

## **AIPS Short-Term Research Grant Final Report**

Project Title: Remapping Literary Worlds: Miraji's Urdu Translations of World Poetry

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Dates for Project: July 2023- Dec 2023

Location: Pakistan (Lahore, Islamabad)

### 1. Significance to Pakistan Studies

Through my research enabled by the AIPS short-term grant, I aimed to highlight the work of the Urdu modernist poet Miraji (1912-1949), focusing on not just his original poetry, but on his creative translations of poets from around the world. Translation, a significant sub-field within the discipline of Comparative Literature, remains lamentably neglected by scholars of Urdu literature, despite the rich history of literary translation by Urdu litterateurs from Maulvi Abdul Haq to Hassan Askari. My research thus highlights the role that Miraji's translations and critical commentaries played in ushering in a fresh and novel way of expressing creative thought. This framing allows us to view Miraji's contributions to the budding modernist movement in Urdu discourse while also positioning him as a valuable voice in world literature and global modernism. Barring a few exceptions, Miraji remains far less studied in Pakistan than his more popular contemporaries such as Faiz Ahmed Faiz and N. M. Rashed. Miraji's work represents a radical, contrarian politics, while his translations offered new ways of thinking about and writing poetry. These sorts of voices, I argue, need to be emphasized to highlight Urdu's rich, diverse, and eclectic literary landscape. I position Miraji's work as an important and welcome disruption in Urdu literary discourse, while arguing that Miraji and modern Urdu poetry from Pakistan must claim a place for itself on the map of World Literature.

### 2. Key Outcomes and Deliverables

The key outcome of my research (which, among other things, involved finding primary sources of literary magazines that published Miraji's translations) was the culmination of my doctoral research, which I hope to defend this summer. I have simultaneously been working on modifying one of my chapters into a journal article for publication. As part of my ongoing research on Miraji, I have been translating his poetry along with a co-translator; we were invited to read our Miraji translations at a translation event in April of this year.

