

**The Significance of this Research:**

Insulting the Prophet Muhammad, Islam's most revered figure, has often garnered international headlines in the past decade. My research – that lies at the intersection of Islamic dream interpretation and insulting Muhammad – seeks to answer this central question: How do Pakistani *'ulama*, mystics and lay Muslims draw on dreams to justify the extra-judicial killings of individuals who insult Muhammad? This question relates to two pressing concerns in contemporary Islam: 1) What is the relationship between dreams and criminality in the imaginary of Islamic legal scholars and their followers? 2) What exceptions are articulated by Pakistani *'ulama* and mystics for reacting to the egregious 'crime' of insulting Muhammad? The significance of my research is two-fold. On the one hand, it provides us valuable insight into the complex relationship between the crime of insulting Muhammad and the Islamic dream tradition. Additionally, my focus on the dreams serves as an important case study for the unsettling of Western liberal assumptions regarding rationality, logic and the centrality of the state.