

AIPS REPORT:

My research traces the economic, political and legal strategies adopted by the Pakistan military in order to practice urban development and their effects on local communities. By focusing on the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) my research aims to understand the speculative model of land development that has been adopted since 2001, leading to the transformation of numerous villages and their adjoining agricultural areas into urban residential and commercial spaces. My research aims to contribute and engage with literature on the nature and modality of the postcolonial state; the political and economic transformations facing the agrarian classes (peasants, tenants, landless workers, landlords, etc.); the relation between capital and non-capital relations of production (peasant subsistence farming); the class alliances that are forged to practice urban development and accumulate capital; as well as the conflicts that emerge between different classes and factions of the state.

Deliverables and Outcomes:

Due to the support of the AIPS fellowship, I am currently working on a paper based on my research over the summer, that I plan to deliver at the South Asia conference at Madison in 2018 and the Historical Materialism conference in London in 2018. Moreover, the paper that emerges out of this research and the data that I have gathered through my fieldwork, will aid me in writing my dissertation. My fieldwork, furthermore, opened another line of enquiry that I aim to follow up in the future, namely, the different life trajectories that peasants embark upon after selling their land. Lastly, with the support of the fellowship, I was able to locate research sites and establish contacts with the peasant communities and local real estate dealers, that I aim to follow up during fieldwork in the future.