

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE POLITICS OF PLURALISM IN PAKISTAN

AIPS Senior Fellowship Proposal

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## *Abstract*

Focusing on the relationship between Islam, Islamic education, and competing constructions of ‘community’ and ‘citizenship’ in Pakistan, my project seeks to (a) expand the literature regarding Islamic education beyond the limits of the modern *madrasa* and (b) advance the work of those with an interest in the intersection of religion, religious education, politics, and philosophy in South Asia. With support from AIPS, my project will focus, specifically, on the work of Dr. Fazlur Rahman, a well-known Pakistani philosopher who worked with Pakistani President Ayub Khan during the 1960s to institutionalize *a new approach to religious education and citizenship in Pakistan*—one that sought to develop ‘a positive regard for religious diversity, religious debate, and progressive religious reform.’ This effort failed, quite dramatically, and I will use a careful study of the private documents left behind by Dr. Rahman, now held at the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to understand (and explain) exactly why this was the case.