

## **AIPS Short-Term Research Grant Final Report**

Project Title: “Dr. Dastur Dhalla Library: Mapping Parsi Writing and its Literary Archive in Karachi”

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Dates for Project: December 2023 to January 2024

Location: Karachi, Pakistan

### **1. Significance to Pakistan Studies**

My proposal and project both aim to highlight community engagement and practice in relation to memory institutions and preservation of minority history in Pakistan. Especially in Pakistan, the goals of preservation and conservation of historical materials and artifacts should be a priority for sharing the intricacies of regional history in the country and shed light on the Zoroastrian community’s cultural, social, and religious history within this nation-state and its influence upon the state. In addition, this project helps shed light on the various languages spoken, and cultural heritage work that various minority communities are doing in urban cities of Pakistan.

### **2. Key Outcomes and Deliverables**

During the two months in Karachi at the Dr. Dastur Dhalla Library (popularly known as the YMZA library), I conducted oral history interviews to document the history of the community archive and its contents. In addition, I was able to study and understand the cataloging and arrangement process of the library and its contents to grasp the full picture of what affluent and/or influential Parsi figures of Karachi collected and wrote about, especially materials literary and religious in nature, written and published by Pakistani Parsis. This research and support from the AIPS provided me with time and ample research to develop two chapters of my dissertation in regards to the cultural memory of Pakistani Zoroastrians and their connections to the social, political, and economic influence upon the country itself and their strong community ties with others.