

Abstract

Recent scholarship has highlighted the colonial conceptualization of deltas as land separate from the water. And have suggested to reconceptualize the deltas as hybrid entity – land-into-water (Lahirri-Dutt and Samanta 2013). Amphibious anthropology has emerged to study the social and cultural life, and human experiences of hybrid ambivalences of delta (Krause 2017, 403). This research inverts the research agenda of amphibious anthropology – bringing the hybrid environment of the delta to the fore to explore how it is shaped and shaped by human and other-than-human practices, rather than only considering deltas through the backdrop of human sociocultural life. I specifically ask, how does the altered flow of water in the Indus River produce the deltascape and shape and reshape the human and other-than-human relations in the Indus delta in Pakistan. I pay attention to the ontological pluralism of practices and assemblages of indigenous fisherfolk, governance officials, and other-than-humans as these are entwined with and in the hybrid environment of the delta. I blend ethnography with ecology and archival research to explore the complexity of human and other-than-human relations. Thus, go beyond the narratives of the environmental decline of the deltas to reconceptualize the deltas as they emerge in indigenous ontology and human and other-than-human assemblages.