

Topic: Securitized residential enclaves in urban Pakistan: (in)security, middle-class aspiration, and the “military real estate state”

Project abstract: How is war-making connected to capitalism’s spatial regime of uneven development? Real estate in geographies of war offers a field to investigate the entanglements of accumulation and militarism. Specifically, residential enclaves can become enmeshed with political economies of organized violence when state militaries are the key actors developing them. Pakistan’s urban geography is particularly marked by such military-led development, where the military owns the largest share of real estate in a \$700 billion industry.

This research will investigate a distinct geographical political economic form, provisionally termed the “military real estate state,” by studying military-led residential enclave developments in Pakistan and associated “structures of feeling”—middle class desires, anxieties, and proclivities. It will rely on macro-statistical data analysis, archival, and qualitative research focused on three enclave development sites to illuminate what is distinct about the military real estate state since 1999; its dialectical relationship with social and spatial formations; and how housing becomes a site to materialize capital flows.