

*Weathering Crisis* is an interdisciplinary project that brings together methods in climate science and historical research in an effort to illustrate the link between environment and political events in this critical period of political change in South Asia. My dissertation takes as its starting point climate related events in the eighteenth century in South Asia, in an effort to explore the enduring links between environment and society through the impact of environmental disaster on the political realm and the social fabric of the late Mughal and Sikh empires in Punjab. I aim to show how the political and social realms in South Asia have been shaped by environmental disasters and the continuous displacement of people. I argue for the significance of studying the environment as a causative agent in early modern South Asia. This project addresses the transformation of the political realm, communities and ultimately, the self. It opens up new ways to understand pre-colonial South Asian history and the relationship between environment, society, and the self that have deep resonance with the crises of the present moment.