

**Brian Tilley**

**Discipline: Anthropology**

***Title of Project : Registering Injustice: Religious Narrative and Ritual Expression in a Shia Migrant Labor Community***

This research will investigate how members of a Pakistani Shia migrant community in Abu Dhabi contend with the vicissitudes of a) migrant work, b) poverty in the context of economic globalization, and c) political exile, in relation to a longstanding religious narrative of martyrdom and a discourse of universal rights deployed by human rights organizations. The research seeks to know how members of this community access and apply contrasting models of justice salient in their milieu to interpret their own situation and to register complaints. The research also seeks to know how a language of economic instability, workplace injustice, and displacement from embattled homeland are registered in a genre of poetic expression and ritual mourning associated with a martyrdom narrative paradigmatic to Shi'ism. Research will be conducted over nine months in Abu Dhabi at sites of public mourning, poetry gatherings, and in migrant work zones and labor camps.

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