



AIPS Travel Grant Final Report

In order to better report and highlight AIPS-sponsored programs with our funding agencies and AIPS members, please provide the information requested in this form. All required materials should be sent via email to aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org prior to or along with your reimbursement request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

1. Provide a one paragraph to one-page report highlighting the significance of this presentation on Pakistan Studies. Please provide this report in a separate Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). **(appended)**
2. Complete the form below regarding details of your program. Please return this as a Microsoft Word document (doc or .docx).

AIPS Travel Grantee Information

Name:

Bandana Purkayastha

Affiliate Institution in U.S.:

University of Connecticut

Conference Attended:

Conference on Child Rights

Panel/Paper Title(s):

Theoretical approaches to child rights

Date of Presentation:

Nov 19, 2014 (other talks listed in narrative)

Key Outcomes (List 2-3 key outcomes of this presentation. Outcomes may also be addressed in number 1 above, but should be listed here as well.)

1. **Theoretical framework for understanding child rights;**
2. **Establish active networks with scholars in Islamabad;**
3. **Other lectures and networks with scholars in Lahore.**

Deliverables (Provide bulleted list below of deliverables from this presentation, if applicable. Please include items such as lectures given, etc.):

- **Lecture: Human Rights in the US (University of the Punjab). (Nov 21)**
- **Lecture: Negotiating Ethnicity: Experiences of South Asian Americans (Nov 24)**
- **Plenary Session address, conference on Child Rights, Quad I Azam university (Nov 19)**
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Report on Trip to Pakistan (funded by APIS).
Dates: November 14-25 (including dates of travel).

Thank you for funding this trip to Pakistan. I was invited to two cities—Islamabad and Lahore—to deliver conference addresses and lectures.

Islamabad: I was invited to the International Conference on 25 years of UNRC and the State of Child Rights in Pakistan. The conference, organized by the Department of Sociology, Qaid-i-Azam University, was attended by students, faculty, administrators, activist/NGOs, and policy makers¹. I was invited to deliver an address on Theoretical Approaches on Child Rights during the plenary session. The other plenary session speakers were: Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, MNA National Assembly, Barrister Zarullah Khan (Special Secretary to the Prime Minister, Pakistan); Ms. Habiba Salman, coordinator of CRM Pakistan, Mr Stefano Gatto, Deputy Head of the European Union delegation, and Vice Chancellor Professor Eatzaz Ahmed, Qaid-i-Azam University. The subject of my talk was about the particular challenges of understanding human rights of children. I spoke about interlocking systems of oppression and power imbalances, and the challenges of gathering data that documented the structures that lead to the violation of child rights instead of only tracking the outcomes.

I also networked with faculty from Qaid-i-Azam University and International Islamic University, Islamabad on November 19 and 20th. I hope to invite Dr. Zaman (QAU) within the next year to the US to facilitate possible joint research on water rights. Farhan Naveed Yousaf (my advisee, a recipient of AIPS grants and Fulbright fellow to the US) and I also met with the Fulbright alumni relations officer to present a copy of our book on human trafficking in Pakistan.

In Lahore: I was hosted by two units of University of the Punjab. The Institute for Social and Cultural Studies (which includes the Department of Development Studies, Department of Gender Studies, Department of NGOs Studies and Civil Society, Department of Public Health, and Department of Sociology), and the Dean, Dr Mohammed Zakaria Zakar and his wife Drt Rubeena Zakar were my hosts for the first part of my stay. On Friday, Nov 21 I delivered a lecture on Human Rights in the US², followed by questions and answers. The subjects I drew upon are mainly from our co-edited collection Human Rights in Our Own Backyard—emphasizing the role of groups that organize to claim human rights. I met several members of the faculty prior to the talk for about an hour to discuss, informally, issues of research and teaching. Since Dr. R Zakar's interests are on interpersonal violence, we were able to discuss this topic separately. I encouraged Drs Zakar to join the International Sociological Association to further disseminate their research on interpersonal violence. I also met and discussed topics of interest with Dr Mujahid Kamran on Friday, Nov 21st.

The second part of my trip was hosted by the Institute of South Asian Studies, at University of the Punjab. On Monday, Nov 24th, I delivered a talk on Negotiating Ethnicity:

¹ <http://www.qau.edu.pk/the-state-of-child-rights-in-pakistan-requires-urgent-attention-of-the-stakeholders/>

² <http://pu.edu.pk/home/section/allpress/4268>

Experiences of South Asian Americans³, focusing on the constructed and multilayered nature of ethnicity. My audience—faculty and students—were particularly interested in the idea of the children of migrants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan trying to find commonalities to create the South Asian layer. I also toured the library on South Asia and talked with Dr Umbreen Javaid (director, South Asian Studies Institute) and the affiliated faculty on topics focusing on Southern Asia. I have been invited to publish my talk on ethnicity in the Journal of South Asian Studies.

In Lahore, as in Islamabad, the informal talks with a large number of faculty were particularly important to me as a lens to develop our own offerings on Pakistan Studies.

AIPS has previously supported the work of Farhan Naveed Yousaf on trafficking in Pakistan. During my travels to and from Islamabad, and Lahore I was able to accompany Farhan as he continued to gather data for his dissertation. This informal role was important for me to consider accepting other students as advisees from Pakistan in future.

³ <http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=257122>