

## **Bilal Tanweer**

### **Embassy 2 Travel Grant Narrative Report**

The four public conversations I had at Columbia, UC Berkeley, University of San Francisco and Asian American Writers Workshop (AAWW) revolved around my novel, *The Scatter Here Is Too Great*, which is set in present-day Karachi and deals with the questions of everyday violence and narrative-construction. These conversations created opportunities to interact with interlocutors from a range of backgrounds and concerns: Professor Harsha Ram (UC Berkeley) focused his conversation on the intersection of the aesthetic and political in the Pakistani novel. The focal point of discussion in University of San Francisco with Professor Taymiya Zaman was thinking about testimonies of survivors of violence. The conversations at Columbia with Dr. Azeen Khan and AAWW with Sadia Shepard and Prof. Durba Mitra focused on thinking about media representations of Pakistan and violence in recent novels from Pakistan.

#### Key outcomes:

- 1) Exchange with American interlocutors regarding artistic production in Pakistan
- 2) Issues of violence and representation in recent Pakistani novels