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Discipline: Sociology

Title of Project : Landscape of Desire: Memory and History in the Life of Lahore

This study examines the physical, social and ideational landscape of Lahore, from 1849-1947. Its purpose is to explicate how space and sociability relate to each other, tracing the shifting contours of space making, and the social relations and practices that accompany it. Combining oral histories with a perusal of archival documents-public and private, written oral and visual-I hope to complicate the meaning of the city to its diverse inhabitants. Theoretically, this study builds on and extends the insights of colonial urban studies, historical sociology, and the 'new' geography. A transnational, multi-sited research methodology-gathering in voices and sources that are not always brought together-will enable me to produce a more nuanced account of the entangled relations between space, place, memory and history. Throughout, Lahore as a constructed and lived space, remains the critical center of this work.
