Placing Pakistan: Space, Time, and the Everyday
University of Pennsylvania, February 11-12th, 2022

The *Tafsilan* Working Group invites graduate students and early-career scholars to contextualize current research on and from Pakistan within the country's multiplicity of everyday experiences, traditions, and practices. The everyday, understood capaciously, encourages a critical and self-reflexive approach to the study of Pakistan, challenging its construction as a monolithic site bounded by fixed categories of state, military, and religion. The everyday implies chronotopes that question the normativity of large-scale and long-term conceptions of space and time. It suggests renewed attention to the tangibility and ambivalence of the cultural, social, and political forms that constitute Pakistan, and which may serve as sources for future interventions.

We invite submissions from across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We welcome papers as well as artistic, experimental, and multi-modal presentations that explore:

- Spatially and temporally expansive notions of Pakistan (across borders, diasporas, and pre-1947)
- Everyday experiences and legacies of marginalization (whether those of religious, ethnic, or linguistic minorities, or across class, caste, gender, and sexuality)
- Transformations of urbanity, urbanism, and urban spaces
- Environmental histories, ecocriticism, and engagements with the anthropocene
- Infrastructures of care and community
- The form and politics of memory and historiography
- Art forms that compose the Pakistani cultural landscape (literature, film, music, theatre etc.)
- Critical interventions through evolving media and digital practices
- Shifts in theorizing relations between the state, citizens, and non-state actors
- The diversity of Islamicate political, social, and cultural forms
- The development of "Pākistānīyat" and debates over Pakistani national culture
- Pakistan's connections to multiple real and conceptual geographies (such as the Middle East, South Asia, and the Indian Ocean)

The themes listed above are meant to address the epistemological and ontological bounds of the Pakistani everyday, across "memories and models of the past" (Tareen 2020) as well as modern sensibilities and identities (Bajwa 2016, Zamindar 2010). How do we consider meta-concepts such as state, society, culture, and religion "in light of everyday practices" (Akhtar 2014)? How do social, cultural and political processes evolve across inter-linked relations of caste, class, gender and sexuality (Butt 2020, Khoja-Moolji 2019, Menon 2018, Maqsood 2017)? In what ways have Pakistani writers, artists, and filmmakers imagined new aesthetic and social forms (Hamid 2020, Khan 2020, Shamsie 2017)? And what potentialities does Pakistan afford to emerging scholarship on environment, media, and the infrastructures of care and citizenship? These are some of the questions the conference hopes to address.

Guidelines for submission: Please submit a 350-word abstract outlining your submission along with a title and your name, institution, and year of study by **October 29th, 2021**. We are committed to supporting the digital humanities as well as experimental, filmic, and artistic submissions within the conference program. We aim to conduct an inclusive, hybrid conference that welcomes scholars and artists regardless of geographic location. Limited grants may be available to supplement travel costs and can be requested via the Google Form during abstract submission. Accepted presenters will be required to submit final drafts to respondents no later than **January 28th, 2022** so as to provide sufficient time for review prior to the conference.

Applications should be submitted via the Google Form: https://tinyurl.com/PlacingPakistan2022
Questions may be directed to penntafsilan@gmail.com