

Name: Isabel Huacuja

Title: *Listening In: Radio in India and Pakistan, circa 1936 -1973*

Abstract:

My project traces the development of radio in colonial India and later independent Pakistan and India, from its introduction to the subcontinent in the mid-1930s until the 1970s, when television began to overtake radio as the primary medium of mass communication. To accomplish this, I analyze radio through three different groups: government, radio staff, and listening audiences. First, I investigate rules and regulations regarding radio and how these changed with different administrators. I examine how different administrations used radio to promote national allegiances over regional or local ones. Second, I look at radio through the lens of its creators: broadcasters, radio staff, and artists. I argue that both Radio Pakistan and All-India Radio (AIR) were gathering places for writers and artists and magnets for craftsmen of talent. Third, I look at radio's listening audience and investigate how the process of listening to the radio created an "aural public sphere," distinct from and with a wider reach than print. My central hypothesis is that radio, more than print, blurred the boundaries between the private domestic sphere and public life.

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Time Frame: 5 Months