



**American  
Institute of  
Pakistan Studies**



**2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

# AIPS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

## AIPS FELLOWSHIPS

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AIPS awards Senior and Junior Research Fellowships to scholars conducting long-term (two to nine months) research projects. Fellows' abstracts and final reports can be found on the [AIPS website](#).

## FUNDED BY CAORC

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### 1) Mashal Saif – Assistant Professor, Clemson University

Project Title: *Traditional Islam and Modernity in Pakistan*  
Research Field: Religious Studies  
Location: Pakistan  
Dates: TBD

### 2) Fizza Joffrey – PhD Student, The University of Oxford

Project Title: *Processions, Protest, and Identity: Contemporary Shi'ism in Karachi*  
Research Field: Religious Studies  
Location: London, UK and Toronto, Canada  
Dates: TBD

## FUNDED BY AIPS

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### 1) Sarah Sadiq – PhD Student, The University of Texas at Austin

Project Title: *Navigating a Toxic Space: Ecological Disaster and Infrastructural Restitution in the Urban-Rural Periphery of Lahore*  
Research Field: Anthropology  
Location: Pakistan  
Dates: TBD

### 2) Muhammad Saad Lakhani – PhD Student, Stanford University

Project Title: *Protectors of the Prophet's Honor: The Politics of Islam, Populism and Nationalism in Pakistan*  
Research Field: Cultural and Social Anthropology  
Location: Pakistan  
Dates: TBD

## TRAVEL GRANTS

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AIPS awards Conference Travel Grants to help support its members participating in invited lectures and conferences, both nationally and internationally. Abstracts and final reports for all Travel Grant awardees can be found on the [AIPS website](#).

### FUNDED BY CAORC

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#### 1) Syeda ShahBano Ijaz – PhD Candidate, University of California, San Diego

Conference Name: American Political Science Association Annual Meeting  
 Conference Dates: September 30 – October 3, 2021  
 Location: Seattle, Washington  
 Title of Paper: “*Foreign Aid and Compliance with Public Health Orders: Evidence from Pakistan*”

## SHORT-TERM RESEARCH GRANTS

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AIPS awards short-term research grants to scholars conducting preliminary and/or exploratory research in Pakistan. These grants, funded by AIPS, support one to three months of travel in Pakistan. Scholars’ abstracts and final reports can be found on the [AIPS website](#).

#### 1) Elliot Montpellier – PhD Candidate, The University of Pennsylvania

Field: Anthropology  
 Project Title: *Mediatizing Islam: Social Media, Television Dramas, and the Making of Pious Publics in Pakistan*  
 Location: Karachi, Pakistan

#### 2) Hashim Ali – PhD Candidate, The University of Illinois-Chicago

Field: History  
 Project Title: *Students Strike Back: Youth Life and the Promise of Post-Colonial Pakistan*  
 Location: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan

#### 3) Ilma Qureshi – PhD Candidate, The University of Virginia

Field: Religious Studies  
 Project Title: *The Texture, Poetics, and the Taste of Love and Knowledge in Amīr Khusraw and Fakhr al-Dīn Irāqī’s Works*  
 Location: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan

**4) Manav Kapur – PhD Student, Princeton University**

Field: History

Project Title: *Bounding Nations, Making Citizens': Evacuee Property and Citizenship in Postcolonial South Asia (1947-65)*

Location: Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan

**5) Natalya Rahman – PhD Candidate, Stanford University**

Field: Political Science

Project Title: *Showing up Is Half the Battle: Candidate Strategy and Vote Choice in Pakistan*

Location: Karachi, Pakistan

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## VIRTUAL PROGRAMING GRANTS

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This past year, AIPS provided honoraria to members participating in virtual research presentations and discussions. Awardees are listed below, and their abstracts and final reports are on the AIPS website.

**1) Claire Pamment – Assistant Professor, College of William and Mary**

Conference: 49th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies

Conference Dates: October 23-24, 2020

Title of Paper: *Dis/Orientating Bodies: Badhai Transformations in Pakistan*

**2) Dean Accardi – Assistant Professor, Connecticut College**

Conference: Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion

Conference Dates: December 10, 2020

Title of Paper: *Saints of Kashmiri Resistance and Repression*

**3) Michael Hirsch – Professor, Huston-Tillotson University**

Conference: 2020 Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology's Conference

Conference Dates: October 5-7, 2020

Title of Paper: *SWOTing in Pakistan: Examining the Efficacy of a Music Program at a Young Arts Institute*

**4) Mushtaq Bilal – PhD Candidate, Binghamton University**

Conference: AWP 2021 Virtual Conference and Book Fair

Conference Dates: March 3-7, 2021

Title of Panel: *Mangoes or Pizza: Battling Self-Censorship to Write/Right the Self*

**5) Zain Mian – PhD Candidate, University of Pennsylvania**

Event: Magazine and World Literature Webinar Series

Event Date: March 19, 2021

Title of Paper: *A Tale of Two Journals: The Poetics and Politics of Community in Mid-Century South Asia*

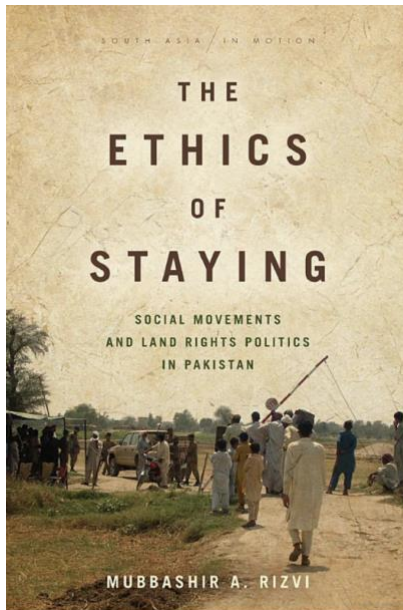
**6) Suneel Kumar – PhD Candidate, University of Georgia**

Event: RAI 2021: Anthropology and Conservation conference

Event Date: October 25-29, 2021

Title of Paper: *The Other-Than-Human Affective Relationalities: Camels, Mangroves, and Saltwater Intrusion in the Indus Delta of Pakistan*

## 2021 AIPS BOOK PRIZE



**Author:** Dr. Mubbashir Rizvi

**Title:** *The Ethics of Staying: Social Movements and Land Rights Politics in Pakistan*

**Book Description:** The military coup that brought General Pervez Musharraf to power as Pakistan's tenth president resulted in the abolition of a century-old sharecropping system that was rife with corruption. In its place the military regime implemented a market reform policy of cash contract farming. Ostensibly meant to improve living conditions for tenant farmers, the new system, instead, mobilized one of the largest, most successful land rights movements in South Asia—still active today.

In *The Ethics of Staying*, Mubbashir A. Rizvi presents an original framework for understanding this major social movement, called the Anjuman Mazarin Punjab (AMP). This group of Christian and Muslim tenant sharecroppers, against all odds, successfully resisted Pakistan military's bid to monetize state-owned land, making a powerful moral case for land rights by invoking local claims to land and a broader vision for subsistence rights. The case of AMP provides a unique lens through which to examine state and society relations in Pakistan, one that bridges literatures from subaltern studies, military and colonial power, and the language of claim-making. Rizvi also offers a glimpse of Pakistan that challenges its standard framing as a hub of radical militancy, by

opening a window into to the everyday struggles that are often obscured in the West's terror discourse.

## **AIPS (CO)SPONSORED EVENTS**

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The following conferences, workshops and other academic events were partially or fully sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies.

### **1) American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Dissertation-to-Book Workshop**

Dates: October 14-15, 2020

Location: Virtual

Co-sponsored by: CAORC, AIIS, AIPS, AIBS, AISLS

This workshop aimed to help a select number of recent PhDs to re-vision their doctoral dissertations as books. Originally part of the Annual Conference on South Asia, the workshop occurred virtually. The workshop was sponsored by the American Institute of Indian Studies, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies.

### **2) University of Michigan 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pakistan Conference**

Dates: April 2-3, 2021

Location: Virtual

Co-Sponsored by: AIPS sponsored the event along with the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, and the following units at the University of Michigan: Anthropology, Center for South Asian Studies, Center for World Performance Studies, College of LSA, Global Islamic Studies Center, History, History of Art, Rackham Graduate School, Residential College, Middle East Studies, and Women's Studies.

This year's conference theme was "Religious Landscapes" and featured two days of presentations, panels, and film screening. The conference was organized by Matthew Hull, Brittany Puller, and Zehra Hashmi in conjunction with the UM Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS). The conference also included an exhibition with Director and Professor Claire Pamment regarding the contestation and articulation of gender, class, caste, and religious identity in Pakistani theatre.

### **3) NYU Bangladesh Conference**

Dates: July 1-3, 2021

Location: Virtual

Co-Sponsored by: AIPS, AIBS, NY Center for Global Asia, Durham University Department of Anthropology, NYU, College of Staten Island, ASU Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, South Asia NYU, Johns Hopkins University, Association for Asian Studies, and the UT Austin South Asia Institute.

AIPS co-sponsored a recent virtual conference organized by South Asia NYU and the UT South Asia Institute commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the Bangladesh War of 1971. The three-day conference, “War, Violence, and Memory: Commemorating 50 Years of the 1971 Bangladesh War” was held July 1st - 3rd and featured numerous panels and discussions about Pakistani and Bangladeshi history, the war of 1971, and its implications.

#### 4) LUMS Beginning Urdu Course

Dates: February 22 – April 28

Location: Virtual

Participants: Stephanie Oostman, Neeta Chandra, Lee Redfield, Lillian Huerta, Rachel Meyer, Paul Edleman

AIPS funded six faculty/administrators from community colleges or minority-serving institutions to participate in a 10-week, online course titled “Beginning Urdu I” that was hosted and facilitated by LUMS. The course was designed for learners without any previous knowledge of Urdu language and culture. The goal of this course was to provide students with the fundamentals of Urdu grammar and help them move from novice low to novice high levels in all four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) using a curriculum designed by instructors experienced in teaching to foreign students. Using a communicative approach and an innovative blended curriculum, this course was conducted online by Dr. Faiza Saleem.

## CAORC-AIPS 2020/21 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR: “RELIGION & CULTURE IN THE POSTCOLONIAL CITY”

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**Participants:** Maria Ritzema (College of Du Page); Amir Moosavi (Rutgers University-Newark); John Norvell (Mt. San Antonio College); Diana Burnett (Howard University); Cristin Cash (Montgomery College); W. Russell Robinson (North Carolina Central University); Keith St. Clair (Grand Rapids Community College); Cynthia Beck (Arkansas State University-Beebe).

**Summary:** AIPS has selected its next cohort for the Faculty Development Seminar in Pakistan. This seminar, organized by AIPS with support from CAORC, aims to provide participants with firsthand experiences of various cultural sites and practices in Lahore, including its medieval walled city and its colonial architectural landmarks, as well as facilitating meetings with local scholars, artists, and others. Participants are faculty members or administrators of a community college or minority-serving institution, who seek to provide a global perspective to their students. This program is currently set to occur in December of 2021.

## UPCOMING AIPS EVENTS

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### 1) **The Community College Collaborative Workshop**

**Location:** Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan

**Date:** December 2021

Dr. Paul Edleman (Sauk Valley Community College), Prof. Farah Habib (Bristol Community College), and Dr. Robert Soza (Mesa Community College) have been awarded a grant for “The Community College Collaborative,” a professional development initiative to take place at Lahore University of Management Sciences in Lahore, Pakistan. Drs. Edleman and Soza along with Prof. Farah Habib will work with community-college level faculty in Pakistan to develop an integrated humanities and social sciences curriculum for first- and second-year students. Pakistan is piloting a program to model community colleges on Western models geared toward offering two-year degrees and certificates. Similarly, in the US, there is an interest in the humanities and social science departments to globalize curriculum and improve students’ global competency. By working together, faculty from both countries will develop curricula that address local concerns and prepare students for success in the workforce and university programs. The program will host a two-and-a-half-day in-person workshop at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) with the guiding theme of interdisciplinary integration of the humanities and social sciences in community college pedagogy and curriculum. Following the workshop, the US participants will engage with Government Officials and University Administrators to discuss the future and development of community college programs in Pakistan.

### 2) **Research Encounters in Pakistan**

**Location:** Metropolitan State University of Denver, USA

**Date:** Spring of 2022

As a minority-serving and mostly undergraduate institution, MSU Denver will host an academic discussion on Pakistan, with conversations about research opportunities, study abroad opportunities, scholarly exchange, and Pakistan’s cultural milieu with faculty and students. The conference, organized by Dr. Sanaa Riaz, will host Dr. Kathryn Besio from the University of Hawai’i at Hilo, a minority-serving institution. Dr. Besio’s talk, from the perspective of her area of expertise, Geography, will be followed by a discussion by Dr. Joel Gordon, Professor of History of the Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Arkansas. Due to COVID-19 this event has been postponed until the spring of 2022.

### 3) **Before and Beyond Typography: Textual Production in Global and Multimodal Perspective**

**Location:** *Virtual*

**Date:** *TBD*



This series of virtual manuscript workshops explores the history of reproductive text technologies from a global, multimodal perspective. The event brings together both established and emerging scholars. It will track the dynamic interplay between technological change and non-typographic printing in South Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa; and the vitality of non-typographic publishing networks from the early modern era through the present. Dr. Thomas S. Mullaney of Stanford University and Dr. Andrew Amstutz of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock are organizing this series.

**4) Pakistan and Partition Through Bengali Eyes: Elias’s Khoabnama**

**Location:** *Bangladesh*

**Date:** *August 2022*

The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Naveeda Khan at Johns Hopkins University, will host twelve participants. They will present and discuss one another’s papers on Akhteruzzaman Elias’s novel, *Khoabnama*, to produce pithy pieces and academic work on a figure richly deserving of more engagement. Graduate students working on related topics will be involved in the conference. The university will also advertise it to the broader public.

**5) Writing Pakistan: Literature, Nationhood, and Identity**

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** October 2021

This AIPS-funded panel will take place at the 2021 Annual Conference on South Asia and is organized by Mushtaq Bilal, PhD candidate at Binghamton University. The panel seeks to investigate the relationship between Pakistani literature, nationhood, and identity by bringing together established scholars and graduate students working on Pakistani literature. Some of the questions this panel aims to explore: How is Pakistan as an Islamic nation imagined through literature? What kind of discourse of an “Islamic nationhood” emerges out of Pakistani Urdu literature? Who is a “Pakistani writer?” What role do Pakistani literatures play in crafting or contesting a “national identity?” How are minorities portrayed in Pakistani literatures? Two scholars, Muneeza Shamsie and Nasir Abbas Nayyar, will join from Pakistan to participate in the panel. U.S. scholars on the panel include Cara Cilano, Ambreen Hai, Ulka Anjaria, Sameera Abbas, Rajendar Kaur, Zain Mian, and Mushtaq Bilal.

**6) Linguistic Anthropology: Mobilizing Key Concepts in the Context of Pakistan**

**Location:** Lahore, Pakistan

**Date:** December 2021

The workshop, facilitated by Dr. Matthew A. Cook, Dr. Gwendolyn Kirk, and Dr. Elizabeth Keating, convenes an interdisciplinary and inter-university group of junior Pakistani faculty to introduce them to concepts from the theoretical toolkit of linguistic anthropology. The workshop addresses a knowledge gap about linguistic anthropology in Pakistan, where linguistics—instead of focusing on the country’s rich language

landscape—prioritize ESL and Chomsky’s generative grammar. It is similarly marginal in Pakistani anthropology, which is mostly limited to the discipline’s socio-cultural subfield. Due to this double “blind spot” in linguistics and anthropology, the workshop will benefit Pakistani participants from both of these disciplines. Participants from other disciplines will also profit from it by exposing them to linguistic anthropology’s concepts for understanding language, culture, and society.

#### 7) **Emerging Scholars in Pakistan Studies Symposium**

**Location:** Madison, WI, USA

**Date:** October 2022

AIPS is planning to hold its third Emerging Scholars in Pakistan Studies Symposium at the Annual Conference on South Asia in 2022. This one-day pre-conference is expected to bring together emerging scholars who are based in the social sciences and the humanities primarily in the US academia. A call for applications will be announced during the summer of 2022. AIPS encourages abstracts from (but not restricted to) disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, political science, history, literature, religious studies, art history, music, women studies, film and communications studies, etc. Graduate Students who are enrolled in a PhD program in a US academic institution and have ABD status, especially those writing their dissertations are encouraged to apply. Post-Doctoral candidates who completed their PhD in or after 2018 are also encouraged to apply.

## AIPS CONTACT INFORMATION

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