

Report for AIPS Sr. Fellowship

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I began the Sr. Fellowship with the intention of completing a book project, *Sentiments of Deception, Lorimer's unfinished Hunza study*; but soon after I settled into my new residence in Pakistan I decided to first finish a journal article that I had started two years earlier. The topic was central to the book project and I was always thinking about it whenever I worked on the book. It concerned Britain's 1891 Hunza Nagyr (Nagar) Campaign, a little known military event that focused on Britain and China's dispute over Hunza that remained unresolved at Partition. In short, there was no international border at Hunza when Pakistan and India fought their first war over Kashmir. After the UN ceasefire took force (1949), the former colonial state of Hunza became part of the stateless territory known as the *Northern Territories*.

I intended to use the journal article, *Sentiments of Deception: the Hunza of Britain and China*, to explore Britain's practices of political deception during the colonial period and asked why people of South Asia and North Atlantic states yet believed that Hunza had been part of British India. The topic, of course, hinged on the Kashmir Dispute, which spotlighted Pakistan's and India's claim to the former Gilgit Agency (presently under Pakistan's protection) as part of their rightful inheritance. The former Agency is a small part of the larger Kashmir issue; but if it could be demonstrated that the Gilgit Agency was not internationally recognized as a sovereign part of colonial British India, how might that affect the contemporary dispute?

I faced this issue in researching my original book project that asked: why did Lt-Col. David Lorimer never publish his ethnography of Hunza fieldwork from 1934-35? Hunza had occupied the greater part of his adult life through military operations and scholarly activities. In spite of living another 25 years after his Hunza fieldwork (1934-35) and producing two more scholarly books, he never published his Hunza ethnography. My guess was that Lorimer could not publish these materials because they brought notice to a sensitive area that lacked government legitimacy. The mantle that protected the government's undisclosed activities was gone. The great thing about Lorimer's materials was that they were full of clues. I thought a journal article that focused on the government's deceptive practices would clear the space I needed to discuss Lorimer.

Weeks of work on the article grew until I realized that the journal article was my book project. By the end of my fellowship residence, a rough draft of roughly 30 pages filled five chapters, the better half of the book. Those chapters fixed the government's practices of deception to a broader history that involved China. As much of the government's confidential papers had disappeared (burned and the paper ashes thrown into the Gilgit River), I built my position on a few key documents that I had earlier found at *The India Office Records*, British Library, London, and I used other materials—a translation of a Persian manuscript dictated in the 1920s by the ruler of Hunza and interviews with key Hunza residents. I also used alternative methods of reading landscape through unwritten colonial patterns and reconstructing colonial policies through confidential papers that disclosed a political design.

I completed the first part of the book by the time of my departure from Pakistan (spring 2013). I have since completed all but the conclusion of the book. After finalizing the manuscript, I will send out a publication proposal.

Before closing, I should also mention that during my tenured fellowship, I took part in a dissertation workshop headed by Professor Matthew Nelson of SOAS, London, UK, and Professor Abdul Rauf of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, and attended conferences—THAAP on *Small Towns* (Lahore), the AIPS *Pakistan's Public* (LUMS, Lahore)—including academic events at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS, Quaid-i-Azam University). In addition, I gave a keynote address at NUML (National University of Modern Languages), and worked with students and faculty at the University of Gujrat where I also lead several courses over two semesters. In March I presented a paper *Hunza and changing sites of knowledge* at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University.

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