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 Final Report
 AIPS Short Term Research Grant

The Poetics and Politics of Urdu Journal Culture in Pakistan

The generous support of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies has been integral to my dissertation research on Urdu literary magazines and their contribution to debates on World Literature. The AIPS short-term grant enabled ten weeks of focused research with Lahori libraries, archives, and publishers. Most notably, I worked in close collaboration with the GC University archives, which house the entire print run of *Nuqūsh*, a significant post-Partition literary magazine then edited by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi and Hajra Masroor. I worked with the first era of *Nuqūsh* (vols. 1-18) to understand how the magazine negotiated the literary, political, and linguistic struggles that informed the initial years of Pakistani culture and society. These findings will serve as the foundation for the first chapter of my dissertation, in which I examine the relationship between Urdu and Punjabi literary culture in post-Partition Lahore.

Additionally, my time in Lahore has also allowed me to build connections with a range of scholars and publishers, which have already proven exceedingly helpful thus far. Mr. Muhammad Naeem and Dr. Haroon Usmani—Chief Librarians of GCU and Punjab University respectively—have helped develop my dissertation bibliography by acquainting me with a range of local publications on Urdu magazine culture. Most of these publications are not available on WorldCat nor housed within most Anglo-American libraries. As such, my dissertation will now be able to incorporate scholarly work that has not been engaged with at all thus far. I have also liaised with key Lahori publishers, including Maktabah-e Jadīd and the Majlis-e Taraqqi-e Adab (The Society for the Advancement of Literature). These connections have allowed me to discover new critical works as well as reprints of rare literary materials otherwise only housed in select archives. The most notable of such materials are the only two volumes ever published of *Urdu adab*—a short-lived but significant magazine founded by two senior writers, Muhammad Hasan Askari and Saadat Hasan Manto, in the aftermath of Partition.

Overall, the AIPS short-term grant has supported my research in multiple ways: I have been able to conduct crucial archival work, build significant professional connections, and acquire rare literary texts. Each of these developments has advanced my scholarship and its contribution to the field. I am grateful to the AIPS for its support and look forward to a continued association with the Institute.