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### **POSTER ABSTRACT**

#### **River of God(s): Religious Perspectives and Conservation of Pakistan's Sindh River**

As Altaf Memon, Kelly Alley, David Haberman, and others have observed, when scientists and engineers working in the South Asian context fail to address issues via the religious dialogue(s) of local populations, their prescriptions often fall on deaf ears, regardless of the dire state of affairs they are attempting to address and/or the efficacy of their plans. On the other hand, religious worldviews which declare as "sacred" certain sites such as rivers and land, or assets such as water and fish, do not necessarily equate to conservationist schemes, and so clearly must be addressed if they are to be sustainable. The case of the Sindh (or Indus) River and use of its riches is no exception. Wilson, an ethnologist specializing in Sindhi Hinduism, and Usmani, a Pakistani-American Muslim from Punjab, will discuss the current and projected water, agriculture, and marine food shortfalls of the Sindh river basin; the plight of the river's ecological health; and the ways in which religious attitudes toward the Sindh are critically undervalued and/or misunderstood as an asset in its use and preservation.