

Moral Panic & Security Emotions



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

[Week 11]

Cynric | Hui En | Cadence | Cliona

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01

Overview & Definitions

Date_

29/03/2023

Author Background &
Contextual Information

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Name: *Maria Rashid*



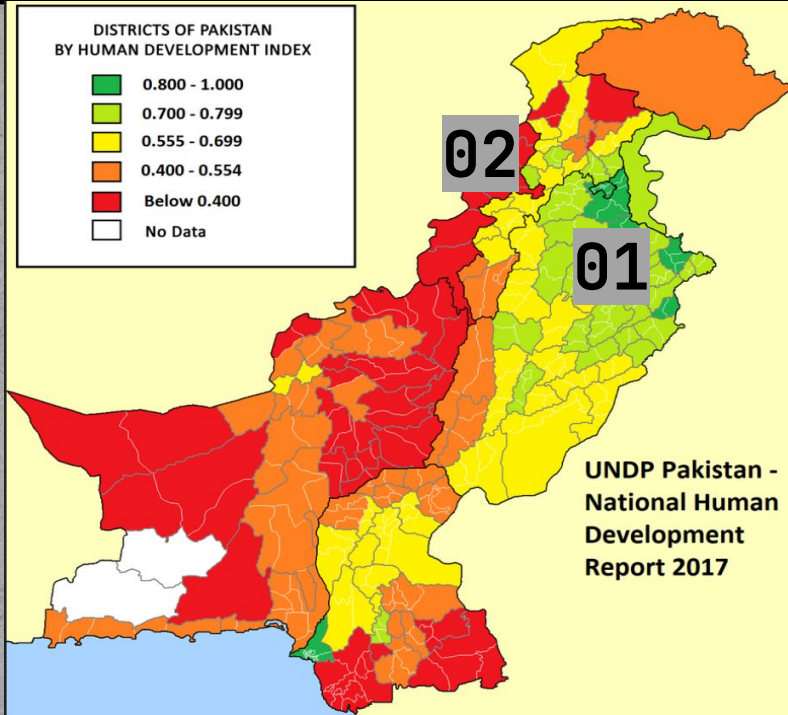
Author & Researcher

Researcher in South Asia focussed on:

- Militarism
- Gender
- Affect Theory

Spent 13 months in-country, specifically in the Punjab region, a historically militaristic part of Pakistan

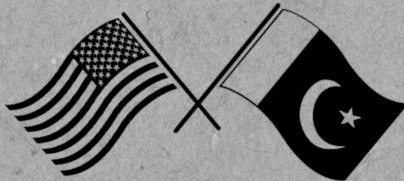
PLACES TO NOTE:



01 PUNJAB
Capital Region

02 KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
Hotbed of Insurgency

THE CONFLICT SO FAR



2004-2007

2007-2017

Continuing

Limited conflict
Readying for war

Large-scale
battles and huge
losses

Low-level
insurgency &
Mounting losses

MORAL PANIC

**An Exaggerated & Irrational
Media Reaction to Deviancy:**
Viewed as threats by moral
entrepreneurs (police/clergy...)

SECURITY EMOTIONS

**The use of public feelings
to police the public:**
Militarisation of emotions and
masculinity

02

Moral Panic

Outrage that can be
weaponized for security

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MEDIA VS MORAL PANICS



FATWA AGAINST THE SOLDIERS

The labelling of soldiers as un-Islamic



PERCEPTION OF SOLDIERS

Heroic Sacrifices? Or Slaughtered Lambs?



FAMILY'S COMPENSATION

Unheard and unsaid truths to war guilt



FATE OF SURVIVORS

Erasing the unsavoury survivors of war

03

Security Emotions

Constructing Narratives &
Emotions in public and private spheres

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Security Emotions in Constructing Narratives

**What narratives
are they
promoting?**

- Glorifying the narrative on war, enemies, politics, governance, and death.
- Of Willingness to serve and sacrifice.
- Promote nationalistic sense.

The mediums of Media & Emotions

Media as a meaning-making process through performances and televised spectacles.

- Gendered Imaginings of Citizenship.
- Spreading of purposeful images, videos, words and ideas.
- Changing the rhetoric of death.
 - Levelling the importance and meaning of death in the military

To do what?

1. Invoke nationalist sentiments surrounding the narrative
2. Invoke and inspire awe and admiration for the sacrifice of the military men.

The mediums of Media & Emotions

Using and Policing of Emotions used alongside media to promote and reinforce narratives.

Appropriating forms of emotion to control wider sentiments held by society.

- *"...by educating the proper distribution of sentiments and desires." (pp 10)*
- *"The spectacle involves a harnessing of affect, a pulling of scabs to invoke a response of awe, gratitude, and empathy for the military" (pp 24)*
- Produced desirable affective subjects through constructed script and themes

Relationship between the soldiers, families, and the military institution through emotions

Insidious form of influencing and brainwashing

VIDEO



<https://youtu.be/euR600HAtqk?t=609>

VIDEO

- Affective images not just through government planned videos, but also through the audience
- "Interactive propaganda", a perceived participation through shared "experienced" and constructed "affect".



Security Emotions

In Public vs Private Sphere

What are the expectations of reactions towards Grief?

1)

Public

VS

Private

2)

Women
and Men

Military

Men

Women

1) Public Display of Grief

Grief as an **emotionless investment tool** to anchor state narrative

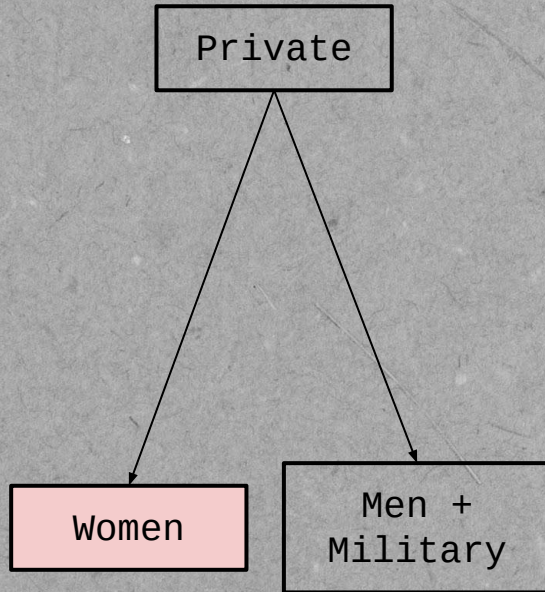
- Grieving front of families are created for consumption by the nation to encourage support for the war
- Military mandates certain ways to grief and prohibits outward display of grief in daily life
- Chapter 5: "he has taken [the grief] to heart, he has not thought about it from the other angle of shahadat, if he thinks from this angle... he might have got some relief" (p.130-131)
- Successful internalization of "sacrificial grief", and encouraging society to divorce emotions away from grief

1) Private Display of Grief

State's control of grief = family suffering and fearing in silence

- Inability to cope with grief and suffering in silence away from the state's gaze; unable to unite grief and honour easily
- Parents increasingly fearful of military and the consequences of military
- Chapter 5: "Families were under pressure, as the situation was dangerous yet they couldn't ask [their sons] to leave [because of financial condition]... [parents] regretted not insisting [their sons] desert" (p.131-132)
- Continued witnessing of dead bodies became a threat to the security of the people; pain from loss of family members can never be neutralized by the glorification → unlike what the state advocates for

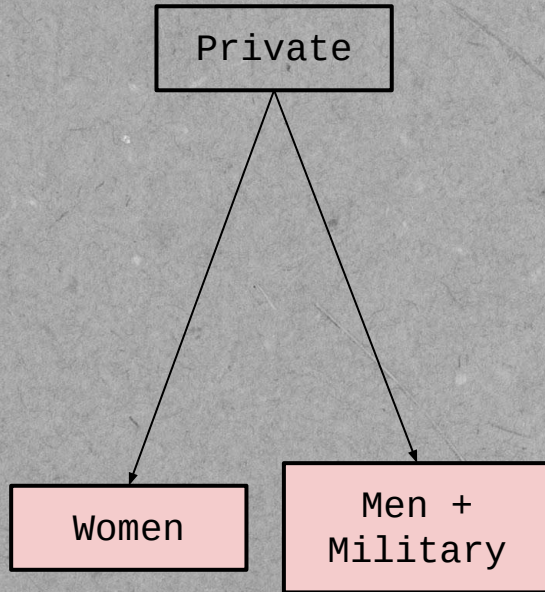
2) Private and Gendered Grief



Private and Public Conflict:

- Public: heavily emphasising and elevating the role of female figure in the household as a key motivation in driving the power of grief
- Private: Women are treated in a more traditional way, often more neglected and less emphasised

2) Private and Gendered Grief



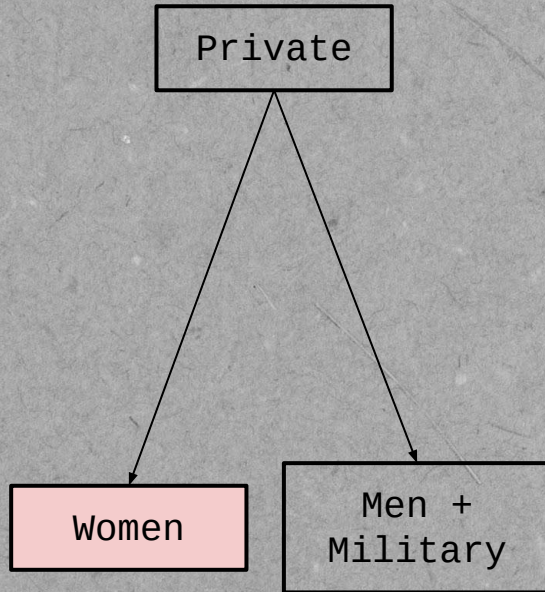
Role of Women in Grieving

- Merely tasked with wailing for the loss of son/husband
- Ultimately does not follow along to the mosque for final funeral
- Emotional and less important figure of the funeral process

Role of Men + Military in Grieving

- Masculine role in managing business of grief
- Men were only allowed isolated periods of breakdown which will only be tolerated for a short while
- *military men would sometimes fill the role of male family members and attend actual funeral

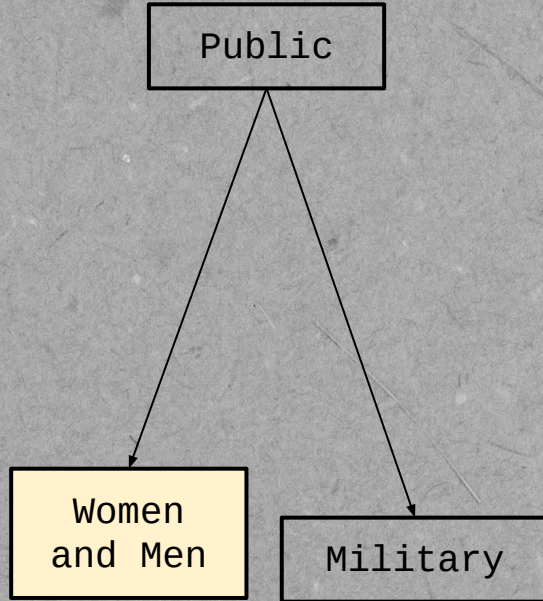
2) Private and Gendered Grief



Tension between Public Honor vs Private Neglection → Facade for manipulation of women's emotions

- Private: women are not allowed to hug the badly mangled bodies of their loved ones and send them off in the funeral
- Public: expected to grieve with pride, as if they had physically witnessed the honourable death of their son
- Irony: Even if state gives women more autonomy in public, they are merely tools used to evoke state-wide emotions

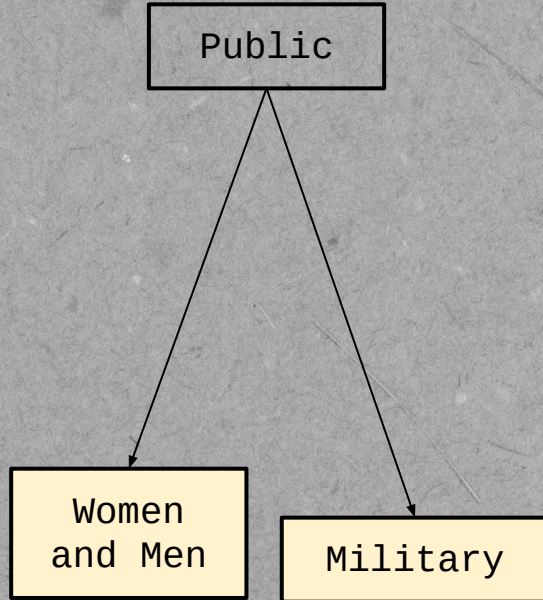
2) Public and Gendered Grief



Private and Public Conflict:

- Emasculation of male family members after the military takes over the funeral, and the private funeral becomes public
- Once masculinized men of the household are rendered passive and stripped of their duties in front of the military
- Family unit including the male figure = feminine role
- Military now has the power to control the family

2) Public and Gendered Grief



Private and Public Conflict:

- Feminization of family unit including the once-masculine male figure of the household
- Military becomes the masculine and patriarchal figure
- Steps in to rescue the helpless and "feminized" family grieving unit who has to be taken care by a more masculine figure
- Emasculates the male's figure within the household

04

Application & Reflections

Looking at Singapore and reflections on
the Reading

Date_

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Meeting #11 | 4 participants | Action name *Security Emotions and Moral Panic*

024





Photo: ST

National Service

*"bedrock" for Singapore's
"continued survival and success"
(Central Manpower Base (CMPB),
n.d.)*

Societal costs of mandatory NS enlistment for women far outweigh benefits: Ng Eng Hen



Ooi Boon Keong/TODAY



BY JUSTIN ONG

@JustinOngTODAY



BY KIMBERLY LIM

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Author's positionality

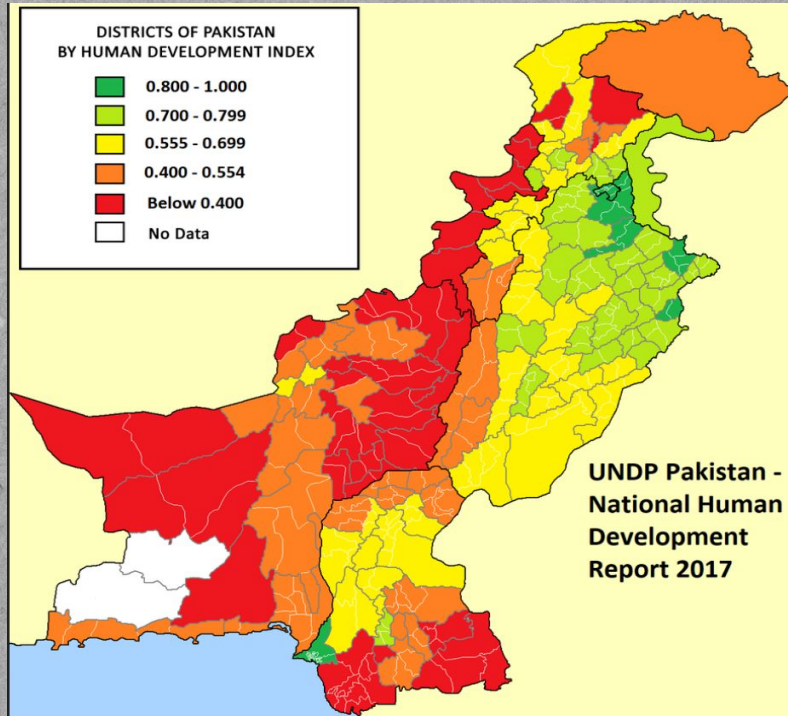
Background and Knowledge

- "I come from a military family, and clearly this subject position afforded me a familiarity with what I was studying. My childhood was spent within army cantonments, and much of my school life involved studying in educational establishments run by the army for the families of troops and officers. This allowed me an intimacy with army rules and norms, with its vocabulary and ethos." (p. 20)

Gender

- "...I spoke to the families in villages, it was the women who spoke more often and more freely about the many ways in which the military disciplined and controlled this moment. Despite the refrain to women to not cry, or perhaps because of it, when women spoke of the news and the funeral, they spoke in the idiom of tears and crying..." (p. 115)

Further Research



Research was done in
Palwal village (Chakwal
district, Punjab)

- primarily engage in
military and police
services for its
livelihood

What about areas of
different characteristics?

Meeting #11 | 4 participants | Action name *Security Emotions and Moral Panic*

THANKS!

Date_

29/03/2023

DO YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS?

Cynric
Hui En
Cadence
Cliona

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- death as a way to flip power relations?

In what ways does the Singaporean government shape/manipulate the emotions of the public for national security purposes?

How does the rise of non-state media influence the power of the State in using the mass media for emotions security?

In what ways do the things we read/watch/listen to influence our perception of other countries, creating within us doubts to the moral fabric?