

**AIBS Completion Report**  
**Tiffany Hodge**  
**Awarded 2008 (used 2009-10)**

I began my dissertation research in Bangladesh under a Fulbright-IIE award. I returned to the US in July 2009, hoping to receive a second research visa quickly in order that I might travel to Bangladesh on the AIBS fellowship in September. This did not happen, as the Foreign Ministry refused to move through my application, for reasons that are not entirely clear. I finally returned to Bangladesh in November of 2009, only to face two unfortunate events (theft and mugging) that necessitated an unexpected return to the US in late December. During the time that I was in Bangladesh, however, I was quite productive, gathering a number of essential interviews and observing several religious and national events. One of my interviews was particularly memorable: I met with a conservative mufti who stipulated that 1) I wear a burqa, and 2) that I sit on the other side of a door frame, so that we would not be sitting face-to-face. I actually never saw this man fully, and he refused to have his picture taken by our mutual contact person.

After a month stay in the U.S., I returned to Bangladesh to wrap-up my research. I am very glad that I made this decision, as the final month was very fruitful. I had the opportunity to sit and observe several *salish* and *ta'lim* sessions, in addition to collecting texts only available in the local area. At the invitation of Dr. Sirajul Islam, I gave a short lecture at the Asiatic Society on my field research.

One paper proposal based on my research has already been accepted, at the European Conference on Modern South Asia Studies (to be held in Bonn, Germany). I have also proposed a paper for the American Academy of Religion's annual conference, and I am preparing a panel session proposal for the Annual South Asia Conference in Madison.