

Michael Hirsch – Proposal for Virtual Program Funds

A few years ago I brokered the signing of an MOU between AACS and Fatimah Jinnah Women University (FJWU) in Rawalpindi. I have consistently used this organization and this conference as a means of elevating research opportunities in Pakistan. I have taken two AACS members (Amy Allen and Mueni Rudd) to Pakistan to assist with research workshops with junior faculty (funded by AIPS). Two faculty members and several students from FJWU will be participating in this fall's AACS conference as a result my encouragement and existence of the MOU between the two bodies.

This paper will help demystify Pakistan, it's culture, people and politics. It contextualize NAPA culturally, geographically and politically as an institution striving to improve educational efficacy, with the SWOT being one of a series of engagements with international institutions, musicians and scholars all designed to enhance the educational opportunities NAPA provides its students (females and males) drawn from across Pakistan. As stated earlier, the presentation will include a history of my relationship with NAPA, a review of our past collaborations, and what spurred the SWOT. It will include discussions of the methodological challenges posed by undertaking this research in Pakistan (e.g., literacy, IT connectivity) and will share findings (e.g., the role of the gharana musical tradition in academy operations). Research methods employed include group discussions and individual interviews while on-site in Karachi as well as survey research conducted from the United States. I will also talk about research opportunities available in Pakistan and with Pakistani partners. The presentation will include photos taken at NAPA, of the people and the place. I hope to encourage more collaborative work between AACS and Pakistani scholars. I am receiving no financial support to participate in this conference. I have in fact paid all AACS membership fees for the approximately 10 conference participants from FJWU.