

Significance of my presentation on Pakistan Studies

The Urban Hybridity in the Post-Colonial Age programme invited three reputed scholars and twenty doctoral students from universities all over the world to collaborate and exchange ideas in an interactive setting. The representation of Pakistani scholarship in the fields of Architecture and Urban Studies generated interest from all conference participants and helped further the goal of the AIPS to promote scholarship on Pakistan at a global platform. I believe that my paper on the spatial history of Islamabad, in particular, my proposed theoretical framework to explain why certain encroachments in the planned city are tolerated by the city's planning authority, was well received by the participants based on their comments. Unlike its well-known contemporaries like Chandigarh (India) and Brasilia (Brazil), Islamabad remains largely understudied as an important example of Post-WW2 modernist architecture and urbanism, and is nearly missing from the discussion on post-colonial urbanism. The International Institute of Asian Studies programme and conference in Macau, thus, provided an opportunity to introduce Islamabad as an important place to study ethics, and politics of modernity, and post-coloniality in Asia.