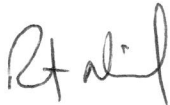


November 12, 2015

**Robert Nichols Travel Grant Report**

My AIPS travel grant was used to attend a conference in London, "Mountstuart Elphinstone and the Historical Foundations of Afghanistan Studies". The conference was held November 6-7 at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London as well as at the British Library. At the conference I presented the paper, "Information and affect in Charles Metcalfe's mission to Lahore, August 1808-May 1809". The significance of the conference and my paper for Pakistan Studies is that they have contributed to a better understanding of the way the interregional dynamics of the British Indian colonial period contributed to imperial competition, state formation, and cultural communication in substantive ways that have influenced and left legacies in the postcolonial period. The colonial era knowledge produced, recorded, and preserved in books and archives from this period have continued to influence scholarship and popular writings about the societies and institutions of contemporary Pakistan, but also of the Sikh empire of that era, and the Afghan state of the early nineteenth century.

The important scholarly outcomes of the conference include the exchange of ideas among a broad range of scholars from the United Kingdom and America, including interdisciplinary discussions of sources, methodology, and interpretations of earlier colonial and postcolonial scholarship. Direct scholarly production from the conference will include publications that may well involve both a special edition of an appropriate academic journal and an edited volume of conference papers. My paper has contributed to a new understanding of the role of Lahore and the Punjab in the complex history of the British Indian Empire as it expanded after 1800 across South Asia. This conference has already generated proposals for future academic panels at appropriate conferences that will continue important exchanges among scholars involved in Council of American Overseas Resource Centers (CAORC) such as the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, and the American Institute of Indian Studies. Thank you for the support.



Robert Nichols, professor of History, Stockton University