

Acknowledgements

I submitted this work as my Ph.D. dissertation to The Committee on the Study of Religion (GSAS) at Harvard University. It is a culmination of my interest in studying religious authority, especially in reference to ritual practice and mysticism. The study of ritual spaces of Sufi shrines requires the study of texts and anthropological fieldwork. Hence, I visited several Sufi *dargāhs* in Lahore, Qasur, Multan, Bahawalpur, Karachi, Faisalabad, Islamabad, and remote villages such as Fazilpur (in South Punjab) and other lesser-known rural vicinities. During these trips, I met several *dervish* figures (men and women) whose warm hospitality and words have been sources of wisdom.

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