

Panel Title: Kashmir Pre-47

Abstract:

In the current conflict over Kashmir, both Kashmiris and others call upon Kashmir's past to make claims over the present. Furthermore, scholars from a variety of disciplines have extolled the unique contributions Kashmir has made to a plethora of fields in previous eras. However, collaborative scholarly work on Kashmir has primarily focused on social scientific engagement with the contemporary situation, such as the robust work of the Critical Kashmir Studies group.

What possibilities might lie in a sustained collective scholarly collaboration on Kashmir before 1947, especially one that draws together experts on different historical periods from a breadth of disciplinary backgrounds to address a particular topic, theme, or issue? Can scholars of Kashmir engage in their work across temporal, religious, and disciplinary divides to think Kashmir in more complex and collectively-engaged ways?

This round table panel will discuss the possibility of such a project and how it might be approached. In the hope of initiating collaborative conversations on Kashmir across the disciplines, this round table will discuss the possibility of creating a sustained collective scholarly project on Kashmir before 1947 with the intention of laying the groundwork for future possible conference panels, symposia, multi-day workshops, and other collaborative work.

This panel will address questions like: Is such a sustained collaborative project even possible? How could it be pursued? What unique theoretical and methodological difficulties might arise for such a project— especially if the intent is to draw together experts from a breadth of disciplines on different historical periods and populations? Which specific topics, themes, or issues should be addressed? Are some of higher priority than others? What kind of venues might work best? Who is our intended audience?

Participants:

Dean Accardi (Department of History, Connecticut College) – Organizer/Chair
Drawing upon his work as a historian of gender and interreligious politics in Kashmir, Dean Accardi will address how contemporary claims over Kashmir that invoke different narratives of the Dogra, Mughal, Sultanate, and medieval pasts may color scholarly approaches to Kashmir pre-47 and require deconstruction and focused interdisciplinary inquiry to generate more robust understandings and new possibilities for thinking Kashmir.

Prashant Keshavmurthy (Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University)

Luther Obrock (Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto)

Hamsa Stainton (School of Religious Studies, McGill University)