

**Final Report** - *'Marwa Na Dena': Reporting Between the Marginal and the Military*

My co-organizers and I chose to collect papers that would bring attention to the edges of the Pakistani state and our panel was titled - *Ethnography and History from the Margins of the State: Class, Media and Politics in Pakistan*. The purpose of this panel was to explore how enforced boundaries reveal the fragility of state power, particularly when statist narratives are challenged from within. Anthropologists have long approached margins, borders and frontiers as physical sites of their ethnographic work, as well as conceptual locations that ground the everyday lives of their informants in various ways. The edginess of the state is not only a policy instrument, or political rhetoric, within state establishments. It is an experienced reality among communities who transgress, or are perceived to, the state's sociopolitical categorizations of ethnicity, gender, class and the provocation that they pose to statist narratives. Based on ethnographic and historical research, the presentations in our panel evoked the notion of state edginess, the forms and objects within which it is socially and politically experienced; material and discursive modes it takes; and the sites from which it is challenged.

My paper presentation was titled *'Marwa Na Dena': Reporting Between the Marginal and the Military*. In this paper, I analyzed the ways in which the shadow of the deep state featured in my dissertation fieldwork among television news media professionals in Karachi and Islamabad. I focused on the shifts in tone, the anxious laughter and the lengthy pauses that verbose journalists adopted when they would perform an inarticulate critique of the military. Such enactments rest upon the very real dangers of straying past the limits of investigative inquiry in Pakistan, particularly when presented with the fate of their colleagues pursuing critical leads on military activities. Our combined panel papers, with topics ranging from self-censorship in news, sonic warfare of drones, cases of missing persons, to the historical tracing of the constructed unruliness of the FATA region, all led to an engaged Q&A session with our panel audience members – many of whom began their comments by expressing how such topics have been paid little attention within Pakistan and thus, are misunderstood and poorly contextualized. As all the papers were part of larger dissertation projects, I am optimistic that with continued institutional support for such projects, these areas of study will emerge from the margins of Pakistani scholarship to become more widely accessible.