

All Voices Are Mine: Forms of Anticolonial Relation in Urdu Periodicals

This project combines literary analysis and archival research to study anticolonial relations between South Asia and Africa. It examines a range of literary and cultural works in Urdu periodicals about African social movements that were created by Marxist writers and labor organisations in South Asia and its diasporas. It explores how these works contested the prevalent image of Africa in colonial and postcolonial South Asia as a space of poverty and underdevelopment by focusing, instead, on a revolutionary image of Africa, bringing attention to struggles for national liberation, economic sovereignty, and the end of apartheid. The important yet severely understudied work of radical Urdu periodicals can help us understand the impact of Afro-Asian solidarity on literary and political cultures in twentieth-century South Asia as well as clarify debates about the possibilities and difficulties of solidarity at the center of humanistic scholarship on decolonization.