Abstract

(Re)Constructing Lahore: Education, Industry, and the Photographic Eye

(part of larger project: Landscapes of Desire: Memory and History in the Life of Lahore)

Shahnaz Rouse

My project examines the physical, social and ideational landscape of Lahore from 1849-1947. In explicating how space and sociability relate to each other, and trace the shifting contours of space making, a two-month stay in Lahore will allow me to complete my archival work on Lahore's educational institutions, build on my existing research on its visual representations, and scrutinize relevant railway archives. Combining oral histories already collected in India and Pakistan, with archival work previously undertaken in Lahore and Islamabad, and research on public and private archives in Britain and France later (with the AIPS fellowship I was granted this spring), I will be able to complicate the meaning of the city to its diverse inhabitants. My transnational, multi-sited methodology will enable me to tease out fully the complex relations between space, place, memory and history, keeping as my critical focus Lahore as a constructed and lived space.