

AIPS Travel Grant Final Report

Project Title: Faith, Flood and Pestilence: Climate Change and the Incompleteness of Reality in Pakistan

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Conference: Annual Conference on South Asia

Location: Madison, WI

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1. Significance to Pakistan Studies

My paper interrogated the perils and pitfalls of the 'Karachi Bachao Tahreek', a progressive housing rights activist group that responds to ecological disasters and political predation in urban Pakistan by mobilizing a skillset acquired from the humanistic social sciences. This is not only a much-needed evaluation of the kinds of strategies Pakistan needs in a time of intense climate but also speculates on the peculiar form a reparative political agenda must take in Pakistan given the peculiarities of its ecological and historical context. Most importantly, the paper evaluated what aspects of the social sciences and the fungible methods we teach could be helpful for a politics of repair in the age of climate change in Pakistan.

I would be delighted to speak more about my research, its implications and outcomes for public outreach platforms such as the AIPS podcast. I am sure the panelists I assembled (I was chair and discussant) would be happy to as well.

2. Key Outcomes and Deliverables

Outcomes

- 1. The panelists I assembled for this panel will work towards a special issue of an academic journal in Environmental Humanities in Spring 23.*
- 2. I received great engagement from Pakistan scholars at the ACSA '22 including profs. Mubbashir Rizvi, Akbar Zaidi and Kamran Ali, on whose work I build.*
- 3. I was able to convey my research to your scholars and phd students interested in Pakistan.*

Deliverables

1. A research article from the materials presented is set to appear as a part of a special issue (tentatively, Cultural Anthropology) in 2023.
2. The materials presented will contribute to a book project titled 'The Birth of Sacropolitics' I am co-authoring with Dr. David Nugent.
3. The presentation at ACSA will greatly enhance my contribution towards research as (one of the few) tenure-track professors contributing to Pakistan Studies in the US.