**Title of Study: Matters of the Womb: Muslim Women’s Narratives of Fertility, Family, and the Indian State**

**Research Statement**: The research attempts to understand how poor Muslim women imagine, embody, and strategize population control/family planning policies in their day-to-day contexts. Population control policies have been shaped by various phases of transition in the social, political, and economic context in India. The policies have shifted from a coercion and target-oriented approach to an incentive driven approach. Though certain contemporary policies combine incentive and coercion related approaches. Most often such policies are routinized in their practice or implementation and hence may seem mundane, insignificant, and unnoticeable. Further the differentiated nature of social location shapes the encounters between these policies and the ‘target’ in everyday context. My project attempts to empirically situate the population policies/ family planning programs vis-à-vis a particular marginalized population that is often targeted by these policies. It primarily attempts to understand how Muslim women in informal settlements in Delhi imagine, embody, and strategize the Indian state’s family planning programs and policies at an empirical level. I aim to look at key moments where the everyday state, government policies, and family intersect. In other words, the study attempts to understand how women take decisions around family building/family planning in the context of options, challenges, constraints, and ambivalences in their intimate contexts. In so doing, the study aims to ethnographically document a low-income minority population’s everyday enactments of population policies.