

AIPS Fellowship Final Report

Project Title: Re-imagining Citizenship through Informal Assemblages in Islamabad, Pakistan

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Location: Islamabad, Pakistan

1. Significance to Pakistan Studies

This project highlights the impacts of the built environment in public spaces on Christian women living in informal settlements. The project helps provide insights into the women's experiences in Islamabad as "unwanted citizens" and the many ways in which they negotiate their right to the city and nation in Islamabad through their reappropriation of these spaces. This is important to Pakistan studies as the project highlights a minority's experience in Islamabad, and aimed to outline solutions that the development authority could consider when planning public spaces in the future, such as parks, monuments etc. This can help development authority officials make public spaces in Islamabad more welcoming, accessible, and useful for those who have historically been left out of being the intended audience. My aim was to also bridge a conversation between the authority and the participants, as indicated in the next part.

2. Key Outcomes and Deliverables

The main outcome is the dissertation that I am currently working on. Secondly, the participants and I are working on a photo book that journals the images the participants took in this study, spaces they liked or disliked, and had specific comments on, around Islamabad. This book highlights their experiences in the project, what they gained, and what they'd like to see in Islamabad as its rightful residents and citizens. Once completed, this book will be shared with the development authority and other relevant stakeholders such as nonprofits, organizations, advocates, allies, academics etc. who have an interest in the planning of Islamabad and would benefit from the perspectives offered.