

I am applying for the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Summer Research Grant in order to conduct initial research and to develop my professional network in Lahore and Islamabad. I am a first-year Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. In three years I will conduct ethnographic research on the energy crisis in Pakistan. The AIPS Summer Research Grant will allow me to develop connections with Pakistani universities and policy organizations and to make initial connections with energy sector professionals in Pakistan.

I plan to undertake long-term ethnographic research on the energy crisis in Pakistan. The main questions guiding my research are: what are the politics and cosmologies of energy crisis in Pakistan? And what are the cultural politics of energy sector privatization and international efforts to develop Pakistan's energy infrastructure, security, and economy? I have investigated these themes as an M.A. student in South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and as a first-year Ph.D. student in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Thus far, however, my research has been limited to textual sources: policy scholarship, development and aid reports, and news media. My research questions must be answered ethnographically. I need to begin to learn from policy experts, energy sector workers, and those directly affected by the energy crisis. I have been to Pakistan as a tourist but I have not yet traveled there for research purposes. It is critical for my future fieldwork that I commence with annual trips to Pakistan.

My first goal for this summer is to establish the professional infrastructure for future research in Pakistan. I plan to discuss my research goals and possibilities for collaboration with researchers at Pakistani universities and policy organizations. Ideally, I will secure on-campus lodging, office space, academic library access, and an official affiliation for future travel. Both Yasmeen Hameed at the Lahore University of Management Sciences and Mustafa Naseem at the Information Technology University have expressed interest in such an arrangement. I will prioritize cementing these relationships over the summer. I will also establish connections with other institutions, such as the Pak Institute of Peace Studies and Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad. In doing so, I will also create important opportunities to learn about current research trends and approaches from the intellectual community in Pakistan.

My second goal for this summer is to begin my own research. A number of my contacts have offered to arrange meetings with friends and family who have worked for the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Karachi's utility K-Electric, and international lending and development agencies on energy-specific projects. I plan to conduct interviews with these energy sector professionals. In doing so, I will also develop new contacts for future research. Furthermore, I plan to establish a relationship with the WAPDA Federal Government Office in Lahore. As my research interests center on the changes associated with energy sector privatization, it will be critical to understand the goals and projects of the state utility.

The AIPS Summer Research Grant is essential for meeting my research and professional goals. Funding for research in Pakistan is limited for American citizens, so the financial support of AIPS is particularly important for me. Moreover, as my relationships with local universities are in the early stages, I lack institutional support for my visa application. An AIPS letter of invitation will be necessary for securing a Pakistani visa. I look forward to furthering my research in Pakistan with the support of AIPS and I sincerely thank you for your consideration of

my application.