

American Institute of Pakistan Studies
Short Term Research and Lecture Fellowship
Final Report
Site: Lahore, Pakistan

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My project investigates the roles that pottery played in social and economic affiliation strategies during the Indus Civilization (2600-1900 B.C.). I do this by comparing pottery preferences between Harappan core areas located in Punjab and Sindh with Gujarat, a culturally diverse region on the Indus frontier in India. My prior research necessarily focused on Harappan sites located in India. AIPS's short-term research and lecture fellowship gave me the unique opportunity to collect comparative archaeological ceramic data from sites dating to the same time period in Pakistan, which was necessary to finalize my dissertation research. This new short-term research opportunity came at a critical point in my academic career as I work to finalize my Ph.D. dissertation while looking ahead to new post-doctoral research. Thus, this project not only strengthened my dissertation, but also enhanced my academic background, making me more prepared for a successful post-graduate academic career.

During my two-month research fellowship (December 28, 2010 to February 22, 2011) I completed a thorough documentation of the ceramic assemblage excavated from Harappa in 1966 by M.R. Mughal. As a comparative data set from one of the core settlements of the Indus Civilization, analysis of this collection is a valuable addition to my dissertation.

Alongside my personal research goals, officials in the Government of Pakistan Department of Archaeology and Museums at the Lahore Fort requested that I undertake a project to conserve and catalog their reserve collection. The goals of this conservation project were to create a digital catalog of the collection, thus making the contents of the collection more accessible to researchers, and to help organize and safeguard the collection for future study. Heading up a team of hired labor and students, during my two-month research season I also finalized a preliminary catalog of the Lahore Fort reserve collections and managed several other conservation efforts, which include cleaning the store room, organizing and storing my study collection from Harappa, and rebagging a large collection of pottery from the Harappan period site of Mohenjo Daro. All stages of this conservation

work have been photo documented and a report submitted to the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan.

Due to its combined focus on research and lecturing, this AIPS fellowship also offered me the unique opportunity to renew my professional commitments in Pakistan, while improving my Urdu. During my fellowship term I offered lectures at the Taxila Institute of Asian Civilizations at Qaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, and at the AIPS sponsored conference on Cultural Heritage Issues in Pakistan. I also offered a pottery documentation workshop at the University of the Punjab, Department of Archaeology and trained four students and several professionals in pottery recording and drawing. These rewarding lecture and teaching experiences provided me a forum to share my research and participate in Pakistan's vibrant archaeological community.