

Sahar Khan
2015 Summer Research Grant Awardee
AIPS Summer Research Grant Final Report
December 11, 2015

Making Democracy Work for Women

With the AIPS summer research grant, I was able to spend two months in Lahore and Islamabad conducting interviews and collecting research materials for my dissertation, “Combating Violent Islamist Proxies: The Role of Civil Institutions in Pakistan.” This project analyzes the role of civil institutions in combating Islamist militant and terrorist groups within Pakistan. Using an ontological security framework, this dissertation explains how the three key civil institutions—the police, judiciary, and legislature—combat violent religious militants and collectively influence the national narrative surrounding Pakistan’s counterterrorism practices. With this fieldwork, I was able to: 1) conduct in-person interviews with members of the judiciary, police, bureaucracy, academia, and media; 2) collect parliamentary debates on anti-terrorism legislation; and 3) gather statistical data on crime rates and conviction rates. This fieldwork, supported by AIPS, is crucial for my dissertation because it allowed me to gather key primary sources that have been under utilized when studying the role of Pakistan’s civil intuitions in counterterrorism.