

### **AIPS Travel Grant Final Report**

This paper is significant for Pakistan Studies in the following three ways. First, it examines the political struggle between a group of informal waste workers and the Lahore Waste Management Company, which is a publicly-funded entity. It details how institutions of governance attempt to coordinate, manage, and improve waste disposal services within Lahore, and in doing so, how they come up against waste workers who already provide these services to many localities throughout the city. This paper thus improves our understanding of how the development of state institutions, especially municipal bureaucracies, becomes the site of political struggles across the country.

Next, the focus of this paper is on a group of waste workers that reside in informal settlements on Lahore's periphery. It describes not only how they came to inhabit these marginal and quasi-legal lands but also, how their settlement is attached to the development of urban space in Lahore. It traces their settlement in relationship to the development of the city more generally, and catalogues how this group has been able to gain and maintain access to the waste produced by this development. This group of waste workers are not peripheral to development but an essential component of those changes.

Lastly, it draws attention to how public-private partnerships are transforming institutions of governance in Lahore. This paradigm of development has become increasingly salient in the Punjab province and is being implemented in other regions within Pakistan. Although these changes are not a central feature of the paper, a basic overview is provided. Moreover, this development paradigm is examined in greater detail in my dissertation. These insights on how public-private partnerships are implemented can be utilized by other scholars working on similar issues throughout Pakistan.