

Name: Katie E. Lindstrom

Title: *Dissertation Improvement Research: A New Comparative Study of Harappan Style Ceramics from India and Pakistan*

Abstract:

My project investigates the roles that pottery played in social and economic affiliation strategies during the Indus Civilization (2600-1900 B.C.) by comparing pottery preferences between Harappan core areas of the Punjab and Gujarat, a culturally diverse region on the Indus frontier. By comparing pottery data from the craft-producing community of Gola Dhoro, Gujarat, to Harappa and other sites located in Cholistan and South Punjab, my research contributes to archaeological understandings of the ancient connections between India and Pakistan. My on-going studies at Gola Dhoro indicate that continuities and shifts in the community's cultural foundation and interaction networks are best understood by analyzing specific patterns in individual vessel forms, such as cooking pots and serving vessels, rather than through traditional analysis by broad ceramic classification. Preliminary results from my overall study indicate that I will be able to identify regional preferences in Harappan style pottery use at Gola Dhoro. I expect that Harappan sites in Punjab will yield new data also indicative of regional preferences in ceramic use. My interregional comparison of Harappan style pottery will distinguish shared vessel forms from those that are uniquely preferred. While it is generally recognized that Harappan pottery is used across the Indus Civilization, I will use the specific data that my study provides to determine if shared ceramics were restricted, indicating a narrowly defined social or economic affiliation between communities living in different regions, or if pottery was shared in wide variety, indicating broad cultural connections between distant regions of the Indus Civilization.

Institutional Affiliation: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Time Frame: 3 Months