

Research Project

Across the *Line of Control*: Transnational Initiatives for Peace in Kashmir

Abstract

For seventy years now, Kashmir has been a serious issue of dispute between Pakistan and India and divided into Indian- and Pakistani-administrated parts by a ceasefire and military control line. This closed and almost impermeable *de facto* border, called the *Line of Control* (LoC), has in considerable ways prevented Kashmiris from beginning and sustaining relationships and exchanging commodities, experiences and ideas across the LoC. Some years ago, international organisations, such as the UK-based Conciliation Resources, in collaboration with local groups and NGOs from Pakistani- and Indian-administrated Kashmir, began to take initiatives aimed at changing this adverse situation. Under the banner of “peacebuilding”, these initiatives intend to overcome the social divisions imposed by the Kashmir dispute and to enable and promote relations and collaborations between groups of journalists, traders, filmmakers and youngsters from both sides of the LoC. Drawing on anthropological perspectives on international development of, among others, David Mosse (2005; 2013) and Tania Li (2007), my project explores these initiatives as translocal assemblages of institutional practices, artefacts, forms of knowledge, values, interests, social relations, local groups and professionals. Thereby, I engage with ethnographic meanings of peace as a “category of practice” and a “practice of politics” (Li 2007), related to a wide range of local and translocal processes and power relations. Inspired by George Marcus’ “multi-sited ethnography” (1995) my ethnographic fieldwork follows peacebuilding initiatives of international organisations and their diverse social actors to various social and political contexts and locations in the UK, Kashmir, India and Pakistan.

Literature

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