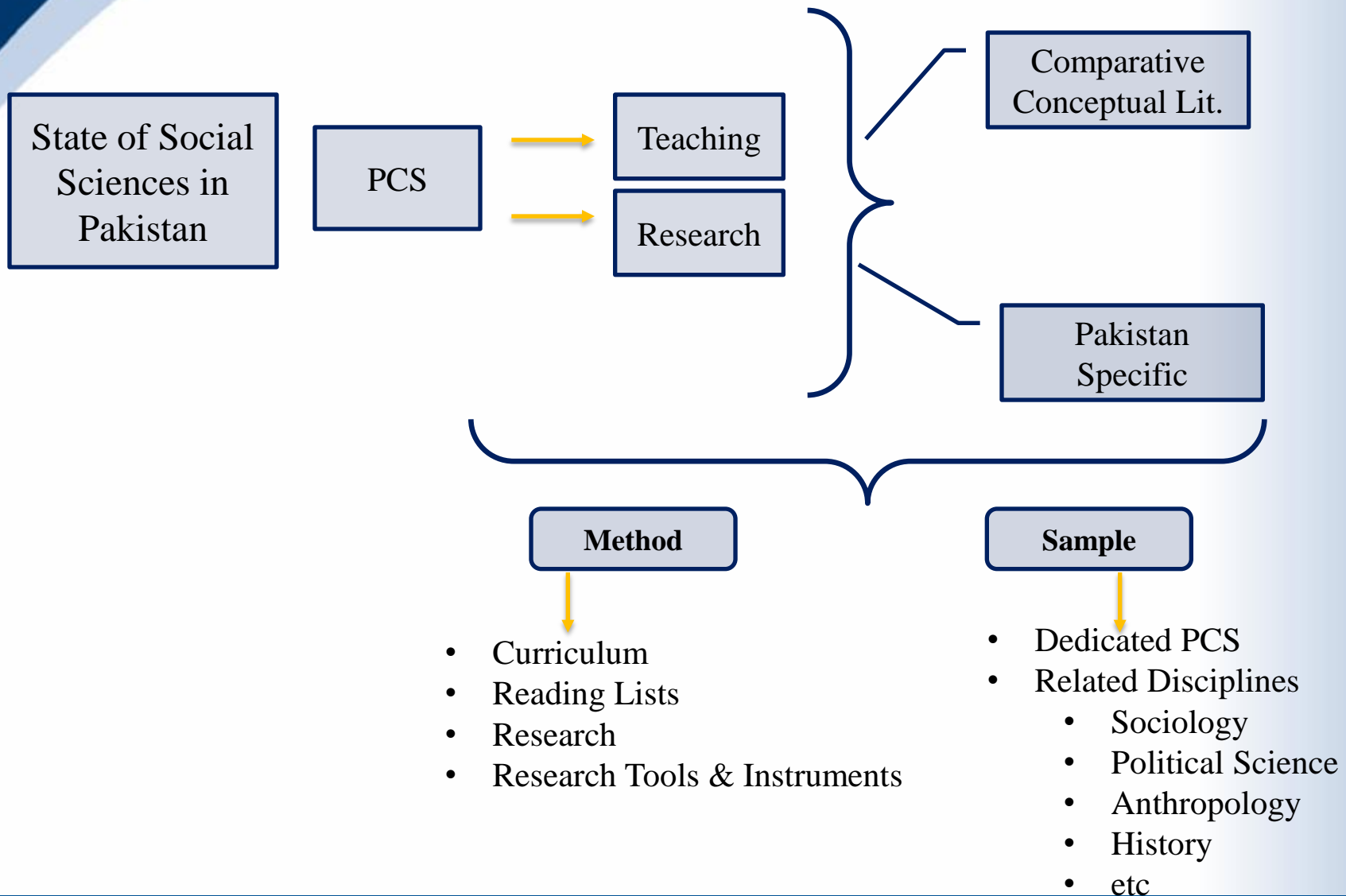
Social Sciences: Setting the context

- Response of Pakistan Academia
 - ◆ Focus of existing knowledge production largely on geo-strategic and security related issues
 - ◆ What is missing
- PCS: Recent phenomenon

Some Moot Issues

- How research and teaching is responding to challenges of Social Change, Globalisation, Media Blitz, Pluralism, Erosion of tolerance, respect for diversity, Youth Bulge, etc.
- How various social science disciplines are responding to the challenges posed by multiple conflicts:
 - ◆ How responding in terms of Knowledge production is responsive to local realities?
 - ◆ How the knowledge being produced provides the way forward?
 - ◆ How meaningful it is to policy and practice context?

Our Approach



Way Forward

- Assessment of the state of discipline in close collaboration with Academics, Universities, HEC
- Development of Case Studies: Production of relevant reading material which can be included in the course content, and also inform the policy and practice
- Help create a critical mass of academics
- Mitigating Conflicts by Leveraging Academic Response

Thank You



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