

Proposed Research Project

Conflicted Islamisms: Shariah, Decision-Making, and Anti-State Agitation Among Pakistani Islamist Parties

Abstract

This project examines the decision-making behavior of Islamist parties within the Pakistani political system. In particular, it seeks to explain how and why parties decide to support or oppose new *shariah* measures that may challenge the authority of the state. These parties, while relatively small in electoral terms, often hold outsized influence in shaping public debate on matters of religion, politics, and law; influencing mainstream parties; and providing political cover for groups which operate outside of democratic norms. Utilizing archival research and semi-structured interviews with religious and political leaders, this project will build on the existing literature on Islamist parties, and seek to understand the internal and structural dynamics that condition their advocacy of specific Islamic legal measures.