



AIPs Grantee Final Report

In order to better report and highlight AIPs-sponsored programs with our funding agencies and AIPs members, please provide the information requested in this form. Information provided in this report may be posted on the AIPs website and/or submitted to our granting agency. All required materials should be sent via email to aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Final Report Requirements

1. Complete the form below regarding details of your program. Please return this as a Microsoft Word document (doc or .docx).
2. Provide a one paragraph to one-page report highlighting the significance of this presentation on Pakistan Studies.

AIPs Grantee Information

Name:

Dean Accardi

Affiliate Institution in U.S.:

Connecticut College

Affiliate/Host Institution in Pakistan (If Applicable):

Research Field:

History

Conference:

Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion

Paper Title(s):

Saints of Kashmiri Resistance and Repression

Panel Title (if applicable):

Saints in Divided Societies

Date of Conference or Presentation:

December 10, 2020

Summary of Program and Significance on Pakistan Studies

Sponsored by both the Comparative Studies in Religion and Comparative Approaches to Religion & Violence Units, this panel addressed how revered religious figures are constructed and mobilized in modern divided societies—from Israel-Palestine to Syria to Sri Lanka to my own paper on Kashmir. My paper addressed how, in what ways, and why saints from fourteenth-century Kashmir continue to be invoked by every party wishing to assert claims over the rightful belonging and future of Kashmir—both Hindus and Muslims and politicians and everyday people alike in India and Pakistan. Bringing the topic of my paper forward in conversation with panelists and an audience with expertise in other “conflict zones” highlighted and provided complex insights into how the complex interweaving of religion and politics is prevalent across the world and warranting greater examination rather than derision or dismissal by certain world political leaders.

Participating in this panel contributed to Pakistan Studies in three keys ways. First, my paper provided analysis of how historical and religious rhetorics about Kashmir are used by Pakistani political and religious leaders to establish themselves as authorities in the Pakistani public sphere. Second, since this panel was comparative, interreligious, and trans-regional, my presentation will introduced Pakistani religious and political discourses about Kashmir to other panelists and a broader audience who may have had little to no prior knowledge or investments in Pakistan, Pakistani society, or politics. Third, as already mentioned, engaging panelists whose specializations focused on parallel zones of religious conflict provided different perspectives and further insights into the religious, social, and political dynamics involved in Pakistani claims regarding Kashmir.