

AIPS Workshop Series on Conflict and Peace-building
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From late 2013 to mid-2015, we hosted three workshops for junior faculty members from several universities in Pakistan on the broad subjects of conflict and peace-building. The participants came from three provinces, five social science fields, and seven universities. The workshop series was meant to introduce participants to subjects in which they were not previously trained, expose disciplinarily-based faculty to cross-disciplinary training, provide a basis for their future research in their own areas of concentration, introduce them to the use of public policy analysis in their own teaching (as well as to foreign and international research organizations working in these fields), and open the possibility of adding to their roster of research and teaching subjects. The sessions were participatory and interactive, and included a small number of guest lectures.

Although it is too early to tell whether all of these goals will be reached, my conversations with the participants (individually and collectively) suggest that some of our intentions are bearing fruit. Most report that they have used workshop materials in their own teaching (particularly non-traditional, non-lecture models); several report that their research has broadened (including for local research conference they have hosted); and a few have begun to incorporate questions of conflict into their courses. (Two or three have, I believe, drafted papers on these topics.) This was probably informal as much as formal, since junior professor rarely set course and degree requirements.

More generally, however, I think the subject matter has helped the participants to think through the contexts in which they teach. Although the workshops were not intended to be about Pakistan, current events inevitably intruded on theoretical discussions. (The second workshop was held immediately after the Peshawar shootings at the end of 2014.) Our three guest lecturers spoke variously about bilateral water relations and climate change in south Asia; United Nations regional peace negotiations in central America; and international human rights investigations in Gaza and Sudan. The effect of their contributions was profound: these were individuals (among Pakistan's best in global affairs) to whom our workshop participants had not previously been exposed, and their ability to help our participants draw lessons from the global to local (and back again) augmented our formal agenda.

Lastly, few of the workshop participants knew one another (except for two pairs who came from the same university). I was surprised to learn how infrequently their universities collaborate and share resources. Those from the north have now begun to establish informal relationships with one another, and report that they have discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring future conferences