

My research seeks to historicize the activity of buying sex in South Asia with a particular eye toward understanding how the mass stationing of British troops in the Indian subcontinent influenced the development of the sex trade. This project is concerned with illuminating historical behavioral norms associated with the purchase of sexual services and aims to collect information from various localities in the subcontinent for this purpose. Whilst the history of prostitution in colonial India is a developing field, much focus is given to geographic spaces that are now contained within the Indian state. More work on this subject with an emphasis on areas in modern-day Pakistan would both strengthen the claim to the unit of the 'Indian subcontinent,' and also help thread the colonial history of the subcontinent with the field of 'Pakistan Studies.'

As I am in the preliminary stages of dissertation research, the broad purpose of my travel to Pakistan was to explore the contents of the collections available at different archives and the extent to which these were accessible to researchers. I began my archival work in Islamabad, where I visited the National Documentation Wing (NDW) of the Cabinet Division and the National Archives of Pakistan (NAP). At the NDW, I consulted some material acquired from local sources such as provincial archives. Unfortunately, many relevant Prime Minister's Information Committee Reports, including one relating to prostitution, remain classified and inaccessible to researchers. At the NAP, I mostly accessed late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century Urdu newspapers such as *Avadh Punch*, *Al-Nazir*, and *Risala*, which yielded some general information pertaining to gender relations in north India.

In Lahore, I visited the Punjab Provincial Archives that are housed in the Secretariat. Here I mostly accessed the handwritten colonial proceedings of the 'Home' and 'Political' departments. Some of these proceedings included claims made by *begums* and *tawa'ifs* regarding payments from Nawabs, which were quite helpful. I also made note of relevant material from the archive's 'B' files catalogue and will return to these items upon my second visit. I was also able to visit the Civil Secretariat Library to consult some provincial sanitary reports.

Before travelling to the Balochistan Archives in Quetta, I was able to request items via email due to their having an online catalog. Although my trip to the city was brief, I was able to request copies of relevant documents and transcribe portions of others. The main collection I consulted was the Records of the Agent to the Governor-General in Balochistan, which included various files pertaining to the regulatory control of prostitution in Quetta. I also visited the Secretariat in Quetta to see the physical record itself, which is well kept. My final trip in Pakistan was to the Sindh Archives in Karachi, where I sought to access documents from the Sindh Commissioner's Record. Due to the Sindh Archives undergoing significant renovation, I wasn't able to conduct research to the extent I would have liked as the record was difficult to access and the digital catalog was also non-functional. However, I was able to consult some gazettes and petition collections through the help of the archivists.

Overall, my AIPS-funded trip to Pakistan was extremely productive in terms of building contacts with local archivists and researchers, and providing me with information that will both help me with my dissertation proposal as well as my next archival trip to the country.