

The AIPS Short Term Fellowship enabled me to conduct five months of research in Lahore's television news industry. This dissertation argues that understanding both the process of production and the people who create the news can tell us a great deal about the final form that the content takes. So the focus of this study was on close personal engagement with news media practitioners, their work world, and the process of news programming's creation in the studios and on the streets of Lahore. As an AIPS Fellow I was able to conduct in-depth ethnographic fieldwork at three television news channels in Lahore, *Geo News*, *Samaa TV* and *City 42*. Through building relationships with news media practitioners at each of these television stations, I was able to learn about the ways in which news media practitioners at these three channels negotiate the constraints and responsibilities of creating news content, and think through the larger implications of their choices. As I had worked to set up some interviews and contacts before beginning my fellowship, I was able to start from the first week of the fellowship period with participant observation at Samaa TV and Geo TV. As this participant observation continued I was able to expand my participant observation to include the local news channel City 42. My participant observation included observing how the teams work together to put together news programs, going out into the Lahore with reporters to observe how news is gathered, and spending time in the editing and control rooms to understand how raw footage is pieced together into a polished broadcast. This is some of the first work to explore Pakistan's post-privatization television industry and think about its broader implications for society.

In addition to daily participant observation, I also had the opportunity to conduct in-depth interviews with TV news anchors and news program anchors at Dunya TV,

Express TV, A Plus TV, and PTV. I was able to watch many hours of live television and take notes on themes and trends, and have recorded many episodes of the news and news programs related to my research. I was able to give a talk at Punjab University to a class of media studies students. Being an AIPS fellow was a key to the success of my fieldwork as I was provided with housing, helpful house staff, transportation, and per diem funds, as well as affiliation with Lahore University of Management Sciences, where I had an office space to write fieldnotes and analyze data.