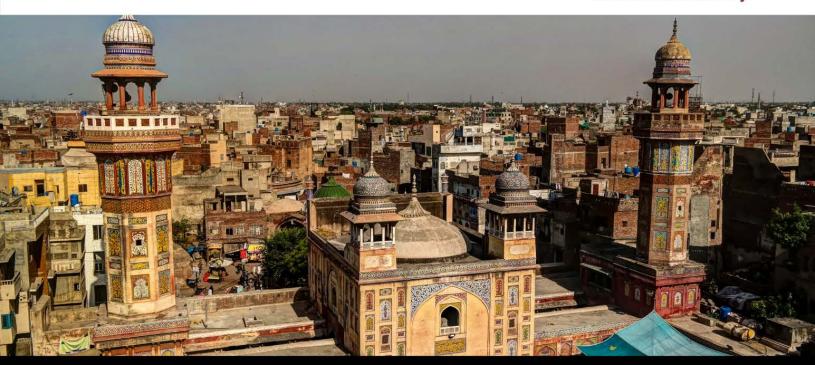
Global Asia Lecture Series 2021-2022





Becoming Visible: Recognition, Framing, and Surveillance of Pakistan's "Non-Muslims"



Jürgen Schaflechner
Research Grp Ldr
Insitute of Social and Cultural
Anthropology
Freie University, Berlin

Setting out from the assumption that any political community has its politics of visibility, I ask which frames of visibility are productive of and produced by religious minorities in the Islamic Republic today. These politics of visibility (what I call becoming visible) have been complexified due to the coming of social media, where different rules of engagement with an unknown public have made new representations possible. I show how minorities skillfully navigate their national and international outreach between state (read: military) surveillance and Islamic groups' pressure for religious uniformity. I show how actors navigate between their visibility and invisibility in their day-to-day life; how they strategically utilize the cognitive economies of social media through different forms of affectively-charged visibilities (what I call "affectivism"), and, crucially, how they keep specific grievances invisible that a.) would lead to dangerous repercussions, or b.) that are too complex to be "packaged and commodified" for a human rights market.



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