

Saad Gulzar

AIPS Travel Grant Report

My research is quantitative in nature, and the primary purpose of visits to Pakistan was to chart out when changes in the application of the Frontier Crimes Regulation took effect. The next phase involved mapping present-day tehsils to tehsil demarcations in 1901 so that a panel dataset can be created for analysis at a later stage. This proved difficult because information on administrative unit changes in Pakistan is not easily available in a single place – nor did access prove simple. I made considerable progress, however, by contacting Tehsil Municipal Offices.

A secondary objective of the visits was to assess the availability of historical data to answer why the British chose to leave spaces ungoverned (under the Frontier Crimes Regulation), and why the Pakistani government changed the jurisdiction of the FCR in the 1960s and 70s. I visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab archives to assess the quality and scope of available data. Limited availability of systematic gazetteer data lends data-driven analysis a measure of difficulty. To get around this I am now considering accessing colonial-era archives in London to see if those data are more comprehensive and systematically arranged.