AIPS

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PAKISTAN STUDIES 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Report

I am delighted to begin my term as President of AIPS with an opportunity to review the Institute's many achievements and to share a little about our plans for the upcoming year. But first I have to offer a few words of thanks. Over the last six years as President of AIPS, Matthew Cook has worked hard to develop and serve a vision for the institute. These achievements include expanding AIPS's institutional membership base to include Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), expanding AIPS's partnerships in Pakistan, and building our financial reserves. Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan, the new AIPS Pakistan country director, brings tremendous energy to our Islamabad center. She has already organized several workshops and conferences across Pakistan and fosters connections between our members in the United States and scholars and researchers in Pakistan. Laura Hammond's guidance is integral to our financial planning and programming. And Paige Hendricks keeps AIPS running here in the United States, from day to day and from year to year. CAORC's vision and advocacy for overseas research centers and the value of area studies remains pivotal to our mission and our funding.



Dr. Sana Haroon, AIPS President

Despite the cancellation of some grants owing to changes in the federal government's funding priorities, over the last year AIPS has been able to support member research travel, conferences and workshops, the publication of Critical Pakistan Studies, and the monograph reprint series. We have also awarded our annual book prize to two outstanding new works on Pakistan. Congratulations to the awardees and to our board members and other colleagues who have given their time to evaluating and supporting these scholarly endeavors. In the coming year we will continue funding these programs, and we will bring the Emerging Scholars Symposium back to Madison. We will offer short-term research fellowships, overseas development opportunities, and curriculum development grants. We will also undertake a long planned project to record the history of AIPS through interviews with past presidents.

The AIPS Executive Committee includes Vice President Daniel Majchrowicz, Secretary Sameetah Agha, Treasurer Michael Hirsch, and At-Large Member Gwendolyn Kirk. The current election will lead to the appointment of three new At-Large Members. Six of the 46 members of our Board of Trustees stepped down this year. Among them Anita Weiss has served as AIPS Treasurer (2006-2009, 2009-2012), as Vice President (2011-13), and on numerous AIPS committees over the years. Michael Hirsch is retiring from his position at Huston-Tillotson University. He has been treasurer of AIPS since 2025 (and will complete his term in office) but he will step down from his position on the AIPS board. Thank you to our officers and our departing and retiring trustees, and welcome to our new institutional representatives. The service of our officers is integral to the vision for, and impact of, AIPS.

I end this report on a somber note. A longtime board member and friend of AIPS, Richard Meadow, passed away this past summer. The work that he has supported in Pakistan continues and he will be remembered for many years to come.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees this fall and to serving AIPS in the years ahead.

Sana Haroon
President AIPS
Chair Department of Asian Studies and Professor, Department of History, University of Massachusetts Boston

NEW AIPS PRESIDENT

We are excited to announce that Dr. Sana Haroon has been elected as the next AIPS President!

Sana is Chair of the Department of Asian Studies and jointly appointed to the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She works on borderlands and Muslim social organization in Pakistan and 19th and 20th century South Asia and engages methods in spatial history and oral history in her research and writing. She is an active union member on her campus and has worked with colleagues in Pakistan on research and cataloging projects and to support scholarly collaborations.

Congratulations to Dr. Haroon! Her three-year term will begin on October 1, 2026.

We would also like to thank AIPS's current President, Dr. Matthew A. Cook (North Carolina Central University). We greatly appreciate all of the time dedicated to AIPS over the past six years!

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Front cover photo: Dr. Jonathan Mitchell Back cover photo: Dr. Matthew Cook

AIPS Member Highlights

Hassan Abbas, National Defense University
Dr. Hassan Abbas interviewed Pakistani journalist Asam Sherazi at Harvard University's Pakistan Conference on April 12, 2026.



Abdul Aijaz, Indiana University Bloomington
Dr. Abdul Aijaz was selected to give the first Karan Graduate Lecture on Friday, Feb. 13 at the University of Kentucky. In his lecture, "Factional Ecologies: Environmental Imagination and Hydrosocial Futures in Punjab," Dr. Aijaz examined how environmental imagination, political contestation and ecological transformation intersect in the canal-irrigated landscapes of Punjab amid a global environmental crisis.

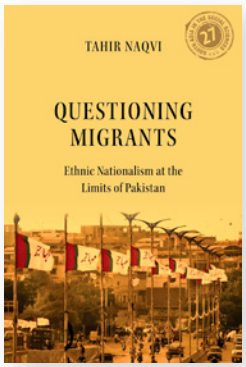
David Boyk and **Daniel Majchrowicz**, Northwestern University
Drs. Boyk and Majchrowicz received the Humanities in Translation Award for The Ajeeb Society, a translation from Urdu of short stories by Qazi Abdul Ghaffar. (Northwestern University Press).

Matthew Cook, North Carolina Central University
While in Khairpur to sign an MOU with Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), AIPS President Dr. Matthew A. Cook was interviewed by the FM campus radio station. The wide-ranging interview covered AIPS's history and mission, the institute's efforts to diversify its higher education partners, the state of Pakistan Studies in the United States, and other topics. The interview aired on SALU campus radio in December 2024.

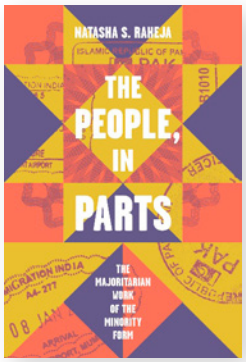
Nelofar Khamisani, Kansas State University
Dr. Nelofar Khamisani received an innovation grant from the College of Education, Kansas State University, for her project "Developing Capacity in Biographical Research Methodology."

Ken LeBlond, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Ken LeBlond joined the volunteer board of directors for the Friends of the Presbyterian Education Board. The "Friends" is the U.S.-based fundraising arm of the education board. The board runs 25 schools for 5,500 students in Punjab. The Christian and Muslim students are educated in secular classrooms in both Lahore and small villages throughout the province. The Friends raises money for both operating expenses and capital projects. LeBlond recently joined the Donor Relations committee to share his marketing/communications expertise with the organization's staff.

Daniel Majchrowicz, Northwestern University
Each year, Northwestern University's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost recognizes members of the College's tenure-line and teaching-track faculty for excellence in teaching. Dr. Daniel Majchrowicz received this year's Distinguished Teaching Award.



Tahir Naqvi, Trinity University
Dr. Tahir Naqvi was recently promoted to full professor at the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at Trinity University. He teaches courses in anthropology and sociology, with a focus on South Asian and Muslim world studies. His teaching often involves themes such as Partition legacies, urbanization, and political mobilization. His research emphasizes questions of state power, urban space, and the production of political identities in South Asia and the Muslim world. Check out his recent book, *Questioning Migrants: Ethnic Nationalism at the Limits of Pakistan* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).



Natasha Raheja, Cornell University
Dr. Natasha Raheja's book *The People, in Parts: The Majoritarian Work of the Minority Form* (University of Chicago Press) was awarded the American Institute of Indian Studies Joseph W. Elder Book Prize in the Indian Social Sciences. The book is an ethnographic account of Pakistani Hindu migration to India that theorizes the flexibility of the religious minority form across state borders in South Asia. Pre-order the book and use the discount code UCPNEW for 30% off.

Aalia Sohail Khan, AIPS Pakistan
AIPS Pakistan Director, Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan, was nominated as an external member on the Committee of Courses for Centre for Languages and Translation Studies (CeLTS) at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. CeLTS is the pioneer platform of translation studies as an academic field in Pakistan.

Dr. Sohail Khan was also nominated as a member of the Advisory Board (IAB) at Fatima Jinnah Women University. The primary objective of the IAB is to provide strategic guidance and industry insights that support curriculum development, research orientation, internship opportunities, and overall alignment of departmental goals with the evolving needs of the industry.

AIPS Member Highlights



Daniel Waqar, Tufts University

Daniel Waqar was recently named a 2025 Emerging Scholar by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of History at Tufts University. His research examines the history of British colonial-era unlawful assembly laws in South Asia and their continued use by governments around the world today. The Harry Frank Guggenheim Emerging Scholar Award supports doctoral candidates in their final year of writing a doctoral dissertation examining a salient aspect of violence.

AIPS Alumni Highlight
Yelena Biberman, Skidmore College

Dr. Yelena Biberman is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Skidmore College. AIPS recently chatted with Dr. Biberman about her journey with AIPS and how it helped to shape her professional trajectory.

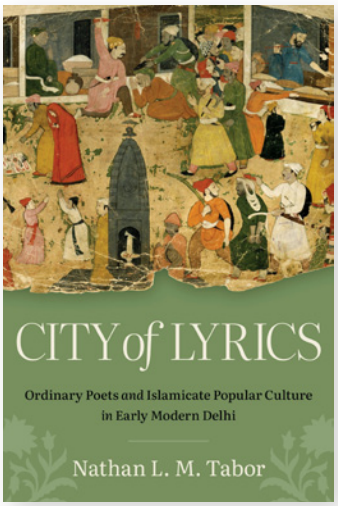
"I was fortunate to discover the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) while searching online for resources and institutional support for developing expertise on Pakistan and South Asia. Through AIPS, I became aware of the many opportunities available to emerging scholars in the field, including conferences, language training, and research funding. I later applied for and received an AIPS fellowship to conduct dissertation research. Building on that work, I subsequently traveled to Pakistan to conduct fieldwork with support from the Atlantic Council's South Asia Center. I also pursued the study of Urdu through a FLAS fellowship. Ultimately, this research culminated in both my dissertation and a book published by Oxford University Press in 2019. I have also published numerous academic and policy-focused articles on Pakistan, and I regularly teach courses and deliver lectures on South Asia in a range of academic and public venues.

The advice I would offer to students and emerging scholars in Pakistan Studies is to take advantage of centralized resources such as AIPS and actively pursue the opportunities they offer and publicize. Seek out opportunities to learn the language and, if possible, spend time in the region itself. These experiences are invaluable for developing both scholarly expertise and a lifelong passion for and engagement with the region. And build and continue expanding your own network of experts on Pakistan and its neighbors that brings together scholars (and practitioners!) across generations and fields." ■

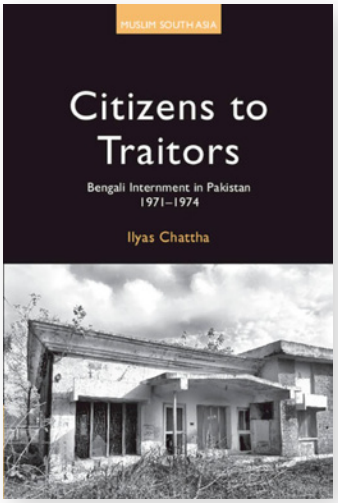


AIPS 2026 Book Prize

Congratulations to both Dr. Nathan Tabor (Western Michigan University) and Dr. Ilyas Chattha (Lahore University of Management Sciences) for receiving the 2026 AIPS Book Prize! This year, the AIPS Book Prize Committee selected two books for the annual award.



The committee agreed that Tabor's book, *City of Lyrics: Ordinary Poets and Islamicate Popular Culture in Early Modern Delhi*, is an "impressive study of the emerging culture of poetic gatherings (mushāʿirahs) in eighteenth- century Delhi that demonstrates how sprawling networks of "ordinary poets" shaped Urdu as a rising literary language." Tabor offers "compelling evidence for the ways in which poetic exchanges helped to anchor friendships and also fueled rivalries, spurring poets to constantly innovate and create new poetic forms."



As noted by the committee, Chattha's book, *Citizens to Traitors: Bengali Internment in Pakistan, 1971-1974*, "recovers the silenced history of elite and ordinary residents of Pakistan who were transformed by the 1971 Bangladesh war from rights-bearing citizens to ethnically marked 'others', now suspected traitors, able to be stripped of political and human rights and subjected to indefinite internment." ■

AIPS Book Prize Interview

Dr. Ilyas Chattha—2026 Awardee

AIPS: How did you become interested in the topic(s) addressed in your book* Citizens to Traitors: Bengali Internment in Pakistan, 1971-1974*?



Chattha: My interest in the Citizens to Traitors came from both personal experience and scholarly motivations. Growing up near Qadirabad Headworks Colony in Punjab, one of the largest Bengali internment camps set up in Pakistan after the 1971 Bangladesh War, I became aware of a largely forgotten/hidden history that had profoundly affected thousands of lives yet remained absent from both public memory and mainstream historical scholarship. This personal link prompted broader scholarly questions about the human consequences of the 1971 events, particularly the experiences of Bengalis who remained in West Pakistan after Bangladesh's liberation. I was struck by the erasure of their stories despite the scale and significance of the internment. Through fieldwork at camp sites, government documents, and oral testimonies, I became increasingly interested in the processes through which ordinary citizens could be rendered politically expendable and reclassified as 'traitors' or 'enemies' by the nation-state.

The silences surrounding this episode in both Pakistani and Bangladeshi historiography motivated me to investigate the human dimensions of the 1971 conflict more deeply and to recover the experiences of those who had been largely erased from historical narratives. I came to see this absence not as accidental, but as politically produced through processes of state-making, nation-building, and selective remembrance and forgetting. In doing so, I sought not only to recover an untold history of the 1971 war but also to engage with broader questions of postcolonial citizenship, belonging, and exclusion in South Asia.

What was the most challenging/rewarding part of researching the book?

The most challenging aspect of researching *Citizens to Traitors* was reconstructing a history that had been largely erased from both official archives and public memory. Many relevant records had been destroyed, fragmented, dispersed across multiple repositories, or remained difficult to access. At the same time, the experiences of Bengali internees were conspicuously absent from dominant historical narratives. Equally challenging was the process of locating internment camps and surviving internees and, above all, earning their trust to discuss deeply personal and often traumatic experiences of confinement, suffering, repatriation, and uncertainty.

(cont'd on p. 6)

AIPS Book Prize Interview Dr. Ilyas Chattha —2026 Awardee (cont'd from p.5)

Yet these very challenges also made the project particularly rewarding. Conducting oral history interviews, documenting camp sites, and uncovering previously underutilised archival sources enabled me to reconstruct a more human-centred account of the Bengali internment experience in Pakistan. One of the most rewarding, yet harrowing, aspects of the research was tracing and documenting internment camps. Visiting these camps convinced me that they were not merely places of confinement but spaces where the nation-state actively made and unmade citizenship through everyday bureaucratic practices of racialisation, reclassification, dehumanisation and denaturalisation. The most fulfilling aspect of the project was restoring historical visibility to individuals and communities whose experiences had been erased from the

"The silences surrounding this episode in both Pakistani and Bangladeshi historiography motivated me to investigate the human dimensions of the 1971 conflict more deeply and to recover the experiences of those who had been largely erased from historical narratives."

historical record for more than half a century. By bringing together personal testimonies, archival records, and material evidence from camp sites, I was able to recover a hitherto untold history of how ordinary people were transformed from citizens into 'traitors' in the aftermath of the Bangladesh War, revealing the contingent and contested nature of citizenship in postcolonial South Asia.

Do you have any specific advice for emerging scholars of Pakistan after writing the book?

I would offer emerging scholars of Pakistan to look beyond established narratives and remain attentive to subaltern voices and local histories that have been overlooked or marginalised. Some of the most important insights often emerge from subjects that appear peripheral, yet upon closer examination reveal broader questions about the fragility of Pakistan's national project. I would also encourage scholars to embrace methodological diversity and originality. Archival research remains indispensable, but it can be supplemented through oral histories, literary writings, regional and vernacular sources, material culture, and ethnographic approaches. In the case of *Citizens to Traitors*, it was the combination of all these sources that enabled a more nuanced understanding of a contested and largely forgotten past. I would particularly encourage younger scholars to recognise that their knowledge of local languages, landscapes, vernacular sources, and community networks constitutes one of their greatest research advantages and intellectual assets. These forms of knowledge and access often open doors to archives, localities, communities, and lived experiences that remain invisible in official records and English-language sources. Harnessing these strengths can enable scholars to uncover new perspectives and produce more grounded and original accounts of Pakistan's history.

Equally important are patience and persistence. Silences, omissions, and erasures are pervasive in the study of Pakistan's history. Research often involves navigating fragmented archives, bureaucratic obstacles, and gaps in the historical record. While these challenges can be frustrating, they also create opportunities for original and rewarding scholarship. Finally, I would encourage emerging researchers to engage critically yet empathetically with their topics/subjects. The study of Pakistan's past is not only about institutions and high politics; it is also about focusing on state-society relations, recovering regional histories and the lived experiences of ordinary people whose stories mattered and can deepen our understanding of the country's complex past and volatile present.

What's your next project?

My next project continues to explore questions of postcolonial citizenship and the fragility state formation in South Asia. While *Citizens to Traitors* examined the internment and repatriation of Bengalis in Pakistan after 1971, my upcoming monograph focuses on the history of Enemy Property in South Asia and asks: what happened to 'Bengali' property in Pakistan and 'Pakistani' property in Bangladesh after the breakup of Pakistan? The project extends this inquiry back to the 1947 Partition and forward through the aftermath of the 1965 and 1971 wars, examining how property became central to determining who belonged, who could claim rights, and who could be excluded from the national community. Building on scholarship on property, displacement, and citizenship, I explore how the categorisation of people according to localities, religious, ethnic, and political identities shaped their access to property rights. I explain that property became a powerful mechanism through which states and societies defined inclusion and exclusion, rendering certain populations politically 'suspect' and subject to dispossession and displacement because they did not fit neatly within the fiscal, territorial and identity projects of the nation-states. By tracing the social life of property and its role in shaping people's attachments to place, I seek to open up new conversations about how geographies of dispossession, displacement, citizenship, and belonging are produced and remade. As with my previous work, the project combines archival research, oral histories, property records, and material evidence to recover experiences that have often remained at the margins of official histories. Ultimately, it seeks to contribute to broader debates on the everyday dynamics of state-society relations in modern South Asia. ■

AIPS Book Prize Interview
Dr. Nathan Tabor–2026 Awardee

AIPS: *How did you become interested in the topic(s) addressed in your book* City of Lyrics: Ordinary Poets and Islamicate Popular Culture in Early Modern Delhi?

My interests in the historical mushāʿirah—the subject of *City of Lyrics*—emerged in a roundabout fashion. For my dissertation I set out to write about contemporary gatherings that take place in cities and towns across North India. I should note that mushāʿirahs pop up all over the world wherever Urdu speakers happen to live, forming a vast and continually growing marketplace for popular poetry. When I began writing about the contemporary gatherings, I kept getting pulled back into the archival material I had amassed. This was prompted by falling in love with the sources and by mushāʿirah attendees and patrons today who often cite past events and verse when interpreting the importance of a mushāʿirah and its recitations, cementing connections between poetry performance, shared memory, and lyric style within any given literary community. The book emerged from my initial attempts to interpret the themes and connections writers cultivated in gatherings of the past. Ultimately, I chose to tell the story of mushāʿirahs and mushāʿirah verse between 1720 and 1750, when Delhi writers gathered to recite around the grave of Persian-language poet ʻAbd ul-Qadir Bedil (1644-1720), a composer of complex verse who became a sort of literary saint for the Mughal state's guild of penpushers. By focusing on the past and constricting the chronology, I wrote a micro-history of mushāʿirahs that recalled previously unconsidered verse from poets who were celebrities during their time.



What was the most challenging/rewarding part of researching the book?

The challenging part of researching the book was reconstructing the connections between writers of the period. The sources I used were largely from the Persian and Urdu tazkirah corpus produced over the entirety of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. By that time, tazkirah writing formed a near millennium-long tradition of memorialization and compilation that structured Islamicate biography and cultural history. Yet, tazkirahs present information in a partisan and hierarchical manner, making them wonderfully gossipy but also tricky due to their exclusion of subjects. For example, Mir Taqi Mir infamously ignored Deccani writers in his tazkirah Nikat al-Shuʿara despite the South harboring a rekhtah literary market for over 300 years prior to Mir's career. The challenging part of reading tazkirahs concerns framing. How can historians understand their anecdotal information and contextualize poets' verse so as to access the social history implicit in poets' biographies and verse samples. I read across tazkirahs beyond those that solely documented Urdu poets—a smaller literary circle in the 1700s—so as to understand literary production across South Asia's wider Persian-speaking world. I also read for emulative connections between verse samples in Urdu, Persian, and between the languages. That is, rather than closely reading for theme and its development within one poet, I searched for the formal connections based on rhyme, refrain, meter that poets used to prove themselves as writers and competitors within Delhi's literary community. The results in the pages of *City of Lyrics* can be found in the juicy anecdotes about poets and their antics but also in the previously ignored connections between canonical writers like Sauda and Mir and the literary celebrities of the early 1700s now forgotten today, writers like Sharaf al-Din Mazmun and Ganna Begam Minnat. I translate quite a bit of verse in the book, and I hope readers enjoy the new writers and their words as encountered in the pages.

Do you have any specific advice for emerging scholars of Pakistan after writing the book?

Please keep reading tazkirahs, especially those written outside of dominant literary traditions and frequently discussed time periods. Tazkirah compilation ramped up in the nineteenth century and continues today at a healthy clip, especially in highly localized settings. I would be very interested to read a modern history of local literary production in towns and cities that do not feature as prominently in the geographies that currently map South Asian literary traditions for the academy. In the last decade, new tazkirahs have appeared in print that consider vast subjects such as Persian poets of Balochistan, Pothwari poets of Pakistan, and writers who patronize Pashto Adabi Tolane in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other regions.

What's your next project?

The next big project delves into Urdu's history between 1750 and 1820, a period of great expansion for literary production when writers like Mushafi, Insha, and Rangin churned out divans, tazkirahs, and critical works in Delhi, Lucknow, and other cities. I will continue reading tazkirahs and collected works from these writers, but I would like to give attention to the source that frequently informed tazkirahs: the bayaz, which we might translate as miscellany or a commonplace book. Archives are filled with anonymously authored anthologies that have sparingly been used by previous historians. In writing *City of Lyrics*, I was struck by the fact that pen, ink, and paper were crucial for oral traditions like the mushāʿirah when poets carried a bayaz of compositions to a gathering or setup a daftar for attendees to record their recitations. Memorization and verse singing were important, and continue to propel popular literature today, but before sound recording and reproduction pen and paper were another means for mass circulation besides the steel trap memories of writers. In the next project, I am curious to see how Urdu poetry's routes of circulation and emulation changed between 1750 and 1850 based on the point of view of scribes and diarists as they traveled across South Asia. ■

AIPS Book Prize Interview
Dr. Ali Usman Qasmi–2024 Awardee

AIPS: *How did you become interested in the topic(s) addressed in your book* Qaum, Mulk, Sultanat: Citizenship and National Belonging in Pakistan?

It started with a conference - a workshop I attended in London, organized by Professors Sarah Ansari and William Gould, who were working on a project on citizenship in South Asia. The questions they raised, and some of the papers I listened to there, really intrigued me. They gave me a different lens through which to look at some of the questions I was already interested in.



Around the same time, I was visiting the National Documentation Center in Islamabad and came across several files that intrigued me. At that point, I didn't have a concrete idea of how they could be useful, but I had an intuitive feeling that they were interesting. For instance, I came across files on national holidays in Pakistan. This came up for discussion when Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, was alive - in 1947-48 - and then in subsequent years. I tracked the changes over time and saw a story to tell: how the postcolonial Pakistani state's idea of "the national" depends on how it views history, culture, politics, and religion in a specific way.

That became the starting point. Even then, I will admit, I wasn't operating with a very concrete idea of what I was going to do with all the material. But there was one thing I kept in mind: the idea of a foundational moment, or a foundational document. In India's case, there's a lot of scholarly work on how the Constitution, adopted in 1950, became the foundational document that provided the basis for the critical democratic developments that followed. Pakistan doesn't have that kind of consensual founding document - it was only in 1973 that Pakistan's most widely accepted Constitution was adopted.

So those initial years, when things were in transition, interested me. I knew I wanted to look at the first ten or twelve years - as Pakistan gradually transitioned toward becoming a republic - before it came under martial law in less than two years. That was the period I decided to work on.

What was the most challenging/rewarding part of researching the book?

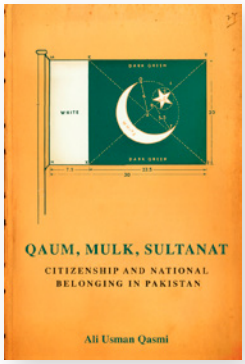
I didn't want to restrict myself to official documents alone. I wanted a sense of how these discussions were being received: what was the reception among ordinary people to the idea of a new nation and to how to shape the new republic?

So I started going through newspapers, and that was genuinely difficult. For one, there were linguistic limitations - I can only work in Urdu and English. There were no Punjabi newspapers available to me, and I don't read Bengali or Sindhi. I was well aware of the limits this placed on how far this could really serve as a measure of what people in Pakistan were debating. But it was the only way I had of getting some sense of it.

Going through newspapers was tedious, especially because I had set myself a fairly long timeline - starting in 1947 and ending in 1956. That endpoint was itself somewhat arbitrary, chosen because that's when Pakistan became a republic. However, I do range back and forth a little into the 1960s, and briefly into 1971–1974. The material was so spread out that finding an anchor around which to build a narrative was, I think, the biggest challenge. At the same time, the sheer wealth of material, once I had pulled it together, gave me enough insight - and enough ways of organizing it - to arrive at a coherent narrative.

Do you have any specific advice for emerging scholars of Pakistan after writing the book?

A historian needs to be curious. When you go into an archive, you should be intrigued by what you find rather than expecting packaged, ready-made answers. To paraphrase Professor Ayesha Jalal: historians should try to create their own archive. They need to be trained to see that there is no inherent coherence in the archive, and that, through reading both theoretical and archival history, they can learn to link seemingly disparate elements to tell a story. I think that's the real strength to build.



I tell my students this when they ask for advice: the idea isn't simply to decenter the archive straightaway. You first need to explore it and understand what it's about. It's only once you've dug deeper and built a real breadth of knowledge about the archive that you can, at a later stage, acquire the ability to decenter it. It's a paradoxical relationship - you first need to master the archive to undo it.

What's your next project?

My next project is on Lahore. I'm increasingly drawn to writing histories of the city. To begin with, I've been commissioned to write a history as part of a book series published by Cambridge University Press on different cities, in which each contributor structures their book around ten defining events. For Lahore, I've chosen my ten events. People might disagree on the exact list, but I suspect we'd all agree on at least three or four of them as genuinely central to the city's development.

Beyond that, I am writing and finalizing a few articles, but increasingly I am more interested in writing scholarly, rigorous histories that are also popular - written for a wider audience. I feel there's a huge appetite for good history in this region, and an urgent need for accessible histories, because there are serious political, religious, and social challenges we can only overcome through history that is both rigorous and genuinely accessible. ■

AIPS Member Publications and Resources

Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor, National Defense University

Abbas, Hassan. "Inside the Taliban State: Control, Constraint, and the Limits of Resilience." *RSAA,* April 7, 2026.

Abbas, Hassan. "Pakistan and the Taliban: The Blowback No One Wanted." *Anadolu Agency* March 2, 2026.

Abdul Aijaz, Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University Bloomington

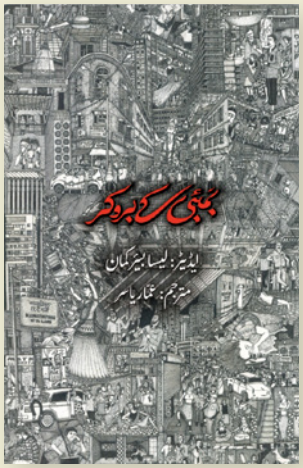
Aijaz, Abdul. "Politics and Poetics of Water and Hydrosocial Crisis in Punjab." *Antipode 58, no 1* (September 2025).

Syed Tariq Anwar, Professor, West Texas A&M University

Anwar, Syed Tariq. "Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Evolutionary Growth and Global Expansion." *Journal of International Entrepreneurship* (April, 2025).

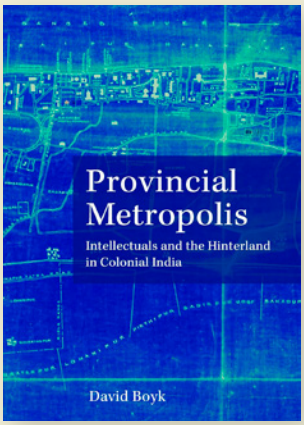
Lisa Björkman, Associate Professor, University of Louisville

Björkman, Lisa. *Bombay Brokers.* Lahore: Folio Press, 2026.



David Boyk, Associate Professor of Instruction, Northwestern University

Boyk, David. *Provincial Metropolis: Intellectuals and the Hinterland in Colonial India.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025.



Shuyan (Michael) Huang, PhD Candidate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Huang, Shuyan (Michael). "How Ibne Safi taught an entire generation to read." *DAWN,* January 7, 2026.

Daniel Majchrowicz, Associate Professor, Northwestern University

Boyk, David & Majchrowicz, Daniel. *Zer o Zabar: An Introduction to Urdu Script.* Evanston: Northwestern University, 2026.



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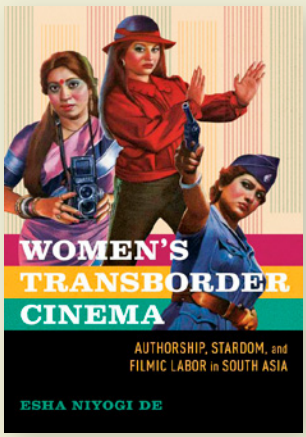

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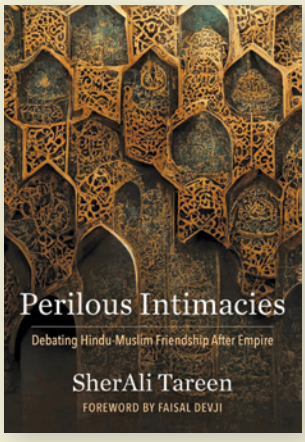


AIPS Institutional Member News

University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison hosted the 53rd Annual Conference on South Asia, the largest and most preeminent annual academic forum for South Asian studies worldwide. With over 1,000 registered participants, the four-day conference offered a massive platform for discussion, spanning 15 symposia, 141 panels, and 32 roundtables. Faculty and graduate students participated in equal numbers, and the Center for South Asia was able to provide over 50 registration fee waivers to this year's attendees.





On October 23, the Joseph W. Elder Keynote Address featured Alpa Shah from the University of Oxford. After the keynote, many scholars connected at the all-conference reception, enjoying assorted hors d'oeuvres and seasonal desserts. To end the successful day, the lights were dimmed, and popcorn was served during a film screening of *Rhythm of Dammam* by Jayan Cherian.

A popular fixture of the conference was the dedicated time for "New Book Talks" on Thursday and Friday. Scholars reserved 20-minute time slots at the New Books Table to discuss their most recent publications. These informal presentations, run entirely by the presenting scholars, allowed authors to personally speak with colleagues about their latest work.

The following day, another film screening took place with a double-feature showcasing *Abundance: Living with a Forest* by Dolly Kikon and *Go On, Rituparna* by Aashish Kumar.

After the films concluded, the plenary session spotlighted Farhana Sultana from Syracuse University, who presented her research on student revolt and the reshaping of Bangladesh. The plenary drew a large crowd and engagement from participants.

The main events concluded with a memorial celebrating the influential life of Joseph Elder, which featured closing remarks delivered by Frances Vavrus, vice provost and dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's International Division.

Building on the momentum from 2024, the 2025 conference reinforced the University of Wisconsin-Madison's role as a vital site for South Asia scholarship. The Center for South Asia would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the conference's success.

University of Pennsylvania

UPenn's South Asia Center (SAC) became a founding consortium member of the Abdul Majeed Khokhar Memorial Library, located in Karachi at the Mushfiq Khwaja Trust for the Advancement of Knowledge and Culture. The library's collection is especially strong in Urdu materials from the late colonial period and spans a wide range of subjects, including Urdu print culture, Islamic reform, women's movements, children's literature, Urdu literature, Islam in South Asia, and South Asian travel writing. Its holdings include approximately 25,000 printed books and 60,000 periodical, newspaper, and magazine issues.

Brian T. Cannon, former Lecturer in the Critical Writing Program at the University of Pennsylvania and current Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto, received an award from AIPS to support the workshop *Beyond the Border: Ecology, Economy, and Community in the Thar,* held at the University of Sindh (Jamshoro) on February 6–7, 2025.



In summer 2025, SAC supported undergraduate Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow Khlood Awan (above), an aspiring human rights lawyer, for Urdu study in Lahore, Pakistan.

In 2025–2026, SAC supported several curricular and scholarly initiatives, including a Module and Course Development Grant awarded to Paul Edleman of Sauk Valley Community College for the development of a module titled *Pakistan: Rural Life, Culture, and Identity.*

Harvard University

On April 12, 2026, The Pakistan Initiative (TPI), led by Harvard students and alumni, supported the second annual Pakistan Conference at Harvard under the theme "From Potential to Performance." The conference was designed to serve as North America's leading gathering on Pakistan's future. It was supported by key Harvard research centers, including the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program, the Center for the Study of World Religions, the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, and the Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World.



Building on its inaugural edition in 2025, this year's conference brought together more than 750 attendees and over 45 speakers for a full day of panels and discussions spanning governance, the economy, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, sectarianism, climate, and culture.

The conference is both a flagship event and a practical expression of TPI's broader mission: "Pakistan with Perspective." It seeks to move beyond crisis-driven narratives by highlighting innovation, resilience, and long-term possibility in Pakistan. By drawing on world-class research and global policy networks, while engaging the Pakistani diaspora, TPI aims to shape how Pakistan is understood as it approaches its centenary in 2047.

At the core of TPI's mission are three gaps it seeks to bridge: a knowledge gap, where rigorous analysis on Pakistan too rarely reaches global decision-makers; a platform gap, given the limited number of credible venues for serious dialogue on Pakistan's trajectory; and a perception gap, where crisis narratives often overshadow the country's talent, creativity, and potential.

The conference featured a distinguished group of scholars and practitioners, including Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, economist Atif Mian, Nobel laureate Daron Acemoglu, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, and cultural figures including Hassan Sheheryar Yasin, Momina Mustehsan, and Mahira Khan. It also featured a startup pitch competition and concluded with a Qawwali performance by the Saami Brothers.

Michigan State University

On March 30, 2026, Michigan State University hosted a workshop titled "Gender and Space in the Early Modern World," which put questions of social life and residential architecture in Pakistan into comparative perspective with other parts of the world. This event was organized by Shayan Rajani and Samira Fathi and sponsored by MSU's Center for Gender in Global Context, as well as MSU's History Department, Department of Art, Art History, & Design, Muslim Studies Program, and Asian Studies Center. The workshop featured two panels that explored the intersections of gender, architecture, and social spaces across diverse global contexts. ■

Interview with South Asia Specialist at the Library of Congress

APIS Vice President, Dr. Daniel Machrowicz, interviewed Dr. Charlotte Giles, a South Asia Specialist at the Library of Congress (LoC) in the Asian Division. She received her PhD from the Asian Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin in 2021. For more information about the Library of Congress, please see their website (www.loc.gov).

How does your role at the Library of Congress (LoC) relate to collections and services related to Pakistan?

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the Library of Congress' South Asian Collection.

I am one of two South Asian Specialists at the Library, working in the Asian Reading Room. My colleague is Jonathan Loar. Our work is divided roughly by country, language, religion, and certain subjects. I cover Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives, as well as queries related to Islam, Perso-Arabic script languages, and gender. Jon covers India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, with a focus on Devanagri and South Indian languages, and most other South Asian religions. We collaborate on most projects and will work with all South Asian researchers.



In addition to assisting researchers, my work involves staying up to date on research trends, potential areas to expand our acquisitions (individual items, zines, web archives, etc.), how to ensure the long-term availability of collection items through work with our colleagues in Preservation, digitization projects, enhancing discoverability of materials through outreach and research guides, working with various Library committees to ensure Asian language and regional representation, and numerous other unexpected tasks that arise.

What is something that you wish that more scholars of Pakistan knew about the LoC?

When I started at the Library in 2019, I knew very little about the history of area studies collection building in North America – of how university libraries built their collections for the budding field of area studies and how that collecting continues up to the present. When I was in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, we were taught about the beginning of area studies as a field, but not about the role libraries, specifically the Library of Congress, played in acquiring materials for area studies scholars to make their research possible.

The PL-480 program, also known as "Food for Peace", started as PL48, the India Emergency Assistance Act of 1951. The United States traded some of its surplus grain for printed materials like books, magazines, and newspapers from India. This program transitioned into a permanent Library of Congress acquisition office located in New Delhi in 1962. In 1965, Pakistan opened its own field office in Karachi which later moved to Islamabad in 1995. Today, the New Delhi Field Office works with sub-offices in Dhaka (Bangladesh), Kathmandu (Nepal), and Colombo (Sri Lanka), as well as bibliographic representatives in Maldives and Bhutan. The Islamabad office acquires materials from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. A major goal in these offices was to provide certain university libraries the opportunity to acquire materials from the region in various vernacular languages to meet their researchers' needs.

While the offices purchased most materials for the Library of Congress's DC campus, the universities can select from those acquisition lists what they needed. This is called the South Asia Cooperative Acquisitions Program (SACAP). It is open to any library or research institution that would like to acquire publications from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Tibetan publications available in these countries. It is through



SACAP initiative that most university libraries with area studies programs or South Asia-heavy scholarship acquire titles published in South Asia. Universities in this program include Princeton, University of Chicago, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Wisconsin, Madison. When scholars at SACAP universities use printed materials from South Asia, they are most likely using materials acquired through the Delhi or Islamabad office.

I would be remiss if I didn't not briefly mention that the building of area studies collections in the 1950s during the Cold War was a collaborative effort. Librarians from these various universities formed the Conference on American Library Resources on South Asia (CALROSA), first held at the Library of Congress, in 1957. This conference led to the formation of the Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation, which continues to operate today, meeting bi-annually at the Association of Asian Studies Conference and the South Asia Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

It is this history and these offices that I wish more scholars of Pakistan, and South Asia in general, knew about. I have a couple of reasons for this:

The first is related to archival construction and authority – how archives and library collections are built, how they are described, who has the authority to claim what is important to include, or leave out. These are lessons we are taught when preparing to visit an (often static) archive. I am, however, talking about a North American area studies archive in our libraries that is constantly growing and being reshaped based on a variety of factors. As I now have a hand in building and managing library collections, I have become more aware of the influence the Library of Congress has had as the primary supplier of South Asian collection materials to North American universities.

The second reason I want more scholars to know about these offices is to bring awareness to the labor and expertise present there. The director and deputy director of the field offices are American citizens, but the rest of the staff (acquisition librarians, catalogers, etc.) are local (i.e. Pakistani citizens). While they do make selections according to Library "Collection Policy Statements", local staff are making the decisions. My colleague Jonathan and I will occasionally make requests for specific items, but they do the bulk of the work.

The work at the Islamabad office amazes me. It is a relatively small team of 20-25 people. Catalogers work in multiple languages, including one person who catalogs in more than 10 languages. They often travel out of station to visit individual book vendors and small book bazaars, to places that are not entirely safe, particularly for someone associated with the United States government.

What kind of librarian would I be if I didn't recommend some reading: For more information about the history of librarians and archivists in South Asia and North Ameria who contributed to the building of area studies programs, I recommend reading my blog from 2022 celebrating the anniversary of the Library of Congress Delhi Field Office, Gwendolyn Kirk's article, "Books in the Bunker: Global Flowers of Meaning and Matter in Academic Assemblages", Maureen L. P. Patterson's "The South Asian PL 480 Program 1962-1968", or any of the articles written by area studies librarians in my blog's "Further Reading" list.

Are there any collections or items that you think are particularly underutilized?

I would say that all of our collections are underutilized, but for the sake of brevity, I'll list a few digital and in-person only collections that I think researchers would be most interested in. For more information about the South Asian Collection in the Asian Reading Room, and South Asia-related materials in other reading rooms, I recommend looking at our research guide and getting in touch with me or my colleague, Jon Loar through Ask a Librarian.

Naqvi Collection: The Library's Naqvi Collection contains approximately 275 manuscripts, lithographs, and rare books from the personal library of the scholar and orator Allama Zamir Akhtar Naqvi (1947-2020). The collection contains items in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and other languages, which reflect the Naqvi family's multilingual history and culture. It was acquired by the Library of Congress in 1999. Additional information on the Naqvi Collection is available in this post from the Library's 4 Corners of the World Blog, "Highlighting the Treasures of the Naqvi Collection: A Typewritten Urdu Translation of Wajid 'Ali Shah's Reply to the Blue Book." At the Library of Congress, the Naqvi Collection is jointly held by the Asian Division (Urdu items) and the African and Middle Eastern Division (Arabic and Persian items).

South Asian Digital Collection: The South Asian Digital Collection features selected books, serials, and manuscripts related to the present-day countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. All items in this digital collection are freely accessible online. This digital collection includes items in South Asian languages (e.g., Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Urdu) as well as items relevant to South Asia in English, French, German, and other languages. Researchers will find materials about colonialism in South Asia; vernacular literature; religion and philosophy; grammar and linguistics; the rebellion of 1857; American and European accounts of travel in colonial India; and many other subjects in the broad field of South Asian studies.



South Asian Newspapers: The Library's South Asian newspapers by title, city of publication, language, and format. Newspapers are in South Asian languages such as Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, and many more. In terms of format, most newspapers are available on microfilm with selected older publications available in print. While the collection includes some newspapers from the 19th and early 20th centuries, it is especially rich following the establishment of the Library's overseas field offices in India in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965. The collection also continues to grow with approximately 70 titles with current subscriptions.

Interview with South Asia Specialist at the Library of Congress



The South Asian Literary Recordings Project: The South Asian Literary Recordings Project (SALRP) is a collection of audio recordings of prominent South Asian authors. It features recordings of more than 100 South Asian authors in 20 languages from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Recordings are available online as MP3 files, generally between 30 and 90 minutes, with most between 30 and 60 minutes. Bibliographic records include information on the date and place of the audio recording.

South Asian Ephemera Collections: The Library of Congress holds 3 major ephemeral collections, covering a wide range of topics, languages, and regions, dating back to the late 19th century up to 2015. Materials include pamphlets, booklets, newsletters, reports, and newspapers. More information about the following collections can be found on any of the thematic research guides, such as the "South Asia Ephemera Collection on Microfiche: Politics and Government."

1. South Asian Ephemera Collection on Microfiche

2. South Asian Pamphlet Collection

3. USIA Pamphlet Collection

Web Archive Collections: The Delhi and Islamabad offices and I are very active in web archiving. The Library is very conservative when it comes to Copyright for obvious reasons, so many of the sites we "crawl" and archive are available only at the Library's DC campus. That being said, I am always here to help researchers who are not able to visit get access to what they need. These are a few of our ongoing collections related to Pakistan:

1. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan Government Web Archive

2. Gender Issues in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan Web Archive

3. International Political Events Web Archive

4. Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan Elections Web Archive

What Pakistani languages does the library collect in?

The South Asian Collection holds materials in over 100 languages and dialects. Some of those from Pakistan include the following: Urdu, Panjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, Brahvi, Burushaski, Saraiki, Persian, and Pashto, among others. Materials in Persian, Arabic, Pashto, and Balochi are located in the African and Middle Eastern Room. Monographs in English (regardless of where they are published) are accessible through the Main Reading Room.

A brief note on how the Library of Congress collections are organized. There are 22 reading rooms. Materials are organized by format, region, and language. The Asian Reading Room and the African and Middle Eastern Reading Room are what we call "custodial divisions", meaning that we have control over our own collections and rare collections.

Aside from making an appointment to do research on-site in Washington, are there any options available for scholars who aren't able to come in person?

Most of our researchers are unable to visit us in person, so Jon and I are prepared to help in any way we can. As for first steps, I recommend either getting in touch with us through Ask-a-Librarian or to look through the South Asian Collection research guide. Beyond Library of Congress collections, we will help researchers locate what they need through non-Library sources.

The Library does partake in Inter-Library Loan, so you may request non-rare, printed materials through your local library. There are certain items we won't be able to share. For example, if there is only one copy available on WorldCat, we will not loan out that item. In those cases, we will scan the table of contents of the requested item. We are permitted to scan up to 50 complimentary pages. In special cases, we may be able to provide full scans under Rule 801(c), a "fair use" copyright law.

When in doubt, contact us. We will find a way to help!

What are some ways we can engage with the LoC to follow updates and events?

There are a few ways to stay in the loop.

1. Library of Congress International Collections Facebook page

2. 4 Corners of the World: International Collections at the Library of Congress: Librarians in the International Collections post about events, newly released collections, and highlights of specific items and collections.

3. Events at the Library of Congress calendar

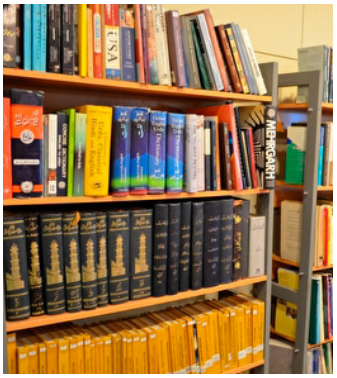
4. Charlotte's promo list! I have a DIY promotional list that I put together for South Asian events hosted by the Asian Division. If you would like to be on that list, please email me at chgi@loc.gov.

In what kinds of situations should someone reach out to you directly about a research question?

Think of us as a one-stop shop for research assistance. Your question does not need to relate to specific Library of Congress collections. Our services extend to research consultations. If we locate materials at another institution, for example Princeton University, we can put you in touch with the South Asian Studies librarian there. Our job entails knowing about collections in and beyond the Library of Congress. ■

AIPS Islamabad Center Highlights

1. The AIPS Islamabad Office has a new online Library Management System! (https://aips-library.vercel.app) The system contains details for over 1,200 books that are located at the AIPS Islamabad Office library. If you'd like to access any of these books, please contact the AIPS Pakistan Director, Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan (aalia@aips.edu.pk).



2. AIPS collaborated with the Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad to host an event titled "Pakistan's Heritage and Cultural Conservation: Challenges, Strategies, and the Way Forward" on May 4, 2026. This event aimed to create a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and policy-oriented discussion on heritage and culture conservation in Pakistan. It bridged academia and policy by engaging stakeholders involved in conservation, legislation, and tourism, strengthened Pakistan Studies' global relevance by connecting it with international heritage debates, and enhanced public engagement by producing knowledge that informs curricula, public discourse, and a more culturally grounded understanding of national identity.





3. AIPS-Pakistan Director, Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan, visited the Pakistan Studies Center, Punjab on January 29, 2026. The objective of the visit was to strengthen academic collaboration, exchange ideas on research and curriculum development, and explore opportunities for joint scholarly initiatives. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with faculty, learn from their experiences, and discuss ways to promote a deeper understanding of an interdisciplinary approach in Pakistan Studies. It also aimed to foster institutional linkages that can contribute to the advancement of Pakistan Studies at the national and international levels.



4. AIPS organized an event with Dr. Mashal Saif (Clemson University) at Punjab University and the International Islamic University on December 17 and December 29, 2025. Dr. Saif presented her research titled "Tradition and Technology: Fatwas in the Computer Age" to graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and established research faculty at the two universities. Dr. Saif is pictured with Dr. Amjad Magsi, Director of the Pakistan Studies Centre at Punjab University in Lahore.

5. AIPS signed new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with three universities in Pakistan:

- Minhaj University Lahore, January 29, 2026
- Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi, January 30, 2026
- Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur, March 27, 2026

AIPS and these universities agree to cooperate on activities to promote higher education in Pakistan and serve scholarly communities of Pakistan and the US. Dr. Sohail Khan, is pictured at Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi.



AIPS Islamabad Center Highlights



6. AIPS Pakistan and the Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology in Islamabad hosted an event on "Artificial Intelligence in the Field of Education: Opportunities and Challenges." Nearly 70 graduate students and faculty attended the discussion on February 16, 2026. Presenters and graduate students showcased locally developed apps and projects which offered solutions for challenges in the field of education. By strengthening digital and media literacy and ethical AI awareness within social sciences, this event positioned Pakistan Studies within the broader global discourse on technology.

7. On January 29, 2026, Dr. Muhammad Omer Chaudhry, Vice Chancellor of Government College University Lahore (GCU), signed an MOU to renew AIPS's agreement with GCU.



8. On May 11, 2026, AIPS collaborated with Punjab University Pakistan Study Centre to create "Pakistan Studies in the 21st Century: Teaching, Narratives, and Perspectives." The academic workshop discussed emerging trends, contemporary challenges, and interdisciplinary approaches in the field of Pakistan Studies. This workshop aimed to address these gaps by bringing together scholars, educators, and practitioners to explore innovative teaching approaches, rethink dominant narratives, and integrate multiple disciplines and perspectives into Pakistan Studies. Dr. Sikander Hayat, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Forman Christian College University, and Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Punjab University, were the distinguished speakers.



9. In the summer of 2026, AIPS President Dr. Matthew A. Cook traveled to Pakistan and signed MOUs with the National Book Foundation (NBF), Forman Christian College University, and Aga Khan University. Dr. Kamran Jahangir, Managing Director of NBF, is pictured signing the agreement alongside Dr. Cook.



10. Dr. Matthew A. Cook gave talks at various universities across Pakistan during his visit:

- "Towards a "Sindhicated" Approach: Moving the Sindhi World from an Effective to an Affective Register" at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS), Quaid-i-Azam University
- "Moving Regional Studies in Pakistan: From an Effective to an Affective Register" at Islamia College Peshawar
- "Interpreting the Sindhi World: Past and Present" at Aga Khan University



Introduction to Urdu Language & Culture Course

Since Spring 2023, AIPS has hosted five iterations of an online course, "Introduction to Urdu Language and Culture." In this 10-week asynchronous course, participants gain a solid foundation in Urdu and learn about the rich cultural traditions of Pakistan and other Urdu-speaking regions. The course covers the basics of the Urdu writing system, teaches conversational Urdu useful for daily activities (e.g., shopping, ordering in restaurants), and explores cultural themes through dramas, movies, songs, and poetry. Participants can earn up to 2.0 CEU credits upon completion.

Contact AIPS (aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org) for details on how to sign up for the Spring 2027 course! ■

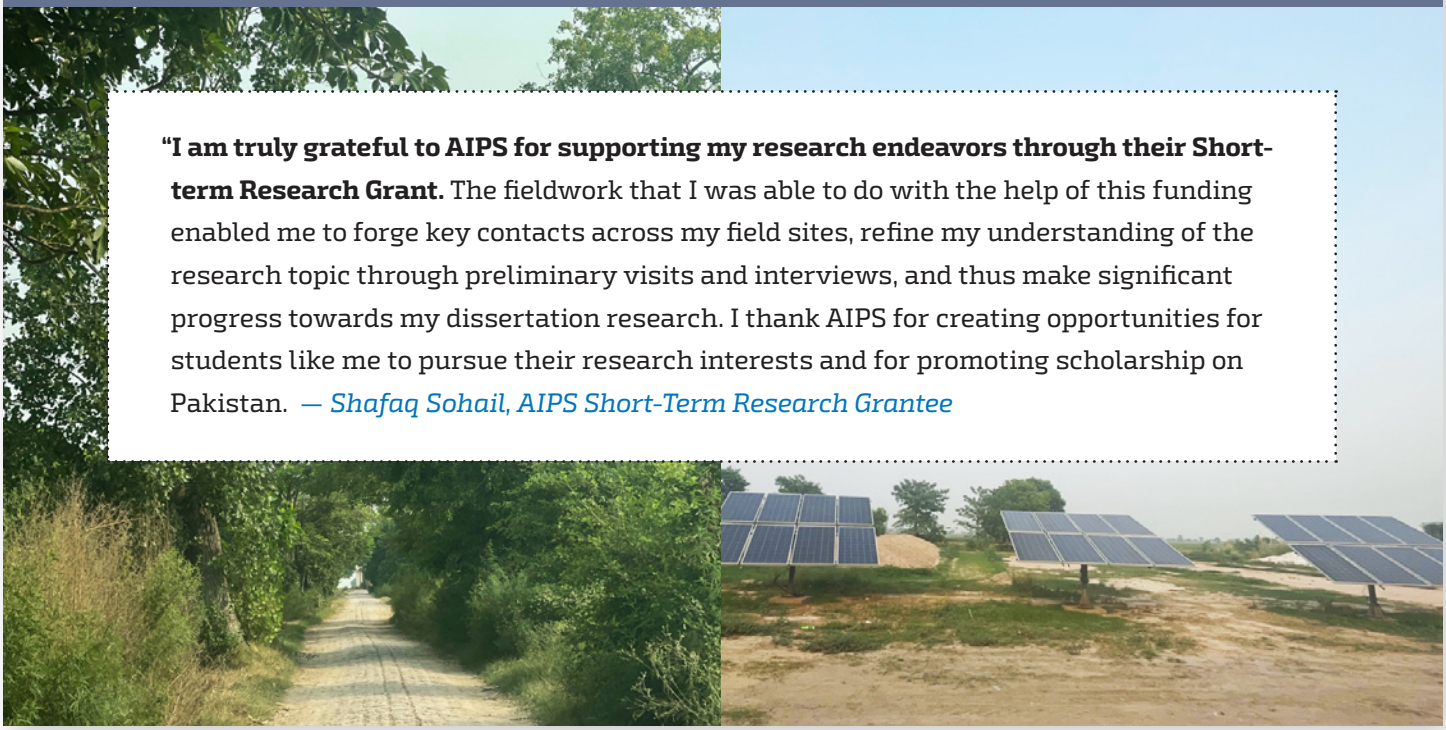


Dr. Jameel Ahmad, Course Instructor

"I enjoyed the course and thought it did a good job touching on all parts of language learning."

—2025 participant

AIPS GRANTEE TESTIMONIAL



"I am truly grateful to AIPS for supporting my research endeavors through their Short-term Research Grant. The fieldwork that I was able to do with the help of this funding enabled me to forge key contacts across my field sites, refine my understanding of the research topic through preliminary visits and interviews, and thus make significant progress towards my dissertation research. I thank AIPS for creating opportunities for students like me to pursue their research interests and for promoting scholarship on Pakistan. *— Shafaq Sohail, AIPS Short-Term Research Grantee*

Conference Travel Grants

AIPS awards travel grants to help facilitate its members' participation in international and domestic conferences. Grants for U.S. citizens are funded through either the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State or the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). Non-U.S. citizens are funded by AIPS's unrestricted funds.

Sana Noon
International Travel Grant
Institution: Emory University
Conference Name: SYMPOSIUM: The "Excessive" Politics of Feminist Rage and Resistance
Conference Dates: May 29, 2026
Title of Paper: "Coming of (R)age in Pakistan: The Event and Everyday Life"

Iqbal Akhtar
International Travel Grant
Institution: Florida International University
Conference Name: AAS-in-Asia
Conference Dates: September 25-27, 2026
Title of Paper: "Rediscovering Jain Heritage – Muslim–Jain Dialogue and the Quest for Pluralism in Pakistan"

Yumna Imtiaz
International Travel Grant
Institution: University of Oregon
Conference Name: 29th International Association for People-Environment Studies (IAPS) Conference
Conference Dates: June 29-July 3, 2026
Title of Paper: "Thermal Trade-Offs in Modernizing Housing Designs of Northern Pakistan"

Kulsoom Hisam
Domestic Travel Grant
Institution: St. Olaf College
Conference Name: Southern Economic Association 96th Annual Meeting
Conference Dates: November 21-23, 2026
Title of Paper: "City of Shame: Public Outrage and Crime Deterrence in a Weak State"

Syeda Momina Masood
International Travel Grant
Institution: University of Pittsburgh
Conference Name: Asian Studies Conference Japan
Conference Dates: July 4-5, 2026
Title of Paper: "Scatter as a Historiographical Heuristic: The Case of Pakistan"

Zahra Ali
Institution: University of Connecticut
Conference Name: AAS-in-Asia
Conference Dates: September 24-27, 2026
Title of Paper: "Tree Multiplicities & Beyond-Human Worlds in Pakistan"

AIPS-Vanguard Books Reprint Series

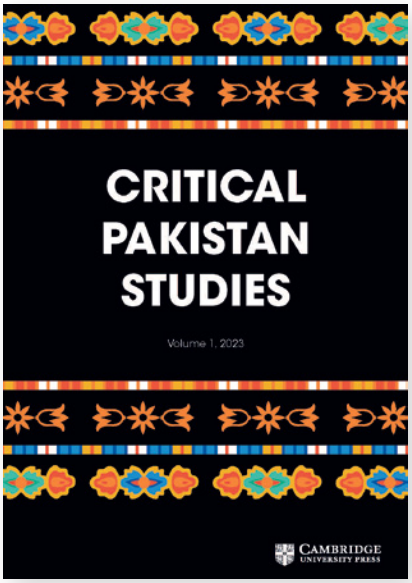
AIPS and Vanguard Books collaborated to reprint Dr. Farina Mir's book, *The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in Colonial Punjab*, and Dr. Claire Pammet's book, *Comic Performance in Pakistan: The Bhānd,* in Pakistan.

This partnership between AIPS and Vanguard Books focuses on reprinting humanities and social science monographs and edited volumes by AIPS members for sale in Pakistan. ■



Critical Pakistan Studies Open-Access Journal from AIPS and CUP

AIPS continues to support *Critical Pakistan Studies*, an open-access journal published with the support of Cambridge University Press. *Critical Pakistan Studies* (CPS) publishes primary source interpretive research that tackles broader interdisciplinary issues in addition to Pakistan and Pakistanis. The journal's interdisciplinary approach pushes beyond the nation-state, security, Islam, extremism, and other topics that narrowly define the study of Pakistan. It analyzes, discusses, and seeks to understand the varied and multi-layered contexts that constitute Pakistan and its people (both past and present and in South Asia and the wider world).



Check out these recently published articles and all CPS publications on the Cambridge website: **Cambridge.org/cps**

Book Review by Bramsh Khan
Atmospheric Violence: Disaster and Repair in Kashmir, Omer Aijazi (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024)

Research Article by Abid Ali
"Borderland, Resistance, and Neo-Pashtun Consciousness: The Case of Pashtun Tahafuz (Protection) Movement in Pakistan"

Research Article by Kanika Singh
"Shared Reverence Post-1947: Observations on the Sikh Case"

Editorial by Iqbal Singh Sevea
Rupture and Connectivity: Mobilities and National Imaginations Across the Radcliffe Line

Book Review by Madeline Clements
Contemporary Pakistani Speculative Fiction and the Global Imaginary: Democratising Human Futures. Shazia Sadafand Aroosa Kanwal (New York, Abingdon: Routledge, 2024)

Research Article by Ilyas Chattha
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Highlights of Recent Archaeological Research in Pakistan

By Jonathan Mark Kenoyer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

When I first came to Pakistan in the winter of 1975 to participate in excavations at the site of Balakot, Baluchistan, I spent a considerable amount of time in Karachi and the coastal region to the west, near Sonmiani Bay and Las Bela. I was a student of the late Dr. George F. Dales, who was leading the University of California, Berkeley excavation project at the site of Balakot which was located 66 km west of Karachi on the Windar River that empties into the Sonmiani Bay. Dales was excavating at this small coastal site to try and understand the trade networks connecting the Indus region to Mesopotamia in the west. Prior to starting his excavation at Balakot, Dr. Dales had started major excavations at the site of Mohenjo-daro in 1964-65 while he was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately he was not able to continue his work at Mohenjo-daro due to the 1965 war between Pakistan and India. After working at Balakot with Dr. Dales for two seasons, I began helping him study the pottery from Mohenjo-daro and eventually we published this study in 1986. I was fortunate to be able to visit Mohenjo-daro on numerous occasions and even wrote one of my first published articles on the stone tools recovered from his excavations. I also studied the beads from his excavations but never got around to publishing these as we started work at Harappa in 1986. I spent the next 30+ years working in the Punjab and other parts of northern Pakistan but I always wanted to get back to Sindh and start working at sites in the south, particularly the site of Mohenjo-daro.

In 2023, I finally returned to Sindh and began a collaborative research project with Dr. Kaleemullah Lashari and Dr. Asma Ibrahim who direct an NGO called Sindh Exploration and Archaeology Society (SEAS), both of whom I had worked with previously on AIPS sponsored workshops and heritage training programs. This new joint Pakistani-American Research Project was organized to help train members of the newly established Department of Antiquities Sindh and students from various universities in Sindh, including Karachi University, University of Sindh, Jamshoro





and Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. We also had students and officers from Department of Antiquities in Baluchistan participate in the excavations and workshops. I was also joined by one of my graduate students from UW-Madison, Lucas Wirick, who is planning on studying the copper metallurgy of the Indus and comparing it with copper working traditions of Oman and Iran.

We were able to collect a carbon sample that provided a date of 2700 BCE for the earliest construction of what appears to be a major city wall of the Early Harappan Period.

The first area selected for excavation was the site of Allahdino, located in the area of Malir, not far from the airport in Karachi. This site was first excavated by Dr. Walter Fairservis from 1973 to 1976 but had recently been badly disturbed by encroachment and the construction of a water tank in the center of the site. Several seasons of excavation at Allahdino from 2023 to 2025 revealed important new aspects of Harappan settlements in Sindh and the first radiocarbon dates for the site itself. These samples indicate that the site was occupied between 2600 to around 2200 BCE, which corresponds to Period 3A (2600-2450 BCE) and 3B (2450-2200 BCE) at Harappa. The absence of the final phase of the Harappa sequence, 3C (2200-1900/1500 BCE) is interesting and needs to be investigated at other sites in Sindh.

Following the work at Allahdino the joint project shifted focus to the site of Mohenjo-daro in 2025. Work began at the site in the summer of 2025 and then again in the winter 2025-2026 and most recently in the summer of 2026. The excavations at Mohenjo-daro focused on an area that had been excavated by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1950. Our goal was to locate and open his old trench and collect carbon samples for dating and pottery samples to check his original findings. We were able to collect a carbon sample that provided a date of 2700 BCE for the earliest construction of what appears to be a major city wall of the Early Harappan Period (equivalent to Period 2 at Harappa 2800-2700 BCE). Carbon samples from later levels date the later wall constructions to around 2450 -2200 BCE which is equivalent to Harappa Period 3B. These new discoveries and dating of the early levels of Mohenjo-daro demonstrate that a very similar process of urban development was going on in Sindh and Punjab at about the same time.

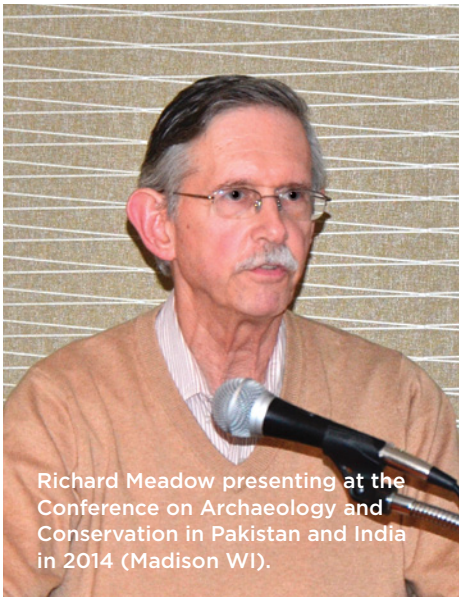
After completing the work at Mohenjo-daro in Summer 2026, I was able to carry out two workshops on the study of ancient beads. For these workshops I was joined by SEAS staff and two of my graduate students from UW-Madison, Lucas Wirick and Liming Gao. The first workshop at the Islamabad Museum was organized in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad, and the workshop in Taxila was in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology Punjab. We plan to continue the work at Mohenjo-daro and I also hope to be able to continue working at Harappa with Pakistani colleagues to better understand the relationship between these two major urban centers in the past.

I also want to thank the AIPS office in the USA and Islamabad for their continuing logistical support for the Harappa Archaeological Research Project. This support includes transferring funds provided by the project directors, the Late Dr. R. H. Meadow and myself, for the salaries of the Harappa Staff and periodic emergency funds for site repairs and other needs. In the past, the AIPS office in Islamabad also helped with travel logistics for HARP members who were traveling through Islamabad or Lahore and for help with organizing travel for Pakistani archaeologists who were coming to the USA for participation in conferences and workshops. ■

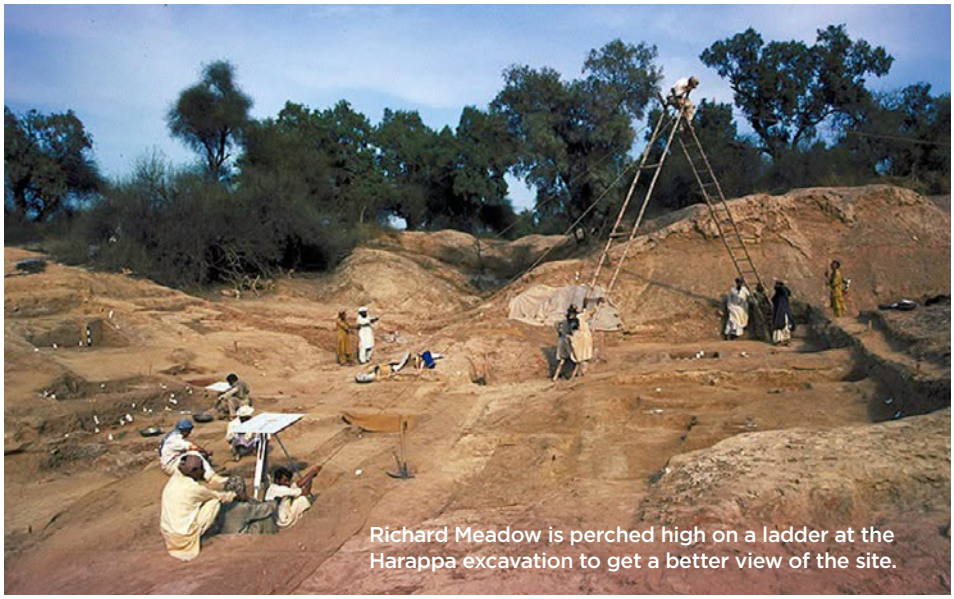
Honoring Richard H. Meadow

(October 23, 1946 - July 10, 2026)

By Jonathan Mark Kenoyer September 13, 2026



Richard Meadow presenting at the Conference on Archaeology and Conservation in Pakistan and India in 2014 (Madison WI).



Richard Meadow is perched high on a ladder at the Harappa excavation to get a better view of the site.

Richard H. Meadow, a longstanding member of the AIPS community and Trustee for Harvard University, passed away on July 10, 2026.

Richard Meadow began his archaeological and zooarchaeological field research in Pakistan in the 1970s. He worked at the site of Balakot, Baluchistan with Dr. George F. Dales from the University of California, Berkeley and also at the site of Mehrgarh, Baluchistan with Dr. J.-F. Jarrige and the French Archaeological Mission to Pakistan. He was an outstanding archaeologist, with excavation experience at the site of Tepe Yahya in Iran and other sites in Oman and Syria. But his main specialty was the analysis of faunal remains, the bones of domestic and wild animals, including birds, fish and even rodents. In order to better study the ancient bones he also collected bones of modern fauna for comparison with the ancient faunal remains. Because of his rigorous studies he was able to provide new models for understanding the domestication of cattle, sheep and goats in the borderlands of the Indus River Valley during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, >5000 BCE.

In 1986 he joined the Harappa Archaeological Research Project that was directed by Dr. Dales and me. At Harappa he continued with the studies of Indus fauna, both domestic and wild. He and his many students both from the US and Pakistan undertook a wide range of studies related to the faunal remains at Harappa. These studies provided new models for understanding the role of cattle and water buffalo in the economy of early farming communities like Mehrgarh and later urban centers such as Harappa. After the untimely passing of Dr. Dales in 1992, Richard Meadow joined me as co-director of the Harappa Project and continued in this capacity until his own passing in July. Dr. Meadow was an active member of the AIPS community and participated in numerous conferences and workshops that were sponsored by AIPS in Islamabad, Harappa and Madison. Richard was always supportive of colleagues and students and made a special effort to help train Pakistani students in the many different aspects of archaeological and zooarchaeological research. Richard will be remembered for his generosity and support as well as his commitment to rigorous scientific research. ■

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