

Diamond_Abstract

Project Title: An Alternative to Aligarh? Muhammad Hussain Azad, G.W. Leitner/Abdur Rasheed and Muslim Identity

This research proposal is part of my larger work on Muslims intellectuals and educational reform in British colonial Lahore (in the context of larger Pakistani/Indian nineteenth century history) during the later nineteenth century. My forthcoming book, *Negotiating Muslim Identity: Education, Print, and Intellectuals in Nineteenth Century Colonial North India*, begins to analyze this history in Lahore by examining the development of colonial educational systems in order to promote the development of Urdu and an Urdu education that could replace the precolonial Perso-Islamicate culture of Mughal and Sikh Punjab. This project seeks to re-situate and evaluate the prominence of Lahore as an important center for Muslim intellectual activity in nineteenth century north India. Due to the Partition of the region in 1947 and the subsequent partitioned historiography, educational, cultural and religious reform in Lahore has received less historical attention than the well-studied reforms at Aligarh and other parts of north India. While Sir Syed is undoubtedly vital to such discussions, it is important to now write into this history a broader picture of Muslim reform and modernism in nineteenth century north India that includes the northwest (now mainly Pakistan). Indeed, I argue that Punjabi Muslims have been vital to the articulation of new notions of Muslim identity – politically and socially – that helped to culminate in the Muslim nationalism that foreshadowed Muslim nationalism and formation of Pakistan. This will be accomplished through a detailed study of Muhammad Hussain Azad and G.W. Leitner - both prominent intellectuals and reforms in nineteenth century Lahore.