

Report of Senior Fellowship

Awarded by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies

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I was granted a four-month **Senior Fellowship** by AIPS that was made possible through a special opportunity of the US Embassy in Islamabad to reinvigorate American Scholarship in Pakistan. I started the fellowship in mid-August and completed my research and lecturing at the end of November 2016. The four months stay in Pakistan afforded me the opportunity to conduct archival work in Lahore and Islamabad and visit several universities in Lahore and Islamabad. It was a very productive undertaking for me and my visit benefitted a variety of scholars, students, and public intellectuals that I interacted with during my stay in Pakistan.

I started my research work in Lahore by meeting publicly engaged scholars, university and college teachers, and research students at Forman Christian College (FCC), Punjab University (PU), Kinnaird College for Women, Government College University (GCU) and Lahore University of Management Studies (LUMS). I gave two formal lectures, one at GCU and the other at LUMS. Both these talks were open to students and faculty and were very well attended.

At GCU I met with undergraduate students from the departments of History, Political Science and International Relations in a two-hour class session to discuss Pakistan's postcolonial history and new methods of historical study encouraging them to continue the study of history for future academic pursuits. Later, I met with the faculty for discussing about research and publication in international journals and US university presses. At LUMS, I gave a public talk hosted by the Sadia Waheed Gender Initiative. As well, I met with the Law and History faculty for several one-on-one meetings about preparing tenure rules and assisting candidates to put together their tenure portfolios.

I did a radio program at PU at the school of journalism, as well participated and facilitated a workshop on 'Writing for Publication.' I visited the History department at PU and spearheaded an initiative to start social and cultural history research for MPhil and doctoral students. At FCC, I worked closely with Julie Flowerday and Imdad Hussain to assist in their writing projects and undertook several study tours with them in Lahore city for developing new topics for classroom teaching of local history of Pakistan.

I hosted two meetings bringing together a variety of faculty from PU, FCC, LUMS and GCU. My effort was to assist and facilitate conversations between them for starting collaborative projects. I hope they will take this forward and develop teaching and research clusters based on mutually agreed on ideas and topics of interest.

In Islamabad, I visited Quaid-e Azam University's History Department and discussed with the faculty about their research and writing projects and gave feedback on their ongoing projects for developing them for publication.

I worked with Aamir Riaz to develop a radio program on current historical topics for public engagement and with Rashid Mahmood who heads the 'Khuda ki Basti' project the possibility of developing a school for underprivileged children in Lahore. This school will be funded by an Pakistan-American philanthropist and Rashid Mahmood will oversee the management and day to day operations of the school with the aim of fostering inter-community and religious harmony.

My own research advanced exponentially during my four month stay. I undertook archival research in Lahore and Islamabad. The Obaidullah Sindhi Foundation in Lahore facilitated my study of documents and rare books on Maulana Sindhi. Obaidullah Sindhi's vision of freedom is one of the main areas of my research for my book project '*Aazdi: Middle actors' emancipation from British Colonialism.*' In Islamabad, I conducted research in the National Documentation Center and the Pakistan National

Archives on the Iqbal Shedai Private Papers, since he, too, is one of the key figures in my book project. As well, during the fellowship period I wrote an essay on a small segment of this research and submitted it for review to the journal of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. The essay has been accepted and will be published in the Spring volume of the journal.

My work and stay in Lahore and Islamabad were greatly facilitated by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies staff. The Lahore guest house is particularly conducive for extended stay. The staff there is exceptional. The security arrangements were excellent and I felt totally safe and very comfortable. The Islamabad guest house, however, is in need of improvement for visiting scholars. I found the method of working in the Islamabad office somewhat haphazard and uncomfortably top down. Ghulam Rasul, however, was an exception and he went out of his way to facilitate my research and stay there. I was, however, disappointed with the lack of scholarly engagement of the Islamabad office and since the large conference room is the only space for meeting local scholars it was not conducive to arrange one on one meetings. The service staff at both Lahore and Islamabad guest houses, however, were simply wonderful and I don't have enough words to thank them for the service they rendered.

On the whole, the four months of research, lecturing and public engagement were very productive and I fulfilled the purpose of my visit to my satisfaction. I thank AIPS for awarding me a fellowship that created for me new avenues for future scholarly and community engagement at multiple levels.

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