

Name: Maggie E. Ronkin

Title: *Making Sense of the Past in the Present: Storying Diasporic Identities of African-Pakistanis*

Abstract:

This American Institute of Pakistan Studies research project asks how identities of African-Pakistani Sheedis might be viewed within a social constructionist framework. A constructionist approach represents what often is called the discursive turn in the human sciences; in itself, it suggests that analysts may be able to elucidate multiple ways of storying sociocultural identities. Here, these include (1) narratives, legends, songs, and other performances through which Sheedis step into group storying in expressing/reinventing their own traditions, (2) administrative and NGO-developmental discourses aimed at poverty alleviation and state-level incorporation (e.g., through processes of vocational education and participation in athletics), and (3) recent scientific discoveries and their dissemination in the form of contemporary genetic research on the migratory histories of human populations (e.g., through the Genographic Project.)

Institutional Affiliation:

Time Frame: 3 Months
