

## **Final Report**

The American Historical Association is largely a conference that caters to the academic job market, historically the site for first-round interviews. The academic content at the AHA is skewed towards American and European history. It is precisely for this reason, I organized a panel on South Asia and presented a paper on what is today Pakistan. The questions raised by historians, on the theme of race and ethnicity, is not particular to the United States or Europe; in fact, these categories of inquiry can and should be extended to studies of the past and in non-American and European contexts. In my paper, I highlighted the question of foreignness, and how groups of people are categorized, by what we can call ethnicity.

I attended a panel on the idea of “gray-zones” of empire in the early modern period. Here the question of whether we can use the term ethnicity to the study of the past was raised by all three panelists. While, this question is still up for debate, the approaches taken by Professors Bradley Davis, Purnima Dhavan, and Rian Thum, allowed me to reflect on possibilities for using the terms “ethne” or “identity systems” for my own work. In addition, I met with and spoke to Professor Scott Levi about the importance of the rise of trade in the eighteenth century in important cities that are in present-day Pakistan, like Multan and Shikarpur.