

Cochran

My dissertation focuses on Muslim intellectuals connected to Musa Khan Dahbidi (d. 1795) and his Naqshbandi Mujaddidi Sufi network who circulated during the eighteenth century in Persianate South and Central Asia, engaging in political activities and developing relationships with Muslim, Sikh, and Buddhist rulers from Tashkent to Hyderabad. My dissertation will research the writings of Dahbidi's network to answer the following: how did these intellectuals envision and seek to enact reform before the emergence of the heavily studied Muslim modernist reform movements of the nineteenth century? What alternative iterations of reform were produced in this space? This project will expand the history of eighteenth-century Muslim reform beyond the domain of principles and methods of jurisprudence and devotional practice to consider the how intellectuals drew from traditions of Persianate political ethics and millenarian ideas to respond to crises of the era. It will deepen our historical understanding of an early modern intellectual world that has been overlooked and will illuminate the unique ways Muslim intellectuals addressed the problems of their time before the colonial era, yet during a period of globalization and great transformation in its own right. It will also illuminate new ways of understanding the Persianate world in the context of global history in the eighteenth century.