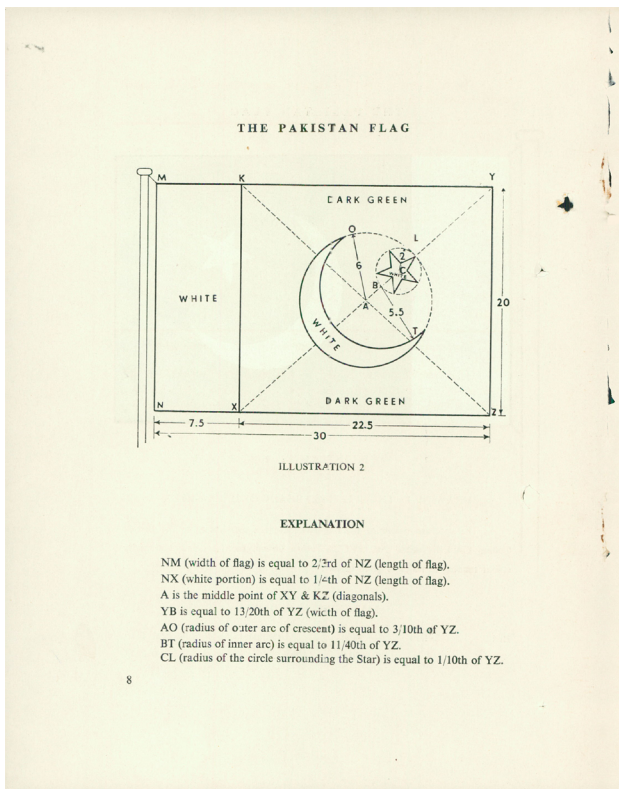


Departmental Colloquium - History Department Summer Semester 2023

# Being Pakistani: Crafting Citizenship, Belonging, and Muslimness in the Postcolonial Moment

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My paper traces the transition from colonial subjecthood to citizenship in a postcolonial Muslim nation-state. Instead of reducing citizenship to a legally recognized member of the state, I analyze the complexity of the processes whereby the postcolonial state formation project is intimately tied to creating a citizen through various discursive practices and ideological formulations. I describe citizenship-making as a state formation strategy that involves hollowing out the qaum (nation) for its excess and semantic ambiguity to make it more amenable and abstract and stabilize its meanings. For this purpose, as I argue, the postcolonial state adopted a range of policies and performances: legislating a restrictive legal

view of who qualified as a citizen, determining a definite shape, size, and color of national symbols, regulating the temporal cycle for a regimented ordering of national life through public commemorations, and forging a master narrative for writing the nation through history.



More  
information

Thursday 15.06.2023  
Room KJC 440.02.12  
16:15 CEST

Image: Official instructions about precise measurements of the national flag, its symbols, and colour. Source: File number 138/CF/64, National Documentation Wing, Cabinet Division, Islamabad.