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Lyari Town has historically been home to economic migrants from the Persian Gulf, among them former slaves of African origin. In the post-colonial period, the neighborhood appears in media as a criminality-ridden place against which talented boxers figure as notable, but still highly racialized exceptions. Over a period of 9 months, I will conduct participant observation with journalists and photographers during reporting assignments to investigate the production of Lyari's image in national and local media. At the same time, I will observe boxing clubs to investigate how Lyari's athletes use sports to challenge violent stereotypes, claim belonging in the nation, and assert a racialized but cosmopolitan identity. Emphasizing circulations of global media, national mass media production, and vernacular self-representations, I explore how marginalized communities influence national media representations through their own image-making practices. By emphasizing cosmopolitan circulations, this project offers a novel perspective on the contested boundaries of Pakistani national belonging and re-orientates it to a longer history in Indian Ocean.