

AIPS Travel Grant Final Report

A. Sean Pue

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I received a travel grant from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies that brought me to Karachi and Lahore to give talks in February.

On February 8–10, I attended the amazing Karachi Literature Festival (KLF) and participated in a panel launching my new book, *I Too Have Some Dreams: N. M. Rashed and Modernism in Urdu Poetry*. The panel was well attended, and the moderators, Asif Farrukhi and Sarah Humayun, both from Habib University, asked excellent questions, as did the audience.

I did not know before arriving that there was an Art Section at the KLF. I was very happy to meet a number of artists, most for the first time. My book has a beautiful work by Zahoor ul Akhlaq on the cover, as does the new book by art historian Simone Wille, *Modern Art in Pakistan*. In part because of our mutual love of Zahoor's work, I was invited to the session launching her book, sponsored by Art Now, to discuss modernism in literature and art.

I was also invited to give a talk at the Indus Valley School of Art and Design (IVS) on Digital Humanities (DH), and I enjoyed that very much. I am very interested in the design aspects of DH, and so it is wonderful for me to address some comments about DH to the IVS audience. I also enjoyed meeting members of the Vasl Artists' Collective.

I also gave a well attended lecture entitled "A 'Punjabi' Critique of Sufi Idiom: N. M. Rashed and Urdu Literary Tradition" for the Department of Social Sciences & Liberal Arts at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi. My talk was covered in article in Dawn. My talk was followed by recitations by Dr. Nomanul Haq.

I also gave a talk at Habib University. That is an entirely new and lively university with an innovative curriculum. There I gave a talk entitled 'The Digital Divan: Computation Approaches to Urdu Poetry.' There was a nice article about in in The Express Tribune, and the video is on Vimeo.

I later traveled to Lahore where I met with a number of people, including some literary critics and poets who had helped me with my earlier book research.