

“Imagining the Local in Pakistan”

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This paper will be written as an overview of the larger question of how we imagine the local as contributing to the construction of Pakistani politics, culture and identity. In the paper I intend to draw examples from earlier research, focusing in particular on three examples:

1. On the relationship between local canal management and larger visions of integrated, development water development
2. On the relationship between local forms of shrine-based religion and larger visions of Pakistani national identity
3. On the intersections between local politics in Lahore, and the politics of biradari, and their relationship to larger, national mobilizations.

The aim is to speculate on the ways in which the local simultaneously resists the national, and at the same time helps to constitute it.