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## Between Mosque, School, and Printing House: Muslim Associations in Colonial Punjab

My paper looks at Muslim voluntary associations, so-called Anjumans, and their contribution to the creation of a Muslim public sphere in late 19th and early 20th-century Punjab. I trace how groups of urban intellectuals adopted European organizational models as well as the printing press in order to propagate educational, social, cultural and religious reforms. By starting vernacular newspapers, publishing books and pamphlets, and organizing lectures, the Anjumans facilitated the circulation of reformist and revivalist ideas among local Muslim communities and helped to create a space for an open intellectual exchange beyond the colonial gaze. Through petitions and planning committees, they presented themselves as spokespersons for the Muslim communities of northern India vis-à-vis the British rulers. In addition, the Anjumans effectively mobilized local opposition against Christian missionaries as well as representatives of Hindu reform movements such as the Arya Samaj. Through their activities, they helped to create a Muslim public sphere which drew on discourses of modernity while being deeply rooted in the religious traditions of the Indian subcontinent at the same time.