

## **City of Trees: Urban Ecologies of Miyawaki Urban Forest in Pakistan**

### **Abstract**

Amidst the global climate crisis, tree plantation campaigns are seen as a popular response to mitigate the effects of climate change (Bonn Challenge). Yet scholars have paid little attention to how intensive urban greening methods, such as the Miyawaki planting method originating in Japan, circulate globally and what their impacts are on densely populated and highly urbanizing cities in Pakistan. I ask: How do the politics and development of Miyawaki forests affect and implicate local urban ecologies in Pakistani cities? My project employs ethnographic, spatial and visual analysis of Miyawaki forests in the highly dense, culturally and politically significant cities of Islamabad and Lahore, Pakistan, along with ethnographic analysis of interviews across institutions, technical experts and local communities. These methods and analysis tackle related questions: How are Miyawaki urban forests developed in Pakistan? How do they affect existing urban ecologies? How do they alter the representation and agency of nature in urban spaces? Recognizing the inextricable relations between humans and trees in shared urban settings, this project contributes to broader understandings of globally shifting tropes or “allegories” (Tsing 2003) of climate change, as they are mapped onto social realities of Pakistan.