

AIPS Short-Term Research Grant Final Report

Project Title: Negotiating National Citizenship through Insurgent Placemaking in Islamabad, Pakistan

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Dates for Project: September to November 2022

Location: Islamabad, Pakistan

1. Significance to Pakistan Studies

My research trip to Islamabad set the foundation for my dissertation project which is looking at how Christian women from informal settlements re-orient Islamabad's claim to a single imagined national identity through the built environment. In terms of social and communal significance, the Pakistani government has recently been at the forefront of scrutiny for not doing enough to protect vulnerable groups such as religious minorities, women and low-income populations, particularly when such groups have been targets of harassment and violence by majority-identifying communities in public spaces. This project, therefore, highlights a community facing an intersectionality of these vulnerabilities in Islamabad, and how this impacts their ability to safely, and fully participate as legitimate citizens of Islamabad, and Pakistan at large, particularly through the built environment. By making visible communities facing intersectional vulnerabilities, this research seeks to create openings for their acceptance as legitimate citizens and political participants in the country. This study also initiates conversations on ways plural and subaltern identities can be better represented in national spaces, while contributing to the broader discussion around how marginalized populations challenge national imagined communities and force states to rethink their definitions of ideal citizenship and patriotism.

2. Key Outcomes and Deliverables

Key Outcomes:

- 1. Establishing contact with potential participants for my dissertation project**
- 2. Establishing contact with Islamabad's local planning community, grassroots efforts and academics advocating for informal settlement residents – this will help in my future career as I am interested in continuing to work with grassroots organizations and movements after I graduate.**
- 3. Introduced to the socio-political and socio-spatial issues of informal residents in Islamabad.**
- 4. Helping me change and justify my research question for my dissertation.**

Key Deliverables:

1. Paper presentation at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference in November 2022. Paper was titled “Re-Imagining Communal Citizenship through Everyday Places in Islamabad”
2. Guest lecture for International Planning course at UT Austin in Fall 2022
3. Updated dissertation research proposal to be defended in Spring 2022
4. Paper presentation at CROSSROADS symposium at UT Austin in Spring 2022. Paper is titled “Re-Imagining Citizenship through Everyday Assemblages in Islamabad”.