

Research Award Statement:

I am a self-funded PhD candidate and the Research Travel Award helped fund my research trip to Pakistan in 2023. The grant greatly facilitated my stay out there for 5 weeks and my travel within the cities of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. My project looks at heritage preservation in Karachi and compares it to similar projects in Lahore, which requires me to visit various parts of the city to carry out field work, (I have also attached a photo below from one of the field trips in Karachi) racking up huge taxi bills especially given the current economic instability and inflation in Pakistan. I was able to meet and interview architects, bureaucrats, army personnel, everyday businessmen and residents of the neighborhoods under the scope of my research. Furthermore, I needed to travel to Lahore and Islamabad from Karachi and the grant funded my flights to and from Lahore & Islamabad, which were also more expense than expected due to the increasing cost of petrol worldwide and inflation. I am very grateful to have received this grant because as a self-funded student, it will help me maintain financial stability.



This photo of me was taken in one of the buildings built during the colonial era for native dwellers of Karachi in the heart of the city's business district, which is currently crumbling away.