

**Abstract:** The enduring significance of the rhetoric of poverty alleviation and development in postcolonial states like Pakistan makes the construction of an intra city mass transit system in Lahore a potent tool for political legitimization. Yet this political mobilization unfolds in complex ways in Pakistan where both weak democratic leaders and popular military dictators deploy the discourse and apparatuses of development. How then, is popular will materialized, development defined and coupled with particular political projects? This study interrogates the relationship between development, as enacted through the terrain of infrastructures, and democracy. I elucidate how a metro train line in Lahore emerges as a site for engaging with, making political claims, and evaluating the state. How are political subjectivities formed through this affective, embodied and discursive interaction with the metro? I also seek to explore how the formation of political subjectivities in the everyday informs institutional politics by (re)formulating citizens' articulation of development with democracy and subsequently their political allegiances to various political parties and/or the military. I will meet these goals through ethnographic research at a neighborhood affected by the train line, supplemented by interviews with bureaucrats, civil society activists, and political party workers to trace the emergence of the train line as a space for political argumentation.