

Managing the Margins: Public Administration and Lives of Hijras of Lahore, Pakistan

There has been little previous research on the interactions between the Khawaja Sira – a gender queer group culturally defined as neither men nor women – and the frontline workers of government in Pakistan. This research contributes to addressing this important gap by engaging directly with the Khawaja Sira and frontline workers of the government. My study makes significant theoretical contributions to academic research on social equity, administrative burden, street-level bureaucracy, and governance of gender queer groups in Pakistan. More broadly, this project will also help us understand what social inclusion means for the Hijras and what policy changes they think can improve their daily lives. Moreover, my research has important policy implications related to the frontline workers of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), and the police department which can be helpful in improving the social inclusion of the Khawaja Sira in Pakistani society.