

AIPS Travel Grant Report

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In the paper, *Harappan Urbanities: Standardization, Ratios and Subjectivity*, I presented my current research at the Society for American Archaeology, in the session entitled ‘Technopolitics of Ancient Infrastructures.’ It focused on the every-dayness of an ancient subject who exists within an articulation of socio-cultural and political form. This is part of a larger project of mine that has aimed to reorient our understandings of what are traditionally called, the first cities. In particular, my research is focused on the Harappan Civilization and within that, the city of Mohenjodaro within a third millennium BCE context. My main interest is in ancient subjectivity in order to more fully contend with ancient sociality by explicitly interrogating technopolitics in relationship to the development of standardization and a formal ratio that informs the built environment at Mohenjodaro. One way to try this is to change our vantage point. So, rather than looking top down at plans of ancient cities my starting point for the presentation was: what does it mean to walk through a ratio? This paper was the first step towards addressing this concern and interest in the ancient urban subject from Mohenjodaro.

This research in theory of ancient subject hood transforms not only Pakistan studies, but the manner in which ancient urban bodies might be understood in the ancient world.