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In addition to helping me bring together a number of disparate ideas and observations I've collected about performance and theater in Pakistan, the conference was an excellent opportunity to meet with, and listen to scholars working on different aspects of cultural production and social formation in Pakistan. The dialogue engaged was immensely productive, especially where it pushed me to think past conventional theoretical frames. I have already started developing the talk into a journal essay, with a clearer focus on how communities of spectators engage affectively with performance.

Speaker after speaker, over both days, seemed mired in the shoals of existing theory (I was by no means an exception here). If anything, the conference helped highlight for me how particular theoretical ways of speaking about performances and audiences had limited what I wanted to say. And for that, I cannot thank the respondents enough.

The way forward, re: research, thinking, and writing, is considerably clearer to me now. And my hope is I can develop the talk into the first of a series of essays that examine the complex affinities that develop among communities of spectators, and how these push actors, producers, and directors to develop certain types and projects.