

Yasmin Saikia

Azadi: Middle actors' imagination of emancipation from British Colonialism

I am applying for an AIPS senior fellowship to undertake archival research in Islamabad and Lahore, Pakistan, toward my book project tentatively titled 'Freedom Dreams: Middle Actors, International Networks, and Azadi from Colonialism.' My book focuses on the visionary ideas and political work of three understudied, but significant, revolutionary middle actors, namely Obaidullah Sindhi, Fazal Illahi, and Iqbal Shedai. The research in Pakistan will enable me to examine and document the historical and processual development of azadi (freedom) ideas of Illahi, Sindhi, and Shedai that are of particular relevance in understanding the concept of freedom in Islam and Muslim contribution to the anti-colonial freedom struggle against British rule in South Asia.