

Abstracts



Imagining Pakistan. Orientalism and Racialized Religious Identities.

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The history of the Pakistan movement, whose sustained political agitation led to the creation of a new nation-state in South Asia in 1947, is often told as a story of Muslim religious separatism. However, through a critical re-reading of early conceptualizations of Pakistan, I demonstrate that ideas about Muslim political subjectivity and nationhood were often not so much informed by the Islamic tradition, but rather theories of racialized religious identities as well as Orientalist interpretations of Islamic and South Asian history.

Indian Women at Leisure. The Museum Life of an Indian Album Folio.

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In this presentation, I will examine the museum life of a folio originating from an Indian Muraqqa, a type of bound album characterised by the interspersion of paintings and pages featuring calligraphic works. The album folio forms part of the collection of the Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin. In doing so, I will delineate the changing grammar of the folio's display, the classification regimes as well as the epistemological framework shaping its portrayal within the museum setting over time. I will further investigate how the shifting visual and interpretive context of the folio is entangled with evolving Mughal and Indian art historiography within the German context and deliberations concerning the representation of harem women in the Islamic world. Finally, I will underscore how the exploration into the museum trajectory of an Indian album folio brings to the forefront the unsteady identity of a painting that resists categorisation as either wholly Indian or entirely Islamic.

*Agri-Entrepreneurship in the Himalayas of Pakistan.
Exploring Challenges and Barriers.*

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This research article explores the challenges and barriers to agri-entrepreneurship in the context of the Himalayas of Pakistan. Employing a qualitative research methodology, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposively sampled group of experts. Thematic analysis using Atlas.ti software identifies diverse obstacles, including psychological, financial, human capital, institutional, socio-cultural, geo-infrastructural, market-related, and women-specific challenges. This research informs targeted interventions for fostering agri-entrepreneurship in the challenging Himalayan region, benefiting policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders.

*Tales of Pashtun Nights. Preserving Naqloona
Tradition.*

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This project aims to collect and record Pashto Naqloona, traditional bedtime stories, from rural Pashtun households in North-west Balochistan, Pakistan. These stories hold rich folklore, myths, and historical elements and are traditionally shared by mothers with their children. In an era of smartphones and changing traditions, the project seeks to create an online library of Naqloona with English translations or subtitles, ensuring data protection standards. It primarily targets women aged 60 and above, aiming to preserve the oral storytelling tradition and document local history. The research will initially collect 20 Naqloona stories from various regions, relying on voluntary contributions from family, friends, and acquaintances.