

Mashail Malik
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Significance of Presentation

On August 29, 2019, I presented my paper “Social Identification and Political Accountability: Respect as a Club Good in Karachi, Pakistan” at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Washington, DC. This presentation was part of an organized panel entitled “Public Goods Provision in Urban Areas: Evidence from South Asian Cities.” The panel comprised of four papers in total, and included presentations by professors at Harvard University and the University of California-Berkeley, among others. My presentation helped advance Pakistan Studies in several ways. First, as is often the case, I was the only researcher in a “South Asia” panel who was not presenting work conducted on India. South Asian Studies in the United States is dominated by research on India, with Pakistan receiving scant representation. Second, my paper is one of the first political science projects to combine ethnographic, quantitative, and experimental data to understand the myriad governance challenges facing Pakistan’s largest city. Finally, this project pushes disciplinary boundaries by bringing together a rich literature in social psychology to bear on questions of political representation. By doing so, it contributes to advancing an interdisciplinary agenda in the field of Pakistan Studies.