

## **Significance of presentation on Pakistan Studies**

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My presentation, entitled “Like Fish in the Water: Target Density and State Outsourcing of Violence in Pakistan,” at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference contributes to Pakistan Studies by examining Pakistan’s security strategy – which is currently a subject of significant attention both in the academic and policy circles. Challenging the existing dominant narrative which views Pakistan’s security strategy as irrational and/or pathological, I show that military outsourcing is a function of the spatial distribution of the military target and the military capacity to overcome principal-agent and logistical problems. My findings are based on fieldwork in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, and Dhaka, Bangladesh, and archival research in South Asia as well as the United Kingdom and United States.