

ABSTRACT:

My monograph-in-progress *Traditional Islam and Modernity in Pakistan: An Intimate Account* bridges the gap between Islamic Studies and critical theory to provide a uniquely nuanced understanding of the less-obvious but radically invasive ways in which modernity impacts and transforms traditional Islam, while simultaneously being localized by Muslim clerics (*'ulama*). Inspired by the preeminent critical thinker of the twentieth century, Michel Foucault, I understand modernity as marked by: a radical questioning of tradition; belief in rationality, science and technological progress; the rise of the nation-state and secularism; and the reconfiguring of gender identities and relations. Each of these key issues constitutes a chapter in *Traditional Islam and Modernity in Pakistan*.

I study the contrapuntal engagement between traditional Islam and modernity through a focus on Deobandi, Barelawi and Shi'a *'ulama* in Pakistan. Over the years, I have completed textual and ethnographic research in Pakistan for three of the four chapters of the monograph. I have yet to conduct research for my final chapter (on female Shi'a clerics). I am requesting funding for this research. During summer 2021, I will conduct participant observation at various Shi'a women's *madrasas* in Lahore and Islamabad. I will also interview key female clerics at those *madrasas* and elsewhere.