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| Project Title: | Heroin Use and Harm Reduction in an Islamic Context: An Ethnographic Study |
| Abstract: This is a proposal for funding for the Pakistan-based field-work component of an eight-month multi-sited ethnographic study of heroin users in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The project will consist of ethnographies of homeless heroin users in Kabul (Afghanistan), Lahore (Pakistan) and Islamabad (Pakistan) and of harm reduction programs in Kabul, Islamabad and Lahore. These different sites are connected by the movement of people (as refugees, economic migrants, soldiers), materials (money, weapons, and drugs) and practices (selling, buying, inhaling and/or injecting, caring, rehabilitating) and thus figures prominently in the already complicated set of contingencies that form the subjectivities of Afghans in general, and particularly heroin users, of both Afghan and Pakistani origin. The aims of the study are a) to develop an understanding of the problem of heroin use in Afghanistan and Pakistan (and among Afghan refugees in Pakistan) against the background of wars and migration; b) to investigate the intricacies of the lives of drug users in an Islamic context; and c) to anthropologically study harm reduction programs in an Islamic context. | |