

**AIPS Fellowship Report**  
**SherAli Tareen**

I conducted research for my book project in Lahore and Islamabad during winter 2015. My time was most productive and enjoyable, thanks to the excellent hospitality and professionalism of the AIPS staff. A special word of thanks to the driving staff Amjad and Shabbir whose patience, professionalism, and local knowledge were astonishing. In Islamabad, I spent most of my time at the Ganj Baksh Library at the Iran-Pakistan Institute for the collection of Persian and Arabic manuscripts. The towering scholar of Persian Dr. Arif Naushahi facilitated my time at Ganj Baksh. I also visited International Islamic University where I was warmly welcomed and supported by Professor Mujeeb Ahmad, and the Islamic Research Institute where I was ably facilitated by the excellent staff there, Professors Tanveer Anjum, Muhammad Islam, and President Zia ul-Haq. I also delivered a public lecture in Urdu at the IRI “*Shamal Amrika mein darasat-i Islami ki Surat-i Hal par aik tabsara*” (Reflections on the State of Islamic Studies in North America). The talk was very well attended and was punctuated, to my amazement, with the serving of chai, chicken sandwich, and biscuits for every audience member in the middle of the talk! Academics in North America will do well to replicate this practice.

In Lahore, I conducted archival research at numerous libraries and archives including Punjab Public Library, Punjab University Library, Diyal Singh Library, and Quaid-i Azam Library at Bagh-i Jinnah. I also spent many hours hunting rare books in Urdu Bazar, Data Market, Anarkali, and other inner Lahore locations. I also delivered a public lecture at Forman Christian College “Debating the Boundaries of Innovation in Islam: Law, Theology, and Community” that was attended by students and faculty at the

University. I thank Professors Saeed Shafqat, Julie Flowerday and Mr. Nadeem Akbar in arranging this talk. Overall, I was able to collect more than a hundred rare manuscripts and printed texts that will be extremely useful for my research and made some critical contacts, thanks to this AIPS fellowship.