***Undergraduate Library Research Award Essay***
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I was first introduced to Columbia library resources available to students the summer after my freshman year as a Laidlaw Scholar. Taking a guided tour of Lehman Library and being introduced to the wide archive and digital material forever shaped the trajectory of how I would go on to conduct research that summer, especially taking advantage of the interlibrary loan system to borrow books on Sadat Hassan Manto. During this time, I also first connected with Gary Hausman, the South Asian Studies Librarian at Columbia University Libraries.

When developing my senior thesis idea, Dr. Hausman was one of the first people I consulted in regards to material that would be available to me. The Hijrat Movement of 1920 is a very niche capsule of history, one that has not been thoroughly studied and on which there is not extensive scholarship. I envisioned my thesis to be a contribution to the existing body of work and as the first step in beginning to re-open this topic of study. From what I learned in my coursework relevant to South Asia, in classes like *South Asia: India at a Crossroads of Empires* and *Theory and Culture*, the circulation of written materials, like newspapers, was a popular medium through which ideas were widely disseminated. Could I find original sources there? Overwhelmed by the abundance of material, I sent an email to Dr. Hausman, who shared with me how I could search the catalog using the following format: "newspapers and language: Urdu." So I began my research, utilizing the South Asia resource guide, and going through Dr. Hausman's recommendations for newspapers titled Akhbār-i khavātīn, Imroz̲, Jang = The daily jang, and Navā-yi vaqt.

While collecting snippets of newspapers to further develop my argument, I decided to go through circulating books to determine if I could find additional primary sources. I found this to be the most challenging part of my research. Working with varied newspaper entries was not enough to formulate a new understanding of the Hijrat Movement. I needed figures, but I was most interested in the "ordinary" man, the perspective of a regular person. Leaders of the movement, like Ubaidallah Sindhi and the Ali Brothers, even Gandhi, have been discussed in relation to a movement that followed in 1921, the Khilafat Movement, and have been studied through their speeches and government records. What I wanted to do was complicate this discussion through the addition of new perspectives.

It is estimated that over 60,000 people left from Northern India to Kabul, Afghanistan. This is no small sum. In British files, people were recorded to have sold their properties and everything they own for this journey, but how could I connect with a person long gone? The book titled "Hijrat-i Afgh̲ānistān : tahrīk-i K̲hilāfat kī ek dildoz dāstān : ek mard-i ḥurr Ḥāji Faiz̤ Muḥammad K̲hān Ṣāḥib kī sarguzasht / mu ʿallif Sayyid Darbār ʿAlī Shāh. P-U 79-930258" helped answer these questions. It is thanks to this book and to CLIO that I was able to find a *memoir*. Published in 1975 upon the death of Faiz Muhammad Khan, this memoir is a collection of stories that contain Khan's experiences traveling from India to Afghanistan, but to my surprise, beyond. Khan's stories extend the borders to include Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. This, in and of itself, is a new finding. The

Hijrat Movement has typically, exclusively been studied as a linear movement between one location and another. Through this memoir, I discovered that was not the case. Khan's perspective further allowed me to humanize this Movement and its participants as more than what they have been labeled to be. I sought new perspectives, and I found them. Throughout my thesis I have also attempted to weave in relevant poetry being published in newspapers at the time, found primarily through a secondary source I borrowed from the Columbia Libraries System.

Attached to this submission is a draft that I am still refining, with my formal presentation being on April 28 at 12PM in Knox Hall. This thesis serves as a culmination of everything I have learned at Columbia through my professors in MESAAS, and without a doubt, these new contributions to the study of this Movement could not have been possible without Columbia's library resources. I hope to publish my findings and continue this research next year, as I begin my MSc in Modern South Asian Studies at Oxford University as a Doctorow Fellow from Columbia.