

## American Institute of Pakistan Studies Outreach e-Bulletin

Thursday, May 28, 2009

### *Sharing Pakistan-studies events with the AIPS community*

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#### Announcements

##### 1. AIPS announces the 2009-10 Fellows:

###### Pre-doctoral fellowship awardees:

###### 1. **Aun Ali** – University of Texas-Austin

Project Title: **The Making of Sectarian Politics in Postcolonial Pakistan**

###### Abstract:

Academic studies that look at the question of Sunni-Shia conflict in Pakistan have generally focused on the post-partition era and examined the doctrinal debates and inter-group contentions that extend to the arena of state politics. The autonomous, long-term role of colonial- and post-colonial states in the construction (reshaping, reconfiguring) of sectarian relations has not received the deserved attention. I aim to do a historical-sociological study of the making of sectarian politics in Pakistan by comparing the South Asian colonial and post-colonial eras. Particularly, I will examine the questions of difference and exclusion in the state-formation processes and the various forms of entanglements (protests, campaigns, legal battles, negotiations) they generate among various state and political actors, concerning issues of rights, values, and boundaries. For the colonial era, I focus on the late 19th and early 20th Century North India and Punjab. In the postcolonial era, I examine the Shia political mobilization in the late 1970s against the so-called Islamization policies of General Zia ul- Haq. I will look at various archival sources in London and Pakistan and conduct oral-history research in certain cities of Pakistan.

###### 2. **Sheetal Chhabria** – Columbia University

Project Title: **Making the Modern Slum and Urbanizing Poverty in Karachi, 1870-1918**

###### Abstract:

My research overcomes the social formation of the urban poor as transitory figures between tradition and modernity, village and city, or agriculture and industry by bringing Karachi's slum dwellers into historical focus. The two earliest shantytowns of the Bombay Presidency, Lyari in Karachi and Dharavi in Bombay, were connected when merchants, ships, industry, and municipal bureaucrats traveled between them. However, we have a lesser understanding of how peasant migrants connected town and country and built the slummed urban space before diverging from each other through the politics of regionalism, nationalism, and Partition. As a preliminary hypothesis, I suggest that while the process of urbanization produced slums in all major cities of the nineteenth century, including metropolitan London, it also produced ideologies of colonial and regional distinction such that Karachi was separated from Bombay. This obscured the slums' origins in industrial capitalist transformations and subsumed the problems of the urban poor.

3. Hafeez Jamali – University of Texas-Austin

Project Title: **Between Global Dreams and Local Realities: Neoliberalism, Baloch Identity and the Politics of Place in Gwadar, Pakistan.**

Abstract:

I am seeking funding for two interrelated aspects of my larger research project. One, I propose to conduct 2-3 months of archival research in the India Office Libraries in London, UK on the practices of colonial governance in Gwadar; a coastal town in the Mekran region of Balochistan Province, Pakistan. Second, I intend to carry out ethnographic fieldwork in Muscat, Oman on the socio-economic networks that connect the local people of Gwadar to the Baloch diaspora in the Sultanate of Oman. The archival research will explain how the discourses and practices of colonial governance of Mekran region affected social relations and class power. It will focus on the production, during colonial rule, of a regime of representation of local Baloch people and their territory which continues to inform Federal Government's policies and political attitudes towards Balochistan. The ethnographic fieldwork will help understand how the construction of Gwadar Port is reconfiguring older networks of kinship, employment and citizenship between the residents of Gwadar Town and Baloch diaspora in the Sultanate of Oman. These two research trajectories are integral components of my larger dissertation research on the Pakistani government's attempts to develop Gwadar into a port city of international standards. The study seeks to explore how local people in Gwadar, mostly Baloch fishermen, draw on changing interpretations of ethnic identity and class solidarity to contest the state's reorganization of landownership and access to marine resources.

**Post-doctoral fellowship awardees:**

1. Matthew Hull – University of Michigan

Project Title: **The Government of Paper: Urban Bureaucracy in Pakistan**

Abstract:

This project explores the governance of the built environment in Islamabad, Pakistan by examining paper materials such as files, maps, letters, visiting cards, reports, and office manuals—artifacts that constitute the enduring material infrastructure of interactions, rules, law, and organization. The work shows how order and disorder at every scale are produced through the inscription and circulation of millions of paper artifacts among bureaucrats, politicians, property owners, villagers, *imams* (prayer leaders), businessmen, and builders. The project explores the nexus of materiality and meaning by developing a new approach to the study of states that blends insights from material culture studies, science and technology studies, and linguistic anthropology. By situating contemporary governmental practices within the colonial history of bureaucracy and city building, the work contributes to a growing scholarship that works across the colonial/post-colonial historiographic divide.

2. Farina Mir – University of Michigan

Project Title: **Producing Modern Muslims: Muslim *Anjumans* in Colonial Punjab**

Abstract:

This project focuses on Muslim *anjumans*, voluntary associations that proliferated in late-colonial India that formed around a range of religious and civic issues. My contention is that *anjumans* were means of redefining Muslims as modern subjects. These organizations were

active in late nineteenth-century civil society, engaged in state and local politics (unlike *unlema-led* organizations at the time), and tried to frame both the colonial state's and Indian society's conception of Muslims and Islam. My initial focus will be on two organizations, *Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam* (AHI) (The Association for Strength of Islam), and the *Anjuman-i-Islamia* (AI) (The Islamic Association), which were established in Lahore in 1866 and 1869, respectively. The broader aims of this project are to understand and historicize these organizations' activities, in part because they are critical to understanding how modern Islam was constitute in late-colonial South Asia.

3. Matthew J. Nelson – SOAS (University of London)

Project Title: **Religious Education and the Politics Of Pluralism in Pakistan**

Abstract:

Focusing on the relationship between Islam, Islamic education, and competing constructions of 'community' and 'citizenship' in Pakistan, my project seeks to (a) expand the literature regarding Islamic education beyond the limits of the modern *madrassa* and (b) advance the work of those with an interest in the intersection of religion, religious education, politics, and philosophy in South Asia. With support from AIPS, my project will focus, specifically, on the work of Dr. Fazlur Rahman, a well-known Pakistani philosopher who worked with Pakistani President Ayub Khan during the 1960s to institutionalize *a new approach to religious education and citizenship in Pakistan*—one that sought to develop 'a positive regard for religious diversity, religious debate, and progressive religious reform.' This effort failed, quite dramatically, and I will use a careful study of the private documents left behind by Dr. Rahman, now held at the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to understand (and explain) exactly why this was the case.

More information for all 2009-10 fellows can be found on the AIPS website:

<http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/fellowships.htm>

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## Upcoming Conferences

October 22-25, 2009

Concourse Hotel – Madison, Wisconsin

The Annual Conference on South Asia attracts over 500 scholars and other interested parties annually, who travel from a dozen countries around the world and much of the United States including Hawaii and Alaska. The conference features 75 or more academic panels and roundtables, as well as association meetings and special events ranging from performances to film screenings.

If you or one of your students is presenting a paper on Pakistan, AIPS can support up to \$600 for conference travel. Application information is available on the AIPS website

<http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/Travel.htm>

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## Pakistan Lecture Series

September, 2009

**Khalid Masud**

**September 9-13: University of Michigan** - The presentation will analyze and compare the narratives of Muslim lives in different genres, focusing on narratives of the life of Qari Muhammad Tayyib as a detailed case study.

**September 13-15: North Carolina State University** - Khalid Masud will provide an overview of contemporary issues facing the state in trying to regulate Islam in Pakistan.

**September 15-16: Duke University** - Khalid Masud will discuss the role of the Council of Islamic Ideology in Pakistan today.

Khalid Masud (Ph.D. Islamic Studies, McGill) is Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology in Pakistan, Government of Pakistan. Fluent in English, he is among the most important thinkers on the role of Islam in Pakistani state and society today. He was, from 1999-2003, the Academic Director of the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World in Leiden. He also has an old intellectual association with Prof. Barbara Metcalf, and is being invited at this time so that he can participate in a retirement conference focused on her work from Sept. 11-13, 2009, at the University of Michigan. Both Khalid Masud's extensive scholarship and his official position make him an important presence in Pakistan studies, particularly to the analysis of the role of Islam in the Pakistan state.

For a full CV and to view the entire agenda: [http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/PLS\\_2009.htm](http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/PLS_2009.htm)

#### **About the Pakistan Lecture Series:**

The Pakistan Lecture Series is a program designed to support academic exchange between Pakistani and US scholars and to promote field of Pakistan studies as a whole. As a part of this program a Pakistani scholar, artist, musician, etc, is invited to travel to the USA for two to four weeks and present lectures at a minimum of three US institutions that are AIPS members. PLS speakers must be nominated by AIPS members or member institutions. A three member committee has been established to solicit and screen potential PLS speakers. The final selection and approval of the PLS speaker is made by the AIPS Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, and is contingent upon available funds. Approximately four PLS speakers are supported each year.

The Trustee or Member Institution who is proposing a PLS speaker is expected to make all initial arrangements in terms of the speaker's itinerary and the lectures that they will present. This information should be filled out on forms that can be found on the AIPS website and submitted by email to the AIPS President ([jkenoyer@wisc.edu](mailto:jkenoyer@wisc.edu)) for review by the PLS Speaker Committee and eventually the Executive Committee/ Board of Trustees. Forms: <http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/pls.htm>

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## WORKSHOP: TRANSFORMING YOUR DISSERTATION INTO A BOOK

### Workshop: Transforming your dissertation into a book

Sponsored by AIIS, AIPS, AIBS, AISLS

Deadline: June 15, 2009

Sponsored by the several organizations devoted to the study of South Asia, this workshop aims to help a select number of recent PhDs re-vision their doctoral dissertations as books.

Applications to participate are due by June 15, 2009, emailed to Susan S. Wadley, [sswadley@syr.edu](mailto:sswadley@syr.edu).

Participants must arrange their own transport to Madison, Wisconsin for the Annual Conference on South Asia in October. The workshop will begin at 7 pm Wednesday evening, Oct. 21, and all participants are expected to be present at this time. The relevant "country" organization will pay for the extra night (Wed.) in the Concourse Hotel, as well as snacks and dinner on Thurs. Lunch on Thurs. is on your own.

For selection: Required is an email containing a current CV; the dissertation abstract, its table of contents, and its first chapter plus a not more than 3 page double spaced vision of the "book". This could include (in the three pages) a new table of contents. Email [sswadley@syr.edu](mailto:sswadley@syr.edu) by midnight on June 15, 2009.

Senior Faculty Participants: Susan S. Wadley (Anthropology, Syracuse), Convener; Geraldine Forbes (History, SUNY Oswego), Kalyani Menon (Religion, DePaul), John Echeverri-Gent (Political Science, Virginia). Our role is to read the materials prior to the meeting and be prepared to intervene and comment, "in the background" primarily, though with key interventions as needed.

For more information on this workshop:  
<http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/events.htm>

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## AIPS Reports

### 1. First AIPS Dissertation Workshop

AIPS, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC), is endeavoring to play a greater role in facilitating scholarship within academe in Pakistan in our respective disciplines through the holding of doctoral dissertation workshops. AIPS held its first dissertation workshop May 11-13, 2009, and anticipates sponsoring a maximum of three dissertation workshops in any given academic year. The individual workshops are intended to bring together Pakistani doctoral students (based in Pakistan) in the humanities and social sciences who are: (i) developing dissertation proposals or are in early phases of research or dissertation writing; (ii) seeking to develop new, richer, more accurate, more subtle or robust understandings of their fields; and (iii) aspire to become viable scholars within the global intellectual community. Such workshops engage aspiring scholars 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 effects on an institutional level may well be even more compelling as they enable the long term thriving of substantive scholarship through the mentoring of a new generation of scholars who will, in turn, be more effective mentors with their own graduate students in the future.

The first dissertation workshop was held May 11-13 2009 for doctoral students in history. It brought together Professors David Gilmartin and Robert Nichols and twelve doctoral students from campuses and locations around Pakistan. The dissertation workshop was launched with an inaugural dinner hosted by AIPS at the Islamabad home of Constance Jones, CCAO US Embassy, Islamabad. AIPS invited a diverse group of guests to the launching, including officials from the Higher Education Commission, select faculty from Pakistani universities, U.S. government officials, former AIPS PLS (Pakistan Lecture Series) participants, dissertation workshop participants, as well as AIPS personnel.

Workshop attendees kept to a full schedule during the three days, which included discussions of common readings on approaches to History and presentations by each participant of his or her dissertation prospectus. Rounds of presentations and discussion generated rich and interactive conversations focused on assisting the participating doctoral students in such matters as developing and reformulating research questions, placing research within theoretical contexts, and thinking about the structure and organization of individual projects. The workshop offered an opportunity not only to receive substantial feedback on individual dissertation work, but also to develop collegial bonds with fellow doctoral students in History from across Pakistan.

For more information and the full report from the Treasurer regarding the AIPS First History Dissertation Workshop:

URL: <http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/events.htm>

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS/PAPERS

### **1. Request for Proposals to Lead AIPS/HEC Doctoral Dissertation Workshops**

AIPS is requesting proposals to lead doctoral dissertation workshops during the 2009-10 academic year. We anticipate holding one in fall, winter and spring, respectively. These dissertation workshops are discipline-based. Disciplines of high priority for future dissertation workshops include anthropology/sociology, economics, education, literature, and political science. Doctoral students completing a dissertation in such interdisciplinary fields as Pakistan Studies, Defense & Strategic Studies and Women's Studies are welcome to apply to a relevant disciplinary workshop.

The workshop leader will be an established senior scholar who is: i) either an Individual Member or an Institutional Trustee of AIPS; ii) has a robust research portfolio; and iii) has ample experience in supervising graduate students. Applications to lead a dissertation workshop must be submitted to AIPS, which will then be reviewed by the AIPS selection committee (headed by Anita Weiss) which has been constituted for this task. Once

accepted, mutually agreed upon dates will then be established. Workshop leaders will receive round-trip economy travel to Pakistan, four nights accommodation during the workshop and a \$1,000 honorarium. In the event two scholars prefer to run the workshop together, the honorarium will be split between them.

The reforms that Pakistan has undergone in higher education in the past decade has resulted in U.S.-based scholars engaged in Pakistan studies being increasingly requested to assist universities in Pakistan in such things as job searches, tenure and promotion reviews, and as external dissertation examiners. We recognize that AIPS can play a further significant role in facilitating scholarship within academe in Pakistan in our respective disciplines through the holding of doctoral dissertation workshops. AIPS held its first dissertation workshop May 11-13, 2009, and anticipates sponsoring a maximum of three dissertation workshops in any given academic year.

**Please see the AIPS Website for Further Details on AIPS/HEC Doctoral Dissertation Workshops: <http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/events.htm>**

## **2. Call for papers**

### **Pakistaniaat: A Journal of Pakistan Studies December Issue on US-Pakistan Relations: Past, Present and Future**

We seek submissions for the second issue to be published in December 2009. The issue is loosely themed around the past, present, and future of US-Pakistan relations, but we will also consider works beyond the scope of this particular theme. Please submit your scholarly articles, creative works (fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry), or book reviews that focus on some aspect of Pakistan or Pakistani culture. Please visit our website (<http://pakistaniaat.org>) for details.

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## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Job Announcements can be found on the AIPS website:**

**<http://www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/English/jobs.htm>**

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**If you have an announcement for an upcoming e-bulletin, please email: [ljhammond@southasia.wisc.edu](mailto:ljhammond@southasia.wisc.edu)**