



AIPS Grantee Final Report

In order to better report and highlight AIPS-sponsored programs with our funding agencies and AIPS members, please provide the information requested in this form. Information provided in this report may be posted on the AIPS website and/or submitted to our granting agency. All required materials should be sent via email to aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Final Report Requirements

1. Complete the form below regarding details of your program. Please return this as a Microsoft Word document (doc or .docx).
2. Provide a one paragraph to one-page report highlighting the significance of this presentation on Pakistan Studies.

AIPS Grantee Information

Name:

Claire Pamment

Affiliate Institution in U.S.:

William & Mary

Affiliate/Host Institution in Pakistan (If Applicable):

n/a

Research Field:

Theatre and Performance Studies

Conference:

49th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (SWCAS)

Paper Title(s):

Dis/Orientating Bodies: Badhai Transformations in Pakistan

Panel Title (if applicable):

Badhai: Hijra Performances across Borders in South Asia

Date of Conference or Presentation:

24 October 2020

Summary of Program and Significance on Pakistan Studies

This panel brought critical focus to *badhai*—the repertoire of devotional prayers, songs, dances, and comic repartee, performed by transgender, *hijra* and *khwaja sira* communities throughout Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. While transgender-*hijra-khwaja sira* scholarship has increased exponentially over the last decade with the development of LGBTQIA+ rights movements in South Asia and around the world, this has often been dominated by India-centricity, in areas concerning historical and contemporary legislature, sexual health, and transnational organizing and economies. *Badhai* has not only been underwritten in scholarship, but is increasingly subject to accusations of extortion and of polluting public space as a result of the contemporary collusion of classist/casteist, heteronormative, nationalist, religious and neoliberal agendas. The panel deemed a “historical occasion” by Gayatri Reddy, brought together historical research on the archives of criminalisation of *hijra* performance (Jessica Hinchy) with new ethnographic fieldwork, drawn from Bangladesh (Adnan Hossain), India (Jeff Roy) and Pakistan (Claire Pamment), to examine the diverse ways in which practitioners negotiate changing social scripts, enact genealogies, and mobilize different, if not competing, futurities. This was a rich beginning toward our new co-authored (Hossain, Roy, Pamment) book project, entitled “*Badhai: Hijra Performances across Borders in South Asia*”, under contract with Bloomsbury, that brings

interdisciplinary perspectives and a trans- regional treatment, attending to the effacements of this expanding field of transgender-*hijra-khwaja sira* study.