

Acknowledgments

This book joins many an ongoing quest for queerer and kinder futures in Pakistan. How might we, who live under conditions of straightness, take desire as a critical mode of belonging and queer worldmaking? What shapes might a conversation on queerness take in present-day Pakistan? How might we act today so as to refuse the occlusion of queers in the nation's pasts and futures? It was with such ambition and similar questions that I convened a panel of presentations at the 26th European Conference of South Asian Studies in Paris in July 2018, titled "Pakistan Desires: Queer Futurities of the Urban." While the panel was a success and much fun was had, the importance of gathering in Pakistan was all the more sharply felt. Breaking path in March 2019, a three-day conference was held at the Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS University in Lahore: "Queer Futures: Politics/Aesthetics/Sexualities." The incredible Nida Kirmani hosted and helped co-organize the conference—in many ways, a first for Pakistan—and Anjali Arondekar delivered the keynote address. While both these events have served as springboards for this book project, the idea and endeavor of *Pakistan Desires* is also one that has slowly nurtured in the company of friends, many a time, informal *mehfils* (Urdu for gathering, assembly, forum, party), which became sites of cothinking and desiring together: Asad Alvi, Marvi Mazhar, Jeff Roy, Pavithra Prasad, Rumya Putcha, Max Schnepf, and especially Kamran

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