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Working Title: **Urban nature at the margins: more-than-human stories of water development in Lahore.**

How do the unintended, but not incidental, effects of infrastructure development —its unmanageable detritus and residual spaces— fold back into frameworks of contemporary urbanization? Building on recent work in human geography, anthropology, and science and technology studies that foregrounds the complex entanglements of humans with non-humans, this research will explore marginal sites and unintended ecologies of water development to understand how they are conceptualized within planning discourses, and how non-human actors and material processes shape (and are shaped by) the cultures of knowledge production, decision-making, and action in the city. It will also critically reassess this literature in light of new interests in the post-colonial question —specifically how conceptions of subjectivity and agency can be opened up productively in light of anthropogenic climate change, keeping in view the renewing forms of subalternity in our divided world.

The project will focus on Lahore, within the context of Punjab's history of irrigation development under colonial and national governments, and the transformations of environmental and social landscapes since the mid-19th century. It will tell three stories situated along the margins of this infrastructural history: 1) the prevalence and spatiality of vector diseases, 2) the political ecologies of degraded river landscapes, and 3) contestations over imported tree species and urban tree cover. Combining archival, ethnographic, and visual methods, it will elucidate the historical appearance of these ruptures within the seams of modernization's terrain, their imbrication within formal processes of technical planning and design, and the aesthetics and ethics of a more-than-human urban environmental politics.