

Project Title: Pakistani Christians: Perspectives on Violence, Identity, and Citizenship

Abstract:

The proposal seeks support for qualitative research with Pakistani Christians in Islamabad. Drawing on 30 interviews with women and men of varied class backgrounds, the study will have two sets of research question at its center. Firstly, what perspectives do Pakistani Christians have with respect to the multiple forms of violence, including the everyday social violence, impacting their lives? How are these perspectives circumscribed by gender and class? Secondly, how do Pakistani Christians construct identity, belonging and citizenship? How are these constructions gendered and classed? In addition to gleaning analyses of unequal citizenship and insecurity, the research will also focus on the resilience and survival strategies of Pakistani Christians. Scholarship on Christians in Pakistan remains flimsy and eschews the lived experiences of ordinary Christians. The proposed research will fill a gap by generating in-depth situated knowledge about Pakistani Christians' multi-dimensional responses to the insecurity and discrimination in their lives.