

## **AIPS Fellowships Abstract- Saifullah Nasar**

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Value Across Margins: Regulations and Oil Smuggling in Iran-Pakistan Borderlands ABSTRACT: Every day about 4400 US barrels of oil get smuggled into Pakistan from neighboring districts in Iran. The oil has an extensive reach in Pakistan and provides relief to myriad consumers as the price of legal oil is becoming unaffordable. This study focuses on the ways in which value and regulatory margins are cultivated, conjoined, supported, and undermined by both state and nonstate actors in Gwadar, Quetta, Karachi, and Islamabad. It also highlights the role of regulations in the creation of value and the opportunities it makes for exploitation and contestation. This study seeks to demonstrate how smuggling practices and the materiality of oil are transforming borders, border controls, regulations, bureaucracy, and the politics of oil provision, distribution, and consumption in Pakistan. It proposes that borders and regulations, unmoored from their spatial coordinates, can be seen as 'margins' that run through the state and its solidity. The study aims to contribute to the field of the anthropology of regulation, value, and the materiality of smuggling and state control practices. It also seeks to shed light on the Pakistani borderlands as resource frontiers, the role of regulations, mobility, and belonging in the Pakistani economy, and the role of bureaucracy as an entrepreneurial actor