

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Anthropology/Sociology Dissertation Workshop, Islamabad, May 17-19, 2010

The American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) in collaboration with the HEC is pleased to invite proposals for a dissertation workshop for doctoral students in anthropology and sociology in Pakistan. The AIPS, established in 1973, is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization whose mission is to encourage and support research on issues relevant to Pakistan and the promotion of scholarly exchange between the United States and Pakistan. AIPS aims to facilitate scholarship within academe in Pakistan in various disciplines through the holding of dissertation workshops. This dissertation workshop is for doctoral and M. Phil. students in anthropology and sociology, and will be run by eminent anthropologist Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali, University of Texas at Austin, with the participation of Dr. Humeira Iqtidar, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge and faculty member at LUMS.

This workshop is intended to bring together doctoral and M. Phil. students in anthropology and sociology in Pakistan who are developing dissertation proposals or are in early phases of research or dissertation writing, and who seek to develop richer, more subtle and robust understandings of social science concerns of studying diversity and difference within social spaces. The workshop will focus on topics that seek to address issues of gender, class and religious/ethnic difference in an anthropological/sociological framework. Within this context, students will be encouraged to engage with social-historical and critical understandings of urban practices in Pakistan. The dissertation themes can range from an exploration of ethnic relations, religious movements, labor, women in urban life and the social implications of reconfiguration of urban spaces (e.g., urban planning, flyovers, new constructions) as well as critical film and media studies. It intends to engage aspiring scholars in these social science disciplines and assist them in such things as developing and reformulating research questions, placing research within theoretical contexts, facilitating the organization and structure of the dissertation, and sharing global norms of scholarship in research, writing and citation structures.

The workshop will be limited to 12 students, ideally from a broad array of universities within Pakistan. Each workshop will last three days. Applicants need not have advanced to candidacy but must have at least drafted a dissertation research proposal. Applications are also welcome from doctoral students in the early phases of writing their dissertations. Students will be provided with reading assignments – a few short articles and each others proposals – which must be completed prior to the commencement of the workshop. Workshop participants will be selected on the basis of the submitted project, the potential for useful exchanges among them, and a concern to include a wide range of perspectives and intellectual rigor.

Each day will include a buffet lunch and a relaxed dinner to facilitate further discussion. The HEC will provide round-trip transportation to Islamabad and four nights accommodation in the HEC hostel in Islamabad for all student participants. The first day will focus on discussions of seminal articles (which will be circulated in advance) as well as issues such as developing research questions, methodologies, bibliographies, etc. The second and third days will constitute discussions of dissertation proposals by each participant (which had previously been submitted and circulated). Participants will address both theory, methods, substance, and structure of each dissertation proposal, and tie these to the discussions held on the first day.

Applications should consist of two items only:

- Current curriculum vitae;
- The dissertation proposal, or if the research and writing is well under way, a statement of the specific issues being addressed, the intellectual approach being taken, and the materials being studied. Neither the proposal nor statement should exceed 10 double-spaced pages in length.

Applications submission details:

- Email (preferable) submissions with attachments to: aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org
- If a doctoral or M. Phil. student is unable to submit the application electronically, then the application can be mailed to: AIPS, 8 Main Ataturk Ave F-6/4, Islamabad. Such applications *must* include an email address which can be used to circulate reading materials in advance of the dissertation workshop.

Deadline for submission of application is 1 April 2010.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 20 April 2010.

Successful applicants will receive the reading packet electronically by 1st May 2010. For further information, please contact Nadeem Akbar at: nadeem@aips.edu.pk, or by phone at 051 2825817, 2820911.

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