

Project Title: UAE Coastal Archaeological and Heritage Project (UAE-CAHP)

Abstract

The UAE Coastal Archaeological and Heritage Project (UAE-CAHP) is a multiyear, transdisciplinary project that focuses on the threshold of sand and water in the United Arab Emirates. This research praxis conducted along the coastal region of the UAE aims to gather new data (as archaeological and ethnographic material) as well as reconsider existing data (museum collections, newspapers, and publications). This project incorporates geomorphology, landscape survey, ethnographic practices, critical heritage discourse, contemporary art and archaeological poetics. At the core of this project is the desire to contextualize the many relationships between the UAE and Pakistan/Northern India through time, to theorize the concept of a 'coast' as a threshold, which has the capacity to engender forms of marginal subject positionality, and the impact such a position makes on subsequent aesthetic forms and critical heritage discourse. Key concepts that drive the project include: mobility, fluidity, cosmopolitanism, threshold, coasts, gulfs, critical heritage, and aesthetics. The application for the AIPS Senior Fellowship is for a 3-month segment of the larger project. Please see narrative for details.