

AIPS Final Report – Pakistan to U.S. Exchange

In order to better report and highlight AIPS-sponsored programs with our funding agencies and AIPS members, please fill in the information below to the best of your ability, writing in the third person.

Information provided in this report may be posted on the AIPS website and/or submitted to our granting agency. Please send all required materials via email to aips@pakistanstudies-aips.org. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Grantee Information

Name: **Jahan Zeb Ahmed**
U.S. Institution: **University of California Santa Barbara**
Home Institution in Pakistan: **Government College University, Lahore**
Research Field: **Global Studies / Global Religion, Culture and Conflict**

Scholar Bios

Jahan Zeb Ahmed is an international doctoral scholar from Pakistan. He is pursuing a PhD in Global Studies at University of California Santa Barbara. His research interests lie at the intersections of global culture, religion and ideology and popular literatures and media. His interdisciplinary research aims to trace the histories of militarism and popular culture from below. He also works on the global flows of jihadi fictions in the context of Cultural Cold War. Before coming to the US for his graduate education, he worked as a high school teacher of history and literature back home in Pakistan for over 10 years and closely observed the continuing radicalization of that society and its narratives. He won an international Fulbright fellowship in 2015 and earned an MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at American University's School of International Service in Washington D.C. While at AU-SIS, he wrote his MA thesis on war and conflict fiction from Pakistan with a special focus on Mustansar Hussain Tarar's celebrated novel "Qala-i-Jangi." He plans to teach Urdu and Punjabi languages to US students while continuing his research on Islamist print culture in Pakistan.

What resources did you use and/or in which activities did you partake at the institution where you stayed? (Please select all the apply.)

- Visited an on-campus library – (Yes)
- Utilized scholarly collections that were previously unavailable – (No)
- Attended a lecture (outside of the classroom) – (Yes)
- Attended an in-class lecture – (Yes)
- Gave a lecture (outside of the classroom) – (No)
- Gave an in-class lecture – (Yes)
- Collaborated with other junior scholars – (Yes)
- Collaborated with other senior scholars – (Yes)
- Exchanged contact information with other scholars – (Yes, with 12 people)
- Attended a local/cultural event – (Yes)
- Began a new research project – (Yes)
- Continued working on a research project started before this program – (Yes)

- Became more familiar with the U.S. culture and lifestyle – (Yes)

Program Description

Please provide a summary of your program and its components, elaborating on the section above. Please be sure to mention the overarching topic(s) and goal(s) of the program.

I learnt a lot from this summer's South Asian Language Instructor Training Certificate Program held at UW-Madison. The workshop leaders covered critical areas of 2nd language pedagogy such as ACTFL standards, taught us how to design proficiency-based curricula and syllabi, and imparted hands-on training in student-centered active language learning. Implementing these techniques, I and Mr. Zahid Hassan from Lahore University of Management Sciences prepared a demo lesson in Shahmukhi Punjabi and successfully delivered it on the last day of the workshop.

I also planned a collaborative research project with Mr. Zahid Hassan on Punjabi Sufi exegesis of the Quran that challenge revivalist jihadist interpretations of the scripture, particularly of a chapter (Surah Tauba) that's often considered to be permitting violence against non-Muslims. I'm looking forward to continuing working on this project when I next go to Pakistan for my dissertation research.

It was also great to know many other promising language teachers and researchers who had come to attend this workshop from across the U.S. and around the world. We were able to forge friendships, initiate cross-cultural discussions and enjoy short trips and delicious foods together. It was indeed a very rewarding experience and I'm grateful to American Institute of Pakistan Studies for helping me live this dream.

Deliverables and Outcomes

What do you anticipate the short and long-term results of this exchange will be? Please provide specific examples (i.e. chapters written, lectures given, collaborations leading to new projects, shared information to advance research, etc.)

I hope that I'll be able to teach both the Urdu and Punjabi languages effectively using the methods and techniques learnt at this workshop. The contacts made here will be extremely helpful for me when I start my dissertation fieldwork as some of the participants (now my friends) have invaluable contacts in the field and they've promised to help me in my data collection. I'm also looking forward to further explore Punjabi Quranic exegesis traditions together with Mr. Zahid Hassan and hopefully publish a couple of articles based on our research.