

Sarah Waheed

Her City Disappeared in Black Gold
South Asian Muslim Urbanism Between India, Pakistan, and the Persian Gulf

ABSTRACT

This project examines the relationship of Muslim communities to transnational migration between India, Pakistan, and the Persian Gulf in relation to the history of urbanization in twentieth century South Asia, using methodologies from the fields of history, anthropology, and geography. The question that animates this book project is: how do the transnational histories of families give us insights into the neighborhoods of specific cities and what can those neighborhoods, in turn, tell us about the transnational lives of cities? In this project, (historically situated from 1948 to the present), I connect the trajectories of three generations of upwardly mobile lower middle-class Urdu speaking Muslim families from Hyderabad (Deccan) and their personal and professional networks in Pakistan and the Persian Gulf, to the historical changes that have transpired in specific neighborhoods in two cities: Hyderabad (Deccan), India, and Karachi, Pakistan. The AIPS grant fellowship, will allow me to pursue research for the section of the project in which I examine the historical, political, and cultural connections between Hyderabad (Deccan) and Pakistan more broadly, and to the city of Karachi more specifically.