**RE:** Short-term Grant Proposal, January 2013, submitted by Cabeiri deBergh Robinson

**Title:**

Islamic Charities, Voluntary Organizations, and the Post-Disaster Reconstruction of Pakistani Kashmir

**Abstract:**

This project responds to empirical changes in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the context of a complex humanitarian emergency set within the on-going Kashmir Conflict and the weaknesses of Pakistani state institutions challenged by repeated civilian-military transfers of power. In the project, I analyze the ways that Muslim disaster victims evaluated their interactions with representatives of religious charities and service societies, state institutions, and international aid agencies in order to show that these evaluations produced changes in public ideas about social responsibility and political accountability which have a profound impact on post-disaster political society. The product of this research project will be a book manuscript tentatively entitled “The Challenge of ‘Humanitarian Jihad’: Islamic Charities, Islamist Service Societies, and the Reconstruction of the Moral State in Pakistan.” When the manuscript is complete, it will provide a longitudinal perspective on nearly a decade-long process (2005-2014) of relief provision, social reconstruction, and recreation of political society after the Kashmir earthquake of 2005. This kind of sustained longitudinal examination of changes following a series of critical events is rarely possible in ethnographic studies of political transformation and will provide a unique and invaluable analysis of how Islamic and international political values are woven into the modern practice of everyday politics in Pakistan. Much of the research for this larger project is complete: I conducted field research in AJK during short field trips to Pakistan in 2005, 2006, and 2008, and I have presented early findings of this research in papers at several national conferences. The award of an AIPS short term grant will enable me to complete the field research along with the formal declared end of the UN Recovery Project (scheduled to end in March 2014) and begin the drafting of the book manuscript.