

Fatima Quraishi Summer Research Grant 2015 Final Report Narrative

The AIPS Summer grant enabled me to visit funerary monuments and museum collections in Lahore as part of my dissertation research on the vast Makli necropolis, located in the Indus river delta region in Sindh. This funerary complex, which began its life as a Sufi *khanqah* in the late fourteenth century, was continuously built upon for over three centuries during a period of tremendous political and economic change in South Asia. The architecture of the necropolis is a rich archive of these historical developments and my dissertation explores the transregional connections that facilitated the development of the site's extremely diverse architecture. This study requires examining architecture beyond Makli and Sindh, to demonstrate the broader world that the site inhabited and in order to explore the implications of these connections.

During my time in Lahore, I was able to visit numerous imperial and sub-imperial Mughal monuments, most notably the funerary complexes of Jahangir and Noor Jehan in Shahdara. Contemporary with the late monuments at Makli, these monuments collectively provide valuable insights in the study of Islamic funerary architecture in the subcontinent. In addition to historic sites, I also visited the Lahore Museum as well as private art collections. The Hindu, Buddhist and Jain galleries at the Lahore museum contain architectural material from numerous historic sites and provide access to a vast corpus of material that has largely been ignored by historians of Indo-Islamic art, who have tended to characterize the development of Islamic architecture in South Asia as isolated from local architectural traditions. Makli's architecture demonstrates the opposite and provides an opportunity to critically examine the role of multiple artistic and religious traditions in shaping architecture in Pakistan.