

Report

The travel grant provided by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) gave me an opportunity to present a paper at a conference organized by Princeton University. The conference, titled “The Post-Colonial Moment”, had been organized by Professor Gyan Prakash and Michael Laffan. Scholars from North America, Europe, Middle East and South Asia were invited to present their works. It was thus an excellent opportunity for me to interact with some of the finest scholars of South Asian studies. It is not very usual for a scholar based in a Pakistani university to get invited to such a prestigious event in an Ivy League institution. The theme of my presentation was the history of historiography in Pakistan. As the panellists and those in attendance agreed, there is little, if any, work done on this important aspect of history in Pakistan. While there are numerous studies focusing on India, the study of history in Pakistan is largely a neglected area. My paper attempted to give a thorough but nuanced account of the tradition of history writing in Pakistan. I tried to tease out the genealogy of certain ideological moorings, which are reflected not just in the school textbooks for history, but also the works produced by professional historians in Pakistan.