

Isabel Huacuja  
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My project traces the development of radio in colonial India and later independent Pakistan and India, from its introduction to the subcontinent in the mid-1930s until the early 1970s. I focus on two main issues: 1) on the political uses of radio and 2) on radio's close ties to the literary circle. During this trip I was able to develop three concrete chapter ideas: a chapter on radio during the British Empire, a second on the role of radio during the 1965 War, and a third on radio dramas.

The AIPS Short Term Lecturing and Research Fellowship gave me the opportunity to complete the Pakistan portion of my research project. I was affiliated with the history and mass communications departments of Government College University and the University of Punjab, Lahore.

During the course of my stay, I conducted over 20 interviews with retired radio producers, artists, and writers based in Lahore and Islamabad. The majority of my informants worked in radio in the 50s and 60s as either fulltime employees or on a contract basis. But, I also met with Urdu writers and scholars such as Intezar Hussain, Saleem-ur-Rehman and Altaf Fatima, who knew a great deal about the early days of radio. Altaf Fatima, for example, was never employed by radio Pakistan, but wrote over 100 radio dramas for the Lahore station.

I brought a high quality hand-held voice recorder, which is not easily available in Pakistan, and recorded all my interviews. This collection of interviews is an essential component of my research and, I hope, will also become a historical resource available to other scholars. While in Lahore, I renewed ties to the Citizen's Archive of Pakistan and talked to the organization's employees about donating my interviews when I complete my dissertation. (The Citizen's Archive of Pakistan recently began an oral history project and its staff is eager to expand its archive).

In addition to oral interviews, I collected radio recordings. I began my search in the Central Production Unit (CPU), in Islamabad, which is Radio Pakistan's largest library. CPU houses a rich collection of radio dramas, but these, unfortunately, are badly organized and many are no longer audible. I was, nonetheless, able to make digital copies of about 20 radio dramas from renowned authors, including Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj, Hijab Imtiaz Ali Taj, Rafi Pir, and Shaukat Thanvi. CPU also houses a collection of recordings from the 1965 Indo-Pak war, including news, poetry recitations, war songs, and plays related to the war such as the famous drama, Nida-e-Haq. I listened to many recordings and made digital copies of a selected portion.

In the Lahore radio station's library, I found a 10 hour-long jubilee program that commemorated 50 years of Radio Pakistan. This program is particularly useful because it clearly outlines the most popular radio songs, dramas, programs and radio personalities of Radio Pakistan's early days. Finally, Khalid Toor, a radio producer and collector, has an extensive library of old radio broadcasts, and he kindly made copies of many of his cassettes for me.

I learned while in Islamabad that Radio Pakistan requested funding from the Public Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy to digitalize the CPU library in Islamabad. Staff from the US embassy showed interest in the project, but was unsure of how to proceed. I met with Jed Wolfington, a representative from the Public Affairs section, and suggested a pilot digitalization project that will not be very costly, but will ensure that the most endangered recordings are preserved. I am in touch with Mr. Wolfington and with the outsourcing company in charge of this project, and I am hopeful that this very important project will soon materialize.

In addition to conducting interviews and collecting oral material, I also consulted material from archives. I gathered documents relating to radio during the British Empire from the National Documentation Center (NDC) in Islamabad. NDC houses microfilm copies of a significant portion of the India Library in London. Unfortunately, the National Archives of Pakistan does not have many documents related to radio broadcasting. I did, however, find copies of radio monitoring reports from stations throughout the world. The Pakistani government carefully monitored radio from India, US, and England during 50s, 60s and 70s. These reports will especially come in handy when I prepare my chapter on radio during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

Newspapers in the 50s and 60s published editorials about radio regularly. The Punjab Public library has an extensive newspaper collection. After consulting several newspapers I decided to make digital copies of the Civil and Military Gazette's radio editorials and because this newspaper had the most consistent and elaborate section on radio. Finally, I collected books relating to my project that are not easily available outside of Pakistan, including memoirs by radio writers and producers as well as printed editions of radio dramas or radio programs.

In regards to the lectureship component of my fellowship, I spoke to a group BA students from the history and communications departments of University of Punjab, Lahore about the role of radio during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. After my lecture, we had a long talk about the how historians use primary sources and the kind of challenges they face when dealing with limited material. Mr. Mohammed Shaikh, a lecturer in the communications department organized the talk. In Islamabad, I spoke to a group of senior scholars from Council of Social Sciences. The title of my talk was, "Towards a history of sound: the challenges and advantages of using radio as primary source."

Overall, I was both professionally and personally satisfied with this research trip, and I am greatly looking forward to further opportunities to collaborate with friends and colleagues in Radio Pakistan, Government College and the University of Punjab. Lastly, I want to thank the AIPS staff in the US and Pakistan and the Public Affairs section of the US Embassy in Pakistan for making this research possible.