

AIPS Travel Grant Final Report
Part One: Significance

With a travel grant from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Christopher Candland presented a paper to the Third International Conference on Social Sciences in Pakistan, on May 14, 2015. The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) and the University of Peshawar organized the two-day conference. The premise of the conference, held at the HEC offices in Islamabad, was that the social sciences in Pakistan are very weak. The call to participants was to identify the causes of this weakness and to recommend ways to strengthen the social sciences in Pakistan. Most of the papers that took up this charge identified low social status and poor government support as the cause of the weakness of the social sciences in Pakistan and recommended as the solution greater government financial support.

Candland's paper took a different approach. His paper suggested that the social sciences' imitation of the natural sciences was the root cause of a worldwide weakness in contemporary social science inquiry. His paper advocated that social science inquiry affirm its roots in the humanities, depart from the behavioral and the opinion oriented research that characterizes contemporary social sciences worldwide, and focus on the human emotions, moral sentiments, and social values that were once the core concerns of modern social sciences.

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