The Study of Pakistan in the 21st Century: AIPS Conference Series

Farina Mir, University of Michigan

In early 2015, AIPS President, Kamran Asdar Ali, conceived of a conference series that would consider the study of Pakistan in the 21st century. The goal is to explore themes beyond those currently dominated by academic work on Pakistan—security studies, gender, and Islamic radicalism. The series is therefore intended to bring more breadth to areas of inquiry in the study of Pakistan. The inaugural conference was held at the University of Michigan (UM), the second was held at Arizona State University (ASU) in April 2016, and the third will be hosted by the University of Washington.

On April 4, 2015, the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) at UM hosted the first of these conferences, “Future Directions in Pakistan Studies.” Jointly organized by Farina Mir and Kamran Asdar Ali, and jointly supported by the CSAS and AIPS, the conference brought together eight external scholars to share their research on Pakistan. CSAS faculty participated in the conversation as chairs and respondents. The conference was timed to correspond with the fifth UM Pakistan conference, which was held the day before. Holding the conferences back-to-back allowed for a critical mass of individuals actively engaged with and in Pakistan, allowing both conferences to benefit from this synergy.

In the second conference, held in the United States, a large number of participants and scholars attended, including keynote speakers such as Rozita Hashemi and Usman Ahmad. The conference featured presentations by 13 panels, each with a focus on different aspects of Pakistan Studies.

The third conference in the series was hosted by the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU. Titled, “Toward Pakistan: A History Workshop,” the conference featured presentations by 13 emerging scholars.

The day was capped by a robust discussion on the institutional, political, and intellectual issues that hamper the breadth of scholarship on Pakistan. Many shared insights, strategies, and suggestions for how to produce a more robust field.

The second panel, chaired by UMI’s Matthew Hall (Department of Anthropology), on urban issues in Pakistan, featured Rabia Nadir (Lahore School of Econom- ics) and Haris Gazdar (Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi). Nadir presented on her ongoing research into the lifeworlds of Pathan communities in the walled city of Lahore. Gazdar’s talk focused on the ways that the city—in this case Karachi—serves as a productive site for interdisciplinary work. William Glover of UM’s Department of History moderated the panel and kicked off discussion.

The final panel of the day was on cultural history, and was chaired by Joan Cola of UM’s Department of History. Franti Minwalla (Institute of Business Administration, Karachi), Manan Ahmed (Columbia University), and Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas, Austin) presented. Minwalla spoke on contemporary theater in Pakistan. Ahmed spoke about questions of space, scale, distance, and alterity in the writing of history, drawing on his own work on the early history of Sind. Asdar Ali discussed homosociality and desire in Pakistani cinema. Yasin Sakia (ASU) served as discussant for the panel.

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The second conference in the series was hosted by the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU. Titled, “Towards Pakistan: A History Workshop,” the conference featured presentations by 13 emerging scholars. A report on the conference will be featured in the Spring 2017 newsletter.

President’s Report

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have just returned from a successful AIPS-sponsored workshop at Arizona State University. This was the first of a three-part series of workshops that AIPS is coordinating with different member institutions (the first one was at University of Michigan) to discuss and debate the future trajectory of research on Pakistan in the coming decades. This series brings scholars from the US, Pakistan and, in this last case, also from Europe, to share their respective research. Like the workshop at UM, the one at ASU made it clearly evident that the scholarship on Pakistan has moved beyond the history of Muslim nationalism in South Asia, the study of Islam in the region, the woman question in Islam and the obsession with the security studies paradigm. Although highlighting these topics, the papers presented were refreshing in their new subject matter, methodological approaches, theoretical paradigms and innovative writing styles. We at AIPS should take some credit for this shift as we constantly encourage new scholarship and research on Pakistan.

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Front cover: Naiza Khan, Layers of the City 2015, Oil on canvas; 137 x 162.5 cm (54 x 64 in) Image Courtesy: Naiza Khan and Rossi & Rossi, London / HK

AIPS is deeply grateful to Naiza Khan for her generosity in contributing her artwork for both the front and back cover of this newsletter.

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Continued on p. 23
Impacting Higher Education in Pakistan: AIPS Workshop Series & Faculty Mentoring Program

AIPS has been devoting considerable time to helping build capacity in Pakistani higher education. Currently, it is running a number of programs with this aim, one of which is the AIPS workshop series, which takes place in Pakistan. The other is a mentoring program, which brings Pakistani faculty to the US.

AIPS Higher Education Workshop Series

Two years ago, with funding provided by the Department of State/US Embassy in Pakistan, AIPS initiated a program aimed at building capacity in Pakistani higher education. It currently is running a number of programs with this aim, one of which is the AIPS workshop series, which takes place in Pakistan. The goal of the workshop series is to provide the selected group of faculty, who attend all three workshops, both pedagogical and research methods training. In order to expose Pakistani faculty to varied perspectives, each workshop is ideally led by a different faculty mentor. Working collaboratively with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan on this program, AIPS has now successfully sponsored two out of four series of workshop. The latest to be completed was organized by Paula Newberg (University of Texas) whose report follows. Also below is a report from Yasin Sakila on the latest series to be initiated, on Peace Studies.

AIPS Higher Education Workshop Series on Conflict and Peace-building

Paula R. Newberg
University of Texas at Austin

From late 2013 to mid-2015, AIPS hosted three workshops for junior faculty members from several universities in Pakistan on the broad subjects of conflict and peace-building. The participants came from three provinces, five social science fields, and seven universities. The workshop series was meant to introduce participants to subjects in which they were not previously trained, expose disciplinary-based faculty to cross-disciplinary training, provide a basis for their future research in their own areas of concentration, introduce them to the use of public policy analysis in their own teaching as well as to foreign and international research organizations working in these fields, and open the possibility of adding to their roster of research and teaching subjects. The sessions were participatory and interactive, and included a small number of guest lectures.

Although it is too early to tall whether all of these goals will be reached, my conversations with the participants (individually and collectively) suggest that some of our intentions are bearing fruit. Most report that they have used workshop materials in their own teaching (particularly non-traditional, non-lecture models); several report that their research has broadened (including for local research conferences they have hosted); and a few have begun to incorporate questions of conflict into their courses. (Two or three have, I believe, drafted papers on these topics.) This was probably informal as much as formal, since junior professors rarely set course and degree requirements.

More generally, however, I think the subject matter has helped the participants to think through the contexts in which they teach. Although the workshops were not intended to be about Pakistan, current events inevitably intruded on theoretical discussions. (The second workshop was held immediately after the Peshawar shootings at the end of 2014.) Our three guest lecturers spoke variously about bilateral water relations and climate change in South Asia; United Nations regional peace negotiations in central America; and international human rights investigations in Gaza and Sudan. The effect of their contributions was profound: these were individuals (among Pakistan’s best in global affairs) to whom our workshop participants had not previously been exposed, and their ability to help our participants draw lessons from the global to local (and back again) augmented our formal agenda.

Lastly, few of the workshop participants knew one another, and I was surprised to learn how infrequently their universities collaborate and share resources. Those from the north have now begun to establish informal relationships with one another, and report that they have discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring future conferences.

AIPS Higher Education Workshop Series on Peace Studies

Yasin Sakila, Arizona State University

The Peace Studies workshop is a three-part series broadly conceived to introduce peace concepts, peace research methods, and peace communication to colleagues in Pakistan. Each workshop in the series aims to achieve one of these goals. Taken together, our goal is to both broaden and deepen the study of peace as a teaching and research tool and use the knowledge effectively for scholarship and public communication to create awareness of peace in Pakistan.

Yasmin Sakila led the first session of the three-part workshop, which was hosted at LUMS January 10-14, 2016. Ten participants were selected from a pool of over two dozen applicants, and eight attended the workshop. The selection of participants was based on merit, diversity, gender, and regional representation. The workshop included three women and five men, representing different disciplinary and scholarly backgrounds. It was a good mix, but more importantly they were an eager group of learners. One unfortunate weakness was the lack of religious diversity due to no religious minority representation in the application pool. The workshop mixed lecture and presentation methods with interactive group discussions and problem solving approaches. The workshop had three teaching objectives: peace concept, peace methods, and peace practice. We began by reading different concepts of peace, both western and non-western, religious and secular, and positive and negative peace. Next, we investigated several peace methods, such as the role of the economy, art, law and the relationship between institutions and individuals in peace-making. We also explored some of the peace methods like Truth and Reconciliation, Transitional and Restorative justice, and War Crimes Tribunal. Finally, we discussed some of the practices of peace that are lived in everyday context and the relationship of peace with pluralism, co-existence, tolerance and harmony.

One of the participants in this workshop, Mr. Siraj Ahmed Soomro, Assistant Professor of Pakistan Studies at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, was a visiting scholar at Florida International University’s (FIU) Department of Religious Studies in Miami in Fall 2015. His time at FIU was focused on professional development in five ways.

AIPS Faculty Mentoring Program

Initiated three years ago, and supported in part by a grant from the US Embassy in Pakistan, this program brings faculty from Pakistani universities to the US, to be mentored at an AIPS member institution. The program has brought eight fellows to the US to date. A recent participant in this program, Mr. Siraj Ahmed Soomro, Assistant Professor of Pakistan Studies at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, was a visiting scholar at Florida International University’s (FIU) Department of Religious Studies in Miami in Fall 2015. His time at FIU was focused on professional development in five ways.

One, he audited Professor Ibala Akhtar’s Development of International Relations course to learn new pedagogical techniques, which included site visits and guest lectures. Two, Professor Soomro helped organize the AIPS-sponsored conference, Western Indian Ocean Studies, in November at FIU. Three, he attended an AIPS-sponsored junior scholars workshop at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison. Four, he gave the annual FIU alumni dinner keynote lecture, The Federal Integration of Sindhi Nationalism in Pakistan. Lastly, he is collaborating with Prof. Akhtar to formulate a research paper on an ongoing project for submission to an international scholarly journal.
The City in South Asia Workshop
January 3-6, 2016 • Karachi Pakistan

The City in South Asia workshop encouraged a broader discussion on the life world of the poor in urban South Asia, specifically on how working class men and women experience the economically uncertain urban milieu. Rather than concentrating on perceived failures of the South Asian mega-city—which in terms of infrastructure, governance, or economic development—the papers emphasized seeing the emerging fabric of urban South Asia as the result of ordinary peoples’ sustained productive deployment of sensibilities, practices, efforts, and collective formations. The workshop presentations sensitized the audience to the changing cultural, political and economic uncertain urban milieus. culturally through the life worlds of the poor.

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## Topics and Presentations

**Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**
Topics ranged from a discussion on Colombo’s Urban Poor by Udaan Fernando from the Center for Poverty Analysis, Colombo, to Nasrat Chowdhury’s (Amherst College) analysis of crowds and violence related to the ambivalent state of Democracy in Bangladesh.

Despite the problems of visas, reporting and logistical issues involved in a conference held at multiple venues in Karachi, people participated with enthusiasm, scholarly engagement, and good humor. Students and scholars from local colleges and universities came to listen, debate, and discuss making each session unique and eventful. Finally, the support that the organizers received from colleagues and friends in Karachi was invaluable. Among them were Multinex, Lyceum School, Getz Pharma, Arccep and Geo TV. All receive our collective thanks. 

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**Junior Scholars Conference on Pakistan**

Madison, 2015

In the last decade there has been a substantial increase in the number of students interested in social science and humanities graduate programs in the United States whose focus of study is Pakistani culture and society. Where an earlier generation of scholars working on Pakistan were primarily found in the fields of economics and political science, we now have a new group of graduate students and recent PhDs in cultural anthropology, archaeology, sociology, education, media studies, history, religious studies, literary studies and a range of other disciplines. AIPS has been in the forefront of this wave of change and has given ample support to these scholars through its numerous programs, including: long-term research grants, summer research grants, writing fellowships, and travel grants to attend conferences. Building on these initiatives and mindful of the fact that these young researchers are indeed the future of AIPS and the study of Pakistan in US academia, AIPS’ Executive Committee decided to organize a Junior Scholars Conference on Pakistan just prior to the South Asia Conference in Madison on October 22, 2015. We encouraged those graduate students who were writing their dissertations and post-doctoral scholars who had completed their PhDs in the last three years to apply. AIPS received 25 proposals out of which 12 were selected, and 10 were allowed to attend the conference. Each participant’s domestic travel and accommodations were provided by AIPS. 

The conference brought together a group of highly talented and intellectually bright scholars who presented excellent papers on Pakistan’s new electronic media, the history of its radio broadcast, environmental and climate change, sexual and literary themes. These new and refreshing topics were in contrast to the representation of Pakistan linked to Islamist radicalism, security studies, female seclusion, Muslim revivalist movements and the rehashing of Pakistan national myths that in most cases informs how the rest of the world views and imagines the country. Senior AIPS affiliated scholars were present throughout the day to serve as panel discussants and participated with the assembled audience of students and faculty in the general discussion and exchange. One of the main aims for this conference was to create a network of young scholars who work on Pakistan in US universities. By all indications AIPS succeeded in its mission and has sent out a call for papers for the second such conference to be held at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin in 2016.

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### Participants and Presentation Titles:

- **Majed Akhter**, Assistant Professor of Geography, Indiana University - Bloomington
  - “The long hydraulic partition: Producing national space in the Indus Basin”
- **Andrew Amstutz**, PhD candidate in History, Cornell University
  - “Urban in Karachi before Pakistan: Language Politics & Indian Ocean Commercial Connections, 1914-1946”
- **Yelena Biberman**, Assistant Professor, Government Department, Skidmore College
- **Elizabeth Bolton**, PhD Candidate in Radio-Television-Film, University of Texas at Austin
  - “Pakistan: Satirizing Current Affairs Television in Pakistan”
- **Waqas H. Butt**, PhD candidate in Anthropology, University of California, San Diego
  - “Waste and Its Infrastructures: Networks of Work in Contemporary Lahore”
- **Abdul Haque Chang**, PhD candidate in Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin
  - “Different Histories and Geographies of the Indus Delta”
- **Mariam Durrani**, PhD candidate in Educational Linguistics and Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
  - “Desi/Brown as Mediatised Muslim Youth Personae: The Online and Offline Lives of Transnational Pakistanis”
- **Isabel Huaco Alonso**, Postdoctoral Fellow in History, University of Texas at Austin
- **Faris Ahmed Khan**, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University
  - “Contextualizing Khwaja Sira Rights: Toward a History of the Pakistani State’s Gender and Sexuality Politics”
- **Farhan Navid Yousal**, PhD candidate in Sociology, University of Connecticut
  - “Women’s Trafficking in Pakistan: Intersecting Vulnerabilities and Repeated Exploitation”

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### Organizers

- **Gyan Bhanot:** Director, Junior Scholars Program, AIPS (Email: gbhanot@aisp.org)
- **Amez Sayeed:** Senior Fellow, AIPS (Email: a.sayeed@aisp.org)
Over the past year, the center has facilitated Pakistan- and US-based based scholars’ travel to lectures and conferences in Pakistan and the US, summer research grantees, AIPS long-term and short-term fellows, visiting faculty to the US for the faculty mentoring program, and the Speaker Series.

In addition, the Pakistan Center has facilitated a greater than usual number of flights, logistics, and accommodations for AIPS scholars, grantees, and visitors due to our increased programming both in the US and in Pakistan. Over the past year, the center has assisted with Pakistan-based scholars’ travel to the US for lectures and conferences, US-based scholars’ travel for lectures and visits to Pakistan, summer research grants, AIPS long-term and short-term fellows, visiting faculty to the US for the faculty mentoring program, and visiting lecturers to Pakistan for the Speaker Series. The Speaker Series, made possible through a grant from the US Embassy, brings US experts to Pakistan to present a series of lectures in various cities and academic and/or public institutions. These lectures are intended to promote a global dialogue in Pakistan and scholars are chosen based on the excellence of their intellectual work, breadth of knowledge, ability to engage large audiences, and/or the importance of their contribution to debates in contemporary Pakistan. Over this past year, four scholars have come to Pakistan for this purpose. If you travel to Islamabad, do not hesitate to coordinate a visit to the AIPS Center!

In addition, the Pakistan Center has been busy this past year! Coordination was successful for the Higher Education Workshop Series, the US Embassy-funded speaker series in Pakistan, the City in South Asia workshop and the BULPIP-AIPS program. The AIPS Center provided facilitation services for many of the US Embassy-funded partnerships between American and Pakistani Universities and will continue offering these services to new partnering institutions. For these partnerships and other events, the Center hosts meetings and receptions for local scholars, academicians, and other institutional representatives, including a meeting with Dr Nasir Ali Khan (Vice Chair, University of Hazara) and Dr Ihsan Ali (Vice Chair, Abdul Wall Khan University, Mardan) (photo right) and a reception for the Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences, Pakistan (see photos above).

The Islamabad Center has been busy this past year! Coordination was successful for the Higher Education Workshop Series, the US Embassy-funded speaker series in Pakistan, the City in South Asia workshop and the BULPIP-AIPS program. The AIPS Center provided facilitation services for many of the US Embassy-funded partnerships between American and Pakistani Universities and will continue offering these services to new partnering institutions. For these partnerships and other events, the Center hosts meetings and receptions for local scholars, academicians, and other institutional representatives, including a meeting with Dr Nasir Ali Khan (Vice Chair, University of Hazara) and Dr Ihsan Ali (Vice Chair, Abdul Wall Khan University, Mardan) (photo right) and a reception for the Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences, Pakistan (see photos above).
Member News

Dean Accardi
Visiting Assistant Professor,
Secondary Education

Accardi was awarded an AIPS Domestic Travel Grant to present two papers at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison. A Pakistani Hero in Sanskrit Sources: Al Hamadani and Body Politics at the Sanskrit in Persians India Pre-Conference and Afro-Asian Discourses and Trans-Religious Community Formation in Early Modern Kashmir on the panel, Re-Defining Religious Community: Shifting Boundaries, Strategies, and Sources of Authority in Early Modernity. These two presentations not only served to raise issues pertinent to Pakistan Studies within scholarly venues in which they are rarely discussed, but they have also contributed to the development of Accardi’s future article, Secular Genealogies and the Kashmir Conflict, and his second book project on the appropriation of early modern figures for contemporary politics in Pakistan and Kashmir. Accardi was also elected to the AIPS Board of Trustees in January 2016.

Iqbal Akhtar
Assistant Professor, Florida International University

Akhtar is pleased to announce the publication of his monograph, The Khias of Tanzania: Discontinuous Traditions of a Post-Colonial Religious Identity (Leiden: Brill, 2015). The Khias of Tanzania attempts to reconstruct the development of Khia religious identity from their arrival to the Swahili coast in the late 18th century until the turn of the 21st century. This multidisciplinary project draws on Arabic, Swahili, and Arabic sources to examine the formation of an Afro-Asian Islamic identity (jamatu) from their initial idol caste identity (jawt) towards an emergent Near Eastern Islamic cultural current through four disciplinary approaches: historiography, politics, linguistics, and ethnology.

Kamran Asdar Ali
Professor, University of Texas

Ali was elected to CAORC’s (Center of American Overseas Research Centers) Executive Committee in 2015. He published two books this past year, a monograph and an edited volume. The first is Communism in Pakistan: Politics and Class Activism 1947-1972 (London: I.B. Tauris, 2015). The book is also available in Pakistan, published there by Oxford University Press (Sikhw Salam: Communist Politics and Class Activism in Pakistan 1947-1972). Communism in Pakistan presents the first extensive look at Pakistan’s analysis and working class movement. The book critically engages with the history of Pakistan’s early communists and highlights the growing special attention to the rise and fall of the Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP), from Partition in 1947 to the aftermath of Bangladesh independence in 1971. He also edited, with Shehna Khamani and Aatif Farrukhi, Gender: Politics and Performance in South Asia (Karachi: Oxford UP, 2015), which was republished in India as Centre Stage: Gender, Politics and Performance in South Asia (New Delhi: Women Unlimited, 2016). This volume brings together, for the first time, accounts, analyses and anectodes by practitioners from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, that explore this history of innovation and protest, and present a subcontinental narrative of aesthetic experiment, political engagement and progressive social change.

Richard Barnett
Associate Professor, University of Virginia

Barnett received an AIPS International Travel Grant to attend the 25th Annual Pakistan History Conference in Karachi in January 2016, where he presented the paper Structure and Method in Assessing the Deeper History of Pakistan. Barnett also presented an extemporaneous talk on the closing day of the conference, entitled Historical Research and Teaching in Pakistan: A Critical Appraisal, which gave an assessment of the conference. While in Pakistan, he also presented a lecture at I.T. University of the Punjab, in Lahore, where he spoke on Culture and Environment in cholistan.

Marian Durrani
Graduate Student, University of Pennsylvania

Marian Durrani defended her dissertation in April, entitled, A Study on Mobility: Pakistani-Origin Muslim Youth in Higher Education. She will be awarded her PhD in Anthropology and Educational Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. She will be joining Harvard University this fall, with a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in their Graduate School of Education.

Shahla Haeri
Associate Professor, Boston University

Haeri was awarded a short term fellowship from AIPS. With this fellowship, she went to Pakistan in February 2016 and conducted several high level interviews on Benazir Bhutto’s family life and upbringing, her regimental politics and gendered aspects of Pakistan’s Paths to Power. From Khias to Benazir is the tentative title of her up-coming book project, in which Benazir Bhutto’s life story forms a chapter. This grant enabled Haeri to begin her research. She plans to conduct an interview with Ambassador Peter Galbraith, she continued her research in London where she interviewed Saman Bhatto, Ambassador Wajid Shamsul Hasan, and Victoria Schofield, and ended it in Lahore. In Lahore, she interviewed several individuals, including Senator Altaf Ahsan, Ambassador Abida Hussain, Asma Jahangir, Naheed Khan and Safdar Abbasi. She screened her video documentary, Mrs. President: Women and Political Leadership in Iran at Beaconhouse National University (BNU) on February 22, and at Fat Oghar on February 29. At both venues the screening was preceded by a short talk, leading to much discussion and debate regarding Muslim women and political leadership. In Islamabad Haeri gave her keynote at the Social Sciences Expo 2016 on February 24, and was presented with an appreciation plaque afterwards. Haeri extends her deep appreciation for the professional help she received from the AIPS staff and particularly from AIPS Pakistan Director, Mr. Nadeem Akbar.

Farhat Haq
Professor, Monmouth State University

Haq was chosen to take part in the 2015-2016 fellowship class for the AIPS Summer Research Grant, which allowed her to spend two months in Lahore and Islamabad (September-November 2015) conducting in-person interviews and collecting primary data for her dissertation. Legitimizing State-sponsored Militants: The Role of Civil Institutions in Pakistan. Using ontological security, she studied the persistent presence of national state within Pakistan by examining its civil institutions (specifically the police, judiciary, and legislative bodies), and how these institutions influence—and provide legitimacy to—Pakistan’s counterterrorism strategies and narratives. While in Lahore and Islamabad, she conducted 48 interviews, 30 of which were identifiable and on-the-record. These interviews were with criminal lawyers, Anti-Terrorism Court judges and other members of the judiciary, police officers, bureaucrats working on counterterrorism issues, political analysts, journalists, and academicians. She also collected key documents as primary data, such as parliamentary debates (both Senate and National Assembly) of anti-terrorism legislation, think tank reports on anti-terrorism strategies, political papers, and the police; Anti-Terrorism Court judgments; and statistical information, such as provincial crime rates and conviction rates of Anti-Terrorism Courts.

Marc Kelley
Graduate Student, University of Chicago

Kelley was awarded a Connecticut AIPS Summer Research Grant, which enabled him to spend a productive month in Lahore and Islamabad. Kelley is a second-year PhD student in anthropology at the University of Chicago and plans to do long-term ethnographic research on energy crisis in Pakistan. On this trip he focused on developing contacts in Pakistan, particularly in policy think tanks, academic programs for energy systems engineering, and state energy and electricity departments. He also had the pleasure of networking with many fellow social scientists in Pakistani universities.

Sahar Kazem
Graduate Student, University of California

Kazem received an AIPS Summer Research Grant, which allowed her to spend two months in Lahore and Islamabad (September-November 2015) conducting in-person interviews and collecting primary data for her dissertation, Producing Modern Muslims: Everyday Ethnographies of Religious Community in Pakistan. These interviews were with criminal lawyers, Anti-Terrorism Court judges and other members of the judiciary, police officers, bureaucrats working on counterterrorism issues, political analysts, journalists, and academicians. She also collected key documents as primary data, such as parliamentary debates (both Senate and National Assembly) of anti-terrorism legislation, think tank reports on anti-terrorism strategies, political papers, and the police; Anti-Terrorism Court judgments; and statistical information, such as provincial crime rates and conviction rates of Anti-Terrorism Courts.

Farina Mir
Associate Professor, Michigan State University

Pue has received an Andrew W. Mellon New Directions Fellowship for his project, Publics of Sound and Sight: Sounding out the Politics of Poetic Innovation in Modern South Asia. This fellowship will allow him to receive twelve months of advanced training in data science to enrich his humanities research. Over the year, he will be taking classes at Michigan State University in the fields of computational mathematics, computer science, and natural language processing. The fellowship will also support travel to conferences and field sites as well as the research transcription, and archiving of poetic texts and performances over three years. His project will explore how poets used sound to address their
Member News

Yasmin Saikia
Professor, Arizona State University

Saikia has been recognized as one of the twenty “Global Research Fellows” selected from Arizona State University (ASU) for the Planning and Learning Unit for Systems Change (PLUS) Alliance, a global network of scholars located in Kings College, London, University of New South Wales, Australia, and Arizona State University, USA. The nomination to this alliance is in recognition of her research on peace and social justice and its impact on ASU’s overall educational and research vision. Saikia attributes her work on Pakistan as playing a major role in the selection to be a PLUS fellow.

Audrey Truschke
Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University

Truschke published Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court (New York: Columbia UP, 2016). Culture of Encounters documents the fascinating exchange between the Persian-speaking Islamic scholars of the Mughal Empire and traditional Sanskrit scholars, which engendered a dynamic idea of Mughal rule essential to the empire’s survival. After she completes her Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University, she will be taking up a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Rutgers University.

AIPS Fellows and Grantees

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AIPS awards fellowships and awards for research, writing, conferences, and conferences of higher educational institutions in Pakistan. All awards are made through a competitive review process by committees comprised of a combination of AIPS officers, Executive Committee members, and Trustees. In the past year, AIPS has awarded the following 72 awards.

AIPS Fellowships

AIPS awarded both short-term research fellowships (1-4 months, funded by the US Embassy in Pakistan) and long-term research fellowships (2-9 months, funded by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers) during the past year. Due to security restrictions, Junior Scholars (those without a PhD) are required to conduct long-term fellowships in countries other than the US and Pakistan. However, advanced graduate students and faculty at the university.

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that despite enormous criticisms of these statutes the elected government was un-
able to remove or significantly modify the Blasphemy Law and similar Islam-based
legislation. The unique contribution of this project is the engagement of the growing
scholarship on Islamist political parties in the
electoral process, and the emergence of
civil Islam, to explore the mechanisms
that allow for accommodation of faith in
public life without focusing exclusively on
making the state Islamic.

6) Warsa Husain
Field and Institution: Law, American Uni-
versity
Project Title: The Judicialization of Politics:
Comparative Study of Pakistan, India, and
the United States
Duration of Research: 1 month
Destination: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan
Abstract: There is a spectrum that be-
comes apparent if one considers and
compares judicial review exercised by the
Supreme Courts of the United States,
Pakistan and India. On one side of this
spectrum, there is the role of the judiciary
as a guarantor of justice and check on
Executive excesses, on the other there is the
discipline of separation of powers
between branches of government. Certain
conditions create a need for a dynamic ju-
diciary in the Indian Subcontinent. Despite
this political requirement for an active
judiciary, the Supreme Court of India has
balanced its duties to foster justice while
remaining vigilant of the separation of
Powers doctrine. The Indian judiciary has
been able to avoid creating crises in lead-
ership unlike the Pakistani Supreme Court
which has been accused of spurring the
political process with its activism. In Paki-
stan, if the Supreme Court can adopt re-
peatable standards to limit judicial review,
it will foster access to justice and relative
inter-branch stability in Pakistan.

7) Rajbir Judge
Field and Institution: History, University of
California, Davis
Project Title: Occult Intrigue: Sikhs, Anti-
Colonial Resistance, and the Theosophical
Society
Duration of Research: 5 Months
Destination: Chennai, India, Budapest,
Hungary; London, United Kingdom
Abstract: This research examines alliances
between the Theosophical Society forged
with Sikhs in the Punjab and the role these all-
liances played in Maharaja Duleep Singh's
tempt to overthrow British rule at the end of
the 19th Century. By foregrounding the
dynamic nature of Theosophy, Sikhism,
and tradition in general, this research con-
tends that colonized subjects constantly
reshaped Theosophy to each other un-
der very specific local contexts and forms
of power that were also continuously
encroached upon by British and Russian
imperial projects.

8) Neelam Khoja
Field and Institution: History and
Cultures of Muslim Societies, Harvard
University
Project Title: Politics, Power, and
Persianate Punjab, 1707-1857
Duration of Research: 3 Months
Destination: UK; France
Abstract: This research examines how
changes in political and nonpolitical power
lead to new or reimagined representations
of land and space, language and culture,
sale and community in eighteenth and
early nineteenth century Punjab. More
specifically, it investigates the implications
of Persian and Afghan invasions and inter-
mittent rule of Punjab from roughly 1738 to
the 1790’s.

9) Sameer Lalwani
Field and Institution: Political Science,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Project Title: Selective Leviantians: Explain-
ing South Asian State Strategies of Coun-
terinsurgency and Consolidation
Duration of Research: 6 weeks
Destination: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan
Abstract: This project examines state
strategies to suppress, co-opt, or contain
violent ethnic mobilization and rebellion
within their borders. Specifically, it asks
why the state incumbent chooses different
strategies to suppress, co-opt, or contain
violent ethnic mobilization and rebellion
as well as for the changes in political and
nonpolitical power that encroached upon by
British and Russian impe-
rial projects.

10) Yassim Saikia
Field and Institution: History, Arizona State
University
Project Title: Azadi: Middle actors’
imagination of emancipation from
British Colonialism
Duration of Research: 4 Months
Destination: Islamabad and Lahore, Pakistan
Abstract: This archival research will con-
tribute to Professor Saikia’s book project
tentatively titled Freedom Dreams: Middle
Actors, International Networks, and Azadi
Middleman characters, namely Obaidullah Sin-
dyy, Fazal Ilahi, and Iqbal Shedi. Research
in Pakistan will examine and document the
historical and processual development of
Azadi (freedom) ideas of Ilahi, Shedi, and
Shedi that are of particular relevance in
understanding the concept of freedom in
Islam and Muslim contribution to the anti-
colonial freedom struggle against British
rule in South Asia.

11) William Sherman
Field and Institution: Islamic Studies,
Standard University
Project Title: Mountains and Mississips:
Revelation, Language, and Afghan Becomings
in the 16th-17th Centuries
Duration of Research: 1 month
Destination: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan
Abstract: This is a socio-literary study of early modern Sufi and millenari-
ian movements on the frontiers of the
Mughal Empire. Focusing primarily on
the religious imaginations of Bayazid Ansari
and the Rawshaniya, this project draws
upon manuscript sources in order to trace
the development and transformation of
categories of belonging in South Asian re-
ligious discourses. The primary argument
of this project is that conceptualizations
of “Pashto” and “Pamah” as, respectively,
“vernacular” and “ethnicity” emerged out
of heated religious debates over sainthood
authority, revelation, and the power of
language in light of the looming Islamic
millennium (1000 AH /1592 CE).

12) SherAli Tareen
Field and Institution: Religious Studies/
Islamic Studies, Franklin & Marshall Col-
lege
Project Title: Islam and the Ethics of Au-
thenticity: Tradition, Reform, Innovation
Duration of Research: 1 month
Destination: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan
Abstract: This book project examines intra-
Islamic traditions of debate and contesta-
tion on critical ethical issues such as the re-
lationship of Islam and democracy, minority
rights in Islam, the boundaries of friendship
between Muslims and non-Muslims, and the
limits of innovation and creativity in Islamic
law and theology. The focus of this project
is on the intellectual history of modern
South Asian Islam, with particular emphasis
on the intellectual traditions and history of
one of the most prominent Muslim seminar-
ists (madrassa) in the modern Muslim world.
the Deoband Madrassa.

AIPS Summer Fellowship Grantees 2016
Since 2014 AIPS has been able to offer
research travel grants (summer research
grants) funded in part by the US Em-
bassy in Pakistan, to allow scholars to do
preliminary and/or exploratory research
in Pakistan. Abstracts and final reports
for these projects can be found on the AIPS
website (www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/
content/summer-grant-archives).

1. Karim Gillani
Field and Institution: Ethnomusicology,
Florida International University
Project: Khoja Ismaili Muslim Hymns Ginans
2. Rehan Jamil
Field and Institution: Political Science,
Brown University
Project: Relationship between political
competition and service provision
3. Shabana Mir
Field and Institution: Anthropology, Ameri-
can Islamic College, Chicago
Project Title: Pathways of Pakistani Faculty:
Faculty Employment, Development and
Resilience
4. Sheikhah Mokhtar
Field and Institution: Journalism and
Communication, University of Oregon
Project Title: Mapping the Relationship
of Folk Culture and Modern Media In Pakistan
5. Afzal Nisar
Field and Institution: Public Administration
and Policy, Arizona State University
Project Title: Managing the Margins: Public
Administration and Lives of Hijras of Lahore,
Pakistan
6. Luther Obrock
Field and Institution: South Asian Studies,
University of Pennsylvania
Project: Mercantile Sanksrit: Trade, Religion,
and Literature along the Indus

AIPS Advising Travel Grants
Through a grant from the US Embassy in
Pakistan, AIPS is able to fund the travel of
scholars from us academic to Pakistani
Universities as advisors for specific pro-
grams. In 2016, AIPS funded one advisor
who went to Pakistan twice to advise COM-
SATs on the redesign of their Architecture
and Design Program.

Hassan-Uddin Khan
Field and Institution: Architecture and
Design Faculties, Roger Williams University
Pakistan Institution: COMSATS Institute of
Information Technology

7. Anna Gayyum
Field and Institution: History, Princeton
University
Project Title: Planning the Islamic Republic:
Economic Expertise and Development in
Pakistan, 1947-71
8. Mubbaahir Irti
Field and Institution: Anthropology,
Georgetown University
Project Title: Masters Not Friends: Land,
Labor, and Politics of Place in Rural Pakistan

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Field and Institution: Anthropology,
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Project Title: Masters Not Friends: Land,
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10. Cristin McKnight Sethi
Field and Institution: Anthropology, The
George Washington University
Project: Phulkari Textiles

AIPS Fellows and Grantees
AIPS Fellow and Grantees

AIPS Travel Grants
AIPS awards travel grants to help facilitate its members’ participation in international or domestic conferences, or for invited lectures in Pakistan. These grants are funded in part by CAORC and the US Embassy in Pakistan. In addition, faculty at AIPS member institutions can apply for an award to bring a Pakistani scholar to the US to participate in a conference and/or give a lecture at a US institution.

US-Based Scholar domestic and international grants
Abstracts and final reports for these projects can be found on the AIPS website (www.pakistanstudies-aips.org/content/travel-grant-archives).

1. Dean Accardi, Connecticut College
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin; Sanskrit in Persilarte India Preconference to the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia October 2015

2. Sarah Ahmed, University of Oregon
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin October 2015

3. Marta Ameri, Colby College
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin October 2015

4. Elizabeth Bolton, University of Texas at Austin
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference
  - March-April 2016
  - Paper: The Clamor of Reticence: Producing News Television in Pakistan

5. Brian Bond, City University of New York
- The Graduate Center
  - 2015 Society for Ethnomusicology Conference
  - December 2015

6. Christopher Candland, Wellesley College
- Pakistani Higher Education Commission and University of Peshawar International Conference on “State and Society of Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities” May 2015

7. Cara Cillano, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- Locally Sourced: Recovering the Local in History, Culture, and Politics in Pakistan (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics). August 2015

8. Karen Greenwal, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Vitriol: Art and Its Discontents (Concordia University, Montreal)
  - March 2016

9. Randall Law, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 43rd Conference of the European Association for South Asian Archaeology and Art July 2016
  - Paper: The Art of the Harappan Microbead

10. Elizabeth Lhost, University of Chicago
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
  - October 2015
  - Paper: The Domestic Politics of Jihad in Pakistan: The Case of Lashkar-e-Taiba

11. Mehr Afshan Farooqi, University of Virginia
- Faiz Peace Festival, Lahore: Literary Week at the LUMS Gurmani Center for Languages and Literature
  - November 2015

12. Tariq L. Rahman, University of Oregon
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
  - October 2015
  - Paper: Between Mosque, School, and Printing House: Muslim Associations in Colonial Punjab

13. Karen Greenwal, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Virol: Art and Its Discontents (Concordia University, Montreal)
  - March 2016

14. Anna Gassym, Princeton University
- Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference
  - March-April 2016

15. Elizabeth Lhost, University of Chicago
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
  - October 2015
  - Paper: The Art of the Harappan Microbead

16. John Mock, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Law and Governance in Gilgit-Baltistan (Nantes Institute for Advanced Studies Fellow, France)
  - April 2016

17. Carla Petievich, University of Texas at Austin
- Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference
  - March-April 2016

18. Theorem: From Court to Public Sphere: How Urdu Poetry’s Language of Romance Shaped the Language of Protest

19. Anna Gassym, Princeton University
- Association of South Asian Studies Annual Conference
  - March-April 2016

20. Tarig L. Rahman, University of Oregon
- 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
  - October 2015

21. David Rezvani, Dartmouth College
- Ethno Federalism in Pakistan and Beyond (Fordham Christian College, Lahore)
  - April 2015

22. Alexis M. Saba, Indiana University
- Comparative and International Education Society
  - March 2016

Pakistan-based Scholar International Travel Support
AIPS offers travel grants to AIPS member institution faculty to bring Pakistan-based scholars to the US:

1. Tarnir Anjum
- Project Title: Trending Pakistan: New Approaches to the Study of History Conference
  - Sponsoring Institution in the US: Arizona State University
  - Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Quaid-e-Azam University
  - April 2016

2. Haris Gazdar
- Project Title: Future Directions in Pakistan Studies Conference
  - Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Michigan
  - Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Collective for Social Science Research
  - April 2015

3. Syed Noman Ali
- Project Title: 1) Lecture at MSU Image of the Divine in Sindhi Folk Tales and Sufi Poetry; 2) Provide recordings for Urdu literary pedagogical materials; and 3) 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
  - Sponsoring Institution in the US: Michigan State University
  - Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Institute of Business Administration-Karachi
  - October 2015

4. Livia Holden
- Project Title: 1) Contemporary Manifestations of Islamic Divorce in the Global South: Understanding Khul’ in Diverse Cultural Contexts; Divorce at the Woman’s Initiative in Pakistan and Diasporas; and 3) invited presentations: University of Washington and University of Oregon.
  - Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Illinois-Chicago
  - Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Karakoram International University
  - May 2015
5. Akmal Hussain
Project Title: Climate Change and the Impositive of Cooperation in South Asia
Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Texas-Austin
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Forman Christian College
May 2015

6. Imdad Hussain
Project Title: Trending Pakistan: New Approaches to the Study of History
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Arizona State University
April 2016

7. Tilakarun Nisa Hussain
Project Title: Lectures: Promoting the Well-being of Women and Children: A Psychological Perspective
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Southern Methodist University
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University
April 2016

8. Ammar Ali Jan
Project Title: Trending Pakistan: New Approaches to the Study of History
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Arizona State University
April 2016

9. Imran Ahmed Khan
Project Title: 1) Mineral Resources of Pakistan: Prospects and Challenges, 2) Impacts of Climate Change in South East Asia: Need for Paradigm Shift in Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, 3) Role Functions and Achievements of Geological Survey of Pakistan, and 4) Status of Geospatial Mapping in Pakistan
Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Texas-Austin
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Geological Survey of Pakistan
March 2016

10. Firma Minwalla
Project Title: Future Directions in Pakistan Studies Conference
Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Michigan
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Institute of Business Administration-Karachi
April 2015

11. Rabia Nadir
Project Title: Future Directions in Pakistan Studies Conference
Sponsoring Institution in the US: University of Michigan
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Lahore School of Economics
April 2015

12. Altaf Gadir
Lecture: Sayyid Ahmad Barali: Reform, Jihad, or Resistance?
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Stockton University
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: University of Peshawar
September 2015

13. Uli Usman Gasi
Project Title: The Postcolonial Moment Conference
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Princeton University
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Lahore University of Management Sciences
November 2015

14. Fouzia Saeed
Lecture: Women’s rights and social justice in Pakistan
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Boston University
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: Lok Virsa National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage
April 2016

15. Imam Uddin
Lectures: 1) Islam and Human Rights: A Pakistani Perspective 2) Islamic Banking & Finance in Praxis, Pakistan as Case-Study
Sponsoring Institution in the US: Florida International University
Affiliated Institution in Pakistan: DHA Sufia University
March and April 2015

AIPS Publication/Write-up Awards
Since 2014, AIPS has been able to award small grants to scholars to facilitate writing and publication. The 2015-16 awards are:

1. Sheetal Chhabria, Connecticut College
2. Mary Davis, University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. Jeffrey Diamond, College of Saint Benedict/Saint John’s University
4. Farhat Haq, Monmouth College
5. Falza Moatassim, Hamilton College
6. Sadia Saeed, Boston University
7. SherAli Tareen, Franklin & Marshall College III

Arizona State University (ASU)
ASU has been awarded a grant by the US Embassy in Islamabad to establish a university partnership with the University of the Punjab (PU) to strengthen, deepen, and internationalize the professional and scholarly contributions of PU faculty in the fields of Mass Communication and Development Studies. Project Directors Chad Haines and Yasmine Sakka (AIPS Executive Committee member), affiliated with ASU’s Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, designed the three-year program with team members from the Cricklitt School of Journalism and Mass Communication. This project follows ASU’s successful partnership with Kinnaird College for Women, a previous university partnership grant awarded by the US Embassy.

Florida International University (FIU)
In November 2015, the Department of Religious Studies at FIU hosted the inaugural western Indian Ocean studies conference entitled Rāhī Naqīt (The path of salvation): Religious and social dynamics amongst mercantile communities of the western Indian Ocean, with support from AIPS. The conference, organized by lobal Akhtar and Steve Voce, theorized the development of Indic religious identities and cosmologies in the western Indian Ocean littoral as these communities traversed land and the ocean for economic opportunities through changing political regimes. The conference was both an interdisciplinary and international gathering of scholars from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Singapore, Chile, Pakistan, and India.

Rick Asher began the event with a presentation that framed the conference. His lecture explored the Indian Ocean as a continuum with India as a fulcrum and poetically based theories based on archaeologi- cal and epigraphical evidence as to why Indic culture and religion thrived in the east and hardly made an impact on the societies of the western littoral. Sandip Saha (following presentation) highlighted the way the Vallabha Sampradāya became so influential in Gujarat through the vast literature, theorizing socio-economic changes as a possible explanation for the community’s historical expansion and success. Sebastian Prange highlighted the multi-spatiality of a mosque as indicator of Muslim presence in the maritime history of the Malabar coast. Alia Paroo’s ground-breaking research examined the relationship of Aga Khan III to the British and the Ismaili community’s positioning vis-à-vis the colonial government in Tanganyika as a political strategy that promoted communalism. Amin Rana presented on the 19th century science of phenology and the economy of racial classifications in the British Empire. Amal Sachdeva presented on the question of Lāwāt Khāṣ in Oman, and on their shifting postcolonial identities as a strategy for political enfranchisement. Ceci Palleschi’s ethnographic research conducted in Arusha Tanzania and on the ‘two foots’ approach of African Asians to maintaining transnational networks and identities between Tanzania and the United Kingdom. Sarah Kazmi provided a comprehensive account of the Khūḍ community in Karachi through a postcolonial reading of their history. Khaṭṭā Khāder examined the Hadrami and Sidi diaspora in India through ethnographic work on how postmodernity identity discourses are racialized through globalization. Juan Bruce’s presentation thought graphically about the Khūḍ script as glyphs and ap- parent discrepancy in narratives regarding the Husseini and Devra presses in the late 19th century. Liyakat Takim and Hainain Walji concluded the conference with a roundtable discussion on the tension of Khūḍ communities between the demands of Near Eastern Islamic authorities and communal desire for institutional indepen- dence in the preservation of identity.

Bostons University (BU)
Frank J. Korom, Boston University’s AIPS Trustee, received an AIPS sponsored international travel grant to bring Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Executive Director of Lok Virsa in Islamabad, to the US in late April. Dr. Saeed gave two lectures at BU, one on Pakistan’s feminism, the other on Pakistani folk culture. BU also received AIPS conference support for an upcoming conference on Muslim Thought and Practice in South Asia. Perspectives within and between History and Religious Studies that will take place October 13-15, 2016.

Michigan State University (MSU)
The MSU AIPS Trustee, A. Sean Pue, organized Dr. Syed Noman Haq’s visit to MSU from the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, in October 2015. Dr. Haq gave two lectures: Images of the Divine in Sindhi Folk Tales and Poetry, and Whose Domination?: The Natural Environment in the Avicennic Islamic Tradition. He then presented in a panel at the Annual
Poetic Modernism.

Majeed Amjad, the Lost Voice of Urdu

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engages histories, art and architecture, law, and poetry. The second session centered on migration, contact, and movements as practices productive of diverse identities, identifications and mobilizations. Speakers included: Ahmed Kamarustama (University of Maryland), Sarah Elliottani (Eugene State College), Jerriynn Dens (Sarah Lawrence College), Denis Mckeeley (Independent Scholar), Engiseg Ho (Duke University), Nahid Samdout (New York University), Mostafa Bayoumi (Brooklyn College), Sohail Dialtazi (University of California, Irvine), Michael Cook (Princeton University) gave the keynote address.

August 1808-May 1897 at the conference. The paper outlines Metcalf’s mission to the court of Ranjit Singh at the same time as Elphinston’s mission to Peshawar. It argues that Metcalf’s successful negotiations and later political relations with the Punjab were directly tied to a degree of “access to affective knowledges” gained from this visit when he apparently married an officially unacknowledged Sikh wife (with whom he had three sons).

University of Michigan (UM)
The Center for South Asian Studies and the Pakistan Students’ Association hosted the 5th Annual UM-Pakistan conference in April 2015. The theme of the conference was New Media and Social Change. The conference brought together activists, academics, and practitioners in the field of media in Pakistan. The conference opened with a panel titled “Pakistanis Negotiating the New Media Landscape,” with presentations by Mahvish Ahmad (Cambridge University, and co-founder of Tanqeed, an online magazine) and Raza Rumi (journalist and public policy specialist). The second panel was interrogating New Media Limitations and Possibilities. It featured Mobina Hashmi (Brooklyn College) and Marta Bolognani (University of Bristol), both academics, and activist Sana Saleem. Over the course of the day, over 100 people were in attendance, many of whom were engaged participants.

University of Texas, Austin
Since 2013, South Asia Institute (SAI) at UT has facilitated three US Department of State University Partnerships. The partnerships enable the exchange of scholars between Pakistani educational institutions and UT, and a series of lectures, training sessions, video conference workshops, and cultural events. Equally important, the partnerships encourage lasting person-to-person connections and professional network building between individuals in Pakistan and the US.

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Both organizations, pilgrims from Pisa, visited the city and then proceeded to various parts of the country. During their stay, they engaged with local scholars and students, participating in panel discussions, public lectures, and cultural events. The event also aimed to foster cultural exchange and strengthen ties between the two countries.

Also of note, the conference also featured a special panel session on “Gender, Social Sciences and Humanities: New Directions in Scholar- ship” at FJWU.

The 2016 Helen Merrell Lynd Colloquium was a comprehensive and engaging event that brought together scholars and researchers from various disciplines to discuss and explore the multiplicity of lived human experiences and practices of Muslims, past and present. Inspired by, and in dialogue with, Jalal al-Din al-Rumi, the colloquium examined textual, historical, and cultural aspects of Islamic thought. The colloquium was part of the broader academic and intellectual landscape of Islamic studies across disciplines – to engage histories, art and architecture, law, and poetry. The second session centered on migration, contact, and movements as practices productive of diverse identities, identifications and mobilizations. Speakers included: Ahmed Kamarustama (University of Maryland), Sarah Elliottani (Eugene State College), Jerriynn Dens (Sarah Lawrence College), Denis Mckeeley (Independent Scholar), Engiseg Ho (Duke University), Nahid Samdout (New York University), Mostafa Bayoumi (Brooklyn College), Sohail Dialtazi (University of California, Irvine), Michael Cook (Princeton University) gave the keynote address.

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AIPS News

AIPS Book Prize

The 2014-15 AIPS Book Prize was awarded to Osama Siddique for Pakistan’s Experience with Formal Law: An Asian Justice (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press 2013). Dr. Siddique is the Executive Director of the Law and Policy Research Network (Lahore), and Associate Fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (Lahore), and a member of the Senior Faculty of the institute for Global Law & Policy at Harvard Law School. Pakistan’s Experience with Formal Law presents a typology of Pakistani approaches to law reform and critically evaluates the IFI (International Financial Institutions)-funded single-minded pursuit of ‘efficiency’ during the last decade. Employing diverse methodologies, it provides empirical support for a widening chasm between popular, at times violently expressed, aspirations for justice and democratically defi-

AIPS Publishes Intizar Husain

AIPS is pleased to announce the publication of Story Is a Vagabond: Fiction, Essays, and Drama by Intizar Husain. Ed. Frank Stewart, Alok Bhalja, Asif Farrukhi, and Nishat Zaida (Honolulu: University of Hawaii press, 2015). One of Pakistan’s most distin-

Funding Opportunities for AIPS Member Institutions

4) Program Support for a Workshop/Conference on Pakistan in the US

AIPS has CAORC funds (up to $5,000) to support a Pakistan-related conference that will take place in the US.

More information: http://pakistanstudies-aips.org/grants/workshopconference-on-pakistan-in-unit-
ed-states

5) Pakistan Lecture Series

The Pakistan Lecture Series (supported by CAORC and Government of Pakistan funding) is a program designed to support academic exchange between Pakistan and US scholars and to promote the field of Pakistan studies as a whole. As a part of this program a Pakistan scholar, artist, musician, etc. is invited to travel to the US and present lectures at a minimum of three US AIPS-member institutions. PLS speakers are nominated by AIPS members or member institutions. This grant pays for airfare and a stipend to the speaker. Each institution is expected to pay local travel expenses.

More information: http://pakistanstudies-aips.org/grants/pakistan-lecture-series

6) Advisor Travel

AIPS has a role to play in establishing world-class teaching and training pro-

AIPS 2015-16 Elections Results

The terms of the Treasurer and the Secretary expired on September 30, 2015. Elections for these positions were conducted in the late spring of 2015, and the seats were successfully filled for terms beginning October 1, 2015 as follows:

Farhat Haq (Mormon College) was re-elected to serve as Treasurer.
Cabeen Robinson (University of Washington-Seattle) was re-elected to serve as Secretary.

In Memoriam: Shamim Anwar

This is in memory of Shamim Anwar, a remarkable thinker and exceptional teacher, who taught Islamic and South Asian History at Kenyon College, Lake Hose, and died on January 15, 2016. For those of us who knew her, this is both personal and public.

As an undergraduate student, it was in Ms. Anwar’s class that I not only developed a life long interest in studying history, but also learned to think critically about it. Ms. Anwar exuded energy and infused her teaching with a passionate engagement not only with her subject matter but also its contemporary significance. She taught us to question accepted wisdom about both Islam and history—and the history of Pakistan—-to look behind what is taken for granted, and accepted as “Truth.” Yet despite her critical and rigorous thinking, Ms. Anwar demonstrated that seriousness and light-heartedness are not opposites. I still remember her infectious laugh, the twinkle in her eyes when she discussed something she cared deeply about, her ability to think expansively and link the past and the present in ways that illuminated both.

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Naiza Khan, *The Land Was Once Free (Homage to Parveen Rehman)*, 2015; Etching on Somerset paper 57 x 76 cm (22 ½ x 30 in).

Image courtesy Naiza Khan and Rossi & Rossi London | HK

Parveen Rahman (1957-2013), architect and social activist, was the director of the Orangi Pilot Project—Research and Training Institute, Karachi. She was an outspoken critic of Karachi’s land mafia and struggled ceaselessly for land and basic services rights for Pakistan’s poor. She was murdered while returning from work on March 13, 2013.